

## Questions and answers about the Certificate program:

**Who should enroll?** Missouri School of Religion welcomes all who wish to take classes:

- Licensed local pastors (senior, associate, youth, education, other)
- Church members who desire to learn more about the topics offered
- Licensed and ordained ministers who wish to take an occasional course for continuing education.

**What is the tuition cost for the Certificate of Pastoral Ministry?**

- \$350 for each of the 15 standard courses (five offered per year)
- \$125 for each short course (one per year)
- \$125 for the introductory "Understanding the Bible" course

*Please note: the fee is the same whether taken in Jefferson City or online. The Jefferson City tuition includes room and board. The online tuition includes technology costs. Books are additional.*

**If I take the introductory "Understanding the Bible" course, am I obligated to take more classes?** No, "Understanding the Bible" is open to those who wish to pursue a certificate and those who simply desire to know more about scripture.

**If I wish to complete the Certificate, must I take every class in the order it is offered?** No, the classes are offered in a three-year rotation, but you do not have to complete all classes within three years.

**Can I combine online and classes at Jefferson City to complete my Certificate?** Yes!

**What if I do not want a certificate, but just want to know more about certain topics?** If you have no prior education in Bible or theology, we highly recommend you take the introductory "Understanding the Bible" class first. It is offered in January, May and August in Jefferson City and twice a year online in spring and fall. Then you may take any class you desire. You are not required to pursue a certificate.

**Who teaches the Certificate of Pastoral Ministry classes?** Our instructors are experienced pastors who hold graduate degrees. Most are from the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), but also from the United Church of Christ, Presbyterian Church, USA and other mainline denominations. They each hold, at minimum, a masters degree and have several years of pastoral experience.

**If I complete the Certificate of Pastoral Ministry, am I guaranteed a position as a pastor?** No, we do not place our graduates in churches. Consult your judicatory about ministerial possibilities.

**Can I receive college credit for Certificate courses?** For our Rickman Center classes, it is possible to receive two hours of college credit for each for the fifteen core classes. This is available for a small additional fee from Culver-Stockton College or Columbia College. We are currently working on obtaining the same credit for our online classes. We expect to have that available within a year.

# Missouri School of Religion

## Certificate of Pastoral Ministry



Missouri School of Religion  
*Serving the church since 1895*

An educational program for licensed, commissioned and bi-vocational ministers

### The Certificate of Pastoral Ministry

program of the Missouri School of Religion provides a foundational curriculum of education and ministry formation for licensed and commissioned ministers, especially those serving bi-vocationally. The curriculum was developed in consultation with the Commission on Ministry of the Christian Church of Mid-America in the 1980's and 1990's -to meet the need for quality undergraduate-level ministry education.

### The Certificate program includes:

- A three-year rotation of classes
- Fifteen core courses (each equivalent to a two-hour college course) and three short courses, plus a short introductory class, "Understanding the Bible."
- Instruction in the following areas: scripture, preaching, pastoral care, spirituality, mission, evangelism, ethics, practice of ministry, Christian thought, worship, church history, evangelism, Christian education, church conflict, and contextual ministry.
- Instruction by ministers with graduate degrees and practical parish experience.

### Two opportunities to learn:

#### At the Rickman Retreat Center in Jefferson City, MO.

MSR has offered Certificate classes at the Rickman Retreat Center in Jefferson City, MO since the 1980's. Students enjoy the relaxed retreat surroundings during Friday evening-Saturday classes and intensive three-day courses. Participants attend class about once a month for a total of 480 hours of instruction over a three-year period.

### and now...

#### Online

In 2007, MSR began offering online Certificate classes. In 2010, a full schedule of courses will be offered in five 8-week session and one 4-week session, plus two 4-week sessions of the introductory "Understanding the Bible."

Schedules for both programs for 2010-12 are included in this brochure. The online schedule is also on a three-year rotation, offset from the Rickman schedule one year.

# Certificate of Pastoral Ministry Course Rotations

## Rickman Center, Jefferson City, MO

2010	2011	2012
<b>Understanding the Bible</b> Jan 9-10	<b>Understanding the Bible</b> Jan 7-8	<b>Understanding the Bible</b> Jan 6-7
<b>Basics of Pastoral Counseling</b> Feb 5-6, Mar 5-6, April 16-17	<b>Christian Ethics</b> Feb 4-5, Mar 4-5, Apr 1-2	<b>Preaching as a Christian Art</b> Feb 10-11, Mar 9-10, Apr 20-21
<b>Understanding the Bible</b> May 7-8	<b>Understanding the Bible</b> May 6-7	<b>Understanding the Bible</b> May 4-5
<b>Utilizing Church Conflict</b> May 13-15	<b>Personhood of the Pastor</b> May 19-21	<b>Social and Global Mission</b> May 17-19
<b>History of the Christian Faith</b> June 4-5, July 9-10, Aug 6-7	<b>Intro to Hebrew Scripture</b> June 3-4, July 8-9, July 29-30	<b>Worship and Music</b> June 8-9, July 13-14, Aug 10-11
<b>Understanding the Bible</b> Aug 13-14	<b>Understanding the Bible</b> Aug 5-6	<b>Understanding the Bible</b> Aug 3-4
<b>Ministry in a Rural Context</b> Aug 19-21	<b>History and Polity</b> Aug 18-20	<b>Pastor as Spiritual Leader</b> Aug 23-25
<b>The Practice of Ministry</b> Sep 3-4, Oct 8-9, Nov 5-6	<b>Intro to the New Testament</b> Sep 2-3, Oct 7-8, Nov 4-5	<b>Intro to Christian Thought</b> Sept 14-15, Oct 12-13, Nov 2-3
<b>Christian Education</b> Dec 10-11	<b>Stewardship</b> Dec 9-10	<b>Evangelism</b> Nov 30-Dec 1

*The above schedule is subject to change on rare occasions.*

### ***Courses offered in Fall 09 at Jefferson City:***

**Understanding the Bible**, Aug 7-8

**Pastor as Spiritual Leader**, Aug 13-15

**Introduction to Christian Thought**, Sept 18-19, Oct 2-3, Nov 6-7

**Evangelism**, Dec 4-5

*For further details or to enroll, go to [www.missourischoolofreligion.org](http://www.missourischoolofreligion.org)*

## Online

2010	2011	2012
<b>Understanding the Bible</b>	<b>Understanding the Bible</b> TBA	<b>Understanding the Bible</b> TBA
<b>Christian Ethics</b> Jan-Feb	<b>Preaching as a Christian Art</b> TBA	<b>Basics of Pastoral Counseling</b> TBA
<b>Personhood of the Pastor</b> Mar-April	<b>Social and Global Mission</b> TBA	<b>Utilizing Church Conflict</b> TBA
<b>Intro to Hebrew Scripture</b> May-June	<b>Worship and Music</b> TBA	<b>History of the Christian Faith</b> TBA
<b>Intro to the New Testament</b> July-Aug	<b>Intro to Christian Thought</b> TBA	<b>The Practice of Ministry</b> TBA
<b>History and Polity</b> Sept-Oct	<b>Pastor as Spiritual Leader</b> TBA	<b>Ministry in a Rural Context</b> TBA
<b>Understanding the Bible</b> Oct	<b>Understanding the Bible</b> TBA	<b>Understanding the Bible</b> TBA
<b>Stewardship- short course</b> Nov	<b>Evangelism--short</b> TBA	<b>Christian Education--short</b> TBA

*Schedule is subject to revision. Classes listed will be offered, but order of classes may be rearranged.*

### ***Courses offered in Fall 09 Online:***

**History & Polity of the Disciples of Christ**, beginning Aug 31 thru Nov

**Utilizing Church Conflict**, beginning Sept 8 thru Nov

**Understanding the Bible**, beginning Oct 4 through 31

*For further details or to enroll, go to [www.missourischoolofreligion.org](http://www.missourischoolofreligion.org)*



**Missouri School of Religion** *Serving the church since 1895*

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