



May 1, 2021

Greetings on behalf of the whole team for the Lay Leader Education Program of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Canada. We are so glad you have signed up for and are ready to explore a variety of interesting ministry topics! I want to let you know about courses we will offer as part of the second phase of our program.

In 2021 we have been offering several lectures to whet your whistle and invite you to consider deeper theological reflection, pastoral questions, and integration of your learning. We have had a wonderful variety of lecturers and lecture styles that appeal to a variety of learners and learning styles. As Disciples, we take seriously a call to deeper reflection and action in our world, a world where Christ meets us in every person, in all of creation. Whether you're hoping to take in one course or you have graciously signed up for the Certificate Program, we welcome you! Feel free to share the posters about our lectures and courses widely when we post it on the regional website. We do ask people to register so we can be aware of numbers and send you out the link for each course being taught. You will find everything available at www.canadadisciples.org

Courses in the Lay Leader Certificate Program will be offered from September 2021 to December 2022. Each course will consist of three (3) 2-hour sessions, happening consecutively for 3 weeks each month. There will be a week-long break with the next course starting the following month. Courses will be offered in a variety of academic and pastoral areas with attention to the basics of theological learning and ministry practice. Perhaps you have always wanted to learn more about how the Bible was put together as a sacred text, or would like to learn some new skills to share in your congregation's ministry. Are you interested in creativity and spirituality? Maybe you want to learn about pastoral care or maybe you are curious about how God is represented in different ways? We will also be offering courses in history, theology, and racial justice and reconciliation. If you complete eight (8) courses in total you will receive a certificate. At a low cost of \$30 per course this is a very worthwhile opportunity.

You will find a good blend of conceptual as well as more practical courses. These courses are not for credit but for your continued education. Whether you are a lay person who wants to continue your faith journey by deepening your theological knowledge or a clergy person looking to commit to continuing education, you are most welcome to be with us. We are called to be 'a movement for wholeness in a fragmented world' and look forward to walking this road of faith together. Education about today's issues and knowing our own history helps us to move forward. Come and share your wisdom with us as we learn together.

If you have any questions please feel free to contact me. I am happy to talk with you. I want to acknowledge and thank Noli, Janet and Jen for the good work on many aspects of pulling this program together for all Disciples. Everyone seeking to explore theological learning is welcome!

God's blessing to you on this day!

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