



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

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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.

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***"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***  
***304.422.6449***

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## **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.

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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, and in 2015, a new Congregational Transformation Three-year program. These programs of study are the General Studies Two-Year Program and the Congregational Transformation Three-Year Program. The three-year program courses are specific courses taught by specific instructors and will not change. The selection of courses for the two-year program 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** Programs 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 courses (six hour) of your choice from either the School of Christian Studies or the School of Christian Studies ADVANCED. Upon completion, a diploma will be issued.

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 classes are completed), provide us with a copy of your high school diploma or G.E.D. (before your 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 (in the two-year program), 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](http://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, as long as it is at the beginning of a class. 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](http://www.wvbc.org) and click on the **School of Christian Studies** **ADVANCED** link.

## **CLASSES**

### **Classes: *What Will the Class Topics Be?***

Advanced Level courses in the two-year program will be developed in the following four areas: theological, Biblical, historical and practical. One class from each area will be taught during the year. Courses in the three-year program will concentrate on congregational transformation to give your leaders the tools they need to take your church beyond surviving to thriving.

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

For the two-year program, 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. For the three-year program, the location and time frame will be the same as listed above.

### **Classes: *When Will The Classes Be Held?***

For the two-year program: 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. The only difference in the three-year program is one class will be taught in the spring and one in the fall.

### **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 in the two-year program. 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.** For the three-year program, if a class is missed, it may be tutored or the student may wait until the class occurs again the in cycle of courses.

**Classes: What Happens After The Two-Year and Three-Year Cycles are Completed?**

In the two-year program: the cycle will then begin again, with a different selection of courses being offered. In the three-year program: the classes will be repeated just as before.

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

Courses may be repeated in the two-year program 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. In the three-year program: after the three-year cycle is completed it will begin all over again.

**FEES**

**Fees: How Much Do The Classes Cost?**

Two-Year Program: "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.

Three-Year Program: The fees for credit and audit will be the same as those listed above for the two-year program.

Exact fees for classes in both programs will be published in a mailing sent out one month prior to the class date.

**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 for either program. Two Year Program: 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. Three-Year Program: Please follow the procedure above for the three-year program also.

**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** programs purchase one textbook to share. You are welcome to purchase one for each of you, but please remember to double your shipping fee.

**12 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.

## **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?**

For the two-year program - yes. **School of Christian Studies ADVANCED Level of Study** two-year program graduates are eligible to take any further two-year program 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. For the three-year program - no. Since we are already offering these classes at a reduced rate, the fee remain the same for graduates.

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

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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.

2015: Arthur W. Moore and Jonathan Lee  
Slate

2016: Darrell G. Farley, Joseph Lee  
Jarvis and Bonnie Lou Smith

**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) **Vacancy**

(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. Sam Gasaway**, Dunbar, WV  
Telephone Number: 304.768.4374

*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

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## **WEST VIRGINIA BAPTIST CONVENTION STAFF PERSONS**

**Director: Rev. Mark McCloy**, P.O. Box 1019, Parkersburg, WV  
26102; Telephone Number: 304.422.6449;  
E-mail: [mccloy@wvbc.org](mailto:mccloy@wvbc.org)

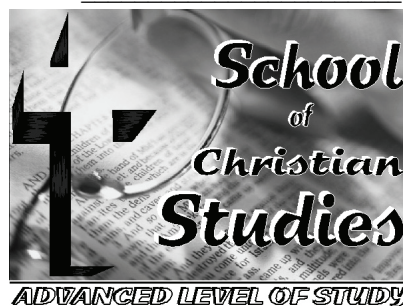
**Administrative Assistant: Mrs. Donna Snyder**, P.O. Box 1019,  
Parkersburg, WV 26102; Telephone Number: 304.422.6449  
E-mail: [snyder@wvbc.org](mailto:snyder@wvbc.org)

*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 304.422.6449. Please direct  
all e-mail to: [snyder@wvbc.org](mailto: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.