

Thank You For Your Interest

Thank you for your interest in the **School of Christian Studies**. The **School of Christian Studies** brings together classroom learning and practical ministry skills to provide a three-year basic training course of study. The West Virginia Baptist Convention School of Christian Studies is open to all persons. Anyone may take courses and it is not necessary to be a teacher, youth worker or pastor to benefit from a course of study. Classes are led by qualified instructors, who must meet certain criteria, who have experience in the classes being led, and who also possess a great knowledge of the day to day ministry of the church. You may start the program at any time; it is not necessary to wait until the beginning of the next three-year cycle to begin taking classes. As noted above, this program runs in a three-year cycle, so, whenever you begin, you will have the opportunity to take the classes you missed as they repeat after the initial three-year cycle is completed.

There are six programs of study in the **School of Christian Studies**. The basic program of study is the diploma in Pastoral Ministry. The purpose of this program is to provide Christians who are answering God's call into the pastoral ministry with a foundation in Biblical, theological and ministry skills and to satisfy the West Virginia Baptist Convention's minimum requirements for accreditation of ordination and enrollment in the retirement program of The Ministers and Missionaries Benefit Board of the American Baptist Churches/USA. The other five programs: certificate in Lay Ministry, Teaching certificate, certificate in Children's Ministry, Youth Ministry certificate and the certificate in General Studies, are developed out of the basic program. All of the programs have different requirements for graduation, so please see the **School of Christian Studies** Catalog, starting on page 11, to see specific requirements for each program. All classes needed to fulfill requirements for graduation are offered in the three-year cycle of courses and then the cycle begins again. For a more in depth description of ministry programs and classes, please see the **School of Christian Studies** Catalog. The **School of Christian Studies** carries no college or seminary credit, but it does provide creditable and recognizable training within the convention family.

Fees - Fees for the **School of Christian Studies** are very affordable and a reduced rate is available for those who do not wish to receive credit and for those who have graduated from the program. For specific fee information, please see the **School of Christian Studies** Catalog, starting on page five.

Classes - There are eight classes held each year. Listed below are the different types of classes and when they take place during the year.

Six-Week Classes - These classes are offered in January, February, May and September. Classes include: Biblical, Theological, Ministry and Historical studies. Classes are held at various locations throughout the state, including Clarksburg/Bridgeport, South Charleston/Oakwood, Barboursville/Huntington, Madison, Oak Hill, Oceana, Parkersburg, Petersburg, Point Pleasant, Sutton and Weirton. For a list of six-week classes, please see page five of the **School of Christian Studies** Catalog. The classes normally meet for two hours each week, for six weeks, for a total of twelve hours.

One-Day Elective Classes - These classes are offered in April and June and are taught on a Saturday at our Parchment Valley Conference Center in Ripley, West Virginia. For a list of Elective classes, please see page seven of the **School of Christian Studies** Catalog. Registration starts at 8:30 a.m., class begins at 9:00 a.m. and concludes at 2:15 p.m. for a total of four hours. (Lunch and snacks are provided.)

One-Day Module Classes - These classes are offered in August and October and are taught on a Saturday at our Parchment Valley Conference Center in Ripley, West Virginia. For a list of Module classes, please see page six of the **School of Christian Studies** Catalog. The class begins at 9:00 a.m. and concludes at 4:15 p.m. for a total of six hours. (Lunch and snacks are provided.)

For more information on fees, courses, schedules, policies, etc., please see the catalog enclosed with this packet.

Also included with this letter is a catalog, an application for admission, registration form(s) for any upcoming classes and a cycle of courses. Please send in your applications as soon as possible to be put on our mailing list to receive information about all upcoming classes. If you have any questions, please contact Donna Snyder, secretarial assistant, at 800.879.9822 or 304.422.6449 or snyder@wvbc.org.