

The School of Christian Studies *ADVANCED*

Congregational Transformation Three-Year Program

The program consists of:

- **Six Core Courses** (one-day six hour)
Two courses will be held each year, one in the spring and one in the fall, for a total of three years.
- **Two Elective (four hour)/Module Course (six hour) of your choice** from either the School of Christian Studies or the School of Christian Studies *ADVANCED*.
- **Five Locations**
Classes will be held in the following areas: Crab Orchard, Fairmont, Oakwood, Parkersburg and Wheeling.

Class rotation schedule: A different class will be held in each of the five locations on the same date. On the next class date, classes will rotate to a new location, so students will have the opportunity to take another class. This process will continue for a total of three years, so each student will be able to take each class in their location, except for the Strategic Planning class. This class will be held at the end of the three-year program after students have attended the five other courses in the program. This class will be held at Parchment Valley Conference Center.

Fees: FOR CREDIT/AUDIT - \$25.00/single, \$35.00/couple, plus the cost of the textbook and shipping fee.

Class Descriptions

- **Community Transformation**

Instructor: Mark Stauffer

This course is designed to enable students in understanding and developing strategies for community transformation.

We will wrestle theologically with the theme of transformation. We will use the Book of Ephesians as our backdrop.

Using Appalachian neighborhoods as our laboratory as well as several texts, we will develop a model for studying and ministering in our own community settings.

We will gain skills in the art of collaboration in our specific community contexts.

- **Personal Transformation**

Instructor: Jana Raines

Christ has called us to a journey of transformations through faith. A community experiences this as individuals grow. Through ups and downs in our personal and spiritual lives, there are times of coping, preparing and renewal. We will use both scriptural and historical methods to seek God and encourage our continued transformation in faith and grace. This class will include personal reflection and group exercises. We will explore the traditions and experiences

which build connections to God. We will seek to be transformed into Christ's likeness.

- **Systems Transformation in the Local Church**

Instructor: Mike Sisson

This course focuses on the role of leaders in the dynamic process of guiding a congregation through intentional change. Special attention will be given to equipping leaders to identify and analyze the various types of systems at work within their congregation and to provide leadership in transforming systems which are unhealthy and/or limiting the effectiveness of the church's ministry and mission.

- **Church Transformation**

Instructor: Mark McCloy

Beginning with the New Testament church in Acts, we will explore the motivating power of purpose and vision, focusing especially on the visioning process, direction of the vision, understanding connection between purpose, vision and programming, etc. As part of this class, you will work on developing a deeper awareness of God's preferred future for your church and explore how to refine and communicate your understanding of that future.

- **Transformational Leadership in Your Current Context**

Instructor: Ed Rogers

This course will focus on examining and developing your leadership style and gifts, focusing on their effectiveness in your current and future context. During our time together, we will explore ways in which you can lead people through periods of uncertainty and changing culture. Using the Book of Nehemiah and other texts, you will be challenged to understand your current context, culture and calling. The two questions that will guide our time together are: 1.) What do I need to do to become the leader that God has called me to be? and 2.) What am I prepared to do to become the leader that God has called me to be?

- **Strategic Planning**

Instructor: To Be Announced

The purpose of this class is to act as a capstone for the School of Christian Studies *ADVANCED* Church Transformation three-year program. The student will explore how to put together the learning from all of the other classes into a practical and sustainable plan for future ministry.

(SCS students will automatically be on the mailing list for this program. If you are not a SCS student and would like to be put on the mailing list, please contact Donna at snyder@wvbc.org or 800.879.9822.)

The first rotation will be held on Saturday, May 2, 2015. Registration forms will be available April 2, 2015. Please visit www.wvbc.org for more information.