

The Leadership Institute at Union Presbyterian Seminary presents:

# Pathways

## to Learning and Leadership

Online and Hybrid Education for those training to be Commissioned Ruling Elders and for church members

**What is it?** **Pathways to Learning and Leadership** is a program of nine courses offered over a two-year period to provide educational preparation toward leading a congregation as a Commissioned Ruling Elder, and six courses for church members who want to increase their knowledge and discipleship. Each course is five weeks long. **Foundational courses** (Phase I - for everyone) are taught entirely online, using live instruction, readings, and peer discussion. **Practical ministry courses for CREs** (Phase II-a) may be taught in a hybrid format; most instruction will be done at home, culminating in three days on campus or at another physical location. **Electives for church members** (Phase II-b) are taught entirely online. Participants will need about six (6) hours per week, including two hours at a specific time online, to complete the work. CRE courses will include some in-person time in the second year; church members may complete all courses online unless they choose to take one of the hybrid courses.

**Who is it for?** People studying to be CREs will be joined by interested church members in learning together. Courses will be taught from a Reformed (Presbyterian) perspective, but are open to all.

**Who will teach the courses?** Most will be taught by faculty from Union Presbyterian Seminary. Some will be taught by practitioners in their field.

**How much does it cost?** The cost per five-week course is \$100. In addition there will usually be one book to purchase per course.

**Are there prerequisites to taking the courses?** No. Anyone can participate.

**Will I be given college credit for the courses?** No. These courses do not earn academic credit. At the end of the two years, you will meet the educational requirements of your denomination toward becoming a Commissioned Ruling Elder, or a Certificate of Completion for church members.

**When can I get started?** The first foundational course, Biblical Interpretation, begins the week of September 4, 2016.

**How do I register?** Go to [www.upsem.edu/pathways](http://www.upsem.edu/pathways) for more information and to register online, or contact Marilyn Johns at [mjohns@upsem.edu](mailto:mjohns@upsem.edu) with any questions.

## Schedule and Overview of the Courses:

- I. Biblical Interpretation – led by Professor **Carson Brisson**. Work begins September 6, 2016 and concludes on October 9, 2016. Includes Bible overview and tools for interpretation
- II. Reformed Theology and Church History – led by PhD candidate **Nina Atkins** and Professors **Christine Luckritz Marquis** and **Adrian Bird**. Work begins on October 17, 2016 and concludes on November 20, 2016. Two sessions on theology, and three on different periods of church history.
- III. The Christian Life – led by Professor **Cindy Kissel-Ito**. Work begins on January 9, 2017 and concludes on February 12, 2017. Includes spiritual practices, worship and sacraments, and ethics.
- IV. The Mission of the Church in the World – led by Professor **John Vest**. Work begins on February 20, 2017 and concludes on March 26, 2017. Includes evangelism and mission.

Online face-to-face classes with the class leader take place on the five Tuesdays during the course from 7-9 p.m. All students are expected to participate in all of these live sessions, as well as the online peer discussions and assignments.

### In Fall of 2016:

#### **Biblical Interpretation** - online

- September 6
- September 13
- September 20
- September 27
- October 4

#### **Reformed Theology and Church History** - online

- October 18
- October 25
- November 1
- November 8
- November 15

### In Winter/Spring of 2017:

#### **The Christian Life** - online

- January 10
- January 17
- January 24
- January 31
- February 7

#### **The Mission of the Church in the World** - online

- February 21
- February 28
- March 7
- March 14
- March 21