

**United Church of Christ History, Theology, and Polity at Synod
Milwaukee, WI**

June 21 – 26, 2019

HILTON MILWAUKEE CITY CENTER

MacArthur Room

Sponsored by Chicago Theological Seminary and instructed by
Rev. Dr. Stephen G. Ray Jr., President

Course description:

With General Synod 32 (2019) 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?

The major focus of the course will be on the history, and current state, of the discrete traditions which constitute the United Church of Christ. As well, our work will seek to identify those theological and ecclesiological predispositions which are unique to the United Church of Christ. In sum, the course will seek to grapple with the issues of historical and contemporary identity within the United Church of Christ, to prepare the student to be a leader within the Church. The primary objective of this course is to equip students to be competent interpreters of the history, theology, and contemporary identity of the United Church of Christ at an introductory level in multiple settings including congregations, denominational ministry committees and in the public square more generally.

Location and accommodations: The course will take place at the HILTON MILWAUKEE CITY CENTER

Course schedule:

Exact Schedule with Times Will Be Available May 15, 2019

Friday, June 21:

Orientation and Groundings

Readings:

Message to the Churches from the Uniting Synod

Who Shall We Be?

TBD

Saturday, June 22: Readings:

Ecclesial Culture

Randi Jones Walker, *The Evolution of a UCC Style: Essays in the History, Ecclesiology, and Culture of the United Church of Christ*, 2005.

Articles TBD

Sunday, June 23

History

Reading:

Louis Gunnemann. *The Shaping of the United Church of Christ*

Monday, June 24

Ecclesiology and Church Structure

Reading

Mary Susan Gast. *That We May (Finally) Be One*

Articles TBD

Tuesday, June 25:

Ministerial Authorization

Reading:

Manual On Ministry

Articles TBD

Wednesday, June 26

Review and Wrap-Up

To register:

- **As a non-credit certificate student:** Registration fee \$660
 - Upon satisfactory completion of work, non-credit certificate students will receive a “Certificate of Completion” by mail
- **As a seminary credit-earning graduate student:** Tuition is \$1900
 - Upon completion of work, graduate students will receive a grade
- **Registration instructions:** Follow this link to register:
- <https://www.ctschicago.edu/next-feature/polity-course-at-ucc-synod/>
- Please note participants must also register for Synod at <https://www.synod2019.org/en/uccsynod2019>

With questions:

About registration:

Elena Jimenez, Registrar, ejimenez@ctschicago.edu

About the course: Please contact instructor.

Stephen Ray, stephen.ray@ctschicago.edu