

PROSPECTUS
PRTH 70970.010
Summer 2022

Special Topic in Practical Theology – United Church of Christ Polity
3 credit hours

Instructor: Dr. Jo Hudson

Prerequisites: None

Description of Content:

This course will explore the history, theology, and polity of the United Church of Christ (UCC) to provide an understanding of the structure, ministries, and mission commitments of the UCC. Students will learn the story of the UCC in some detail. They will become conversant on covenantal polity and come to understand the issues, opportunities and challenges facing the UCC today. Students will be able to discern their interest in becoming engaged with and/or authorized for ministry in the UCC and come to understand the ecumenical commitments, zeal for mission and justice, and passion of the Gospel that are characteristic of the UCC.

Goals:

To examine the history of the four principal strands that created the UCC as well as other antecedent groups and their impact or current polity in the UCC

To explore the history, mission, and purpose of the UCC since its formation in 1957 and subsequent re-structures and their impact on UCC polity

To gain understanding of the current polity of the UCC and the theology that informs it

To discover ways that UCC history, theology, and polity shape practices of ministry

Class Procedures:

This class will include teaching strategies that include classroom lecture, videos, online resources, article reviews and discussion, student reading, research, writing and presentations.

Requirements:

Attendance and informed participation in the class sessions

Daily reading and writing assignments

In-class presentations

Three 10 page papers on UCC History, Polity, and Spiritual Autobiography

Texts:

Drummond, Sarah B., *Sharing Leadership: A United Church of Christ Way of Being in Community*, Cleveland: The Pilgrim Press, 2021, ISBN: 978-0-8298-2174-1, \$16.95

Gast, Mary Susan. *That We May All (Finally!) Be One*, Cleveland: The Pilgrim Press, 2016, ISBN: 978-0-9298-2031-7, \$30.00

Hoffman, Jane Fisler. *Covenant*, Cleveland: United Church Press, 2008, ISBN-10: 0829817948. \$8.00

Grading Procedures:

Class Presence and Participation: 30%

Critical Response Paper: 30%

Three Papers 40%