

Wisconsin Conference, United Church of Christ
Lay Academy Program
Participant, Pastor/Mentor and Local Church Covenant

Lay Academy's commitment to the Participant, Pastor/Mentor and Local Church:

- To provide high quality theological education and faith development to participants and encourage them to share what they learn with others
- To consult as needed with pastor, the participant, and/or the local church regarding the Lay Academy Program
- To treat all participants as beloved children of God, welcoming them where they are and as they are
- To respond in a timely fashion to all questions, feedback and comments
- To read and comment, upon participant papers and projects in a timely manner
- To communicate regularly about any program updates and changes
- To connect at least three times per year with the pastors and/or mentors of current participants

Pastor/Mentor and Local Church Responsibility to the Participants:

- To work together to discover connections between the gifts of each participant and the needs of the local community and the local church
- To support the Lay Academy participant as they grow in faith and explore gifts for ministry by providing opportunities for them to share what they are learning and to practice exercising their gifts. Identify what you will commit to on the next page.
- To meet one-on-one or in a small group with the Participant at least three times each Lay Academy year. In these meetings, provide supportive and constructive feedback to help them grow in faith and develop gifts for ministries of all kinds
- To share concerns that may arise openly and honestly in the spirit of growth and learning

Participant's Responsibility to their Peers and the Program:

- To attend at least 4 of the 5 Lay Academy sessions each year and contribute in positive ways to class discussion and the formation of community
- To complete at least 4 out of 5 projects and other assignments by the deadlines established in the course syllabus
- To treat all program staff and other participants as beloved children of God, welcoming them where they are and as they are
- To respect differences of opinion and perspective and value them as part of the learning experience
- To expect that your beliefs and your faith will be challenged and to see this as a welcome opportunity for growth

Participant's Responsibility to their Pastor/Mentor and Local Church:

- To share what is being learned with your pastor/mentor and local church in mutually agreed upon ways. Identify what you will commit to on the next page.
- To seek the guidance and support of your pastor/mentor and local church in matters of discernment and how you might share your gifts and abilities for ministry in your local context.
- To meet at least three times each year with your pastor/mentor and/or other members of the church to discuss what you are learning and how you are growing from this experience
- To exhibit humility as part of the learning process by recognizing that each subject covered in Lay Academy is much broader and deeper than can be covered in weekend sessions.

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Discuss the covenant as outlined on the previous page with your Pastor, Mentor or other designated representatives from your congregation. Together, determine how you will live out this covenant in concrete ways. Complete the form below, sign it and return a copy to Tisha at tbrown@wcucc.org or 4459 Gray Rd., DeForest, WI 53532. Your registration will not be complete and you will not be allowed to begin Lay Academy until this form is received in our office.

We Covenant To (Select at least three commitments for the year):

- Meet at least three times in this Lay Academy program at year
- Upon completion, _____ will share his/her reflection papers and projects with the Pastor, mentor and/or a reflection group in the congregation for discussion purposes
- Provide these opportunities for _____ to share what he/she is learning:
(circle all that apply or add your own)
Preaching, planning and/or leading worship, leading an adult class or small group,
leading children or youth classes or small groups, planning a community-based ministry,
serving on a board or committee, digital ministry (websites, facebook, etc.) writing articles
for the newsletter, creating bulletin boards or multimedia presentations ...
Other:
- We will communicate openly and honestly with one another for the purpose of supportive growth and development
- The congregation will commission _____ in worship on _____
(See Tisha for an example of a commissioning service if desired)
- The congregation will provide financial support for this journey
- Other (please specify. Use other sheets if necessary):

Participant's Signature: _____

Pastor/Mentor's Signature: _____

Signed on: _____

Received and Reviewed on: _____