***CERTIFICATE***

***OF CHRISTIAN STUDIES***



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The Certificate of Christian Studies program is designed to give lay members of the church an opportunity to deepen their faith by enrolling in non-credit courses in biblical studies, church history, and congregational life.

To receive the Certificate of Christian Studies a person will need to complete nine (9) of the twelve (12) courses offered. These courses are a regular part of the Course of Study and you will be in class with Local Pastors who are taking the courses for credit. Enrollment will be limited.

Participants are expected to attend all sessions of the class, keep up with the readings and actively participate in class. You are welcome to complete any of the written assignments but faculty members are not required to grade your submitted work.

Each course is comprised of two weekend sessions (Friday evening through Saturday afternoon). The cost for each course will be $150 ($50 registration fee plus $100 tuition). Housing will be available if needed.

Registration will be available beginning August 3, 2015. For more information contact Richard Robbins at: richard@centerforministry.com or call 601-974-1488. Registration information will be available on our website ([www.centerforministry.com](http://www.centerforministry.com)) after August 3.

The courses offered are:

***BIBLICAL STUDIES***

**COS 121 – Bible I: Introduction –** This course introduces biblical interpretation. Attention is given to the inspiration, formation, and function of the canon and to the development of a methodology of interpretation consistent with the nature of scripture. The importance of the Bible as a witness to the life and faith of ancient Israel and earliest Christianity will be emphasized.

**COS 221 – Bible II: Torah, and Israel’s History –** This course interprets the critical events, developing institutions, and traditions of Israel. Attention is given to the earliest Covenants, to the Exodus, to the rise of the monarchy, and to other events up to the eighth century prophets.

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**COS 321 –Bible III: Gospels –** This course focuses on the content and message of the Gospels, as well as the theological perspectives of the Gospel writers. The practice of exegesis will be emphasized.

**COS 421 – Bible IV: Prophets, Psalms, and Wisdom Literature –** This course examines God’s Word as expressed through Israel’s prophets, selected Psalms and selected passages from Wisdom literature.

**COS 521 – Bible V: Acts, Epistles, and Revelation –** This course focuses on the content and context of these writings, and the theological emphasis of their writers.

***THEOLOGY AND HISTORY*** (It is helpful to take the Theology & History courses in order.)

 **COS 122 – Theological Heritage I: Introduction –** This course introduces the student to theological reflection in the Wesleyan tradition. Basic terms, tasks, and methods of Christian theology will be introduces. Representative classical themes will be defined and illustrated. The course provides a foundation for further historical and theological study.

**COS 222—Theological Heritage II: Early Church –** This course focuses on the history and theology of the Church through the first five centuries. Using primary sources, students will reflect on significant individuals, events, and the articulation of the Christian faith during this period.

**COS 322 – Theological Heritage III: Medieval through the Reformation –** This course focuses on major movements and events beginning with the split between Eastern and Western forms of Christianity and continuing through the Reformation. Using primary sources, students will reflect on individuals, decisive events, and theological developments.

**COS 422 – Theological Heritage IV: Wesleyan Movement –** This course covers the significant individuals, decisive events, and theology of the Methodist movement. Utilizing categories of grace, faith, and holiness, the student will appropriate the Wesleyan heritage.

**COS 522 – Theology in the Contemporary Church –** This course covers the significant individuals, decisive events, and theological developments of the nineteenth century to the present. Students will read selected primary sources.

***PARISH MINISTRY***

**COS 423 – Mission –** This course introduces the theology and scope of mission, and the pastor’s role in leading congregations in their mission as agents of God’s transforming redemption.

**COS 523 – Evangelism –** This course introduces students to the theology and practice of evangelism as an expression of the mission of God.