Session September 7, 2024

Marks:

Nurturing UCC Identity

* Acknowledging Jesus Christ as the sole Head of the Church.
* Communicating passion for he oneness of the Body of Christ.
* Holding active membership in a Local Church of the United Church of Christ
* Participating in the various settings of the United Church of Christ
* Knowing and appreciating UCC history, polity and theology.
* Exhibiting a commitment to the core values of the United Church of Christ

Summer Assignments:

Reading-A Short Course in the History of the United Church of Christ (www.ucc.org)

3:00 First half of class: Book Report: Religious Journalism-Christina Lonsinger

Basic History of the United Church of Christ: What did you learn from your summer reading?

3:40 Second half of class: Covenants within the United Church of Christ (The structure of the United Church of Christ) OCWM as covenant.

For Next Class**: Paper-Reflections on the local church, your association, the Penn West Conference and why covenants in these bodies allow us to do God’s work. Include in this your experience as a member of your local church consistory, Association Meetings and the Penn West Conference Annual Meeting. You may wish share your experience from the Keystone Conference Gathering.**

Session 2-October 12, 2024

Marks:

Exhibiting a Spiritual Foundation and Ongoing Spiritual Practice

* Being called to authorized ministry in the United Church of Christ.
* Continuing discernment of one’s call in community.
* Exhibiting a commitment to lifelong spiritual development and faithful personal stewardship.

Nurturing UCC Identity

* Knowing and appreciating UCC history, polity and theology.
* Exhibiting a commitment to the core values of the United Church of Christ

Building Transformational Leadership Skills

* Empowering the Church to be faithful to God’s call, reflective of Christ’s mission, and open to the surprises of the Holy Spirit.

Participating in Theological Praxis

* Practicing theological reflection and engagement as part of one’s sense of ministerial identity.
* Articulating a theology and practice of ministry consistent with the UCC Manual on Ministry.

Strengthening inter and intra-personal assets

* Developing and maintaining a healthy sense of self as shaped by God, community and life experiences.
* Living in relationships of covenantal accountability with God and the Church.
* Demonstrating excellent communication skills.

3:00 First half of class: Reflections from the Assignment: Reflections on the local church, your association, the Penn West Conference and why covenants in these bodies allow us to do God’s work. Include in this your experience as a member of your local church consistory, Association Meetings and the Penn West Conference Annual Meeting. You may wish share your experience from the Keystone Conference Gathering.

3:40 Second half of class: Justice Issues and the United Church of Christ and those being addressed in the Penn West Conference..Guest speaker

Session 3-March 8, 2025

Marks

Participating in Theological Praxis

* Demonstrating an appreciation for and participation in the ecumenical and interfaith partnerships of the United Church of Christ.

Class: Ecumenism. How do we maintain the integrity of our identity in the United Church of Christ in the midst of varying Christian Traditions and other faiths traditions and still work within the ecumenical community?

Guest Speaker-Liddy Barlow, Executive Director of Christian Associates of Southwestern Pennsylvania

**Paper for next session: Describe an encounter with a person or persons who are not members of the United Church of Christ and how you gave witness to the United Church of Christ. (Hint to students seeking ecclesiastical authorization: this may be included in your portfolio as your case study.)**

1. **Describe the setting or situation.**
2. **Name the participants (Please use your own name but use pseudonyms for other persons.)**
3. **Verbatim:**

**Mary: (what did Mary Say?)**

**John: (what did John Say?)**

**Meredith or you: (what did you say?)**

 **(And so forth… or course you will not remember everything that everyone said, but get the general gist of the conversation)**

1. **What were my strengths in the conversation?**
2. **How did I feel during the conversation?**
3. **What was I thinking during the conversation?**
4. **How might I have approached this differently?**

**Overall, I felt\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (how?) about my responses.**

Session 4-May 10, 2024

Marks:

Nurturing UCC Identity

* Knowing and appreciating UCC history, polity and theology.
* Exhibiting a commitment to the core values of the United Church of Christ

Building Transformational Leadership Skills

* Empowering the Church to be faithful to God’s call, reflective of Christ’s mission, and open to the surprises of the Holy Spirit.
* Witnessing in the public square God’s redeeming power.

Participating in Theological Praxis

* Practicing theological reflection and engagement as part of one’s sense of ministerial identity.
* Integrating theological reflection in teaching, preaching and ecclesial and community leadership.
* Articulating a theology and practice of ministry consistent with the UCC Manual on Ministry.

Strengthening inter and intra-personal assets

* Demonstrating excellent communication skills.

3:00 First half of class: Discussion of verbatims

3:40 Second half of class: Updates on General Synod.

 The anatomy of a Resolution. The job of a delegate.

Guest delegate from Penn West Conference