

**United Church of Christ History, Theology, and Polity at Synod  
Baltimore, MD**

**June 28-July 5, 2017**

**Location: TBA within walking distance of the Baltimore Convention Center**

Sponsored by **Lancaster Theological Seminary** and instructed by  
**Dr. Lee Barrett,**

Mary B. and Henry P. Stager Chair in Theology, and Professor of Systematic Theology,  
Lancaster Theological Seminary

&

**Rev. Dr. Carrie Call,** Executive Director of Advancement,  
Lancaster Theological Seminary

**Course description:** This is your chance to explore UCC polity as it is being experienced and worked out!

With General Synod 2017 as both an occasion for and subject of our study, we will examine the history, theology, structures, and practice of ministry in today's United Church of Christ. What makes this denomination distinctive and innovative, as well as rooted in tradition? How can leaders "make the case" for the UCC as a vital voice within contemporary progressive Christianity? We will deal with these questions and many more in our week of intensive study and shared experience.

You are encouraged to enroll if you are:

- A seminarian or seminary graduate seeking ordination;
- A clergyperson seeking (or considering) ministerial standing in the UCC through privilege of call;
- A clergyperson seeking dual standing while serving in a federated or union setting, or a Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) pastor anticipating ministry in a UCC congregation;
- A person who has been encouraged to take a polity course by your Church and Ministry Committee as part of an alternative route to ordination, or for other reasons, such as commissioning;
- A pastor or layperson who wants to refresh your knowledge about today's UCC.

Students may register either as non-credit certificate students or as seminary credit-earning graduate students. Non-credit participants seeking simply to refresh their knowledge of the UCC without completing assignments must receive prior permission from the instructors.

**Course Location:** The course will take place **at a location to be announced** within walking distance of the Baltimore Convention Center.

**Synod Registration:** Participants in this course register for Synod separately from registering for this course. Register for Synod here: <http://synod.uccpages.org/>

**Hotel Accommodations:** Synod and hotel information can be found here: <http://synod.uccpages.org> Looking for a roommate? Visit the UCC Members-in-Discernment Network on Facebook.

**Course schedule:**

**Wednesday, June 28:** 2:00-5:00, 6:30-8:30

**Thursday, June 29:** 9:00-12:00, 2:00-5:00

**Friday, June 30:** 9:00-12:00, 2:00-4:00

**Saturday, July 1 through Tuesday, July 4:** approximately four hours daily, depending on General Synod schedule and planned special events for Members in Discernment, with specific times to be negotiated with participants after class begins.

**Wednesday, July 5:** 9:00-12:00

**Course registration (Deadline: May 24, 2017):**

- **As a non-credit certificate student:** Course fee \$700
  - Upon satisfactory completion of work, non-credit certificate students will receive a “Certificate of Completion” by mail
- **As a seminary credit-earning graduate student:** Course fee \$2,025
  - Upon completion of work, graduate students will receive a grade
- **Course Registration instructions:** There is a \$150 Registration Fee for all participants. To register go to [lancasterseminary.edu](http://lancasterseminary.edu), select Academics, choose from the right hand selections UCC Polity Course – General Synod 2017. <https://lancasterseminary.edu/academics/ucc-polity-course-general-synod-2017/>

**Books:**

- Books will be available for purchase through Lancaster Theological Seminary’s MBS Direct on-line bookstore beginning April 1<sup>st</sup> :  
[https://bookstore.mbsdirect.net/vbm/vb\\_home.php?FVCUSNO=37382&url=lancasterseminary.htm](https://bookstore.mbsdirect.net/vbm/vb_home.php?FVCUSNO=37382&url=lancasterseminary.htm)
- Once on the site look for Summer Course CH253 and you will find the required and recommended books.

**Financial concerns:**

- We strongly encourage you to explore the possibility of financial aid from your home church, association, or Conference, or from the national setting of the UCC if you are a member-in-discernment.

**For Questions:**

About registration and general information:

Jamie Beth Schindler, Faculty Assistant

[JBSchindler@lancasterseminary.edu](mailto:JBSchindler@lancasterseminary.edu) or 717-290-8750

About the course: Please contact one or both of the instructors.

[LBarrett@lancasterseminary.edu](mailto:LBarrett@lancasterseminary.edu) or 717-290-8703

[CCall@lancasterseminary.edu](mailto:CCall@lancasterseminary.edu) or 717-290-8738