

The Multicultural Church Institute

Each institute course offers instruction and inspiration to enable clergy and laity in working toward biblical visions of all races, nations, tribes and tongues praising and serving God in diverse and inclusive communities of faith. Instructors are experienced practitioners, scholars and authors who share the vision of a church as diverse, colorful, and inclusive as the church of Pentecost. The program is jointly sponsored by various offices of the Office of Evangelism and Church Growth of the Presbyterian Church (USA), the Ecumenical Partnership for Multicultural Ministry (Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, Presbyterian Church (USA), United Church of Christ, and Reformed Church in America), New York Theological Seminary, Ghost Ranch, and Stony Point Conference Centers.

Scholarship priority for Ghost Ranch courses will be given to those who register by June 16, 2008, (and for the course, "Becoming a Multicultural Church" to those who come as part of a team of three or more per individual congregation or presbytery).

For information about scholarship assistance:

Contact the PC(USA)
Office of Multicultural Ministries
Call 888-728-7228 ext. 5252, or,
Email: janeth.nunez@pcusa.org , or, raafat.girgis@pcusa.org
For further information:
Contact Rev. Dr. Robert Chesnut, Dean of the Institute
Call 505-474-5817, or, email: spirits2@comcast.net

For additional information regarding dates, costs and accommodations, please contact:

Ghost Ranch information:
Visit www.ghost ranch.org, then click on the 2008 catalog, or,
call 505-685-4333

Stony Point information:
Call Rev. Charles Ryu at 800-253-4285
Or email: cryu@stonypointcenter.org

NYTS course credit, tuition, or Continuing Education Credit:
Contact Dr. Cynthia Diaz, Director of Vocational Discernment,
Call 212 870-1212, or, email: cdiaz@nyts.edu

Stony Point Courses

The Multicultural Institute at Stony Point will include additional bonus features on "Learning how to become a Multicultural Church." A special multicultural World Christianity presentation will be conducted by Dr. Dale T. Irvin, President and Professor of World Christianity, New York Theological Seminary, New York, and Dr. Peter C. Phan, Ignacio Ellacuria Professor of Catholic Social Thought at Georgetown University, Washington, D.C.

This Institute will also include exciting field visits and hands-on, on-site experiences in diverse communities. Each individual should register for one of the following courses for the entire week:

Expanding Your Boundaries:

Learn How to Speak Spanish in Five Days

Dr. Cynthia Diaz, Elmont, NY
Rev. Gustavo Vasquez, West New York, NJ

Every day our global boundaries are expanding. Learning a new language is one of the best ways to become a multicultural person. Learning Spanish will enhance the growth and development of multicultural ministries in and outside of the church. In this immersion course, the participants speak Spanish from the very first session. Throughout the entire week there are opportunities to speak Spanish with a community on and off site. By the time the final exercise is completed, each participant will have gained an ability to speak, read and write Spanish. The course includes gaining a higher cultural competency that can be applied towards living, working and worshipping in Latino/Hispanic communities.

Culturally Conscious Communication: Avoiding Knee-Jerk Reactions

Dr. Sara Parker, Washington, D.C.

This course will focus on the unspoken "social" messages that accompany our spoken words (and even our silences) when we interact with others. Most of us give very little conscious thought to how our spoken words convey to others feelings of inclusion or exclusion, higher or lower status, and so on. We will learn from each other how the feeling of "respect" may be communicated differently from various cultures and how cross cultural differences in our habits of every day speaking may trigger mutually negative responses and contribute to misunderstanding and tension.

Multicultural Worship & Spirituality: Transforming Our Ways of Being

Rev. Charles Ryu, Stony Point, NY
Rev. Dr. Wanda Lundy, Edgewater, NJ

What kind of spirituality and worship experiences do we need in order to truly embody and witness to the vocation to live out the original mandate of the Pentecost event: the birth of a multicultural and global community based on love? Beginning with the basics of spiritual formation, we will search through the scripture, sing songs of faith from different traditions, look into our lives and find ways to be in community with people who are different from us. Through the practice of holy listening, we will confront the issues of race, class, gender, etc. and their power and privilege dynamics. Participants will design and lead the daily worship services for the Institute and are expected to work on worship preparation beyond scheduled class time. Through this intense hands on, interactive seminar, we will be able to name the specific things we can do consistently in order to become more consciously multicultural with joy and a sense of calling.

Becoming a Multicultural Church

Rev. Raafat Girgis, Louisville, KY

Learn how congregations are revitalized by embracing diversity and how new vision, mission, and innovation can flow from embracing the biblical mandate to becoming an inclusive faith community. Consider how to get started and/or sustain a multicultural mission in your local church. Face the obstacles and hurdles involved. Explore various models that have been effective in different contexts, including outreach strategies. To help you make a difference in your congregation or presbytery, we encourage participants to come in teams of three or more from an individual congregation or presbytery, to secure support from your local church governing body, and to formulate a plan for follow through in your locality upon return. Both experienced practitioners and newcomers to the vision are welcome.

Multiculturalism as an Opportunity for Transformation and Encounter

Dr. Reginaldo P. Braga, Jr., Yonkers, NY

The course will focus on readings and conversations with educational theorists on how multiculturalism can revitalize the life of a local congregation. How can we foster change and yet assure faithfulness to identity and tradition? Are language and culture our foes or in fact a point of encounter? How can our faith traditions articulate culture in a way to bring us together? How can we intentionally and creatively offer opportunities for vital encounters?

Ghost Ranch Courses

While the following courses offered the week of August 4-10 come under one multicultural umbrella, each individual is to register for just one of the courses for the entire week.

For additional information regarding courses, please contact:

Rev. Dr. Robert Chesnut, Dean of the Institute.
Call 505-474-5817, or, email spirits2@comcast.net

Lambs and Wolves Talking Together

Rev. Mark Koenig, Louisville, KY
Rev. Bridgett Green, (REYWT)

Communication plays a key role as we seek to create multicultural community. This seminar will provide skills and tools to improve communication across cultures. At the most basic level, communication is an exchange of perspectives which creates new common ground between participants. Drawing on the work of Eric Law and others, together we will explore ways to listen so that others can talk; talk so that others can hear; communicate so we can serve Jesus Christ.

Gospel Music with Todd and Linda

Todd and Linda O'Neal, Cincinnati, OH

Experience the full range of gospel music, both traditional and contemporary. Learn new music and sing old favorites with new zeal. Attention to skills needed by choir directors will be highlighted. The vigas (roof beams) will ring with the sound of voices raised in prayerful song. All are welcome.

Becoming a Multicultural Church

Rev. Dr. Robert Chesnut, Santa Fe, NM
Rev. Raafat Girgis, Louisville, KY

Learn how congregations are revitalized by embracing diversity and how new vision, mission, and innovation can flow from embracing the biblical mandate to becoming an inclusive faith community. Consider how to get started and/or sustain a multicultural mission in your local church. Face the obstacles and hurdles involved. Explore various models that have been effective in different contexts, including outreach strategies. To help you make a difference in your congregation or presbytery, we encourage participants to come in teams of three or more from an individual congregation or presbytery, to secure support from your local church governing body, and to formulate a plan for follow through in your locality upon return. Both experienced practitioners and newcomers to the vision are welcome.

Building Community-Dismantling Racism

Rev. Teresa Chavez Saucedo, PhD, Louisville, KY
Dr. David Bowie, Atlanta, GA

Racism remains a significant barrier to building truly inclusive multiracial, multicultural community in our lives, our neighborhoods, and our church. This workshop will draw on the tools of antiracism training to offer a time for dialogue and discovery, through Bible study and discernment to focus on understanding the ways that racism continues to shape our lives, to explore resources and strategies to dismantle racism and build community, and celebrate the amazing diversity of God's family! Participants are encouraged to bring resources to share.

Understanding Christian/Muslim Dialogue for Congregations and Communities

Dr. Robert Evans and Alice Evans, Simsbury, CT
Dr. Heidi Hadsell, Hartford, CT
Dr. Alwi Shihab, Jakarta, Indonesia

In a world wide climate of terror and fear, congregations and communities are hungry for a fresh approach to multicultural and interfaith dialogue. Misunderstanding of the interaction of the Islamic and Christian faith traditions has polarized our country and congregations. This course will equip pastors and lay leaders from congregations, presbyteries and other faith groups to be resources to their communities in generating new understanding and to celebrate the diversity present in our world and nation. In an interactive course of case studies, role plays, and interfaith exercises, the instructors will draw on their extensive national and international experience in interfaith and multicultural training.

The Spirituality of Religious Pluralism: A New Spiritual Experience

Rev. Dr. Oteila Ortega, Matanzas, Cuba

The varieties of religions and cultures are the mosaic of our global human identity, part of the most precious gifts of each country. God created us with a wonderful multicultural light. We should think of each religion as a particular tradition of response to the reality which the Holy Spirit of God has set before our eyes, understanding it as part of the wisdom and work of God for our humanity-- not a deplorable fact but as a positive will of God. We will explore this perspective as a new spiritual experience.

Congregations and Common Good: Leading Congregations to Lead Communities in Health Reform

Prof. Mark Earnest, Denver, CO
Chris Adams, Denver, CO

The quest for health is universal, yet America, the richest nation on earth, has failed to make basic health care available to all. Participants in this seminar will return to their congregations not only with a working understanding of health care policy and options for reform, but with a new vision for their role and the role of their Church in leading their communities in crucial conversations about values and choices in the pursuit of the common good. The program will be seminar style, interactive, and engaging. The content areas will include: Health Care in America, Public Policy and Social Values, Bringing Faith to Policy, Models for Faith-Based Activism in Creating Policy Change and Advocacy Skills Building. Grants are currently pending that would allow the seminar organizer to offer scholarships to cover the expenses of many of the participants.

Piecing Together the Peace

Rev. Carol Wickersham, Clinton, WI

Help transform social and personal issues creatively, playfully, powerfully. We need all the creativity we can get! Using varieties of the medium of collage, participants will create personal and social commentary. Choices of projects will be available such as: "rewriting" a book, working on a multilayered journal, creating prayer boxes, making small scale devotional pieces or mock ups for large scale liturgical or community projects. In addition to the materials supplied in class, people are invited to bring photos, clippings or other materials to work with. No art skill is necessary.

For more information regarding the PC(USA) Office of Multicultural Ministries

Visit website at www.pcusa.org/multicultural, or, call 888-728-7228, ext 5252

For more information regarding the PC(USA) Office of Racial Justice Advocacy

Visit www.pcusa.org/racialjustice, or, call 888-728-7228 ext. 5692

For more information regarding New York Theological Seminary

Visit www.nyts.edu, or, call 212 870-1212

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Office of Multicultural Ministries
Presbyterian Church (USA)
100 Witherspoon St
Louisville, KY 40202



**The Third Annual Multicultural
Church Institute
Stony Point, New York
July 23-28, 2008**

**The Fifth Annual Multicultural
Church Institute
Ghost Ranch in Abiquiu, NM
August 4-10, 2008**