

Mission West School for Ministry

2015 Schedule

The following education events are offered for commissioned ministers to meet their educational requirements. These courses provide education within the 16 Areas of Ministerial Practice as required by the Disciples of Christ Policies and Criteria for the Ordering of Ministry. Commissioned ministers must complete three (3) of these classes each year as required by Christian Church in the Southwest Educational Policy. Each class is offered three times, one time in each geographic area. Participants are welcome to attend in any area, where and when convenient.

Ordained clergy are also encouraged to attend for continuing education and community building with fellow clergy.

Congregation leaders are also welcome.

When we say all are welcome, we really mean all are welcome.

Schedule

Each course begins at 9:00 AM and concludes by 3:00 PM, local time

January 17 - Worlds of the New Testament: 7 Key Events, Warren Carter – Abilene

January 31 - Creating a Culture of Generosity, Bruce Barkhauer - Albuquerque

*February 14 - Creating a Culture of Generosity, Bruce Barkhauer - Abilene
Rescheduled to August 29th

*February 28 - Reflections of Disciples History and Polity in Church Today,
John Imbler - Albuquerque
Rescheduled to September 12

March 7 - Worlds of the New Testament: 7 Key Events, Warren Carter – Amarillo

- March 28 – The Disguise of the Ordinary: Finding Spiritual Goodness Hidden in Plain Sight, Stephanie Shepherd - Abilene
- April 18 – The Disguise of the Ordinary: Finding Spiritual Goodness Hidden in Plain Sight, Stephanie Shepherd - Albuquerque
- May 9 – Reflections of Disciples History and Polity in Church Today, John Imbler - Amarillo
- August 8 – Creating a Culture of Generosity, Bruce Barkhauer - Amarillo
- August 22 – A Sacred Trust: Boundary Issues for Clergy, Charlotte Hoppe – Lubbock
- August 29– Creating a Culture of Generosity, Bruce Barkhauer - Abilene
Rescheduled from February 14
- September 12– Reflections of Disciples History and Polity in Church Today, John Imbler - Albuquerque
Rescheduled from February 28
- October 3 – The Disguise of the Ordinary: Finding Spiritual Goodness Hidden in Plain Sight, Stephanie Shepherd - Amarillo
- October 10 - Worlds of the New Testament: 7 Key Events, Warren Carter – Albuquerque
- October 24 – Reflections of Disciples History and Polity in Church Today, John Imbler – Abilene

Course Information

Worlds of the New Testament: 7 Key Events

How did the New Testament come into existence? What worlds shaped these texts? This seminar will look at seven events that shaped the New Testament writings. Understanding these events helps us to interpret and make sense of the New Testament texts in various contemporary contexts.

Warren Carter is Professor of New Testament at Brite Divinity School. He came to Brite in 2007 after teaching for 17 years at Saint Paul School of Theology in Kansas City. His scholarly work has focused on the gospels of Matthew and John, and he has focused on the issue of the ways in which early Christians negotiated the Roman empire. In addition to numerous scholarly articles, he is the author of ten books including *Matthew and the Margins* (Orbis Books), *Matthew and Empire* (Trinity Press International/Continuum), *The Roman Empire and the New Testament* (Abingdon), *John and Empire* (T&T Clark/Continuum), and *What Does Revelation Reveal?* (Abingdon). He has also contributed to numerous church resources and publications such as contributing 15 studies on Matthew in *The Pastors Bible Study Vol 1* (Abingdon). He is a frequent speaker at scholarly and ecclesial conferences.

Degrees

Ph.D., Princeton Theological Seminary, 1991

Th.M., Melbourne College of Divinity, 1986

B.D., Melbourne College of Divinity, 1985

B.A., Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand, 1976

Creating a Culture of Generosity

Explore the biblical and theological understandings that define stewardship as a spiritual discipline. Learn specific tools to help your church grow in generosity and how to develop year-round programming that keeps a holistic view of stewardship as a part of your congregational life. Electronic giving, narrative budgets, generational issues in generosity, use of social media, and effective financial policies will be featured as a part of this workshop.

Bruce A. Barkhauer was called as the first “Minister for Faith and Giving for Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the United States and Canada” in 2010. For twenty-five years he has led congregations in Ohio and Indiana in achieving high levels of financial support for local and global missions and he now shares his experience across the life of the whole church.

His energy, vision, and entrepreneurial spirit enhance gifts in both business and ministry. He brings a biblically based understanding about stewardship combined with theological integrity and weds them to the current trends and best practices related to spirituality and money. In his workshops and writings, Rev. Barkhauer also talks about the multiple understandings about stewardship in the biblical witness as they touch the whole life of a person of faith.

He is a graduate of Ohio University (Athens), Christian Theological Seminary (Indianapolis), and did Doctor of Ministry studies at Ashland Theological Seminary (Ashland, OH). He is married to Laura and they share three grown children and one grandchild.

Reflections of Disciples History and Polity in Church Today

Two books for participants' to have read before the course are Michael Kinnamon and Jan Linn *Disciples: Reclaiming Our Identity, Reforming Our Practice*, Chalice Press, 2009 and D. Duane Cummins, *The Disciples: A Struggle for Reformation*, Chalice Press, 2009. Also, I'd like them to become familiar with www.disciples.org, especially giving attention to the Clergy section under Disciples Home Missions. Participants should download or otherwise obtain copies of [The Design and Theological Foundations and Policies and Criteria for the Ordering of Ministry](http://disciples.org/Portals/0/PDF/TFPCOM/TFPCOM-Final.pdf). (<http://disciples.org/Portals/0/PDF/TFPCOM/TFPCOM-Final.pdf>)

Disciples, Documents

- Three foundational documents

Structures of the Church: Theology and Ecclesiology

- (The Design, Cummins, Osborn)

- Regional and General Church

- Ecumenical Church

Structures of the Congregation: Elders, Diaconate, and Lay Leadership

- (The Design)

- Congregational governance – yesterday and today

- Boards, cabinets, committees

Orders of Ministry: Commissioned and Ordained

- (Policies and Criteria, Williams, The Design, Yearbook)

- Certification and standing

- Ministerial ethics

People of the Table: Sacraments and Worship

- (Cartwright, Harrison and Duke, Williamson)

- Campbell and Stone

- Worship practices

John Imbler serves as Associate Professor of the History of Christianity and Disciples Studies at Phillips Theological Seminary. An ordained minister in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Dr. Imbler serves on the regional ministerial commissions of Kansas and Oklahoma. Executive Vice President of PTS, he is also the seminary's director of Disciples of Christ ministerial formation. He currently is chair of the committee on Religious Understanding of Tulsa Metropolitan Ministry and sits on the board of United Campus Ministry of the University of Tulsa. A member of the American Academy of Religion, the American Association for Higher Education, and the Disciples of Christ Historical Society, he joined the PTS faculty in 1993.

The Disguise of the Ordinary: Finding Spiritual Goodness Hidden in Plain Sight

-- With a nod to historical practices & a little creativity, we can find spiritual practices hidden in plain sight

-- Developing meaningful practices related to daily mindfulness, developing compassion, emboldening actions of justice (in ourselves, our spheres of influence, our neighbors, our world)

Stephanie Shepherd is a doubter, dreamer, and a hope-full feaster -- a pastor and community architect of The Eucatastrophe (The Euc) Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Fort Worth, Texas (www.theeuc.com). Stephanie is bi-vocational; she's also a recruiter and project manager for a private investment firm in downtown Fort Worth. Prior to planting The Euc in 2007, Stephanie pastored and traveled vocational paths in the arts, advocacy and education in Minneapolis and Vancouver (Canada). Stephanie is passionate about finding Jesus in the unexpected, feasting in the whole of life, and the great leveling-field of the Table.

A Sacred Trust: Boundary Issues for Clergy and Spiritual Teachers

Seminar covers the fundamental principles of healthy boundaries in pastoral and teaching relationships:

- To increase awareness of the need for healthy boundaries in the clergy-congregant or teacher-student relationship
- To provide clergy and spiritual teachers with guidelines for appropriate boundaries and self-care strategies
- To illustrate the impact of appropriate vs. inappropriate boundaries in promoting effective ministry

Charlotte Hoppe is Lead Minister for Mission West, Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the Southwest and Area Minister for the Central, Hi-Plains and Tres Rios Areas.

This course is also offered in Fort Worth, TX – February 9, prior to Brite Divinity School Ministers' Week.

Event sites

Abilene –
First Christian Church
1420 N Third St.
Abilene, TX 79601

Amarillo –
The Chalice Abbey
2717 Stanley St.
Amarillo, TX 79109

Albuquerque –
Los Altos Christian Church
11900 Haines NE
Albuquerque, NM 87112

Lubbock –
Westmont Christian Church
4808 Utica Ave
Lubbock, TX 79414

Registration Information

Each event costs \$75 per participant. A spouse may register for \$15. This includes cost for the program and a light lunch.

The Creating a Culture of Generosity events are specifically designed and priced for congregation groups to attend together. The first registration costs \$75. Each participant from the same congregation after that, will pay \$15.

Please register no later than one week prior to each event.

Contact the Mission West office to register.

Call 806-358-9590

email missionwest@ccsw.org;

Register [online](#)

mail payments/checks payable to:

Mission West

2717 Stanley St. Ste A

Amarillo, TX 7910

Those attending events at Chalice Abbey who want to arrive the day before can receive a discounted rate at the nearby Holiday Inn Express. Call the Mission West office (806-358-9590) and ask for Angeline.

For further course questions, please contact Charlotte Hoppe at choppe@ccsw.org

Additional Education Opportunities

Commissioned ministers may substitute one non-Mission West learning opportunity for one required Mission West course per year. The non-Mission West learning opportunity must be 6 hours minimum in length. An Education Event Approval Form, found online here -

<http://storage.cloversites.com/missionwestofthechristianchurchinthesouthw/documents/CM%20ed%20event%20approval%20form.pdf>

must be mailed to the Mission West Office in Amarillo no less than six weeks prior to the event, for approval by the Area Committees on Ministry and Mission West Lead Minister. Education events also provide opportunities for the Area Committees on Ministry and Mission West pastoral staff to provide nurture and support, as well as accountability for, the ministries of the commissioned ministers. So a minimum of 2 Mission West education events are required for commissioned ministers.

The following seminary education events and spiritual retreats do qualify for one commissioned minister education event. Please submit an Education Event Approval Form prior to attending one of these events or retreats.

January 14-15 - Phillips Theological Seminary Re-Mind and Re-New Conference -
<http://ptstulsa.edu/RemindAndRenew>

February 9-12 - Brite Divinity School Ministers Week -
<http://www.brite.edu/events/ministers-week/>

Mission West is also committed to providing support for pastors' spiritual lives in collegial, nurturing clergy groups. Twice annual retreats are offered around our geography. Often a silent day is provided prior to the guided retreat. A trained and credentialed spiritual director leads each event. Dates and registration information can be found in Mission West newsletters and website – www.missionwestccsw.org