

The Lay Academy

The Lay Academy offers classes for individuals or groups seeking to grow in their own spirituality or who are seeking more information about scripture or the church. It also offers training for those who wish to seek commissioning as lay pastors.

Classes meet at First Presbyterian Church in Fort Dodge during eight or nine weekends per year. Students gather with instructors at 6:00 PM on Friday evenings and share a meal prepared by members of First Presbyterian Church. Worship and a teaching session follows until about 9:00 PM. Class resumes about 8:30 – 9:00 AM on Saturday and continue until 4:00 PM with a break for lunch.

The classes are taught by professors from Dubuque Seminary, Northwestern College in Orange City, University of Northern Iowa, or pastors and Elders from both presbyteries with expertise in certain areas. A responder is also present, to lead worship and devotional time and to respond to the teaching, showing how information is useful in the church. Responders are pastors from both presbyteries.

The classes offered include: New Testament I and II, Personal Spiritual Formation, Old Testament I and II, Preaching, Christian Education, Polity, Theology, Ethics, Pastoral Care, Worship I (how to plan a worship service) Worship II (sacraments, weddings and funerals) Church History, Evangelism and Discipleship, and Spiritual Formation in Congregations. These courses are required for lay pastor commissioning. In addition, elective classes are offered such as Ministry in Times of Loss and Church Administration.

The Lay Academy is a joint ministry of North Central Iowa and Prospect Hill Presbyteries and they cover the cost of the instructors and the classes. The cost per student is kept at a minimum (\$15.00 for food, \$63.00 local motel single occupancy, \$100.00 fee for each course.) Students are required to pay their own travel expenses and books. Food for the weekend will be cooked at the church. Home churches often help students with some of these expenses. **Please note ** Scholarships may be available from your Presbytery Office.**

Reservations for classes and lodging may be made by email or telephone to the address listed below. Questions about the lay academy may be directed to Marcia Rich.

May God bless you on your own faith journey as you seek his will for your life.

Grace and Peace,

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