

School of Christian Studies ***ADVANCED Level of Study***

The mission of the West Virginia Baptist Convention School of Christian Studies is to bring honor and glory to God, by developing quality church leaders, through training that will help them grow in spiritual maturity, biblical knowledge, and ministry skills.

"Continuing Education for 21st Century Christian Leaders"

The School of Christian Studies has branched out from our standard ministry program and started the ***School of Christian Studies' ADVANCED Level of Study***. These classes are separate from our regular School of Christian Studies' program and a certificate of completion is available after eight courses are completed.

The West Virginia Baptist Convention ***School of Christian Studies ADVANCED Level of Study*** is open to all persons. Anyone may take course(s) for their own general improvement. It is not necessary to be a teacher, youth worker or pastor to benefit from a course of study.

Although not required, we suggest you enroll in the ADVANCED Level of Study after you have completed a School of Christian Studies' ministry program.

School of Christian Studies
West Virginia Baptist Convention
P. O. Box 1019, Parkersburg, WV 26102-1019
800.879.9822

TABLE OF CONTENTS

<i>How And When Did The Advanced Level Of Study Begin?</i>	4
<i>Who Can Take School Of Christian Studies ADVANCED Courses?</i>	4
<i>Do I Have To Complete A School Of Christian Studies' Ministry Program Before I Can Take The Advanced Classes?</i>	4
<i>Is The Advanced Level Of Study Accredited?</i>	4
<i>What Ministry Programs Are Available?</i>	5-7
CREDIT:	7
<i>How Do I Take Classes For Credit?</i>	7
<i>What If I Don't Want To Receive Credit?</i>	7
<i>Can I Transfer Credit From My Previous Experience?</i>	7
ADMISSION:	8-9
<i>How Do I Apply To The School Of Christian Studies ADVANCED Level Of Study?</i>	8
<i>How Do I Register For Classes?</i>	8
<i>When Can I Begin Taking Classes?</i>	9
CLASSES:	9-10
<i>What Will The Class Topics Be?</i>	9
<i>What Format Will The Classes Be In?</i>	10
<i>When Will The Classes Be Held?</i>	10
<i>Will Classes Require An Assignment To Be Completed?</i>	10
<i>What Happens If I Miss A Class?</i>	10
<i>What Happens After The Two-Year Cycle Is Completed?</i>	10
<i>Will Any Of The Courses Be Repeated?</i>	10
FEES:	11
<i>How Much Do Classes Cost?</i>	11
<i>What Fee Do I Choose If I Take A Class For Credit And My Spouse Wants To Audit?</i>	11
TEXTBOOKS:	11-12
<i>How Much Do The Textbooks Cost?</i>	11
<i>Who Chooses The Textbooks?</i>	11
<i>Where Do I Purchase The Textbooks?</i>	12
<i>Are My Spouse And I Required To Buy Two Textbooks?</i>	12
GRADES:	12
<i>How Are Grades Determined?</i>	12
<i>Will I Receive A Report Of The Classes I Have Completed?</i>	12
INSTRUCTORS:	13
<i>How Are Instructors Selected?</i>	13
GRADUATION:	13-14
<i>What Are The Requirements For Graduating?</i>	13
<i>Will There Be A Graduation Ceremony?</i>	13
<i>Can I Take Advanced Classes At A Reduced Rate After I Graduate?</i>	14
<i>Graduates Of The School Of Christian Studies ADVANCED Level of Study</i>	14
ADVISORY COMMITTEE:	14-15
APPLICATION FOR ADMISSION:	16

How And When Did The Advanced Level Of Study Begin?

Of the many graduates of the School of Christian Studies, some of them so hunger to keep learning that they take our courses over and over again. Teachers frequently heard, "I wish we had more time to dig deeper than the allotted time for this course allows!" Those who are engaged in any form of regular ministry learn very quickly that we can never know enough.

In the spirit of this, the deans and advisory team of the School of Christian Studies initiated the first series of Advanced Level courses in Spring of 2005. At this time, there is one program of study in the **School of Christian Studies ADVANCED Level of Study** and that is the Two-Year Advanced Level of Study. Eight of the Advanced Level Courses will be taught every two years on an ongoing basis. Once eight courses are completed, a diploma of completion will be given. The selection of courses will be driven by:

- 1.) requests of students and
- 2.) disciplines needed for well-rounded ministry as determined by the deans and director with input by leading pastors and potential presenters.

Who Can Take School Of Christian Studies ADVANCED Classes?

The West Virginia Baptist Convention **School of Christian Studies ADVANCED Level of Study** is open to all persons. Anyone may take course(s) for their own general improvement. It is not necessary to be a teacher, youth worker or pastor to benefit from a course of study.

Do I Have To Complete A School of Christian Studies' Ministry Program Before I Can Take The Advanced Classes?

Although not required, we suggest you enroll in the Advanced Level of Study after you have completed a School of Christian Studies' Ministry Program.

Is The Advanced Level Of Study Accredited?

The **School of Christian Studies ADVANCED Level of Study** Program carries no college or seminary credit.

What Ministry Programs Are Available?

The Advanced Level of Study has two programs of study available: the General Studies two-year program and the Congregational Transformation three-year program (new in 2015).

General Studies Two-Year Program: Required courses for this program will be taught over a two-year period with at least four classes taking place each year with a total of eight classes to be completed. Upon completion, a diploma will be issued.

- *In addition to the four classes on the schedule each year, we may offer Advanced Level credit for attendance at West Virginia Baptist Convention "Super Events" or other events as decided on by the School of Christian Studies' Advisory Board. You will be notified in a mailing one month prior to these special events in order to register.*

Congregational Transformation Three-Year Program: This program consists of: 1. 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. 2. 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. 3. 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 people will have the opportunity to take another class. This process will continue for a total of three years, so each students 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.

Class Descriptions:

Community Transformation
Instructor: Mark Stover

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 setting.

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

For those who do not wish to obtain credit, classes may be audited at a reduced rate. Please see below.

Personal Transformation

Instructor: Jana Raines

Christ has called us to a journey of transformation 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 Congregational 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 a future ministry.

CREDIT

Credit: How Do I Take Classes For Credit?

If you wish to take classes for credit, you must complete an application for admission (before your eight classes are completed), provide us with a copy of your high school diploma or G.E.D. (before your eight classes are completed), pay the "For Credit" fee for each class, attend the entire class session and complete all assignments as given by the instructors.

Credit: What If I Don't Want To Receive Credit?

If you do not wish to receive credit, you may audit course(s). Auditors are not required to pay the "For Credit" fee, purchase a textbook, stay for the entire class or complete assignments. Auditors pay a discounted rate, but if a textbook is needed, it will be at the regular cost.

Credit: Can I Transfer Credit From My Previous Experience?

The transfer of credits from other learning experiences, such as college, Bible institute and seminary, may be granted, when there is a correlation with courses offered by the **School of Christian Studies ADVANCED Level of Study** and completed in a classroom of an educational institution. Transcripts of courses to be considered must be provided to our director for review. *No credit will be given for life experience.*



ADMISSION

Admission: How Do I Apply To The School Of Christian Studies ADVANCED Level Of Study?

Please call the secretarial assistant at the Parkersburg office to request an application for admission, download an application online by visiting www.wvbc.org and clicking on the **School of Christian Studies ADVANCED** link or, if you have an information packet, use the application included.

Complete the application for admission and mail, along with any required papers, to: School of Christian Studies ADVANCED, P.O. Box 1019, Parkersburg, WV 26102.

Your information will be entered into our database and you will begin receiving registration information for each class one month prior to its scheduled date.

Admission: How Do I Register For Classes?

When you receive registration information on a class you would like to attend, please complete the registration form and mail, along with the appropriate fee in a check or money order, in the envelope enclosed in the mailing. You may also bring your form and fee to the Parkersburg office (1019 Juliana Street, Parkersburg, WV 26101), but please bring the exact amount as we do not have change on hand. In this instance, please remember to subtract your shipping fee.

Upon receipt of your registration and fee, a copy of the textbook and syllabus, along with any other pertinent information will be sent to you.

Please note: It is important you register early enough to receive your text and assignment in order to complete any assignments due by the class date.

Admission: When Can I Begin Taking Classes?

Anytime. It is not necessary to wait until the beginning of the next year. Once you are on the mailing list, you will be sent registration information one month ahead of time of the scheduled class date. If you are not yet on the mailing list, please inquire with the secretarial assistant about any upcoming classes. Upcoming classes and registration information are also on our website. Please visit www.wvbc.org and click on the **School of Christian Studies** **ADVANCED** link.

CLASSES

Classes: What Will the Class Topics Be?

Advanced Level courses will be developed in the following four areas: theological, Biblical, historical and practical. One class from each area will be taught during the year.

To give you an idea of what type of subject matter you will see offered, here are the classes held thus far:

<i>Eschatology and the Book of Revelation</i>	<i>Christianity and Art</i>
<i>Atonement</i>	<i>End Times Prophecy of the New Testament</i>
<i>Old Landmarkism</i>	<i>Churchmanship: How to be a Good Church Member</i>
<i>The Practice of Spiritual Warfare</i>	<i>Connections (Between the Testaments)</i>
<i>From the Book of Nehemiah</i>	<i>Book of Isaiah</i>
<i>Preaching for Special Occasions</i>	<i>No Fear Discipleship</i>
<i>Habakkuk: The Watchtower Prophet</i>	<i>Bodies of Christ: Physical Health as Discipleship and Evangelism</i>
<i>Spiritual Gifts</i>	<i>Book of Revelation</i>
<i>Calvinism/Arminianism</i>	<i>The Process of Spiritual Transformation</i>
<i>History of the King James Version</i>	<i>World Religions: How to Connect with People of Other Faiths</i>
<i>Abuse of Scripture</i>	<i>The Book of Matthew</i>
<i>Biblical Languages and Tools</i>	<i>The Book of Jeremiah</i>
<i>Unlocking the Mystery of Effective Leadership</i>	<i>Examining the Spiritual Disciplines</i>
<i>The Power of Positive Preaching</i>	<i>Small Groups: A Biblical Response</i>
<i>Galatians</i>	<i>Three (Not So) Minor Prophets: Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah</i>
<i>Church Growth: A Biblical and Practical Approach</i>	
<i>The Gospel of John</i>	
<i>Spanish for Missions (special six-week class)</i>	
<i>Turning the Ship Around: Getting the Church Back on Course</i>	
<i>The Book of Daniel</i>	
<i>Special Training Event: Starting a Second Worship Service</i>	
<i>The Holy Spirit: God's Personal, Powerful Presence</i>	
<i>The Inspiration, Infallibility and Inerrancy of Scripture</i>	
<i>Closer to the Heart of God (A Study of Prayer)</i>	
<i>Leading Mission Teams</i>	
<i>Prophetic Imagination</i>	
<i>Leadership Survey</i>	

Classes: *What Format Will The Classes Be In?*

Classes will be in a one-day format and will be held at our Parchment Valley Conference Center in Ripley, West Virginia. Registration will be at 8:30 a.m. and class will begin at 9:00 a.m. Lunch is included and will be at 12:00 p.m., with one 15 break before lunch and one after. Class will conclude at 3:00 p.m.

Classes: *When Will The Classes Be Held?*

Two classes will be held in the spring months and two in the fall. Classes will be scheduled during these time periods according to the availability of the instructor, so at this time there is no specific date of when the classes will occur. There will be no classes held in June, July or August.

Classes: *Will Classes Require An Assignment To Be Completed?*

Possibly. This decision will be left up to the instructor of each class. Most instructors will require a textbook to be read and some will give a written assignment as well. Others may only require class participation. The requirements for each class will be published in the mailing sent out one month prior to each class.

Classes: *What Happens If I Miss A Class?*

It is not necessary to make up any missed classes, just continue with the program until eight total courses are completed. **A STUDENT NEED ONLY COMPLETE EIGHT OF THE COURSES OFFERED TO OBTAIN A DIPLOMA.**

Classes: *What Happens After The Two-Year Cycle Is Completed?*

The cycle will then begin again, with a different selection of courses being offered.

Classes: *Will Any Of The Courses Be Repeated?*

Courses may be repeated if enough interest is expressed. Please let us know what class(es) you would like to see offered again and encourage others to let us know as well.

FEES

Fees: How Much Do The Classes Cost?

"FOR CREDIT" - Each class will be \$32.00/single or \$42.00/couple, plus the cost of the textbook and the book rate shipping fee. The couple fee includes: husband and wife, boyfriend and girlfriend, father and son, father and daughter, mother and son, mother and daughter, etc.

"AUDIT" - Each class will be \$25.00/single and \$35.00/couple, plus the cost of the textbook and the book rate shipping fee, if desired.

Exact fees for each class will be published in a mailing sent out one month prior to class.

Fees: What Fee Do I Choose If I Take A Class For Credit And My Spouse Wants To Audit?

It is not necessary for couples to pay two separate fees. It is not required that the "For Credit" student pay \$32.00 and the "Audit" student (spouse) pay \$25.00. Couples only need to pay the \$42.00 couple fee, even if one is an audit.

TEXTBOOKS

Textbooks: How Much Do Textbooks Cost?

Each textbook will have a different cost, and as ours are bought at a discounted rate, they are often cheaper than you can buy them. Our lowest price text thus far has been \$5.00 and our most expensive \$21.77, so the majority of books will fall into this range.

We only charge a book rate shipping fee and that is exactly what it costs to mail the book to you.

Textbooks: Who Chooses The Textbooks?

It is to be the responsibility of the School of Christian Studies' Advisory Committee to select the textbooks. Only approved texts may be used for the courses. Suggested reading material for outside assignments may be made by the instructor, but these books are not part of the curriculum and the student is not required to purchase them.

Textbooks: Where Do I Purchase The Textbooks?

The School of Christian Studies **ADVANCED Level of Study** will make the necessary textbooks available to the students on the registration form sent out one month prior to each class. Textbooks (and any other reading assignments) should be completed prior to the class, unless other arrangements are made by the instructor; therefore, it will be necessary to register early enough to receive your text and read the required material. Books will not be available at the class locations for purchase.

Textbooks: Are My Spouse And I Required To Buy Two Textbooks?

No. Most couples in the **School of Christian Studies ADVANCED** program purchase one textbook to share. You are welcome to purchase one for each of you, but please remember to double your shipping fee.

GRADES

Grades: How Are Grades Determined?

The student will be graded "pass/fail" for all **School of Christian Studies' ADVANCED** courses, based upon the following criteria:

- Payment of all required fees.
- Class attendance and participation.
- Completion of all reading assignments.
- Completion of all written assignments.

In most circumstances, you will have 30 days to complete your written assignment and e-mail or snail mail it to the instructor.

The instructor may grant an "incomplete" when any of the above criteria has not been fulfilled 30 days after the course has taken place.

Grades: Will I Receive A Report Of The Classes I Have Completed?

A transcript will be mailed annually, in the fall after the last course of the year is completed, to each student who has successfully completed courses for credit during the year. These transcripts should be retained as validation of course completion.

INSTRUCTORS

Instructors: How Are Instructors Selected?

Instructors are selected and approved by the School of Christian Studies' Executive Committee and must meet certain criteria in order to instruct for the school. Listed below are the requirements for School of Christian Studies' instructors.

- Must have a professional degree from a nationally accredited school (college or university level).
- Must be an active supporter of the West Virginia Baptist Convention.
- If ordained, be recognized by the West Virginia Baptist Convention.
- Must have experience in the pastoral or teaching disciplines.
- Must be a graduate of the School of Christian Studies and have extensive pastoral experience.
- Must have received a seminary degree from a recognized seminary.

13

GRADUATION

Graduation: What Are The Requirements for Graduating?

The following guidelines for graduation apply to each **School of Christian Studies ADVANCED** student seeking a diploma.

- Satisfactory completion of required courses.
- All fees for registration and textbooks must be paid in full.
- Application for admission must be completed and on file.
- High school diploma or G.E.D. certificate must be on file.

Graduation: Will There Be A Graduation Ceremony?

Graduation exercises will be set up annually during the West Virginia Baptist Convention Annual Meeting. Each year, the Annual Meeting is held in October, but the location will change from year to year. The graduation may be part of the Annual Meeting program and/or a separate graduation dinner/ceremony may be held during that time. If a dinner is held, there will be a fee attached to the graduation dinner relative to the actual cost of the event.

Graduation: Can I Take Advanced Courses At A Reduced Rate After I Graduate?

Yes. School of Christian Studies **ADVANCED Level of Study** graduates are eligible to take any further advanced level classes at a reduced rate. The cost will be half of the regular fee. The fee will be \$25.00 per student, plus the cost of your textbook, if needed. If a textbook is desired, it and the shipping fee will be at the regular rate. If either husband or wife is graduated, you and your spouse, if auditing may enroll for \$35.00 per couple.

Graduation: Graduates of the School of Christian Studies ADVANCED Level of Study

2009: Edith L. Adams Nancarrow,
Wanda Hartley Butts, Richard A Eaton,
Carol Hilleary, Betty J. McDaniel,
Donald W. Phares and Glenna Faye Wolfe Drennen

2010: James Ramsey and
Matthew Scott Taylor

2011: Keith George and Sandra Walker

2012: Larry Walter Cheesebrew, Valerie L.
Markwith and George Earnest Murphy

2013: Thomas Scott Posey and
James Anthony Pratt

2014: Karen Sue Hamric, Denise K.
Humphries and Raymond Earl Revill, Jr.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The School of Christian Studies is under the direct supervision of the advisory committee and the Christian Leadership Commission of the West Virginia Baptist Convention.

ADVISORY BOARD CHAIR

Rev. Mike Sisson; 109 Meadow Lane, Crab Orchard, WV 25827;
Telephone: 304-252-1365

DEANS

(Northeast Area) **Rev. Allan Copenhaver;** 610 Main Street, Sutton, WV 26601; Telephone Number: 304-765-5811

(Northwest Area) **Rev. Mark McCloy;** P.O. Box 637, Elizabeth, WV 26143; Telephone Number: 304-275-3212

(Southeast Area) **Rev. Ron George, Jr.;** RR 3 Box 525F, Fayetteville, WV 25840; Telephone Number: 304-574-1991

(Southwest Area) **Rev. Robert Keen;** RR 1 Box 128, Leroy, WV 25252; Telephone Number: 304-372-9822

(Central Area) **Rev. David Moutz;** 855 Oakwood Road, Charleston, WV 25314; Telephone Number: 304-986-3305

REPRESENTATIVES

American Baptist Women's Ministries of West Virginia -

Ms. Jane Mullen, Harrisville, WV
Telephone Number: 304-643-4118

American Baptist Men of West Virginia-

Mr. Mike Milam, Belle, WV
Telephone Number: 304-949-4332

Student Representative -

Ms. Heather Helmick, Saint Marys, WV
Telephone Number: 304-684-2563

Alumni Director -

Ms. Bonnie Smith, Little Hocking, OH
Telephone Number: 740-989-2853

WEST VIRGINIA BAPTIST CONVENTION STAFF PERSONS

Director: Rev. Mark McCloy, P.O. Box 1019, Parkersburg, WV 26102; Telephone Number: 800-879-9822;
E-mail: mccloy@wvbc.org

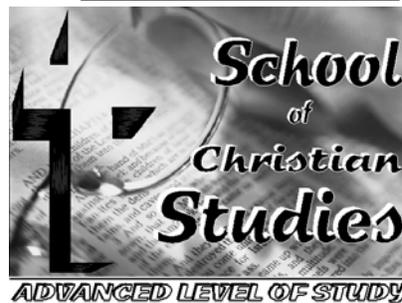
Administrative Assistant: Mrs. Donna Snyder, P.O. Box 1019, Parkersburg, WV 26102; Telephone Number: 800-879-9822
E-mail: snyder@wvbc.org

Please direct all correspondence to: West Virginia Baptist Convention School of Christian Studies ADVANCED, P.O. Box 1019, Parkersburg, WV 26102. Please direct all phone calls to the secretarial assistant of the School of Christian Studies ADVANCED at 800-879-9822. Please direct all e-mail to: snyder@wvbc.org.

Application for Admission

School of Christian Studies Advanced Level of Study

Date: _____



PROGRAM APPLYING FOR:

- General Studies Two-Year ADVANCED Program
- Congregational Transformation Three-Year ADVANCED Program
- Auditing Program Only (reduced rate applies)

RETURN THIS APPLICATION WITH:

A copy of your High School Diploma or G.E.D. Certificate (if applying for the two or three-year program).

Personal Information:

Name: _____

(Last)

(First)

(Middle Initial)

Address: _____

City: _____ **State:** _____ **Zip:** _____

Phone: **H/** _____ **O/** _____

E-mail: _____

Present Church Membership: _____

(Church)

(City)

If presently employed, please give your occupation:

Social Security Number _____

Date of birth: _____ (Month—Day—Year)

Educational Information:

List previous academic and professional training.

Name of school and location:	Dates of attendance	Degree received	Date Received or Expected
(List High School, City and State in above box.)			

Future Course Suggestions:

Please provide a list of classes you would like to see taught in the School of Christian Studies ADVANCED Level of Study.

1.) _____

2.) _____

Please mail completed form to: School of Christian Studies ADVANCED, PO Box 1019, Parkersburg, WV 26102. Completion of this form will add you to our mailing list to receive all correspondence related to the advanced level of study.