



Sunday Seek

The Episcopal Diocese of Missouri

Episcopal School for Ministry

COURSES OFFERED FOR THE FALL TERM

Christian Theology

The Rev. Dr. Ralph McMichael, Instructor

Who is God? Who is Jesus? What is the Church? What do the answers to these questions have to do with each other and with everything else? This course treats the Christian faith by studying the basics of this faith in a careful and comprehensive way. Each student will be able to pursue an area of special interest, while learning to appreciate a variety of views on every topic discussed. If you ever wanted to come to grips with what the Christian faith really is, this is the course for you.

Old Testament

The Rev. Dr. Barbara Willock, Instructor

In order to understand what happened with Jesus, and what it means for you, us, and the world, you have to spend a lot of time with the Old Testament. This course allows the student to do just this. The student reads much of the Old Testament, and learns how to grasp what is being read. There is the opportunity to explore in more depth a particular theme that becomes central to the Christian faith. Here is a chance to engage the Bible with purpose, discipline, and with fellow learners.

Christian Tradition

The Rev. Rod Wiltse, Instructor

What are the essentials of the Christian faith? How were they identified, developed, and articulated? What do the Apostles' and Nicene Creeds mean? These are the questions this course considers in depth and with a sense of how we answer them for today. The tradition of the Church is what is handed on from believer to believer, from local church to local church, as Christians gather to make new Christians and to celebrate their common life in communion. Come and learn what the first few centuries of the Church's life give us as we renew our own sense of Christian identity and mission.

COURSE DATES AND REGISTRATION INFORMATION

Orientation: August 15 Closing Session: December 19
 Classes Meet: Saturdays, Sept. 26, Oct. 24, Dec. 5, 7:45 a.m. - 3 p.m.
 Term Fee: \$400 (includes breakfast and lunch)
 Detailed registration information available from:
 Cory Hoehn, ESM Registrar
 choehn@diocesemo.org 314-231-1220 ext. 1383

The General Convention of the Episcopal Church presents a curious paradox. On the one hand, this once-in-three-years gathering is a raucous celebration of Christians (mostly) happy to be together. The total number in attendance will be upwards of ten thousand people. Only about one thousand of those will be involved in the decision-making work of the Convention, the bishops and deputies. The rest will represent various organizations, interests, ministries, the Women's Triennial—and don't forget the vendors. Many others will show up, simply because they want to be there.

On the other hand, there is the high seriousness of the occasion. The General Convention meets primarily for its careful but cumbersome decision-making process, in legislative session. Ours is the largest bicameral assembly in the world! And with that bicameral nature, actions must receive a majority vote, with exactly the same wording, in the House of Bishops and the House of Deputies. It is a challenge, but I never fail to marvel at the dedication of so many who make sure that every matter presented receives a fair and comprehensive hearing.

I have found it helpful, in preparation for General Convention, to reread Acts 15 and Galatians 2, to remind myself that from its beginnings, the Church has gathered in council to deliberate its controversies and to order



Photo credit: J. Jones, 2009

its common life. The issue in Acts and Galatians had to do with settling the markedly different needs of Jewish and Gentile Christians early on, and how the Church might respond. Acts tells the story as unfolding in a pacific fashion; Paul, writing in Galatians, is downright snarky. Seeing the difference between these two accounts always makes me smile, and it helps me to recognize that holy decision-making has been necessary, if untidy and contentious, from the beginning.

So pray for your eight deputies, four laypeople and four clergy, all elected by our own Diocesan Convention, and pray for me, your bishop. Pray especially for us July 8-17, when the General Convention will be in session in Anaheim, California.

And pray for the Episcopal Church and its mission.

The Rt. Rev. Wayne Smith
Tenth Bishop of Missouri

THE MISSOURI DEPUTATION

The Rt. Rev. Wayne Smith
(serving as Chair of the Cognate Committee on Liturgy and the Prayer Book)

C1. The Very Rev. Ronald Clingenpeel
(Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations Committee)

C2. The Rev. Jack Fleming
(National & International Concerns Committee)

C3. The Rev. Lydia Agnew Speller
(Ministry Committee)

C4. The Rev. Tamsen Whistler

C5. The Rev. Jason Samuel (alternate)

L1. Mr. Michael Clark

(Evangelism Committee)

L2. Mr. Jay Kloeker

L3. Ms. Jeanette Huey

(Stewardship and Development Committee)

L4. Mrs. Kathryn Dyer

L5. Mr. Donald Fisher (alternate)

L6. Mrs. Margaret Bowman (alternate)



THREE LISTENING SESSIONS PLANNED

Saturday, June 6, 9:30-11 a.m.
St. Peter's, Ladue, facilitated by Canon Ralph McMichael

Saturday, June 13, 10:30 a.m.-Noon
Columbia Hope, facilitated by the Rev. Tamsen Whistler

Saturday, June 13, 10-11:30 a.m.
All Saints', Farmington, facilitated by the Very Rev. Ronald Clingenpeel

On behalf of the deputation, I want to invite members of the Diocese of Missouri to join us at one of the listening sessions. Your participation will help the deputation know what is near and dear to your hearts. It will also allow us the opportunity to answer your questions. Please take time and join.

The Very Rev. Ronald Clingenpeel

Unable to attend and still have a question? Please email GC09@diocesemo.org

DEPUTATION'S BLOG

Regular posting has begun with the deputation's overview. The deputation will keep in touch with us during convention using this blog, and encourage us to leave questions and comments.

missourideputation.blogspot.com



Camp Phoenix needs your help! At our May workday we cleared ground and prepared the new chapel site at the DuBois Center. An altar is being built, but what we need now are pews. If each church would build one bench (or donate enough money to purchase materials) we could seat all our campers and parents in the chapel area. Benches can be decorated as you like, and would be a great reminder of the support the diocesan family has for our youth. Camp director Bob Daniels will make arrangements to pick up benches before camp opens (all benches should be finished by July 15). You can find bench plans and donation information online:

diocesemo.org/campphoenix

Camp Phoenix, July 26 - August 2, 2009

REGISTRATION BY JULY 1

It's official! This year's program brings back the very popular "Church Year in a Week" described in last month's Seek article on Camp.

Early registration discount is available until June 15. In these unstable economic times when many of us are scaling back, Bob Daniels reminds us that no child will be turned away from Camp Phoenix for financial reasons. Financial aid requests should be made to Daniels by phone: (314) 750-0710 or e-mail: rjdanix@gmail.com. All requests kept in strictest confidence.

COMMUNITY MINISTRIES GRANTS (BY JUNE 8)

The mission of the diocesan outreach endowment fund through the *New Ventures in Community Grants* is to inspire congregations to dare great things for God by developing new ministries in response to changing social needs throughout the diocese.

Grant awards will range from a minimum of \$ 5,000.00 to a maximum of \$15,000.00. The one-year grant will start as of January 1, 2010. A project may be supported for a second

year following submission of another grant proposal.

Complete information concerning submission of grant proposal abstract and formal application is available on the diocesan website (search term "grant") or from the Offices of the Bishop.

***Monday June 8, 2009
is the deadline
for submitting your abstract***