

**LEADERS IN A CONNECTIONAL CHURCH:
CONGREGATIONS AND THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

January 7-11, 2013

(revised Nov. 23, 2012)

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 congregational leadership in the context of a connectional church. Each participant will have the opportunity to engage with the ministries of the six agencies of the General Assembly 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 entities function, how they relate to the larger church, how they are funded, and 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 agencies;
5. articulate ways to engage sessions and members of congregations in the PC(USA) connectional system;
6. explore in depth patterns of leadership that connect congregations and ministries of the wider church in ways that strengthen both; and
7. articulate a theology/ ecclesiology that includes the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (USA), its mid-councils, and its local congregations as vital, interconnected parts of the body of Christ.

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 six workshops that introduce them at some depth to the leaders and ministries of the six agencies of the church

and complete a project that helps a congregation to better connect with the wider church in its ministry.

These areas of interest to be pursued are those of the six agencies the General Assembly:

- the Board of Pensions that cares for pastors and church workers by providing pension, healthcare, death and disability benefits, and financial assistance,
- the Office of the General Assembly that keeps the church connected, supports its polity, facilitates its assemblies, and fosters ecumenical relationships
- the Presbyterian Foundation that cultivates and manages financial resources for the mission of the church,
- the Presbyterian Investment and Loan Program that provides low cost loans to congregations, denominational ministries, and new church developments,
- the Presbyterian Mission Agency that leads and resources the church for mission and ministry through congregations, in this nation, and around the world, and
- the Presbyterian Publishing Corporation that publishes print and electronic resources to advance religious scholarship, stimulate moral conversation, and inspire faithful living.

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 from General Assembly agencies

Means of Evaluation:

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

1. Reading and reflection on texts in bibliography as shown through three one page reflection papers highlighting most significant learnings about the PCUSA, about ecclesiology, and about change theory and the church (the three areas around which the readings are organized in the bibliography below) and 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/powerpoint/model/lesson plan/etc. to your congregation, session and/or seminary on why the ministries of the General Assembly are important to the life of your congregation and how they might strengthen the life and ministry of your church or seminary (33^{1/3} %). This will be a group project of the cohort groups and will be presented to the class at their last meeting.
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 23, 2013.)

Bibliography

Because the church in the U.S. is in a time of transition, there are a limited number of 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 the first session on January 7, read the books and articles indicated below and write a one page reflection paper on major insights from each of the areas (PCUSA, ecclesiology, and change theory and the church). Bring copies of those reflection papers to share with your cohort group and with the instructors on the first day of class. Add the insights you gain from them to group discussion, to your presentation, to your exam – and to your future ministry.

Most of the readings for the course can be found under the “course documents” button on CAMS, Louisville Seminary’s electronic blackboard system, or on the websites listed below. The items available on CAMS are marked with an asterisk (*) below. Students from other seminaries than Louisville will be given a password after they register so that they can access CAMS through the seminary’s website, www.lpts.edu. Students may wish to purchase a copy of the PCUSA Book of Order (highly recommended), Shirley Guthrie’s *Always Being Reformed*, Ross Douthat’s, *Bad Religion: How We Became a Nation of Heretics*, and Jim Collins’ *Good to Great and the Social Sectors*. These three books will also be on the reserve shelf in the seminary library for students who wish to use them there.

Presbyterian Church USA

1. * Coalter, Mulder, and Weeks, editors, *The Organizational Revolution: Presbyterians and American Denominationalism*, Read Chapters 11 and 12, pp. 279-331.
2. From the Book of Order of the PCUSA: *Foundations of Presbyterian Government*, pp. 1-15, and *Form of Government*, chapter three on “Councils of the Church,” pp. 41-59.
3. * Clifton Kirkpatrick, *Is There a Future for the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)?* (revised edition to be put on CAMS)
4. * Robert Bullock, editor, *Presbyterians Being Reformed*, pp. xxiii-xxxii in the “Orienting Perspectives, and chapters 5, 11, and 13. (pp. 43-54, 101-108 and 121-128).
5. *The Assembly in Brief 2012*,
<http://www.pcusa.org/media/uploads/oga/publications/assemblyinbrief.pdf>
6. Abigail Ryan Evans, “Why Am I a Presbyterian?”
www.history.pcusa.org/news/releases/2011/times_of_controversy/jph861_evans.pdf

Ecclesiology

1. Shirley Guthrie: *Always Being Reformed*
2. * Letty Russell: *Church in the Round*, Preface and Introduction to the Three Parts, pp. 11-19, 75-77, and 149-150.
3. Ross Douthat, *Bad Religion: How We Became a Nation of Heretics*. Read chapter two, "The Locust Years" and the conclusion, "The Recovery of Christianity," pp. 55-82 and 277-293.

Change Theory and the Church

1. Ronald A. Heifetz and Donald L. Laurie, "The Work of Leadership" from *Harvard Business Review*, January-February 1997, pp. 124-134.
http://itk.hbsp.harvard.edu/demos/hb_solution/content/Read/work_of_leadership.pdf
2. Jim Collins, *Good to Great and the Social Sectors*
3. Deborah Kapp, "Improvisation and the Practice of Ministry," <http://arl-jrl.org/Volumes/Kapp%202010.1.pdf>
4. Scott Comode, "Multi-Layered Leadership: The Christian Leader as Shepherd, Builder, and Gardener," <http://arl-jrl.org/Volumes/CormodeFA02.pdf>
5. Linda Valentine and Clifton Kirkpatrick, *Presbyterian Leadership: Reflections on Leadership Renewal in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)*.
<http://web.pensions.org/Publications/pensions/Home/Forms%20&%20Publications/Booklets%20&%20Brochures/pub-505.pdf>
6. *Raising Up Leaders for the Mission of God*, a report of the PCUSA Joint Committee on Leadership Needs.
http://www.presbyterysd.org/docs/resources/JCLN_Raising_Up_Leaders_Final.pdf
7. * Kent M. Keith, "Servant Leaders are the Best Leaders during Times of Change," weekly email letter from the Board of Pensions, November, 2012

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

Costs: \$342 per credit hour (three credits - \$1026; one and a half credits - \$513; 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 unity of believers in Christ is reflected in the rich diversity of the Church's membership. In Christ, by the power of the Spirit, God unites persons through baptism regardless of race, ethnicity, age, sex, disability, geography, or theological conviction. There is therefore no place in

the life of the Church for discrimination against any person. The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) shall guarantee full participation and representation in its worship, governance, and emerging life to all persons or groups within its membership.

(Foundations of Presbyterian Government, F-1.0403)

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.

Monday, January 7

	<u>Activity</u>	<u>Leader</u>	<u>Location</u>
9:00 AM	Refreshments and Welcome		<i>Conference Rooms A & B Second Floor</i>
9:15 AM	Morning Prayer	<i>Lee Hinson-Hasty</i>	
9:30 AM	Introduction to Schedule, View Intro. to 6 Agencies Video	<i>Cliff Kirkpatrick</i>	
	Group Building	<i>Lee</i>	
10:15 AM	Break and Group Photo Brief Tour of Presbyterian Center		
10:30 AM	Cohort Group Meetings - Reflect on Readings, sharing Reflection Papers on one of three areas.	<i>Cohort Group Leaders</i>	<i>#1- 4601 #2- 2601</i>
12:30 PM	Lunch (sponsored by Office of General Assembly)	<i>Catered Boxed Lunches</i>	<i>Cafeteria- First Floor</i>
1:30 PM	Introduction of the General Assembly and its Leaders	<i>Cliff Kirkpatrick</i>	<i>Conference Rooms A & B</i>
	Dialogue with Stated Clerk and Executive Director on the State of the Church	<i>Gradye Parsons Linda Valentine</i>	
3:00 PM	Break		
3:15 PM	Cohort Groups on 220 th G.A. What was most significant? What action would you have taken: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• On future of mid-Councils• Marriage• Confessions (Belhar)		<i>Breakout Rooms</i>
4:15 PM	Plenary session for group sharing on 220 th General Assembly		<i>Conference Rooms A & B</i>
5:00 PM	- Coordinate Dinner Transportation		
6:00-8:00	Welcoming Dinner Together		<i>Kirkpatrick's Home</i>

Tuesday, January 8

9:00 AM	Morning Prayer - Student Debrief previous day	<i>Cohort Group #1</i>	<i>Conference Room A/B</i>
9:15 AM	Introduction to Lab/Leaders <ul style="list-style-type: none">• PILP• OGA• Foundation	<i>Lee and Cliff</i>	<i>Conference Room A/B</i>
9:45 AM – 11:30 AM	Learning Labs (1 st Area of Focus)	<i>Cohort #1 PILP Cohort #2 Found.</i>	<i>Designated Office Areas</i>
11:30 AM- 12:15 PM	Lunch (sponsored by PILP)		<i>Cafeteria</i>
12:15 PM- 2:00 PM	Learning Labs (2 nd Area of Focus)	<i>Cohort #1 OGA Cohort #2 Found.</i>	<i>Designated Office Areas</i>
2:15 PM- 4:00 PM	Learning Labs (3 rd Area of Focus)	<i>Cohort #1 OGA Cohort #2 PILP</i>	<i>Designated Office Areas</i>
4:30 PM- 5:30 PM	Conversation and Dialogue with Chairs and Executives of the six G. A. Agencies		<i>4th Floor Conference Room</i>

Wednesday, January 9

9:00 AM	Morning Prayer - Student Debrief previous day	<i>Cohort Group #2</i>	<i>Conference Room A/B</i>
9:20 AM	Introduction of Lab/Leaders <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Bd. of Pensions, PPC and Mission Agency	<i>Lee and Cliff</i>	<i>Conference Room A/B</i>
9:35 – 11:30 AM	Learning Labs (4 th Area of Focus)	<i>Cohort #1 BOP Cohort #2 PPC</i>	<i>Meet in Assigned Office Area</i>

11:45 AM	Worship and Communion		<i>Chapel</i>
12:15 PM-1:00 PM	Lunch (sponsored by Board of Pensions)		<i>Cafeteria</i>
1:00 – 2:45 PM	Learning Labs (5 th Area of Focus)	<i>Cohort #1 PMA Cohort #2 BOP</i>	<i>Meet in Assigned Office Area</i>
3:00 – 4:45 PM	Learning Labs (6 th Area of Focus)	<i>Cohort #1 PPC Cohort #2 PMA</i>	<i>Meet in Assigned Office Area</i>
5:00 – 6:45PM	Begin work on project		<i>Breakout Rooms</i>

Thursday, January 10

9:00 AM	Morning Prayer - Student Debrief previous day	<i>Cohort Group #1</i>	<i>Conference Room A/B</i>
9:30 AM	Reflections on Presbyterian Church and its future in light of readings and Learning Labs	<i>Cohort Group Leaders</i>	<i>Breakout Rooms</i>
11:00 AM	Time to Visit Program Areas of Special Interest	<i>Various agencies and programs</i>	<i>Offices</i>
12:30 PM	Lunch (sponsored by Special Offerings)		<i>Center Cafeteria</i>
1:15 PM	Dialogue and Discussion on Leadership in a Connectional Church	<i>Lee, Cliff, and Loyda</i>	<i>Conf. Room A & B- Second Floor</i>
2:30 PM	“What in the world are you doing?” – Mission Interpretation	<i>Staff from Mission Interpretation</i>	
3:00 PM	Finalize Project Presentations	<i>Cohort Groups</i>	<i>2601,3601</i>
6:00 PM	Conclude for the Day		

Friday,
January 11

9:00 AM	Morning Prayer Debrief previous day	<i>Cohort Group #2</i>	<i>Schlegel Hall 123, LPTS</i>
9:15 AM	Presentation of designs developed to increase awareness of how ministries of the broader church strengthen congregational life and witness	<i>Cohort Groups</i>	<i>Schlegel Hal 123, LPTS</i>
11:30 AM	Evaluation of Course and Distribution of Take Home Exam	<i>Cliff and Lee</i>	
12:15 PM	Departure for home	<i>Lunch on your own</i>	