

Lay Leadership Skills Purpose and Outcomes

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This document is a work in progress. However, the courses offered and instructors listed are what will be available for 2016-2017. Check back in the summer of 2016 for an updated, more comprehensive picture of Lay Leadership Skills, including Course outcomes and a link between this course and the United Church of Christ's Marks of Faithful and Effective Authorized Ministers.

The purpose of this year of Lay Academy is to equip participants to be more effective leaders in local congregations and in their wider communities. To accomplish this we propose the following courses and hoped for outcomes.

Lay Leadership Skills – Year 3 – 2016-2017 Courses & Instructors

Effective Leadership in Congregations (September 9-10, 2016) Instructor: Tim Perkins

Participants will interact with the Meyers Briggs Typology Indicator to identify their personality type and how influences them as leaders. This session will include a conversation about the variety of leadership styles and personality types we encounter and how to work effectively with all different kinds of people within the context of the congregation and wider community.

Outcomes

Participants will:

- Identify their personality type
- Explore how their unique personality type is a resource for being a more effective leader.
- Develop strategies for working effectively with the wide variety of personalities in their congregations

Leadership Skills for Congregational and Community Transformation (November 4-5)

Instructor: Wendy Cooper

This course will apply the principles of grassroots community organizing to strengthening community life within congregations and provide participants with tools for engaging their local communities.

Outcomes

Participants will:

- Develop skills for building and strengthening relationships
- Learn strategies for identifying and addressing issues
- Gain tools for engaging the wider community

Family Systems Theory and your Local Church (January 20-21, 2017) Instructor: Cathy Wille, Clergy and Church Consultant, Retired Licensed Pastoral Counselor and member of First Congregational Church in Oshkosh.

The primary goal of this course is to engage participants in a discussion of Family Systems Theory and how it is helpful for understanding the way the local church functions. Participants will also explore how a basic understanding of family systems theory helps them be more effective leaders. This session will include discussion about managing anxiety, noticing and dealing with triangles, paying attention to self-differentiation, addressing conflict and how each individual's family system intersects with the system of their local congregation.

Outcomes

Participants will:

- Learn the basic concepts of Family Systems Theory
- Identify how family systems theory provides a useful framework for looking at and understanding their local church
- Consider the intersection between their individual family system and the system of their local congregation.
- Discuss ways of using family systems theory to understand and address conflict

Developing Spiritual Gifts (March 3-4, 2017) Instructor: Winton Boyd

The primary goal of this course is to provide participants with an opportunity to explore the spiritual gifts they possess and to consider how God calls them to use those gifts in their congregations and the world. This course may also teach concrete tools for individual and group discernment and for effective small group facilitation.

Outcomes

Participants will:

- Identify their spiritual gifts.
- Explore the call of God in their lives.
- Experience deep listening and deep hearing through a small group discernment experience
- Develop tools to lead small groups in their home congregations.

Governance, Administration and your Local Church (March or April, 2017) Instructor: Melinda Feller

The primary goal of this course would be to provide participants with an opportunity to develop their tools and skills for providing governance and administrative leadership in their congregation. Participants will explore the ways in which effective leadership and governance supports the mission and ministry of the church, allows it to be nimble and responsive and helps it set a clear direction for decisions and actions.

Outcomes

- Participants will have a more in depth understanding of local church governance
- Participants will have tools for being effective leaders within their local church.
- Participants will articulate ways in which church governance and administration is a form of ministry with God at its core.