

Partners in Ministry Class Descriptions

Journey Through Self-Discovery. Two day workshop for new PIM students. This workshop must be taken prior to enrolling for any Certification Program class. The aims of the class are to deepen an understanding of our self-identity as people who are gifted and called by God; and to build community with other participants new to the PIM program.

Introduction to Biblical Studies. This course will introduce the Bible and its critical study through reading and studying biblical text. The sessions will broaden the student's knowledge of the many ways in which biblical text has been approached and used in the past and in the present.

Old Testament 1. Part One of a two-part study of the books and history of the Old Testament. The primary focus is on the Torah, the first five books.

Old Testament 2. In this course, we will continue the critical study of the documents of the Old Testament (including the Apocrypha) paying particular attention to their historical context. The course will guide us to examine the relevance of the Old Testament for the Christian church, and the role/use of the Old Testament in (our) faith development.

New Testament 1. This course introduces the gospels in their historical and cultural contexts. Attention will be given to the content, message, literary features, significant persons and events, and contemporary application of the teachings. Emphasis will be placed on developing skills for biblical study and interpretation.

New Testament 2. This course will continue our study of the New Testament epistles in their historical and cultural contexts. Attention is given to the content, message, literary features, context, and contemporary application of the teaching. Emphasis is placed on the development of skills for Biblical study and interpretation.

Introduction to Theology. This class will explore the major themes within Christian theology, such as Trinity, Christology (the life and work of Christ), Ecclesiology (the nature and mission of the church), Theodicy (the problem of evil), Eschatology (the theology of the end times), among others. Students will engage the theologies of classic thinkers and will be encouraged to develop their own understanding of the doctrines we study. We will also explore various theological methods, such as liberation theology and feminist theology.

Polity. Students will gain an understanding of and appreciation for UCC history and polity through this class. We will look at the UCC's roots, commitments, core values and ministries.

Leadership. In this course, participants will gain an understanding of what it means to be a leader in today's church. Participants will also gain self-understanding through the use of type theory (MBTI) and learning about their own leadership style and how it can be applied to different aspects of church life.

Spiritual Disciplines. This course allows students to experience various spiritual disciplines that may provide a deeper personal awareness and understanding of their relationship with God.

Church History. This course offers a brief survey of the history of the Christian Church and its impact on individual thought and society.

Practical Approach to Personal Ethics. The study of Ethics invites a broad conversation about life – what it means to live well, how to cultivate good character and how to examine ethical

issues. The study of Ethics also explores the interdependency of personal choices and community well-being. Through shared readings, class discussion and written work, we will examine core cultural and religious values and the impact these values have on our daily lives – how we see ourselves in relation to God and others; how we approach conflict; how we make decision and, in turn, impact and reshape the world around us.