

PRESBYTERIAN LAY ACADEMY
For Elders and Others
PRESBYTERY OF MACKINAC
2003

The Lay Academy of Mackinac Presbytery will provide Christian education to equip lay people for ministry in the following areas.

1. **Commissioned Lay Pastor.** CLP's provide ministry in the Presbytery in a variety of way's including pastoral leadership for churches unable to employ an ordained minister of Word and Sacrament. Preparation for being commissioned is under the supervision of the Preparation for Ministry Committee of Mackinac Presbytery. Course work for CLP's is prescribed in the Constitutionally Required Courses listed in the Book of Order and administered by the Preparation for Ministry Committee of the Presbytery. Individual programs must be approved by the Preparation for Ministry Committee.
2. **Theological and Biblical education for congregational leadership.** These people will serve their churches and the Presbytery in a variety of ways which include the following.
 - a. Preaching
 - b. Communion leadership
 - c. Moderating Session Meetings
 - d. Pastoral care
 - e. Mission focused leadershipGraduation certificates will be awarded by the Presbytery of Mackinac in each of the areas listed above upon completion of the required courses in that particular area.. Approval for serving Communion and moderating a session in the Presbytery of Mackinac will be authorized by the Committee on Ministry. Approval for mission focused leadership may either be under the direction of the Stewardship and Mission Committee of Presbytery or a session of a particular church. Normally the approval for preaching and pastoral care leadership will be granted by the session of a particular church.
3. **Equipping a Theological and Biblical Community to touch the world for Jesus Christ.** The Lay Academy through its ministry will offer the opportunity for Christians to discern their gifts and to discover where God is leading them. Courses will be publicized through the Presbytery and, depending on space available, will be open to all who wish to register. Participation in the programs offered may or may not lead to graduation certificates. Each individual will establish the course work that will be appropriate to their own needs. Participants, if they choose, may expect counsel from the session of their local church and the Presbytery of Mackinac.

Courses that will be offered by the Lay Academy

1. Bible
 - a. Introduction to the Old Testament
 - b. Introduction to the New Testament
 - c. Studies of specific Biblical books.
 - d. Interpreting Scripture
2. Theology and Sacraments
 - a. Theology/Church history
 - Survey of Church History

- Introduction to Christian Theology
- Reformed Theology
- b. Creeds and Confessions
- c. Baptism and Lord's Supper
- 3. Presbyterian Polity
- 4. Preaching
 - a. Reformed Worship: Liturgy and Preaching
 - b. Sermon preparation
 - c. Lectionary preaching
- 5. Teaching
 - a. Survey of Christian education materials
 - b. Methods of teaching
 - c. Dynamics of small teaching groups
- 6. Pastoral Care
- 7. Supervised on site opportunities for ministry

Elective courses that will be available from time to time

1. Spiritual development
2. Ethics
3. Evangelism
4. Social justice and peacemaking
5. Mission trips
6. Dynamics and administration of the small church
7. Ministry in the small town and rural areas
8. What does it mean to be called?
9. Weddings, funerals, and other formal occasions
10. Prayer
11. Developing special needs ministry(chaplain, prison, recovering addicts, etc.)

The Lay Academy will function in the following ways.

1. The Presbytery will make a commitment to a relationship with Dubuque Seminary and their internet education center which can be found on line at: <http://udts.dbq.edu/lillyhome.htm>. These courses, under the supervision of the Preparation for Ministry Committee of Mackinac Presbytery, will be required for all who are preparing to be Commissioned Lay Pastors. All registered participants in the Lay Academy will be welcomed to take these courses. The Committee on Ministry of Mackinac Presbytery may require one or more of these courses for people preparing to serve communion or moderate session within the Presbytery of Mackinac.
2. The Presbytery will make a commitment to *the Lay School for Mission*, Northern Great Lakes Synod, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, and to *the Lay Missionary Training Program*, North/West Lower Michigan Synod, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. The courses, under the supervision of the Preparation for Ministry Committee of Mackinac Presbytery, may be considered for those who are preparing to be commissioned. Certain courses, under the supervision of the Committee on Ministry of Mackinac Presbytery, may be considered for those preparing to serve communion or moderate Sessions.
3. The Presbytery will make a commitment to provide annually a two day event for which

leadership will qualify for one or more of the listed courses in the Lay Academy. This event will be required for all Commissioned Lay Pastors and all preparing to be Commissioned Lay Pastors. It will be offered to all others enrolled in the lay academy. Certain events, under the supervision of the Committee on Ministry of Mackinac Presbytery, may be considered for those preparing to serve communion or moderate Sessions.

4. Mackinac Presbytery will do its best to publicize to all registered participants of the Lay Academy events that will be offered in other locations that include topics pertinent to the Lay Academy purpose. These events will all be helpful continuing education events and may take the place of another event but will not be required. Using any of these events to fulfill requirements to be commissioned, serve Communion, or moderate a Session will be with the approval of the committee overseeing the work of the participant. Certain of these events may qualify for scholarship assistance from a particular committee of Mackinac Presbytery.

Certificates that will be offered to graduates of the Lay Academy

1. **Commissioned Lay Pastor** - This will be required by all who are to be commissioned as a prerequisite for commissioning. Participants, under the supervision of the PFM of M, will take the required amount of course work in the following categories. Bible, Theology and Sacraments, Presbyterian Polity, Preaching, Teaching, Pastoral Care.
2. **Serving Communion** - Specific course work for this certificate will be under the supervision of the Committee on Ministry
 - a. Selected courses under Theology and Sacraments
 - b. Selected courses under Bible
 - c. What does it mean to be called?
 - d. Prayer
 - e. Supervised on site opportunities for ministry
3. **Moderating Session** - Specific course work for this certificate will be under the supervision of the Committee on Ministry.
 - a. Polity
 - b. Selected courses under Bible
 - c. Dynamics and administration in small churches
 - d. Ministry in the small town and rural areas
 - e. Prayer
 - f. What does it mean to be called?
 - f. Supervised on site opportunities for ministry
4. **Pastoral Care Certificate** - The following courses will be required
 - a. Three separate courses on the themes of Pastoral Care
 - b. The concept of the call
 - c. Spiritual development
 - d. An introduction to the Bible and two other Bible courses
 - e. Worship in the Reformed tradition
 - f. Small group dynamics
 - g. Supervised on site opportunities for ministry
5. **Mission and Evangelism Certificate** - The following courses will be required
 - a. An introduction to the Bible and two other Bible courses
 - b. Spiritual development
 - c. Prayer

- d. Worship in the Reformed tradition
 - e. Small group dynamics
 - f. Christian education materials
 - g. Mission trips
 - h. Social justice and peacemaking
 - i. Participation in one mission trip
6. **Preaching Certificate -**
- a. Ministry in a particular area(eg. Suburban, Urban, Rural)
 - b. Three courses on Preaching
 - c. Worship in the Reformed tradition
 - d. An Introduction to the Bible and three other Bible courses
 - e. Reformed theology
 - f. Spiritual Development
 - g. Ethics
 - h. Evangelism
 - i. Supervised on site opportunities for ministry
7. **Youth Ministry Certificate(not completed yet)**
8. **Stewardship Certificate(not completed yet)**

Registration Requirements - All participants will be required to register and to pay a basic fee of \$25. This fee will cover the cost of tracking the participant through the program and the granting of a certificate or commissioning. Some specific tracks through the Lay Academy may require additional registration and supervision and these are outlined in this Lay Academy brochure. Specific fees for course work are all in addition to the registration fee and they will be spelled out at the time of signing up for specific courses. In some instances there may be scholarship help with specific courses. Participants are invited to check with the Presbytery Executive for information about scholarship help that may be available.