

List of Continuing Education Opportunities...

(**CC**=Cultural Competency Training; **AR**=Anti-Racism; **BT**=Boundary Training;

ABT=Advanced Boundary Training)

(**ALL Authorized Ministers, please note:** We will be identifying these kinds of continuing education opportunities – The policy was effective starting January 1, 2019. If you have any questions, please contact the Penn Northeast Conference Office at 610-826-3113. Thank You!)

Education Spotlight: Upcoming Webinars and Events

from LeadingAge PA

[Live Webinars and In-Person Events](#)

[For-credit On-demand Webinars](#)

2025

January 21

[3:00 – 4:30pm ET, Welcoming Ecumenically Ordained Ministers with Rev. Jeff Nelson and Rev. Elizabeth Dilley](#) - In the changing ministry landscape, more and more churches are calling non-UCC clergy as their pastors. The UCC has some denominational agreements that facilitate this in many instances, and there are some core expectations for other situations. Come learn how to best welcome ecumenically authorized ministers into UCC service in ways that support the covenantal health of congregations and clergy. This training is helpful for judicatory staff, Committee on Ministry members, but ecumenically ordained clergy who seek to serve or are serving in UCC contexts may also find it useful.

January 23 (**BT**)

Boundaries in Ministry: Tools from Congregational Systems - online Advanced Boundary Training on "Boundaries in Ministry: Tools from Congregational Systems Theory" will be offered; choose morning or evening session. Using his training as a "[Healthy Congregations](#)" facilitator, Rev. Kevin McLemore will cover basic congregational systems and their application for pastors navigating increasingly anxious churches. A mixture of basic systems theory, videos and discussion will be used during the 2.5 hr. training. [Click here](#) to register.

January 23

Peaceful, Productive Pastor Parish Partnerships – via zoom – from the Lombard Mennonite Peace Center – click to register - [Lombard Mennonite Peace Center](#)

February 1 (**BT**)

Examining the Ministerial Code of Ethics' Boundary Training - from 9:00a-3:00p - join members of the PSEC Ethics Committee in Limerick for a boundary training on "Examining the Ministerial Code of Ethics". In this training we will cover:

- the moral and ethical expectations of the pastoral office, identifying the “gray” areas of ministry
- the purpose of the Ministerial Code of Ethics
- the sections of the Ministerial Code of Ethics
- the top ethical issues facing pastors today
- the issues that lead to Boundary violations and Fitness Reviews
- the Fitness Review Process

For more info and to register, [click here](#).

February 3 (**BT**)

[Monday, February 3, 6:00 – 9:00pm ET, Boundary Training for Ministers in Specialized Settings with Rev. Tara Barber and Rev. Anissa Glaser-Bacon](#) - This training is open to ministers serving in specialized settings throughout the United Church of Christ. Serving in specialized settings requires particular attention to boundaries within the ministry setting and home church that are challenging and different from those serving as local church pastors. This training will focus on matters that relate specifically to issues that these ministers face, providing opportunities for clergy to reflect on best practices and growth in their practice of ministry.

February 4 (**BT**)

CPC 2025 Boundary Awareness Training - via ZOOM - 9am to 2pm PDT / 10am to

3pm MDT (will include breaks) - led by [Margaret Marcuson](#) and based in Family Systems - **Cost is \$100** - *The ZOOM link will be sent to all participants via email prior to the meetings.*

[Registrar Now!](#)

February - Colleagues in Ministry,

I am partnering with my friend and colleague Rev. Joel Westby to offer **six Empowering Communication workshops for clergy in January and February 2025 via Zoom**. Empowering Communication has been a framework that has given us confidence in how we choose to live out our faith in our personal and professional lives.

Pastors often wonder and ask:

- How do we move Jesus' life and teaching out of the Bible and into the church?
- How do we nurture respect and care, and truth and transparency in the congregation when conflict arises?
- How do we take care of ourselves so that we can show up in all of our church work with integrity?

Empowering Communication is both a skill set and spiritual consciousness that helps us answer these questions. It is not only consonant with Christianity, but in our experience, it is a path that liberates the power of love within ourselves and in our relationships.

In the six workshops, clergy will learn tools that support congregational vitality and help heal in the world.

We have studied and practiced Empowering Communication, also known as Nonviolent Communication, cumulatively for 32 years and found it invaluable in our work with staff, committees, worship, pastoral visiting, counseling, and self-care.

Leslie Ritter-Jenkins, Pastor, United Church of Christ, Certified Trainer with the [Center for Nonviolent Communication](#)

Please go to [our website](#) for information about each of the workshops and to register

February 4&11 **(BT)** Please see the following links – please note all trainings are offered 9AM to 12 Noon each day and the time zone is Pacific – you must complete both days to receive a certificate for six hours of training. - \$65 – questions? Email mdweible@enkei-resolutions.com [Information](#) [Register](#)

February 6 **Conflict Resolution Skills** – via zoom - click here to register - - [Lombard Mennonite Peace Center](#)

February 10-12, 2025; and April 28-30, 2025

It's that time of year again! Time to start thinking about attending **Advanced Clergy Clinic** and learning from our distinguished guest speakers. The training dates for 2024/2025 are **October 21-23, 2024; February 10-12, 2025; and April 28-30, 2025**. As usual, we will be holding ACC as a hybrid event. Those attending in person will go to St. Mark's Episcopal Church in Glen Ellyn, IL on training days. Those attending online will receive a Zoom link to join in. Below you will find information about our distinguished guest presenters we are proud to work with this year. [CLICK HERE for full details.](#)

February 20 [2:00 – 3:30pm ET, UCC Ministers in Ecumenical Service with Rev. Elizabeth Dilley and Rev. Jeff Nelson](#) - In the changing ministry landscape, UCC ministers are seeking calls beyond UCC settings. In many instances, ecumenical agreements govern the expected practices, and in all instances, clergy are expected to work in a covenantal manner with UCC requirements, requirements of the denomination of anticipated service, and the expectations of their local

Committee on Ministry. This training is designed to help clergy and judicatory leaders understand their responsibilities when UCC ministers seek to serve in ecumenical contexts. Note: four-way covenants will be briefly addressed.

February 27

[4:00 – 5:30pm ET, AM Hot Topic: Envisioning Pastoral Leadership in Lay-led Churches with Rev. Melanie Oommen and special guests](#) - More and more UCC churches are, whether for a season or permanently, lay-led. What possibilities for authorization, preparation for ministry, and on-going leadership formation are there for lay-led churches? What new ways might we imagine lay ministry? How might the wider church adapt to and support leadership within churches without ordained clergy? What are the resources that exist and resources to be developed to help these ministries thrive? Join MESA Team member Melanie Oommen and special guests from around the UCC for this important and timely conversation.

(CC) Training - Pastoral Ethics, 2025 – Penn West Conference

According to our 2017 resolution ([Pastoral Ethics Requirements Resolution Final 2017.pdf \(pennwest.org\)](#)), this year's Pastoral Ethics program is a Diversity Training event focusing on Ministering with People with Disabilities. We will be working with the UCC Disabilities Ministries Network to offer three events in the first half of 2025, and we hope you will be able to attend one of these. We are scheduling them for the following dates/times:

- **Saturday, March 29, at 9 AM ET**
- **Thursday, April 10, at 6 PM ET**
- **Monday, May 12, at 6 PM ET**

All Authorized Ministers with standing in Associations in our Conference are required to either take the training or write a paper (2-4 pages) on the subject of ministering with people with disabilities. **Please look for upcoming communications for more details on this.**

March 19 **(AR)**

[1:30 – 4:30pm ET, Boundary Awareness Training for Retired Clergy, with Rev. Tara Barber and Rev. Melanie Oommen](#) - Maintaining healthy boundaries is challenging at any stage in ministry and it is particularly tender and difficult attending to boundaries as we transition out of our last call, and while in retirement. "A Sure Foundation", "The Ministerial Code" and Rev. Dr. Bruce Epperly's new book, "The Jubilee Years" along with case studies, will provide the content of this training. Rev. Tara Barber will offer this focused Boundary Awareness Training for those entering and living in retirement. Note - This training completes individual requirements for boundary training ONLY WHEN authorized by a local Committee on Ministry. Participants must be able to use zoom chat and breakout room functions.

March 18 & 20 **(AR)**

Racial Justice Training - (Enkei Resolutions) – 9AM to 12 Noon (Pacific Time) via zoom – you must complete both days to receive a certificate for six hours of training. \$65 – questions? Email mdweible@enkei-resolutions.com [Information](#) [Register](#)

(BT) -- Penn Central Conference Boundary Training 2025

Spiritual Health for Pastors

March 23, 2025, 3PM - 6PM

April 6, 2025, 3PM - 6PM

In Person - locations tba

Join us at this in-person event for a time of centering worship, small group reflection, and deep discussion about the pastor's spiritual health. Part of being able to lead in ministry is our own solid foundations. Come out for what we hope will be a time of mini-retreat and spiritual nourishment. Mark your calendars, registration link to come!

Online Ethics for Clergy Today

May 20, 2025, 10AM and 6PM **zoom only**

With social media, the rapid development of artificial intelligence, and the sheer amount of time most folks spend online, its time for a deeper discussion of what personal and professional boundaries clergy might want to have in place to create healthy habits around their online activities. Register [here](#).

Financial Integrity

September 19, 2025, 10AM and 6PM **zoom only**

Getting back to one of the original five basics of boundary discussions, this will be a deep dive into clergy ethics and church money. We will look at gifts, church credit cards, rewards programs, and more. Register [here](#).

Anti-Bias Training: Cultural Humility in Ministerial Practice

November 12, 2025, 10AM and 6PM **zoom only**

We serve a church that is 83% white that strives to be a justice seeking denomination, as well as one that is multicultural and multiracial. Your own congregation, perhaps even your community, may not be very racially diverse but is likely more culturally diverse than you would think on the surface. Join this discussion for deeper understanding of the ways in which we carry implicit and explicit biases in our daily lives and how those biases can impact ourselves, those around us, and the Church. Register [here](#).

- April 8 & 9 **(BT)** Please see the following links – please note all trainings are offered 9AM to 12 Noon each day and the time zone is Pacific – you must complete both days to receive a certificate for six hours of training. - \$65 - questions? Email mdweible@enkei-resolutions.com [Information](#) [Register](#)
- May 8 **Strengthening the Body of Christ** – via zoom –register here - [Lombard Mennonite Peace Center](#)
- May 12 & 14 **(AR)** Racial Justice Training - (Enkei Resolutions) – 9AM to 12 Noon (Pacific Time) via zoom – you must complete both days to receive a certificate for six hours of training. \$65 – questions? Email mdweible@enkei-resolutions.com [Information](#) [Register](#)
- June 4 **Peaceful, Productive Pastor Parish Partnerships** – via zoom – from the Lombard Mennonite Peace Center – click to register - [Lombard Mennonite Peace Center](#)
- July 23 **Conflict Resolution Skills** – via zoom - click here to register - - [Lombard Mennonite Peace Center](#)
- August 11 & 12 **(BT)** Please see the following links – please note all trainings are offered 9AM to 12 Noon each day and the time zone is Pacific – you must complete both days to receive a certificate for six hours of training. - \$65 - questions? Email mdweible@enkei-resolutions.com [Information](#) [Register](#)
- August 20 **Peaceful, Productive Pastor Parish Partnerships** – via zoom – from the Lombard Mennonite Peace Center – click to register - [Lombard Mennonite Peace Center](#)
- September 9 & 10 **(AR)** Racial Justice Training - (Enkei Resolutions) – 9AM to 12 Noon (Pacific Time) via zoom – you must complete both days to receive a certificate for six hours of training. \$65 – questions? Email mdweible@enkei-resolutions.com [Information](#) [Register](#)
- September 11 **Conflict Resolution Skills** – via zoom - click here to register - [Lombard Mennonite Peace Center](#)
- September 16 **Strengthening the Body of Christ** – via zoom –register here - [Lombard Mennonite Peace Center](#)
- November 3 & 10 **(BT)** Please see the following links – please note all trainings are offered 9AM to 12 Noon each day and the time zone is Pacific – you must complete both days to receive a certificate for six hours of training. - \$65 - questions? Email mdweible@enkei-resolutions.com [Information](#) [Register](#)

Others...

- Communities of Practice** – participation qualifies for ½ of the continuing education requirements
- Crossroads Lay Leadership Program at Moravian Sem.** – <https://www.moravianseminary.edu/academics/crossroads>
- Moravian Seminary** – 610-861-1512 - - <http://moravianseminary.edu/academics/continuing-education>
This site gets a person directly to continuing education programs. The calendar is on the same page.
- Center for Family Process** – www.centerforfamilyprocess.com
- Lehigh Conference of Churches** – <https://lehighchurches.org>
- Institute for Islamic Christian Jewish Studies** – <https://icjs.org/> - usually (CC) qualified