

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) are taught in a hybrid format; most instruction will be done at home, culminating in three days on campus. **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 are about half online and half hybrid; church members may complete all courses online.

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 your denomination's equivalent).

When can I get started? The first foundational course, Biblical Interpretation, begins the week of September 3.

How do I register? Go to www.upsem.edu/pathways for more information and to register online, or contact Marilyn Johns at 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.

Complete descriptions of the courses will be available soon on our website. 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.

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 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