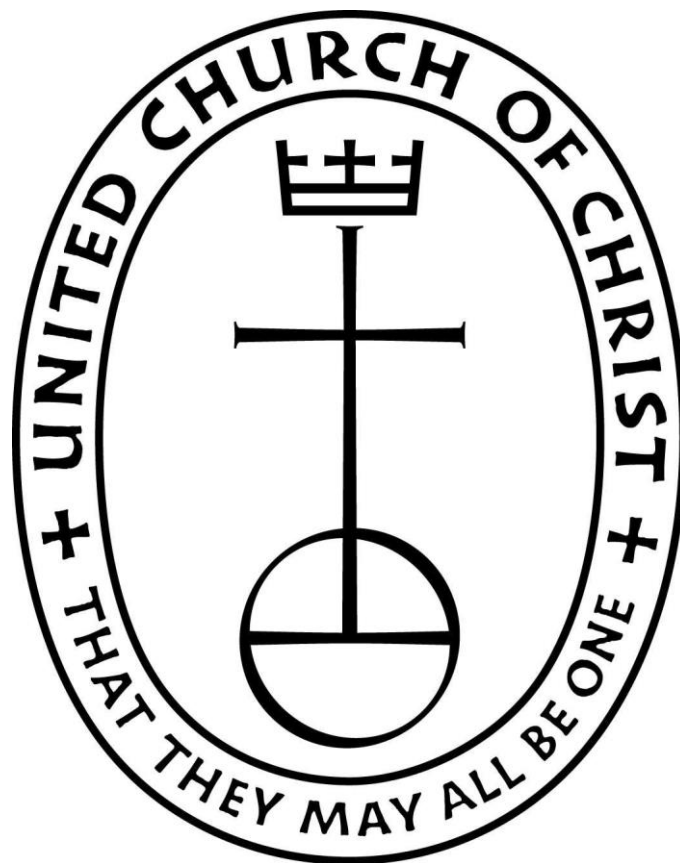


Guidelines
for
**Lay School of Religion
Program**



Revised September 8, 2015
Northwest Ohio Association
United Church of Christ

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Lay School of Religion Program

General Description and Overview

Influenced by the rich heritage of parent denominations, churches of the United Church of Christ have affirmed the significant role of well-trained and broadly informed leadership. This is not only true with regard to a historic attitude about well-trained clergy, but it is also a sure conviction regarding lay leadership in the church.

For many years, through the Lay School of Religion Program, the Northwest Ohio Association has thoughtfully and carefully provided opportunities for self-motivated and committed lay people to become better and more broadly informed in subjects related to the Christian faith and doctrine, and to help them develop their particular skills for the ministry of the laity within their churches.

The aim of the Lay School of Religion Program has been to maintain quality instruction, to create an atmosphere for Christian fellowship and dialogue, and to encourage growth in faith and understanding so as to enhance the local church's efforts to develop deeper and stronger faith communities for nurture, witness, mission and leadership.

All persons are welcome to enroll in the Lay School of Religion Program for personal enrichment. However, if you plan to graduate from the Lay School Program, you must complete the ten course and related workshop curricula. Courses offered include: Preaching, Faith Formation, History and Polity of the UCC, Liturgy and Worship, Exploring the Old Testament 1: Creation, Covenant, and Kings, Exploring the Old Testament 2: Prophets and Poets, Promises and Penalties, New Testament I (The Gospels), New Testament II (Paul, the Letters and Revelation), Pastoral Care, and Theology. Workshops in Stewardship will be held each Spring and four consecutive workshops in Evangelism will be held each Fall. The NRSV Study Bible from Harper Collins (2006) is the preferred Bible for all classes. The Steuben Congregational United Church of Christ will serve as a teaching church, under supervision of the Church and Ministry Team of the Northwest Ohio Association.

The Lay School of Religion Program is sponsored by the Cabinet of Northwest Ohio Association. The Dean of the Lay School of Religion Program manages and administers the school under the oversight of the Association staff, and with the counsel of the Lay School Board. The Lay School Board is composed of representation of the Church and Ministry Team, Faith Formation Team and at-large members. The Lay School Board meets regularly with the Dean and the Association staff to review the progress of the Lay School Program, of the students, and to establish policy for the Lay School Program. Cumulative student records of attendance, participation and course completion are kept in the NWOA office. Students may request copies of their records at any time.

The long range desire is that more churches in the Northwest Ohio Association may view the Lay School of Religion Program as an opportunity for lay leaders to enroll for stimulating quality education and training that will enhance their resourcefulness as partners in the ministry of their local churches.

Regular attendance is expected at all class sessions. When circumstances make it impossible to attend, the instructor or the Dean must be notified. Any student pursuing graduation absent for more than three class sessions in any given term will be required to repeat the course or arrange for a supervised independent study at the discretion of the instructor and Dean. Upon successful completion of all required courses including all class assignments and the exit interview, students will receive a Certificate of Graduation.

Any student wishing to take the classes for personal enrichment, must still pay the fee, purchase and read the book, and be ready for discussion.

Should a Lay School Program student desire to pursue Authorized Ministry as described in the United Church of Christ Manual on Ministry, they should contact the Church and Ministry Team of the Northwest Ohio Association.

Requirements for Admission to the Lay School of Religion Program

Students desiring admission to the Lay School of Religion Program can register by completing the registration form contained in the Lay School of Religion Program brochure for the given semester. These are available from your pastor or the Northwest Association Office.

To qualify for admission to the Lay School of Religion Program, students must have earned a high school diploma or its equivalent. The student will also submit the following to the Dean of the Lay School of Religion:

1. A completed application for entering "The Lay School of Religion".
2. A letter of reference from the applicant's pastor.

Return this portion to register.

Enrollment for Admission
to the
Lay School of Religion Program
of the
Northwest Ohio Association, United Church of Christ

Name of Course _____ Cost \$90.00

Tuition is \$90 for each course payable one week before class begins. \$100 tuition fee will be expected if the fee is received within the last week before class begins or after.

Name _____ Date _____

Home Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Daytime Phone # _____ Evening Phone # _____

Cell Phone # _____ Email _____

Employer _____ Work Phone # _____

Home Church with City _____

- Are you taking this class: I am a Member in Discernment or being considered for Authorized Ministry and intend to complete all class work and assignments to complete the Lay School of Religion
- I am taking this class and plan to complete the Lay School program
- I am taking this course for personal enrichment
- Audit (active participation-no grade)

A letter of reference from your pastor must be presented to the Dean of the Lay School of Religion.

Please check highest educational background completed

High School College- Major _____ Degree _____

Graduate School- Degree _____

Please write a paragraph describing your Christian beliefs and your faith pilgrimage.

Return registration with payment to: Northwest Ohio Association, 416 Wentz St, Tiffin, OH 44883