

**LEADERS IN A CONNECTIONAL CHURCH:
CONGREGATIONS AND THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
January 4-8, 2011**

Course Description

This seminar will provide an opportunity for seminarians to explore the structure, program, and mission of the Presbyterian Church (USA) and its relationship with local congregations and other governing bodies. Through encounters with national leadership and interactive encounters with various program areas of the denomination, participants will gain an understanding of the theology, mission, structure, and programs of the PCUSA and how to exercise effective leadership in this context. Each participant will have the opportunity to engage in two areas of the denomination's ministry and reflect on them in light of the vision of the PCUSA and of contemporary studies on leadership.

Course Outcomes

The course will allow each participant to:

1. experience being a part of a connectional church;
2. develop relationships with national staff for the sharing of vision and an emerging sense of shared ministry;
3. describe the organization of the General Assembly and demonstrate understanding of how its various divisions and entities function, relate to the larger church, how they are funded, and understand how the General Assembly relates to middle governing bodies, congregations, and ecumenical partners;
4. develop a model for leadership and involvement of Presbyterians in mutual mission based on resources and programs available through program areas of the General Assembly Mission Council, and the Office of the General Assembly and to become aware of the other General Assembly agencies;
5. articulate ways to engage sessions and members of congregations in the PC(USA) connectional system;
6. explore in depth two areas of interest in regard to the resources and programs headquartered at the Presbyterian Center.
7. articulate a theology/ ecclesiology of the mission of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (USA) and an approach to leadership in relation to this connectional church.

Teaching/Learning Methodology:

The Presbyterian Center will provide a learning laboratory for students to learn through participation, observation, reading, reflecting, shadowing, and building relationships with denominational leaders. Students will have an opportunity to focus on two areas of interest as they relate to GA staff and do assigned work tasks.

These areas of interest are related to the six mission areas of the **General Assembly Mission Council**:

- Compassion, Peace and Justice
- Evangelism & Church Growth
- Racial Ethnic and Women's Ministries/Presbyterian Women
- Theology Worship and Education
- Vocation
- World Mission

and the **Office of the General Assembly** where opportunities and concerns are addressed which keep the church connected, support its polity, facilitate its assemblies, and foster ecumenical relations.

Leadership

- Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary: **Cliff Kirkpatrick**, Visiting Professor of Ecumenical Studies and Global Ministries
- Committee on Theological Education: **Lee Hinson-Hasty**, Coordinator for Theological Education & Seminary Relations
- Denominational Staff at the Presbyterian Center

Means of Evaluation:

Each student's grade in the course will be determined in relation to the following:

1. Attendance and active, informed participation in all meetings of the class, in the learning labs, and in other worship and work at the Presbyterian Center that demonstrates a working understanding of the reading assignments. (33^{1/3} %).
2. A presentation/brochure/model/lesson plan/etc. that could be used by congregations and/or presbyteries to increase understanding of our connectional system and the visibility of General Assembly and its resources/programs (33^{1/3} %). At least a draft of this work will be presented to the class at their last meeting. (Any final work will be due by January 21, 2011.)
3. A completed take home examination of approximately 10 pages. This examination will seek to ascertain the student's understanding of the theology, mission, structure and programs of the General Assembly of the PCUSA; assessment of how these interrelate with other parts of the church, especially local congregations: and reflection on their own future leadership in a connectional church. (This will be due by January 21, 2011.)

Bibliography

Because the church in the U.S. is in a time of transition, there are few resources available on the role of a denomination. You will serve a denomination very different from what has been known for the last fifty years, and you need resources for theological reflection on the role of the congregations, middle governing bodies, and denomination. Therefore, your challenge is to read the various books and use the insights from them to develop your own theology of the mission of the national offices of the Presbyterian Church (USA). Use the books to dialogue with your experience of the PCUSA and stimulants for “creative mulling.” Before January 4, read the books and articles indicated below. Add the insights you gain from them to group discussion, to your presentation, to your exam – and to your future ministry.

Presbyterian Church USA

1. Coalter, Mulder, and Weeks, editors, *The Organizational Revolution: Presbyterian and American Denominationalism*, Read Chapters 1, 2, 11, and 12 and one or two other chapters in areas in which you have interest.
2. Book of Order, Chapters I – IV, IX and XIII
3. *Foundations of Presbyterian Government* (available on CAMS, the Louisville Seminary electronic blackboard under “Course Documents”)
4. Clifton Kirkpatrick, *Is There a Future for the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)?*
5. Robert Bullock, editor, *Presbyterians Being Reformed*

Ecclesiology

1. Shirley Guthrie: *Always Being Reformed*
2. Letty Russell: *Church in the Round*
3. Joe Small, *Presbyterian Churches*, an essay found in the June, 2004 issue of *Perspectives*, the online journal of the OGA, <http://oga.pcusa.org/perspectives/jun04/churches.htm>

Change Theory and the Church

1. Ronald A. Heifetz and Marty Linsky, *Leadership on the Line: Staying Alive through the Dangers of Leading*
2. Jim Collins, *Good to Great for the Social Sectors*
3. Linda Valentine and Clifton Kirkpatrick, *Presbyterian Leadership: Reflections on Leadership Renewal in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)*
4. *Raising Up Leaders for the Mission of God*, a report of the PCUSA Joint Committee on Leadership Needs (available on CAMS, the Louisville Seminary electronic blackboard under “Course Documents”)

Credit: 3 hours or 1½ hours (work load will be reduced), or audit

Costs: \$322 per credit hour (three credits - \$966; one and a half credits - \$483;

Audit fee \$200.

Only a \$100 cross registration fee to LPTS will be required of students from other PC(USA) seminaries with tuition paid to your seminary of enrollment.

Participants: Maximum of 24

Diversity and Inclusiveness:

The Presbyterian Church (USA) shall give full expression to the rich diversity within its membership and shall provide means which will assure a greater inclusiveness leading to the wholeness in its emerging life. Persons of all racial ethnic groups, varied sexual orientations, different ages, both sexes, various disabilities, diverse geographical areas, different theological positions consistent with the Reformed tradition, as well as different marital conditions (married, single, widowed, or divorced) shall be guaranteed full participation and access to representation in the decision making of the Church. (Book of Order G-4.0403)

The LPTS and GA staff providing leadership for the course and all participants are expected to abide by the denomination's commitment to diversity and inclusiveness and be faithful to the perspective of the "Guidelines and Definitions on Inclusive Language" which the General Assembly has adopted as policy. These documents may be found at

<http://www.pcusa.org/theologyandworship/issues/inclusive.htm>

Inclusive Language

In accordance with seminary policy, students are to use inclusive language in class discussions and in written and oral communication by using language representative of the whole human community in respect to gender, sexual orientation, ethnicity, age, and physical and intellectual capacities. Direct quotations from theological texts and translations of the Bible do not have to be altered to conform to this policy. In your own writing, however, when referring to God, you are encouraged to use a variety of images and metaphors, reflecting the richness of the Bible's images for God. See for further assistance,

<http://www.lpts.edu/AcademicResources/ASC/avoidinggenderbiasinlanguage.asp>.

Academic Honesty

All work turned in to the instructors is expected to be the work of the student whose name appears on the assignment. Any borrowing of the ideas or the words of others must be acknowledged by quotation marks (where appropriate) and by citation of author and source. Use of another's language or ideas from online resources is included in this policy, and must be attributed to author and source of the work being cited. Failure to do so constitutes plagiarism,

and may result in failure of the course. Multiple occurrences of plagiarism may result in dismissal from the Seminary. Students unfamiliar with issues relating to academic honesty can find help from the staff in the Academic Support Center. For the Seminary policy, see The Code of Student Conduct, 6.11; the Student Handbook, p. 19.

Special Accommodations

Students requiring accommodations for a documented physical or learning disability should be in contact with the Director of the Academic Support Center (kmapes@lpts.edu) during the first two weeks of a semester and should speak with the instructor as soon as possible to arrange appropriate adjustments. Students with environmental or other sensitivities that may affect their learning are also encouraged to speak with the instructor.

Citation Policy

Citations in your papers should follow the Seminary standard, which is based on these guides:

Kate Turabian, *A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*, 7th ed. Chicago, IL: University of Chicago Press, 2007.

The Chicago Manual of Style, 15th ed. Chicago, IL: University of Chicago Press, 2003.

Copies of these guides are available at the library and in the Academic Support Center.

Attendance Policy:

According to the Seminary catalog, students are expected to attend class meetings regularly. In case of illness or emergency, students are asked to notify the instructor of their planned absence from class, either prior to the session or within 24 hours of the class session.

Leadership in a Connectional Church

January 4-8, 2011

Tuesday, January 4

	<u>Activity</u>	<u>Leader</u>	<u>Location</u>
9:00 AM	Refreshments and Welcome	<i>Rob Fohr</i>	<i>Conference Rooms A & B Second Floor</i>
9:15 AM	Morning Prayer	<i>Lee & Cliff</i>	
9:30 AM	Introduction to Schedule and Group Building	<i>Lee Hinson-Hasty</i>	
10:15 AM	Break		
		<i>Cohort Group Leaders</i>	
10:30 AM	Guided Tour of the Presbyterian Center (In Four Cohort Groups)		
11:15 AM	Reflections on Ecclesiology from the Readings in Cohort Groups	<i>Cohort Group Leaders</i>	<i>Breakout Rooms TBD</i>
12:30 PM	Lunch	<i>(Pay cash or credit or bring your own lunch)</i>	<i>Center Cafeteria- First Floor</i>
1:30 PM	Introduction of the General Assembly as a Governing Body and a Mission Agency	<i>Cliff Kirkpatrick</i>	<i>Conference Rooms A & B</i>
	Dialogue with Stated Clerk and GAMC Executive Director on the State of the Church	<i>Gradye Parsons Linda Valentine</i>	
3:15 PM	Break		
3:30 PM	Mock General Assembly Committees by Cohort Groups	<i>Cliff</i>	<i>Breakout Rooms TBD</i>
4:15 PM	Plenary Session for Reports of Cohort Groups		<i>Conference Rooms A & B</i>
	- Worship Leadership Sign-ups - Coordinate Dinner Transportation		
4:45 PM	Group Photo		<i>Chapel</i>
5:00 PM	Stop for the Day		
6:00-8:00	Welcoming Dinner Together		<i>LPTSGardencourt</i>

Wednesday, January 5

9:00 AM	Morning Prayer - Student Debrief previous day	<i>Cohort Group Leaders</i>	<i>Breakout Rooms TBD</i>
9:30 AM	Introduction to Lab Leaders	<i>Cohort Group Leaders</i>	<i>In 1st Office Areas of Focus</i>
9:35 AM – 4:30 PM	Learning Labs (1 st Area of Focus)	<i>In Four Groups led by designated Lab Leaders</i>	<i>Designated Office Areas</i>
11:45 AM	Worship with the Center Staff	<i>Center Designees</i>	<i>Center Chapel – Third Floor</i>
12:15 PM/ After Worship	Lunch with Individual Lab Leaders	<i>Lab Leaders</i>	<i>As determined by Lab Leaders</i>

Thursday, January 6

9:00 AM	Morning Prayer - Student Debrief previous day	<i>Cohort Group Leaders</i>	<i>Breakout Rooms TBD</i>
9:30 – 11:45 AM	"Learning Laboratories" with assigned Center Staff (2 nd Area of Focus)	<i>Lab Leaders</i>	<i>Meet in Assigned Office Area</i>
11:45 AM	Worship with Center Staff	<i>Center Designees</i>	<i>Center Chapel</i>
12:15 PM/ After Worship	Lunch with Individual Lab Leaders	<i>Lab Leaders</i>	
1:00 – 4:30 PM	"Learning Laboratories" with assigned Center Staff	<i>Lab Leaders</i>	<i>Meet in Assigned Office Area</i>

Friday, January 7

9:00 AM	Morning Prayer - Student Debrief previous day	<i>Cohort Group Leaders</i>	<i>Breakout Rooms TBD</i>
9:30 AM	Reflections on Readings on Presbyterian Church and it's future	<i>Cohort Group Leaders</i>	
11:15 AM	Reception in Honor of J-Term Students	<i>Lee Hinson-Hasty</i>	<i>2nd Floor Balcony Lobby</i>

11:45 AM	Worship with Center Staff	<i>Center Designees</i>	<i>Center Chapel</i>
12:15 PM/ After Worship	Lunch on your own		
1:00 PM	Dialogue and Discussion on Leadership in the Presbyterian Tradition	<i>Linda Valentine Cliff Kirkpatrick</i>	<i>Conf. Room A & B- Second Floor</i>
2:30 PM	"What in the world are you doing?" – Mission Interpretation	<i>Jon Brown</i>	
3:30 PM	Concluding Dialogue and Reflection on Reading, Experiences in Learning Labs, and other Concerns	<i>Lee and Cliff</i>	<i>Conf. Room A & B- Second Floor</i>
4:30 PM	Conclude for the Day Finalize Project Presentations		

Saturday, January 8

9:00 AM	Presentation of designs developed to increase awareness of our connectional system/ student presentations with staff participants invited	<i>Cohort Groups</i>	<i>Schlegel Hall, LPTS</i>
11:15 AM	Evaluation of Course and Distribution of Take Home Exam	<i>Cliff and Lee</i>	
11:45 AM	J-Term class leads Worship for the Class	<i>Designated Students</i>	<i>Schlegel Hall</i>
12:15 PM	Departure for home	<i>Lunch on your own</i>	

ASSIGNMENT OF LEARNING LABS by Cohort Groups

Cohort Group # 1

- Evangelism and Church Growth
- GAMC Communications

Cohort Group # 2

- Presbyterian Hunger Program
- Ecumenical Relations

Cohort Group # 3

- Presbyterian Peacemaking Program
- The Changing PCUSA Constitution (New Form of Government and Belhar Confession)

Cohort Group # 4

- World Mission
- Worship and Spiritual Renewal