



LAY ACADEMY

A JOINT MINISTRY OF THE PRESBYTERIES OF NORTH CENTRAL IOWA AND PROSPECT HILL OFFERING WEEKEND CLASSES FOR SPIRITUAL GROWTH AND FOR INDIVIDUALS PURSUING COMMISSIONING AS LAY PASTOR.

The Lay Academy is a unique educational program and will begin a new cycle of classes in September. It is sponsored jointly by the Presbyteries of North Central Iowa and Prospect Hill. The Lay Academy includes the course work required by the Book of Order and the Presbyteries for individuals pursuing certification as a Lay Pastor.

What is the difference between the Lay Academy Program and the Lay Pastor Training?

Individuals, clergy or lay, are welcome to take one or any of the classes offered without enrolling in the Lay Pastor training program. Many of the classes may be of interest to elders, deacons and committee members. Interested individuals are requested to register so that lodging and food can be provided but no application form is required.

The Lay Academy Program is open to any person desiring to pursue in-depth study in any given area. A participant in the Lay Academy Program may take one or any of the classes, depending upon their own particular interests.

The Lay Pastor Training is a specialized program within the Lay Academy. Individuals desiring to pursue the Lay Pastor training will be required to make special application and meet with the requirements in the Book of Order and within his/her own Presbytery. The Committee for Preparation of Ministry (CPM) will review applications for the training program.

When does the Lay Academy begin? The academy will offer classes beginning in September. The classes will meet on Friday evening and Saturday until about 4:00 PM. A total of 16 classes are required for the Lay pastor training and each class required will be offered once in the two year cycle.

What classes will be offered? The courses offered will be those required by the Book of Order: New Testament and Old Testament, Reformed Theology, The Sacraments, Worship, Presbyterian Polity, Preaching, Church History, Christian Education, Ethics, Evangelism and Discipleship, Pastoral Care, Personal Spiritual Formation as well as spiritual formation within congregations. In addition, electives are added to the schedule, for instance: Ministry during Times of Loss and Church Administration.

Where will the classes be held and what is the cost? Classes will be held at First Presbyterian Church, Fort Dodge is a mid-point location for the two presbyteries. The total cost per class is **\$178.00**. Lodging will be at a local motel and food will be served at the church. The cost breakdown per weekend is:

\$63/Room (this is a single room; you may split the cost with a room mate)

\$15/All Meals \$100 Class Fee Books/Travel expenses are extra.

****Churches are encouraged to share in the student's cost and if requested, a letter will be sent to session urging their participation in the preparation of students.**

Who are the course instructors? Presenters are qualified instructors, with particular knowledge in specific areas. Each class session also has a responder, usually a pastor from one of the two presbyteries, who shares from his/her life experience in the area studied.

What should I do with all this information?

- Share a copy of this letter with an individual in your congregation. **Remember all the classes are open to lay and clergy alike:** individuals do not need to be in pursuit of commissioning as a Lay Pastor to enroll in a course.
- Visit with them in their home or office. Share with them that you and other leaders in the congregation recognize their commitment, leadership potential, interest in more in-depth Biblical, theological study and spiritual growth.
- Indicate to the potential applicant the congregation's willingness to assist financially.
- Call your presbytery office to request a Lay Academy Packet (Provided by your presbytery) to be mailed the interested individual.
- Publish the individual course offering in your church newsletter assuring individuals they do not have to be seeking ministry as a Lay Pastor to participate.

Please give this invitation prayerful consideration. Persons may not desire to pursue the Lay Pastor track, but would welcome the opportunity to continue and enlarge their personal spiritual journeys. This may also be an opportunity for someone to test their call in a supportive and caring community. For others, it may open new doors for service and witness.

If you have further questions please contact Marcia Rich.

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Presbytery of North Central

Rev. David Feltman, Executive Presbyter

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