

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

We know how vital it is for clergy and leaders to have access to high-quality training on **clergy boundaries** and **anti-racism practices**—resources that strengthen ministry and deepen community engagement.

In partnership with some of the best instructors in these fields, Convergence hosts excellent ONLINE courses in [Clergy Boundary Training](#) and [Anti-Racism Training](#) for Clergy and Congregations. They are asynchronous and meet the standards of Committee on Ministry requirements. We'd like to partner with you to make these trainings more accessible for your leaders—at no cost to you.

Warm regards, Cameron

Rev. Cameron Trimble, CEO, Convergence, convergenceus.org, convergencecolab.org

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 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 26

Africa – 140 years after the Berlin Conference - 12PM (ET) February 26, 1885, European powers reached an agreement to divide Africa in an event known as the “Scramble for Africa”? By 1900, these powers had claimed nearly 90 percent of the continent’s territory. This **webinar** will explore the conference itself, the impacts of colonialism and its mindset, and the ongoing consequences that persist today. Specifically, it will address:

- The theft of land and resources and the “new scramble for Africa” resulting in the displacement of people, disruption of traditional land use, and ecological degradation.
- Predatory capitalism, the disparate impact of World Bank interest rates on the unresolvable debt of African countries, and how these continue to shape global inequalities.
- Global Ministries partners’ responses to ensuring human rights, dignity, economic prosperity, and justice for all.
- Our call to action in response to 140 years of systemic pillaging and destruction of African people, societies, and their wealth.

[REGISTER NOW](#)

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.

February 28 (AR)

Would count as Anti-racism with an essay about the book and presentation - Celebrating the re-release of [African Americans and Religious Freedom: New Perspectives for Congregations and Communities](#)! This collection of essays provides novel interpretations of religious freedom informed by African American culture, history, ideas and religious experiences. Dr. Corey D.B. Walker and I serve as editors of this book, and our second edition includes a new preface addressing the need for religious freedom to undergo a deep interrogation in our perilous times - **Join us Friday, February 28**, online for a launch event featuring powerful voices discussing the book’s themes and its impact.

- ◆ **Date:** Friday, February 28
- ◆ **Time:** 10 a.m. ET / 9 a.m. CT
- ◆ **Location:** Online

[Register for Livestream](#) - Hosted by the [BJC Center for Faith, Justice and Reconciliation](#) in partnership with [Wake Forest School of Divinity](#), this conversation will inspire reflection and action as we continue working toward a more just and inclusive society. Dr. Walker and I will give remarks, and you will have the chance to hear from contributing authors and thought leaders, including Rahmah Abdulaleem, the Rev. William H. Lamar IV, and Elizabeth Reiner Platt.

As we uplift the stories and insights shared in this volume, we invite you to be part of the conversation. African Americans' knowledge traditions, religious practices, political cultures and ideas are rich resources that facilitate new conceptions of religious freedom. In doing so, religious freedom speaks to our contemporary moment with a freshness and boldness that can serve the best attempts to broaden and deepen our democracy. Let's celebrate Black history as American history by honoring the past, engaging the present, and shaping the future together.

(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 3

The Center for Continuing Education, Andover Newton Seminary and Berkeley Divinity School are pleased to offer a special virtual workshop, **"Overturning Your 'Immunity to Change'" with Dr. Robert Kegan on March 3, 2025 from 12 - 3:30 pm Eastern.**

The "Immunity to Change" is a novel approach to personal improvement-- now being deployed all over the world--which surfaces and engages those aspects of a person's underlying mindset that prevent them from bringing about the very changes they most want to make. This world-renowned approach to personal improvement can also be applied to organizations. Join Harvard Professor Dr. Robert Kegan for a free virtual workshop. He will provide participants a fast-moving opportunity to try on this approach for themselves. Come with a personal improvement goal you most want to work on in mind! This virtual event is free, but you must register in advance. **Register at [Overturning your 'Immunity to Change'.](#)**

March 3 – April 27

(Deadline to Register February 19)

Introduction to the New Testament - Instructor: Rev. Dr. Kris Tenny-Brittian

This course will enhance the students' appreciation for the New Testament and its possibilities for ways that will enrich and transform their lives, as well as the lives of others. Students will build on their learnings from Overview of the Bible to focus on the contexts and themes of the New Testament canon; to become increasingly familiar with its major themes, literary forms, and textual issues; and to gain tools and experience in applying it in their life and to their work with their respective congregations, the Church, and the Kingdom. On-line course. The price of the course is \$100. [Click here to register.](#)

March 3-April 27

(Deadline to Register February 19)

Disciples History and Polity - Instructor: Rev. Jeff Gill - This course will present an overview of the history and practices of the Stone-Campbell movement as foundational to its current forms of Disciples worship, missions, and ministry: denominationally, ecumenically, and culturally.

*Please note this course week runs from Sunday-Thursday. The start date for class will be March 2. Online course. The price of the course is \$100. [Click here to register.](#)

March 3-April 27

(Deadline to Register February 19)

Overview of the Bible - Instructor: Rev. Dr. Alex Ruth - This course is an introduction to the content of the Bible and the methods of study that scholars use to understand it. Students will learn about the history of the periods in which various biblical books were written, and about how the individual writings came together into a single book. They will attempt to discover what the biblical writers were seeking to accomplish through their writings. This search will present students with understandings of the world and the place of humanity that can help illuminate

alternative ways humans have experienced the world and attempted to make sense of it. Online Course. The price of the course is \$100. [Click here to register.](#)

March 3-April 27
(Deadline to Register
February 19)

Christian Ethics - Instructor: Rev. Dr. George Flanagan - This is an introduction and exploration of the basic concerns and issues involved in ethical reflection, the Biblical and theological foundations of Christian ethics, and the response of the Christian to perennial and contemporary social and moral issues, with a view to equipping the student for ethical reflection in preaching, teaching, and pastoral leadership. bOnline course. The price of the course is \$100. [Click here to register.](#)

March 3-April 27
(Deadline to Register
February 19)

World Religions - Instructor: Rev. Clement Graham - Students survey and compare the great world religions emphasizing concepts of God, creation, humanity, scripture, ethics and salvation. Emphasis is placed on the relationship between religious beliefs and other elements of society and culture. This rational and historical analysis concentrates on Hinduism, Buddhism, Jainism, Sikhism, Confucianism, Taoism, Shinto, Zoroastrianism, Judaism, Christianity, Islam, and Baha'i. It also includes an introduction to some basic indigenous religions of Native America and Africa. Online course. The price of the course is \$100. [Click here to register.](#)

March 4

New Cohort for Faith Community Developers – Beginning March 4! - Starting a new faith community or ministry is a brave and transformative calling—but it can also feel overwhelming and isolating. We've walked this road ourselves, so we understand. That's why we're launching a new monthly online cohort designed specifically for those of you engaged in this work.

Beginning March 4 at 12 PM ET, this 1.5-hour **monthly** gathering will provide a space for connection, support, and shared wisdom among peers who understand the challenges and possibilities of this ministry. Through a simple, guiding conversation, we'll explore:

- What are you learning right now?
- What's keeping you up at night?
- What do you need right now?

This online gathering is completely free, and all are welcome. Registration is required.

First Gathering: March 4 at 12 PM ET | No Cost to Participate

Sign up:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/J3CTpZMkSRWbGvKLH0PRYg#/registration>

Rev. Cameron Trimble, CEO, Convergence

March 10



Clergy Leadership Training

Missional Leadership Cohort

A nine-month cohort designed to equip clergy with community, tools and resources to lead with agility and confidence in a changing Church.

 Starting March 10th, 2025

Learn more at faithlead.org/missional-leadership

- 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](#)
- March 20 **(BT)** Boundary Training for Authorized Ministers - The Penn Northeast Conference of the United Church of Christ, in partnership with the Mountain Laurel Presbytery, the Pennsylvania Southeast Conference, the Moravian Church Northern Province, and the Northeast Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, is pleased to offer this virtual Boundary Training for Authorized Ministers.
- What: Basic Boundary Training 9-12 via zoom;
Advanced Boundary Training 1-4pm via zoom
Cost: \$35 for one session; \$60 for both sessions
Learn about the need for and management of excellent boundaries.
[CLICK HERE](#) for Full Flyer & Registration Details.

(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](#)
- April 28-June 22 **(Registration Deadline – April 14) – Ecumenism** - Instructor: Rev. Dr. Jack Sullivan, Jr. – Christian unity is a gift of God to the whole church. The ecumenical movement is the vehicle through which diverse church bodies live out their unity in spiritual, biblical, and practical manners. In this course, we will probe the biblical urgency behind ecumenism, discuss its theological and historical meanings and implications, and consider the links between the ecumenical movement, Christian faithfulness, and movements for social justice and inclusion. Education and Leader Development. Online course. The price of the course is \$100. [Click here to register.](#)
- April 28-June 22 **(Registration Deadline – April 14) - Overcoming Conflict** - Instructor: Rev. Dr. Kris Tenny-Brittian - The purpose of this course is to explore congregational conflict: how to recognize, identify, and analyze it so that students will be able to develop strategies that will allow them to relevantly and practically intervene, confront, neutralize or negate, and use it.
- Online course is. The price of the course is \$100. [Click here to register.](#)
- April 28-June 22 **(Registration Deadline – April 14) - Church History** - Instructor: Dr. Lisa Barnett - This is a history class with one major exception - there is little emphasis on remembering dates except as “markers” in Christian History. By markers I mean paradigm shifts and movements in the transformation of the church from age to age. It is more important to grasp the movements in Christian History and just use dates as general “markers” or benchmarks during which the church was in transition or reformation. The course will include the use of "primary sources," historical documents from church history. Online course. The price of the course is \$100. [Click here to register.](#)
- April 28-June 22 **(Registration Deadline – April 14) – Worship** - Instructor: Rev. Geoff Mitchell - This course is designed to help participants meet the Worship criteria of the Sixteen Areas of Ministerial Practice for the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) including the formulation of a theology for worship in the local congregation, overview of the history and present trends in Christian worship, development of practical skills in planning and implementing weekly and special services of worship, introduction to the rich use of the arts and sacred music in the worship setting, and the development of resources which can be used for worship. Online course. The price of the course is \$100. [Click here to 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](#)
- May 20 **(BT)** Online Ethics for Clergy Today - 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](#).

- 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](#)
- September 19 **(BT)** **Financial Integrity** - 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](#).
- 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](#)
- November 12 **(BT-CC)** **Anti-Bias Training: Cultural Humility in Ministerial Practice** - 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 that 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](#).

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