

COMMISSIONED PASTOR TRAINING

Congregational Equipping
Program: Christian Leadership
provided by

University of Dubuque Theological Seminary
and the Synod of the Northeast



Online Courses



8 Week Long Courses



\$430 per course, plus
books and materials

Why Commissioned Ruling Elders?

- Provide Support where Teaching Elders are not available or affordable
 - Small Congregations
 - Immigrant/Minority Congregations
 - Part-Time Positions (tent-maker)
 - Support Presbytery through providing Pulpit Supply



Learn more and
apply now at
University of
Dubuque
Theological
Seminary:



<https://bit.ly/LayLeadCourses>

SPRING TERM 1: 1/6-3/2/2026

INTRODUCTION TO OLD TESTAMENT

This course provides a basic introduction to the Old Testament's content, historical background, canon, genres, theology, culture, interpretation, and ecclesial use. By the end of the course, students will be able to responsibly interpret passages from the Old Testament and evaluate how others use the Old Testament.

CHRISTIAN CAREGIVING

An introduction to the caring aspects of pastoral ministry, including biblical foundations of care, the development of pastoral identity, various models of care, and varieties of essential pastoral communication skills necessary for entering diverse situations of crisis and need.

REFORMED WORSHIP AND SACRAMENTS

This course in Reformed Worship and Sacraments introduces the basic scriptural, historical, and theological principles of Christian worship as viewed from a Reformed perspective, with special focus on liturgical practice in the Presbyterian Church (USA).

REFORMED THEOLOGY

This course provides an introduction to Reformed theology through readings, lectures, and discussion with a particular focus on the theology of John Calvin and the content of the Book of Confessions of the Presbyterian Church (USA), especially the Apostles' and Nicene Creeds and the Heidelberg Catechism.

SPRING TERM 2: 3/3-4/27/2026

INTRODUCTION TO NEW TESTAMENT

This course introduces the New Testament as a collection of ancient texts from varying genres. By the end of the course students will be able to articulate what the New Testament is, to identify the various ancient literary genres that New Testament texts represent, to explain how both modern and antique contexts shape interpretation of the New Testament, and to evaluate interpretive debates about specific New Testament texts.

INTRODUCTION TO PREACHING

An introduction to the basic principles of preaching: what sets preaching apart from other types of oral communication; how does one select biblical texts for preaching; what spiritual practices best serve the sermon design and preparation process; what exegetical questions best accord with faithful interpretation; what considerations bear upon the application of the sermon to Christian life; what delivery considerations merit the most intentional practice?

PRESBYTERIAN POLITY

This eight-week course provides an overview of Presbyterian Church (USA) polity, both in principle and in practice. There will be an emphasis on the use of the constitution in the local congregation as well as the governing bodies. Class structure will include lectures, discussion, case studies, and outside assignments.

FOUNDATIONS OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

This course explores the role and practice of the teaching and discipling ministries of the church as graced means of cultivating the character of Christ personally and corporately. An incarnational model of teaching and learning—engaging the whole person—will be emphasized. Students will reflect on their own experiences of these ministries, both as teacher and student; engage texts on teaching and instructional design, the neuroscience of learning and habit formation; contemplative attention; spiritual formation in children and youth; and practice practical theological reflection as they build skills for teaching in various contexts. Models for learning, recent cognitive research, and instructional design models will be dialogue partners as students select and describe a context of teaching and learning; then design, teach, and evaluate a teaching/learning experience.