



The Maine School of Ministry
Christian Studies and Leadership (CSL) Curriculum and Certificate Program
Maine Conference, United Church of Christ
Courses Offered: Winter/Spring semester 2017
18 December 2016

The Maine School of Ministry (<http://maineucc.org/5451-2/maine-school-ministry/>) will offer two courses for the Winter/Spring semester 2017. Each will meet at the Maine UCC Conference Center, One Weston Court, Suite 104, Augusta ME 04330. Students may call-in using the Conference's Zoom video conferencing capacity. Registration will open January 2, 2017. Syllabi will be published January 9th to facilitate timely book purchasing and first class preparation. Tuition is \$300 per course. Students who enroll in both courses (credit or audit) will receive \$100 off the second course's tuition. Questions? Contact Robert Ross, Dean, 207-622-3100 x26, roberthross@maineucc.org.

BibSt-Fdn 2: "Apostles, Epistles, Apocalypse: The Best of the Rest of the New Testament." Instructor: Rev. Dr. Larry Kalajainen. Class time and dates: 10-3:00pm, Saturday 11Feb, 11March, 8April, 6May 2017.

- **Course Description.** This course will cover the remainder of the New Testament after the Gospels and Acts. St. Paul and his epistles will feature prominently, since thirteen of the writings are attributed to him (though only seven are undisputedly from his hand). Other apostles' names are linked to the rest, and the canonical closer is that mysterious, maddening, terrible, and beautiful work "The Apocalypse of John," more commonly known as "The Book of Revelation." The emphasis will be primarily on what Paul's epistles and the others reveal about the evolution of the Jesus movement from the death of Jesus throughout the rest of the first century and into the second. We will look at the challenges the nascent church faced, both internal and external, the variety of practice and belief, and the gradual (and sometimes bitter) separation from its parent body, Second Temple Judaism.
- **Instructor Bio.** Larry R. Kalajainen is a native of western Pennsylvania, but married a New Jersey girl, Carol. He earned degrees at the University of Pittsburgh, Asbury Theological Seminary, Princeton Theological Seminary, and Drew University (Ph.D.). He was ordained Elder in the Methodist Church of Malaysia in 1974, while serving with the Board of Global Ministries, and joined the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference in 1977. He also has full standing in the UCC and is currently a member of the New York Metro Association. He has served pastorates on three continents: one in Malaysia, four in New Jersey, one in Paris, France, one in Maine, and one in New York. He retired from parish ministry in June, 2016 and he and Carol moved back to the home in Brunswick, ME that they have owned since 2003. He has published several books combining his interests in biblical studies and spirituality, and has taught at four seminaries (including Bangor Theological Seminary) and one university as an adjunct. He has cultivated a serious avocation in fine-art photography, is an avid and eclectic reader, a serious "foodie" and cook, and will, if pressed, admit to a fondness for late-night reading of spy novels and murder mysteries. He and Carol have two daughters and four grandchildren, three of whom live next door.

PrTh-Pb 2: "An introduction to Congregational Life and Pastoral Leadership." Instructor: Rev. Dr. Beth Nordbeck. Class time and dates" 9-3:00pm, Saturday 28Jan, 25Feb, 25March, 22April, 20May 2017.

- **Course Description.** This course has three objectives: first, to explore how congregations, now and in the past, have understood their role in communities and the nation; second, to engage in "reading the context" of congregations—both in our local communities and beyond—as a means to assess their leadership and other needs; and third, to explore (albeit briefly) the nature and some of the tasks of ministerial leadership. Through lectures, exercises in and outside of class, and case studies, we will seek to understand how congregations and their leaders—especially in the United Church of Christ—are engaging this moment of unprecedented historical change.
- **Instructor Bio.** Elizabeth (Beth) Nordbeck has taught a wide range of courses, including both UCC "History, Theology, and Polity" and "Congregational Life," for almost forty years, first at Lancaster Theological Seminary (1978-90) in Pennsylvania and then at Andover Newton Theological School in Massachusetts (1990-2016). She received her Master's and PhD degrees from Harvard, and was ordained in 1985. At Lancaster, she served as Heilmann-Stoflett Professor of Church History and Academic Dean; and at ANTS, she served both as Academic Dean and as Moses Brown Professor of Ecclesiastical History, prior to her retirement from fulltime teaching in June 2016. She continues to teach several courses as "Distinguished Professor" at ANTS. Beth has been active in the UCC both regionally and nationally. She served for two decades as the UCC representative to the Faith and Order Commission of the World Council of Churches, as well as UCC rep to the Lutheran-Reformed Dialogue that resulted in the Formula of Agreement; the Moravian-Reformed Dialogue; and Churches Uniting in Christ. She has also been a member of the Executive Council (now UCC Board) and the former Office for Church Life and Leadership. She was one of the founders and for over 25 years co-editor of Prism: A Theological Forum for the United Church of Christ.