

**Lay Academy** is a ministry of the Wisconsin Conference that engages lay people in spiritual growth and development through theological education. Anyone who longs to grow in faith, discover new ways to serve God and their community, and deepen their knowledge of Christian tradition, ministry, and mission is welcome.

### Faith Foundations Years 1 and 2

A 2-year course focused on developing and deepening the foundations of faith.

- Introduction to Lay Academy - Year 1 only
- Reflecting theologically
- Traditional & contemporary theology
- Hebrew testament
- World religions
- Christian history
- Christian testament
- Ethics

### Lay Leadership Skills

A course focusing on developing skills for effective leadership in the local church and wider community.

- Understanding your leadership style
- Transformative Leadership
- Governance and administration
- Family systems theory
- UCC history, polity and theology

### Lay Ministry Skills

A course focusing on developing skills for congregation-based ministry.

- Preaching
- Faith Formation
- Discernment
- Pastoral care
- Worship and sacraments

*It has shown me how to be a more encouraging, supportive member of the congregation, helping me to recognize we need the gifts and talents of each member. **God has a role for everyone.***

—Keith Mulder



*I am more confident talking about my faith because we practice that at Lay Academy and in the reflection papers. Lay Academy is helping me bridge what has long felt like a deep divide between my church and professional lives.*

—Kimberly Redding

*"I have had the privilege of teaching at lay academy three times. Every time, I come away with awareness that **the lay academy creates the valuable and hard-to-find space to engage each other in deep intellectual and spiritual topics.** Theology is meant to be engaged in the world and the lay academy is a rare place in which that conversation can happen."*

—Dr. Carolyn Roncolato

All sessions are held at the Wisconsin Conference Trost Center in DeForest and are taught by expert instructors. They include seminary and college professors, national leaders and local church clergy.

**Schedule:** Sessions begin on Friday evenings at 7:00 p.m. and conclude Saturdays at 3:00 p.m. There are five sessions held September through April.

**Registration:** For information on current yearly schedules, fees, and registration, go to the Wisconsin Conference UCC website (see below) or call 608- 846-7880.

[www.wcucc.org/layacademy](http://www.wcucc.org/layacademy)



Lay Academy has challenged me to look for that part of the Creator that is inside myself. Consequently, I feel much closer to God and feel confident to accept whatever I am called to do, both in my church and the wider community. The camaraderie of the students makes it a joy to be in class with people of the same faith but many diverse gifts.

—Alan Timm

Lay Academy pushes you to further explore your purpose and your faith, both as an individual and as a member of the Body of Christ, all in the safety of a supportive community. It raises questions, promotes critical thinking and creates opportunity for networking and fellowship.

—Bethel Metz



If anyone is looking for where the Spirit is working in the church today, all you have to do is attend a Lay Academy Session. As a member of the first class of the Lay Academy, and now an instructor for the students participating in the Lay Academy, I am impressed by the energy, the passion and the deep faith that is being shared by the participants. When I first participated in the Lay Academy 24 years ago, I had no idea the places this movement would go and the powerful witness by the graduates in the church.

—Cathleen Starck Wille

*God is still speaking,*  
**WISCONSIN CONFERENCE**  
**UNITED CHURCH**  
**OF CHRIST**

Trost Center  
4459 Gray Road  
DeForest, WI 53532

Find us on 

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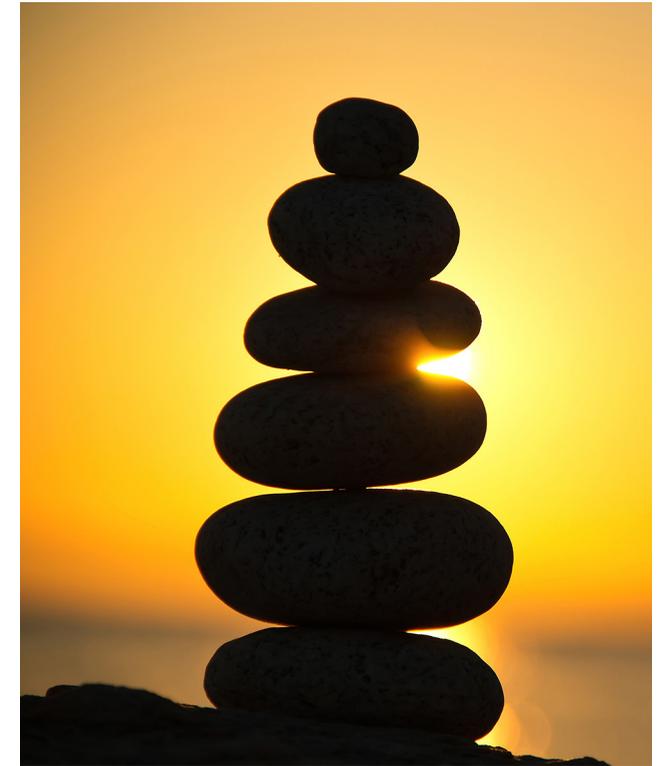
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608-846-7880

Balanced rocks photo Grigor Ivanov/Shutterstock

# Lay Academy

Wisconsin Conference  
United Church of Christ



A journey of discovery  
and transformation!

- Deepen faith and knowledge
- Grow in spiritual maturity
- Strengthen Christ's Church