

# Continuing Education Courses

*Continuing Education Online Courses for Ecumenical Partners  
& The Western Jurisdiction of The United Methodist Church*

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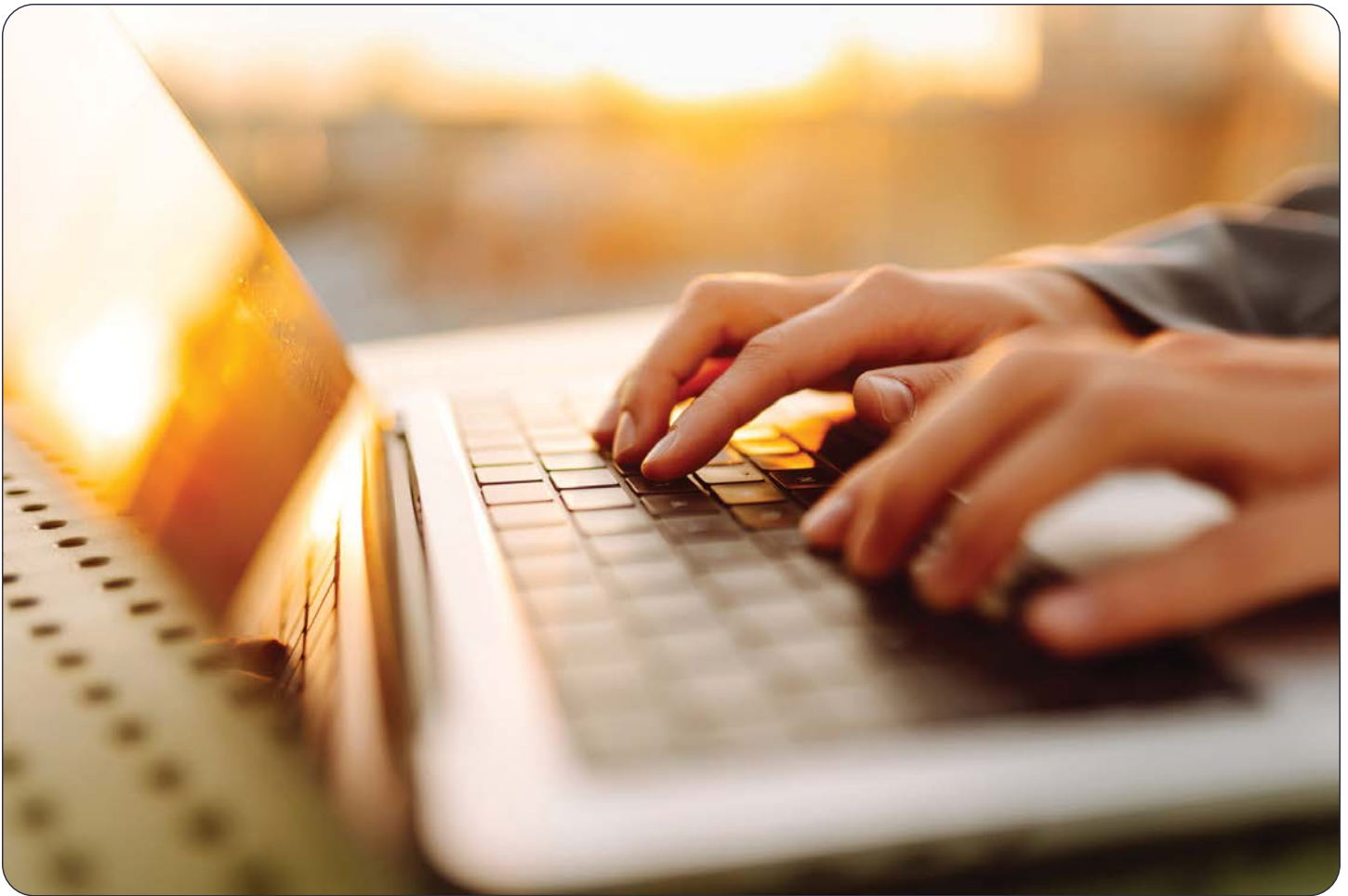
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# July-August 2026



## Summer 2026 CE Courses

In the months of July and August 2026, leaders from the Western Jurisdiction of the UMC will offer a series of Continuing Education Courses for Lay, Clergy and church leadership teams. These courses range from one to five weeks and will be taught fully online via Zoom. Check the course brochure below for detailed descriptions and schedules.

Register and pay for enrollment using **the QR code**. Scholarship codes may be available through your Annual Conference leadership.

Please note: Some courses offer an option for “Congregational Team Registration.” For this ticket option, the Team Leader should register once. Further information will be directed to the Team Leader to share with up to 4 additional participants.



## Contact:

- Rev. Blair Trygstad Stowe | [bstowe@cst.edu](mailto:bstowe@cst.edu)
- Bishop Grant J. Hagiya | [ghagiya@cst.edu](mailto:ghagiya@cst.edu)

*Almost all of these courses qualify for Advanced CLM credit.*

# Congregational Renewal: Leading Faithful Change in the Local Church

Rev. Stephanie Moffitt

Director of Vital Leadership Journeys in the Mountain Sky Conference

## Description of Class:

Congregational renewal is not a one-time event—it is a process that unfolds through shared discernment, courageous leadership, and faithful experimentation. This month-long intensive course is designed for small teams of clergy and lay leaders from the same congregation who are ready to engage that process together.

This experience combines theological grounding, practical tools, and real-time application. Rooted in Wesleyan theology and shaped by the realities of today's church, the course invites participants to move beyond quick fixes and into sustained, Spirit-led renewal.

Each week includes a live teaching session, guided small-group conversation, and a practical assignment that participants complete with their church team. This format ensures that learning is not abstract, but immediately connected to the life of the congregation.

## Over 5 weeks, participants will:

- *Assess their congregation's current reality and vitality*
- *Explore Wesleyan theological foundations for renewal and transformation*
- *Learn to interpret congregational systems and culture*
- *Identify opportunities for innovation and fresh expressions of ministry*
- *Design and begin implementing a 90-day renewal experiment tailored to their context*

By the end of the course, each team will have developed a contextualized Congregational Renewal Plan, along with the leadership alignment and practical next steps needed to move forward.

This course is ideal for congregations seeking not just new ideas, but a structured pathway to faithful, sustainable change—grounded in theology, shaped by community, and practiced in real time.

## Who Is the Class For:

Small teams from local churches, ideally between 3 and 5 people, including the pastoral leader and others in leadership roles. Solo registration is possible, but work between class sessions will need to involve others in leadership roles at a church.

## Dates/Times of Class:

July 2nd, July 9th, July 15th, July 23rd, July 30th  
5 pm to 7 pm Mountain Time (4 pm to 6 pm Pacific Time)

## Start Date:

July 1st with a welcome email and first pre-class reading

## End Date:

July 30th with a celebration of learning during our last class

## Textbooks:

All materials will be shared through a Google Classroom site, including resources, videos, and a course guide (syllabus). Books and other materials that have shaped this course will be shared and excerpts provided for readings and discussions.

## Cost:

- \$250.00 per church team (up to 5 persons)
- \$160.00 per person without a church team.

Maximum class enrollment is 25 participants

## Zoom Links:

Will be provided to participants via Google Classroom

# The Fundamentals of Church Administration

*Bishop Grant Hagiya*

*Co-President and Professor of Leadership & Innovation,  
Claremont School of Theology*

*John Woodall*

*President & Executive Director of the Cal-Pac Foundation*

## Description of Class:

This course is designed to offer the “nuts and bolts” of church administration. It will tackle issues that aren’t provided by most seminaries: insurance, leases, staff relations, how to read a financial spreadsheet, audits, basic stewardship, annual conference tables/forms, and productivity.

## Who Is the Class For:

Clergy, laity, churches, Licensed Local Pastors, Local Pastors, Advanced CLM members, Church Administrators and Secretaries, and anyone who wants a practical class on church administration

## Dates/Times of Class:

Mondays, 5:00 p.m. (PT) to 7:30 p.m. (PT);  
Four consecutive Mondays

## Start Date:

Monday, July 6

## End Date:

Monday, July 27

## Textbooks:

“Church Administration & Finance Manual: Resources for Leading the Local Church” by Otto Crumroy, Jr., Frank Witman, Stan Kukawka, and Paul Witman.

The fully revised and updated version. Through a generous benefactor, who is covering half the cost of the book, we will include the book (value: \$45.00) with the cost of the registration fee of \$169.00.

## Cost:

\$169.00 (Continuing Education credits [1 CEU] are offered through the Claremont School of Theology.)

# Building Beloved Community:

## The Courage to Love in the Face of Tyranny

### WJ Active Bishops:

- Kristin Stoneking (July 7)
- Dottie Escobedo-Frank (July 14)
- Carlo Rapanut (July 21)
- Sandy Olewine (July 28)
- Cedrick Bridgeforth

## Description of Class:

A four-session journey reading the book, practicing neighboring, and building a concrete action plan together. Each session asks participants to read, reflect, practice, and make one concrete move toward beloved community.

## Who Is the Class For:

This course is for people who want to move beyond agreement, concern, or conversation alone.

## Dates/Times of Class:

Tuesdays, July 7, 14, 21, & 28; 6 p.m. – 8 p.m. (Pacific)

## Start Date:

July 7, 2026

## End Date:

July 28, 2026



## Textbooks:

Building Beloved Community: The Courage to Love in the Face of Tyranny  
<https://www.resourceumc.org/en/churchwide/council-of-bishops/building-beloved-community>

## Cost:

\$160.00



## Re-imagining Church Properties for Affordable Housing

*Sandee Furuta*

*California-Pacific Associate Director of Resourcing & Property*

*Rev. Paige Eaves*

*California-Pacific Assistant to the Bishop*

### **Description of Class:**

When the time comes to imagine new uses for your church campus, you may wonder if affordable housing is the answer. Affordable housing advocates will tell you that church land is one of the most important available assets for addressing the housing crisis, and your colleagues may know of congregations that have been blessed by multimillion-dollar payouts.

But it's complicated.

This three-session course explores what it takes to move from vision to reality. Through inspiring success stories, hair-raising accounts of projects that have struggled, and clear, practical guidance, participants will gain a grounded understanding of how churches can responsibly engage in affordable housing development.

Sessions will cover discernment and mission alignment, common pitfalls and risks, and the essential building blocks of a project—from partnerships to financing to community engagement.

Whether you are just beginning to ask “could we?” or already exploring a project, this course will help you move forward with clarity, caution, and hope.

### **Who Is the Class For:**

Church leaders, Conference and District staff, church-friendly housing professionals, and anyone who is interested.

### **Dates/Times of Class:**

July 7, 14, & 21 from 5:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. PST

### **Start Date:**

Tuesday, July 7, 2026

### **End Date:**

Tuesday, July 21, 2026

### **Recommended Reading:**

*Gone for Good?: Negotiating the Coming Wave of Church Property Transition*, edited by Mark Elsdon

### **Cost:**

\$125.00



## **An Integrated System Approach to Outreach:** **Connecting Congregations with Non-Church Households**

*Rev. Dr. Peter Wernett*

*Founder of MissionInsite, Trustee of Claremont School of Theology*

### **Description of Class:**

The class will focus on bringing theology and practical application together to shape a ministry plan to connect with non-churched households.

The class will provide a process for a local congregation to analyze their current mission statement and how it shapes its evangelistic efforts to connect with non-church households within the Wesleyan tradition.

This will be followed by determining the demographic and socioeconomic similarities and differences between the church congregants and the non-churched households in the ministry area. Included is financial, religious, and ministry application information.

Following the July 29 session, the team will conclude their activity by designing a ministry effort to implement in the fall. This ministry effort will be presented at the August 25 class session.

### **Who Is the Class For:**

Teams of 3 to 5 people per church. Teams should include clergy and laypersons.

### **Dates/Times of Class:**

July 8, July 15, July 22, July 29, August 25  
5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

### **Start Date:**

July 8

### **End Date:**

August 25

### **Textbooks:**

MissionInsite Demographic System

### **Cost:**

\$250.00 per church team (up to 5 persons); \$160.00 per person without a church team.

## Reading the Gospels with United Methodist Perspectives

Rev. Dr. Samuel D. Hong  
District Superintendent, Cal-Nev Conference

### Description of Class:

This course offers an accessible approach to reading the Gospels and Acts, combining scholarly insight with practical application for everyday life. The course integrates United Methodist perspectives and practices throughout, helping participants engage Scripture in ways that are both theologically grounded and personally transformative.

### Who Is the Class For:

This class is open to all—no prior biblical studies background is required. By the end of this course, participants will have gained a deeper understanding of the Gospels and Acts, developed skills for faithful interpretation, and discovered how Wesleyan insights can inform their daily discipleship.

### Dates/Times of Class:

Fridays, 5:00–7:30 p.m.  
(July 10, 17, 24, and 31)

### Start Date:

July 10

### End Date:

July 31

### Textbooks:

Samuel D. Hong. 2025. Introduction to the New Testament: The Gospels & Acts (PDF)  
Frederick David Carr and Brady Alan Beard, eds. 2025. Reading Scripture in Wesleyan Ways. Nashville: Abingdon Press.

### Cost:

\$160.00

## An Introduction to Spiritual Direction

Dr. Frank Rogers Jr.

Muriel Bernice Roberts Professor of Spiritual Formation & Narrative Pedagogy, Co-Founder & Co-Director, Center for Engaged Compassion

### Description of Class:

Spiritual direction is a facilitated process in which a person explores how they might live ever more fully out of their spiritual essence and ever more aligned with the sacred reality that sustains them. This class will introduce the spiritual direction process and invite participants into a guided group experience of it.

### Who Is the Class For:

Clergy, laity, and anyone interested in spiritual direction

### Dates/Times of Class:

Monday, July 13: 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. (1 class only)

### Start Date:

July 13, 2026

### End Date:

July 13, 2026

### Textbooks:

Margaret Guenther, Holy Listening: The Art of Spiritual Direction

### Cost:

\$49.00





## **Go and Do Likewise: Setting Ministry Priorities and Deciding Where to Begin**

**Bishop Cedrick Bridgeforth**  
*The Greater Northwest Area*

### **Description of Class:**

This course helps clergy and laity discern ministry priorities together, move from conversation to commitment, and identify one faithful place to begin. It is grounded in Luke 10, a vision framework, the distinction between mirror talk and window work, and the conviction that the church must love God and neighbor through concrete, neighbor-centered action.

### **Who Is the Class For:**

Churches, clergy, and laity. We encourage churches to send a team of clergy and lay leaders together to discern their own local church's priorities.

### **Dates/Times of Class:**

Thursdays, July 16 and July 23; 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. (Pacific)

### **Start Date:**

July 16, 2026

### **End Date:**

July 23, 2026

### **Textbooks:**

None

### **Cost:**

\$79.00

## **Called to Proclaim: Foundations for Faithful Preaching**

**Rev. Sherry Ferriman**

*Program Director for the Compelling Preaching Initiative, Mountain Sky Conference*

### **Description of Class:**

Recognizing that the word preaching can feel intimidating or narrowly defined, this course invites participants to broaden their understanding of preaching as both a sacred responsibility and a practical craft. Participants will reflect on their own story, calling, and theological grounding while developing foundational skills for proclamation.

Through guided reflection, biblical engagement, and hands-on learning, participants will explore the purpose of preaching, the identity and formation of the preacher, approaches to biblical interpretation, and practical frameworks for crafting clear, faithful, and relevant forms of proclamation, including sermon structures, testimony, and personal witness.

By the end of the course, participants will leave with a stronger foundation for proclamation, increased confidence in their voice, and practical tools they can apply in a variety of contexts.

### **Who Is the Class For:**

The class is open to laity and clergy, with an emphasis on foundational skills for proclamation.

### **Dates/Times of Class:**

Saturdays, July 18 and 25, 2026, 9:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m., 12:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.. Two sessions per day.

### **Start Date:**

July 18, 2026

### **End Date:**

July 25, 2026

### **Textbooks:**

N/A

### **Cost:**

Four Class Sessions:  
\$160.00

## Leading Faithfully: Pastoral Presence and Prophetic Imagination

*Bishop Karen Oliveto*  
Instructor

### Description of Class:

This short-term course engages the practice of prophetic leadership as it emerges through pastoral presence, communal discernment, and faithful action. Grounded in Scripture, Wesleyan theology, and United Methodist ecclesiology, the class explores how leaders are called to respond creatively and courageously to the complex realities facing congregations and communities in the current social-political climate.

Participants will reflect on leadership “for such a time as this,” attending to the intersection of pastoral care, prophetic witness, justice, and adaptive change. The course emphasizes discernment of context, listening deeply to congregations and communities, and leading with integrity amid uncertainty, polarization, and transformation.

Through conversation, guided reflection, and practical case studies, participants will be invited to deepen their understanding of prophetic leadership as a relational, pastoral, and Spirit-led practice within the connective life of the United Methodist Church.

This three-session format is designed to be formative and collegial, supporting participants as they reflect on their own leadership vocation and current ministry challenges.

### Who Is the Class For:

This class is intended for clergy, local pastors, and lay leaders who are navigating change, transition, or complex leadership realities in congregational, district, or extension ministry settings. It is especially suited for leaders seeking to integrate pastoral engagement, prophetic imagination, and Wesleyan leadership practices in their current context.

Participants from diverse ministry settings, cultural contexts, and stages of leadership experience are welcome.

### Dates/Times of Class:

Wednesdays July 22, 29, and August 5. 5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. (Pacific)

### Textbooks:

- The Prophetic Imagination by Walter Brueggemann
- Jesus and the Disinherited by Howard Thurman

The instructor will also provide selected readings and short excerpts.

### Cost:

\$125.00





## The Mission of God and the People Called Methodist

*Rev. Dr. Jeffrey Conklin-Miller*  
Professor of United Methodist Studies,  
Claremont School of Theology

*Rev. Melissa Roux MacKinnon*  
Director of Field Education,  
Claremont School of Theology

*Rev. Sherry Ferriman*  
Program Director for the  
Compelling Preaching Initiative, Mountain Sky AC

### Description of Class:

This course invites laity to discover the scriptural story of the mission of God (Missio Dei) and the unique role the “People called Methodist” play within it. We will trace how the Methodist spark ignites both personal renewal and social transformation. You’ll explore how your faith is woven into a much larger tapestry of grace, gaining a deeper sense of belonging and a clearer vision of how to live out your purpose in the world today.

### Who Is the Class For:

Primarily, this course is aimed at laity, offering an introductory engagement with the scriptural framework of the Missio Dei (Mission of God) and the particular place Wesleyan and Methodist identity and practices play in that broader story.



### Dates/Times of Class:

Thursdays, August 6, 13, 20, 27. 5:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. (Pacific)

### Start Date:

Thursday, August 6, 2026

### End Date:

Thursday, August 27, 2026

### Textbooks:

None

### Cost:

Four Class Sessions: \$160.00





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***Communications***

Alyssa Fisher and WJ Communicators  
*Public Relations*

Lay Missional Planting Networks