



The School of Christian Studies is open to all persons. Anyone may take courses for their own general improvement. It is not necessary to be a teacher, youth worker, pastor, etc. to benefit from a course of study.

More Information:

Mailing List

All School of Christian Studies' students will automatically be on the mailing list for this new program.

If you are not a School of Christian Studies' student and would like to be on the mailing list, please contact Donna at snyder@wvbc.org or 304.422.6449 with your contact information.

Application for Admission:

If you would like to sign up for the School of Christian Studies' ADVANCED three-year Congregational Transformation program, please visit www.wvbc.org and download an application for admission from the School of Christian Studies' ADVANCED homepage or contact Donna at snyder@wvbc.org or 304.422.6449 for an application form.

The West Virginia Baptist Convention

School of Christian Studies ADVANCED presents:

Congregational Transformation



**A three-year program to
give your leaders the
tools they need to take
your church beyond
"surviving to thriving."**



**School of Christian Studies
P.O. Box 1019
Parkersburg, WV 26102**

304.422.6449

www.wvbc.org

Director:

Rev. Mark McCloy, mccloy@wvbc.org

Administrative Assistant:

Mrs. Donna Snyder, snyder@wvbc.org

*The School of
Christian Studies ADVANCED*

Congregational Transformation

Three-Year Program of Study

*Giving your leaders the tools they
need to take your church beyond
"surviving to thriving."*

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.

Class Schedule:

A core class (a complete list of these classes is given under "class descriptions" in this brochure) will be offered at Parchment Valley Conference Center, once during the Church Officers' Training in February and second, later in the second half of the year. This process will continue for a total of three years. The final class, Strategic Planning, will be held at the end of the three-year program after students have attended the five other courses in the program. The final class will be held at Parchment Valley Conference Center.

Fees:

FOR CREDIT -
\$32.00/single, \$42.00/couple, plus the cost of the textbook and shipping fee.

AUDITING/NO CREDIT -
\$25.00/single, \$35.00/couple, plus the textbook and shipping fee. (If you are auditing, you are not required to purchase a textbook or turn in assignments, and you will not receive credit for the class.)

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.