



## Eastern Oklahoma Presbytery

Synod of the Sun

Presbyterian Church (USA)

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March 10, 2010

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I am writing you because you have expressed interest in our Lay Leadership Academy program or because you may know someone who might be interested. There will be ten classes in all, each running from Friday evening through Sunday morning. I have enclosed a copy of the lay academy model and a tentative schedule for the 2010-2011 courses.

The classes will again be held at Dwight Mission Camp and Conference Center this year. They have been wonderful hosts in the past and we are glad to be returning there for this series of classes. The tuition will be determined by the number of people enrolling in the classes, but we are estimating that at \$150.00 for the first class.

At this point we need a clear indication of attendance at the May class. I have enclosed an application form for that class. We ask that all who are planning to attend the class fill in the application and return it (with your registration fee) no later than April 26. I will need that much lead time to purchase the books for the class. Please share this information with anyone in your congregation who might be interested in the Lay Leadership Academy classes.

The classes are designed to be offered about every six weeks, except for July and August when we work around the summer camp program at Dwight Mission. In order to do this, we ask that you come to each class prepared to register and pay for the following class at that time. We will have the books for the upcoming class available at that time, so you can come to the following class better prepared. This will mean that those coming to the May class will be asked to register and pay for the August class.

Eastern Oklahoma Presbytery has more Commissioned Lay Pastors and trained lay preachers than any other presbytery our size. We are proud of our training program (which has been recognized across our synod) and of the ministry being accomplished by our lay preachers and Commissioned Lay Pastors. We would like to see more people trained, whether to be better equipped for service in their own congregation or to consider occasional service in other congregations in our presbytery.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to call (918-582-3077 or 800-533-1324) or e-mail me ([eop-greg@sbcglobal.net](mailto:eop-greg@sbcglobal.net)).

In Christ,

Gregory J. Coulter  
General Presbyter

**APPLICATION FOR LAY LEADERSHIP ACADEMY  
EASTERN OKLAHOMA PRESBYTERY**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Additional Information

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, ST, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Evening Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ Daytime Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

Church membership (include city & state) \_\_\_\_\_

Class for which I am registering : **OLD TESTAMENT (May 21-23, 2010)**

Please include a check for **\$150**, payable to Eastern Oklahoma Presbytery, which covers all costs (speaker fees, room & board, textbooks).

Application and registration fee deadline: **April 26**

**Refund policy**

Occasionally persons have to cancel reservations. Due to certain fixed costs and materials ordered in advance, the following deadlines and refund policies apply:

- full refund if cancel three weeks prior to the beginning of class
- 50% refund if cancel 10 days prior to the beginning of class
- no refund if cancel less than 10 days prior to the beginning of class

If you have any questions, please call the presbytery office (918-582-3077 or 800-533-1324)

Please send completed application to:

Lay Leadership Academy  
Eastern Oklahoma Presbytery  
700 S. Boston, Suite 200  
Tulsa, OK 74119-1629

**LAY LEADERSHIP ACADEMY  
EASTERN OKLAHOMA PRESBYTERY  
TENTATIVE 2010 - 2011 COURSE SCHEDULE  
DWIGHT MISSION CAMP & CONFERENCE CENTER - VIAN, OK**

<u>Dates</u>	<u>Course</u>	<u>Convenor</u>
May 21-23	Overview of the Old Testament	Marcus Barber, Assoc Gen Presbyter Eastern Oklahoma Presbytery
August 13-15	Overview of the New Testament	Judy Henderson Honorably Retired Minister
October 1-3	Pastoral Care	Archie Lawrence Retired Chaplain & Interim Minister
November 5-7	Reformed Theology	Tom Murray, Pastor First Presb. Church, McAlester
January 7-9	Reformed Worship & Sacraments	Jane Huffstetler St James Presb Church, Jenks
February 11-13	Preaching	Jeff London, Pastor John Knox Presb. Church, Tulsa
April 1-3	Christian Education & Resources	Teri Launius, First Presb, Claremore Julie Burton, Eastern Oklahoma Pby
May 13-15	Church History	Dan Milford, Pastor First Presb Church, Sand Springs
August 12-14	Spiritual Disciplines & Self-Care	Jill Clupper Spiritual Director, <i>Sojourn</i> Ministry
October 7-9	Presb Polity & the Larger Church	Greg Coulter, General Presbyter Eastern Oklahoma Presbytery

For those who desire to be approved as lay preachers:

Nov 5 or 12, 2011 Examination by the Committee on Ministry

Dec 6, 2011 Examination by the Presbytery

LAY LEADERSHIP ACADEMY  
EASTERN OKLAHOMA PRESBYTERY  
MARCH 2010

- I. **Purpose:** The purpose of the Lay Leadership Academy is to prepare lay leaders for preaching, pastoral care, and service in and for the larger church.
- II. **Lay Preachers:** Successful completion of the Lay Leadership Academy and examination by the presbytery shall qualify participants to serve as lay preachers in Eastern Oklahoma Presbytery. Lay preachers, certified annually by the presbytery, are qualified to preach at any of the congregations in the presbytery and to administer the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper, as invited to do so by the session of the local church.
- III. **Commissioned Lay Pastors:** Commissioned Lay Pastors, as defined in the *Book of Order* G-14.0801, may be commissioned by the presbytery for service in a particular congregation or parish. Responsibilities which may be granted to the Commissioned Lay Pastor are described in G-14.0801c. While it is not assumed that those completing the course of study in the Lay Leadership Academy will automatically apply for or be granted status as Commissioned Lay Pastors, successful completion of the Academy (or a comparable course of study and training) is a prerequisite for approval as a Commissioned Lay Pastor.
- IV. **Application Requirements:** All participants in the Lay Leadership Academy must be active members in good standing in a local congregation. In addition, those who wish to be granted status of Commissioned Lay Pastors must be members of one of the congregations in Eastern Oklahoma Presbytery and must be elders in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).
- V. **Request for Service as Commissioned Lay Pastor:** Requests to be commissioned in Eastern Oklahoma Presbytery shall be made to the Committee on Ministry, through the Presbytery Office. Upon request, an application to become a Commissioned Lay Pastor will be mailed to interested persons. Persons approved as Commissioned Lay Pastors may serve for terms of one to three years and may be approved for additional terms, subject to request by the session and approval of the presbytery.
- VI. **Accountability of Commissioned Lay Pastors:** Commissioned Lay Pastors are accountable to Eastern Oklahoma Presbytery through the Committee on Ministry.
- VII. **Course of Study and Training:** The Lay Leadership Academy includes courses on:
  - Old Testament
  - New Testament
  - Reformed Theology
  - Preaching
  - Worship and the Sacraments
  - Pastoral Care
  - Christian Education and Resources
  - Church History
  - Presbyterian Polity and the Larger Church
  - Spiritual Disciplines & Self Care

Additional courses may be added, at the discretion of the Committee on Ministry.

Learning in the Lay Leadership Academy is not confined to the reading assignments or instruction, but includes the discussions and participation of class members. Participation in the courses is highly valued and every effort shall be made to attend each class as offered. A schedule of all classes will be prepared no later than the completion of the second course. Certification as a Lay Preacher or a Commissioning Lay Pastor requires completion of all offered courses. Exceptions may be approved only by the Committee on Ministry.

Courses will normally be scheduled over a weekend, about every six weeks. Courses will normally begin following dinner on Friday nights and conclude before lunch on Sunday, and will include 10-12 hours of instruction.

Courses will be led by pastors or educators drawn from participating presbyteries, regional colleges, or seminaries. Course leaders must be approved by the Committee on Ministry.

Participation in the classes is limited to 20 persons. Priority for enrollment for each class will be given to those officially enrolled in the Lay Leadership Academy.

**VIII. Cost:** The cost of participation for each course in the Lay Leadership Academy will be between \$125.00 and \$175.00, depending on the number of persons enrolled. Tuition will cover the costs of room, four meals, books, and leadership costs (an honorarium and expenses will be paid for each course leader).

The cost of the program is the responsibility of the participants, but each session sponsoring a participant is strongly encouraged to provide financial support.