

EDUCATOR CERTIFICATION COUNCIL  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (USA)

Presbyterian Church (USA)  
100 Witherspoon Street  
Louisville, KY 40202-1396

ENROLLED EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANT READING LIST

Attached is the Reading List. It consists of two parts: the first part lists eight books. You must select five of these as required readings. The second part lists recommended readings which you might select to further your educational development.

Please follow these instructions in completing the requirements for enrollment:

- (1) Read five books from the Required Reading List.
- (2) Based on your conversations with your Certification Advisor, your particular area of interest or work, and your perceived need for additional learning, select and read one additional book. It need not be from the Recommended Reading List.
- (3) For all six books, answer the following: (minimum one page per book)
  - (a) Summarize what you consider to be the basic theme(s) of the book.
  - (b) Identify new insights that you gained from the book.
  - (c) Suggest ways that you can apply your learnings from the book to your work in Christian Education.
- (4) In light of all your readings respond to the following questions on a separate page:
  - (a) List three concepts from your readings that either affirm or challenge your previous learnings or understandings.
  - (b) As an Enrolled Educational Assistant, what are your future plans for continued professional development (workshops, courses, readings, observations, etc.)?
- (5) After completing your educational requirements, please type your responses and mail three copies (two plus the original) to:

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## Enrolled Educational Assistant - *Required Reading List*

1. Brueggemann, Walter, *The Creative Word: Canon as a Model for Biblical Education*. Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1982.  
The author believes that the process of canon construction is a key element in the church's educational task. A challenging study for those who are interested in a new way of understanding and practicing education in the church.
2. Caldwell, Elizabeth. *Come Unto Me: Rethinking the Sacraments for Children*. Cleveland, OH: United Church Press, 1996.  
The author looks at the role the sacraments play in the nurture and faith formation of children. It includes theological reflection, life-situational vignettes, and a description of a "sacramental model of education in the church."
3. Dean, Creasy Kendra, and Foster, Ron. *The Godbearing Life: The Art of Soul Tending for Youth Ministry*. Upper Room Books: Nashville, TN 1998.  
The book goes a long way in putting "ministry" back into youth ministry. It's an overdue affirmation for youth workers. Dean and Foster are prophets in the best sense, telling the whole, challenging yet hope-filled story of youth ministry. *The Godbearing Life* reaffirms the ministry of all Christians – youth and adults are sojourners in faith, practicing the faith together.
4. Griggs, Donald L., *Teaching Today's Teachers to Teach*. Nashville: Abingdon, 2003.  
A comprehensive guidebook of practical ideas, advice, and wisdom on the art and practice of teaching. An array of training tools and techniques are featured, including reproducible charts and pages, as well as specific assignments that help teachers integrate and further study each chapter lesson.
5. Rice, Howard L., *Reformed Spirituality: An Introduction for Believers*, Louisville, KY; Westminster John Knox Press, 1998.  
Drawing upon a wide range of sources, including Calvin, confessional writers of the 16<sup>th</sup> century, British Puritans, Presbyterians, and other influential sources, Rice provides help in reclaiming spirituality in the Reformed tradition.
6. Roehlkepartian, Eugene, *The Teaching Church: Moving Christian Education to Center Stage*. Nashville: Abingdon, 1993.  
Explores the programmatic implications arising from the Search Institute study of "Effective Christian Education." It addresses topics such as content, management, and leadership development in an educational program; it offers tools for evaluation and effective planning. Provides a broad foundation for a holistic approach to Christian education.
7. Weeks, Louis, *To Be A Presbyterian*. Atlanta: John Knox Press, 1983.  
Clear, concise introduction to what it means to be a member of the Presbyterian Church. Based on actual situations in the congregational life of a church. Weeks explains the theology and life of the Presbyterian Church.
8. Steinke, Peter, *How Your Church Family Works: Understanding Congregations as Emotional Systems*, Alban Institute, 1993.  
"Here's a book that sheds light on the puzzle presented by troubled congregations. Steinke's insights from the theory of family systems lead clergy and laity to deeper understanding and discernment rather than to easy answers and quick fixes. He joins theological reflection with systems analysis to give the reader the satisfaction of adding an 'amen' to the 'aha' of discovery. Pastors, bishops, judicatory staff, and lovers of church families everywhere will benefit from this solid work. After years of trying to deal with the church from a fatigued, business oriented model, I found this book a better way to think about how congregations work, or (I should say) relate – especially in crises."

## Enrolled Educational Assistant - *Additional Reading Suggestions*

### ***Christian Education Theory***

Foster, Charles, *Educating Congregations*. Nashville: Abingdon, 1994.

Following a critique of what he considers to be an over dependence on the schooling model for Christian education, Foster offers an alternative vision that attempts to be more corporate, that draws upon the whole of a congregation's life, and that encourages people to relate Scripture to personal experience.

Miller, Donald E., *Story and Context: An Introduction to Christian Education*. Nashville: Abingdon, 1987.

A complete introduction in one volume that examines: the structure of Christian education; the structure of community life; the use of story; teaching and administration; and much more.

Seymour, Jack L., Editor. *Mapping Christian Education: Approaches to Congregational Learning*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1997.

In this book, Jack Seymour and seven other leading religious educators offer a road map for the vast landscape of religious education. Throughout the book, four themes – transformation, faith community, spiritual growth and religious instruction act as directional signposts for veteran and novice Christian educators, seminarians, or anyone who is interested in learning more about the diversity in the field of Christian education.

Seymour, Jack L., Crain, Mary Ann' amd Crockett, Joseph. *Educating Christians: The Intersection of Meaning, Learning and Vocation*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1993.

In an introductory treatment of Christian education, the authors begin with the assumption that a basic human need is to make meaning of one's life and experience. Christian education needs to contribute to that process. They begin with explorations into one's own experience of meaning and how it is transformed in a life of faith.

### ***General Christian Education***

Juengst, Sara Covin, *Equipping the Saints*, Teacher Training in the Church. Louisville, KY: Westminster/ John Knox Press, 1998.

This book addresses a critical problem in the teaching ministry of the church – how to prepare those who feel called to teach. It provides a solution: an innovative, nine-month teacher-training course that covers biblical background, basic Christian beliefs, and good teaching techniques. Each segment contains thirteen sessions of interactive study, with lesson plans for each class session.

Osmer, Richard, *Teaching for Faith: A Guide for Teachers of Adult Classes*. Louisville, KY: Westminster/John Knox Press, 1994.

In what is both a practical and reflective book, Osmer discusses four critical dimensions of faith - faith as belief, as relationship, as commitment, and as mystery. He discusses techniques for engaging persons in each of these dimensions as learners in the church.

Palmer, Parker J., *To Know as We are Known: A Spirituality of Education*. New York: Harper and Row, 1983.

A stimulating critique of our contemporary approaches to Christian education. Offers some ways of teaching and learning that may help students reach their full potential as they become aware of life's inner truths.

Purdy, John C., Ed., *Always Being Reformed: The Future of Church Education*. Philadelphia: Geneva Press, 1985.

Describes what the church should be teaching from now until the year 2000. Essays evolved from a conference of 134 Presbyterian educators focusing on the past, present, and future of their ministry.

Weber, Hans-Reudi, *Experiments with Bible Study*. Philadelphia: Westminster Press, 1981.

This book grew out of the author's ministry as Director for Bible Study with the World Council of Churches. A rich resource for Bible study and teaching. Contains some basic affirmations and assumptions about the Bible and Bible study, plus twenty-five different "experiments" with Bible study.

Wilson, Marlene, *How to Mobilize Church Volunteers*. Minneapolis: Augsburg Publishing House, 1983.

An insightful and practical book dealing with questions about volunteers in the church and principles for discovering and working with leaders.

### ***Developmental/Age Group***

Coles, Robert. *The Spiritual Life of Children*. New York: Houghton-Mifflin, 1990.

A leading psychologist and student of children, Coles studies children's art and stories to draw out children's images of God, of salvation, of righteousness, and their understanding of ultimate meaning. A landmark book, it offers keen insight into the faith and growth of children.

Duckert, Mary. *New Kid in the Pew*. Shared Ministry with Children. Louisville, KY: Westminster/John Knox Press, 1991.

An important issue for all of us, but especially for children, is the sense that we belong in our communities. Duckert discusses her concept of shared ministry and offers many practical suggestions for engaging children fully in the life, worship, and festivals of the Christian congregation.

*Growing in the Life of Christian Faith*, Louisville, KY: Presbyterian Church (USA), 1989. (DMS 275-89-001, \$1.50 each).

An official report issued in response to the growing interest in and use of faith developmental theory in Christian education, the report looks at faith development from a Reformed theological perspective and offers a number of additional metaphors for describing the changes that occur in one's experience of faith.

Juengst, Sara Covin. *Sharing Faith With Children: Rethinking the Children's Sermon*. Louisville, KY: Westminster/John Knox Press, 1994.

The author draws upon research into the stages of children's mental and spiritual development in order to offer a useful approach to sharing faith with them. The book addresses worship, theological thought processes in young children, appropriate use of language and symbol, and methods for faith sharing in the children's sermon.

Roehlkepartian, Eugene. *Building Assets in Congregations: A Practical Guide for Helping Youth Grow Up Healthy*. Minneapolis: Search Institute, 1998.

This book calls on congregations to use the forty developmental assets to empower youth. It addresses practical application, how to introduce assets to the congregation, family education & support, programming for youth, an outreach & partnership in the community.

White, David. *Practicing Discernment with Youth: A Transformative Youth Ministry Approach*. Cleveland: Pilgrim Press, 2005.

This book is a synthesis of perception, vision, and praxis in the work with adolescents and young adults. He bears witness to what he sees and hears and is able to systematize this in a coherent practical-theological framework. Finally, he gives feedback to actual youth ministry activities.

### ***Presbyterian/Reformed Polity***

Eberts, Harry. *We Believe*. Second Edition. Louisville, KY: Westminster/John Knox Press, 1994.

Originally written as a basic introduction to the *Book of Confessions* for use by church officers, this very readable book offers a valuable overview of these basic documents of faith in the Reformed tradition.

Leith, John H., *Introduction to the Reformed Tradition: A Way of Being the Christian Community*. Atlanta: John Knox Press, 1981.

Concise, readable study for lay persons and clergy. Touches on all aspects of Reformed Tradition.

Lingle, Walter L. and Kuykendall, J. W., *Presbyterians: Their History and Beliefs*. Atlanta: John Knox Press, 1981.

An account of major events and doctrines of the Presbyterian Church. Concise but colorful, it traces the denomination's "spiritual ancestry" from Bible times to the present. It points out how the Presbyterian form of government has its origins in the New Testament, describes its vital influence on society in the past (including the writing of the U.S. Constitution), and tells how it functions today.

### ***Biblical Interpretation***

Cully, Iris. *The Bible in Christian Education*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 1995.

Effird, James M., *How to Interpret the Bible*. Atlanta: John Knox Press, 1983.

Examines various methods of biblical interpretation, emphasizing the strengths and pointing out the weaknesses of each. An eclectic presentation that enables ministers, students, and lay readers to grasp the meaning of the books of the Bible.

Rhodes, Arnold B., *The Mighty Acts of God*. Atlanta: John Knox Press, 1965. Revised, 2000 by W. Eugene March.

A study of one story of the Bible, emphasizing the essential unity and the historical sweep of the book, with major stress on such great biblical themes as creation, redemption, disobedience and punishment, and repentance.

