



## **CHRISTIAN EDUCATION ASSOCIATE READING LIST**

Attached is the Reading List. It consists of two parts. The first part lists five required books. The second part lists recommended readings from which you will select one book.

Please follow these instructions in completing the requirements:

- (1) Read all 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 from the “Additional Reading Suggestions”.
- (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 a Christian Education Associate, what are your future plans for continued professional development (workshops, courses, readings, observations, etc.)?
- (5) After completing your educational requirements, please send your responses in a Word document to [certificationexams@pcusa.org](mailto:certificationexams@pcusa.org).

## Christian Education Associate - *Required Reading List*

1. Roberto, John. *Faith Formation 2020*. Lifelong Faith Associates, 2010. <http://www.lifelongfaith.com/ff-2020.html>

The **Faith Formation 2020 Initiative** guides congregations and their leaders in imagining new directions for faith formation and designing 21st century innovations. The Initiative includes a book, workshops, and this online resource center. The tools and resources on this website are designed to help you and your congregation design models, practices, strategies, and activities to address the spiritual and religious needs of all ages and generations in your congregation today and into the future.\*

2. Seymour, Jack L. *Teaching the Way of Jesus: Educating Christians for Faithful Living*. Abingdon Press, 2014.

With an emphasis on practices and mission, this book offers readers concrete ways to empower vital faith formation in congregations as it describes current trends, which include richer diversity, entrepreneurial spirit, and interfaith dialog. This book will also help prepare readers for leadership in the Church universal and in the field of Christian Education.\*

3. Long, Kimberly. *The Worshiping Body: The Art of Leading Worship*, Louisville KY: Westminster John Knox, 2009.

Kimberly Bracken Long, by focusing on what presiders do with their bodies, eyes and ears, lips, hands, feet, and heart describes an attitude and style of worship leadership that is both firmly rooted and blessedly free. A wonderful offering for all worship presiders, seminarians, commissioned lay pastors, new pastors, and experienced pastors, *The Worshiping Body* is essential reading for anyone interested in how their presence and movement during worship make a difference.

4. McKim, Donald. *Introducing the Reformed Faith: Education and Christian Practices*. Louisville KY: Westminster John Knox, 2001.

This guide examines Reformed beliefs on 16 theological topics, and shows how Reformed understanding relates to the broader ecumenical family of Christian teachings. The author deals with each doctrine's biblical basis, its handling throughout church history, its specific emphases within the reformed tradition, and its significance for the church in the 21st century. Each chapter ends with discussion questions, is written in non-technical language, and directs the reader via endnotes to further study of primary and secondary sources.

5. Dykstra, Craig. *Growing in the Life of Faith*, 2nd edition. Louisville, KY: Westminster/ John Knox Press, 2005.

Identifying a widespread hunger for guidance in people's quest today for a genuine encounter with God, Craig Dykstra explores the contributions of the traditions, education, worship practices, and disciplines of the Reformed Christian community in helping people to grow in faith. This new edition includes a foreword by Dorothy Bass, Director of the Valparaiso Project on the Education and Formation of People in Faith, and a study guide by Syd Hielema, professor at Dordt College in Sioux City, Iowa.

## Christian Education Associate - *Additional Reading Suggestions*

### Christian Education

Bracke, John and Karen Tye. *Teaching the Bible in the Church*. Chalice Press, 2003.

John Bracke and Karen Tye, a biblical scholar and a religious educator, have come together to offer a vital new work of practical insight into the task of teaching the Bible in the church. Intended for pastors, church educators, lay teachers, and those in seminary, this book provides a blueprint for effective teaching that lead beyond just conveying information to opening oneself and the learner to transformation through the text. It is teaching the Bible in its most faithful form, as an invitation to fully encounter the scriptures and the God who empowers transformation.

Griggs, Donald. *Teaching Today's Teachers to Teach*. Abingdon, 2003

This book is a basic, comprehensive manual offering practical guidance that helps teachers learn the art and practice of teaching. Throughout the book, Griggs identifies the basic elements of the teaching process and outlines the essential ingredients needed for effective teaching.\*

Moore, Mary Elizabeth. *Teaching as Sacramental Act*. Pilgrim Press, 2004.

"In *Teaching as a Sacramental Act*, Moore asserts that Christian vocation, and the teaching vocation in particular, can be best understood as sacramental, mediating the grace of God through ordinary creation for the sanctification of human life and the well-being of all creation. She develops her argument through three important factors: a historical-theological analysis of the Christian sacraments and sacramentality; a phenomenological study of teaching events; and a description of six sacramental movements and corresponding teaching practices as informed by Jewish-Christian traditions and Eucharistic practices." *Teaching as a Sacramental Act* is ideal for students, pastors, Christian educators, spiritual directors, and pastoral caregivers who want to rethink and reshape the teaching ministry of the church. (Out of print.)

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.

Seymour, Jack L., Editor. *Teaching Biblical Faith: Leading Small Group Bible Studies*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2015.

Biblical faith is a lens for viewing life, and Jack Seymour refreshingly illustrates how the reading of scripture is a resource for ongoing theological reflection connecting experience, vocation, daily life, and faith. Teaching has concrete consequences affecting the very ways people of faith view the world and make decisions for living. It matters; it makes a difference in how people think and act. Written in an accessible style, the book provides a manageable way to inspire conversation about the many ways the Bible can be taught, the purposes and outcomes of each approach, and how biblical wisdom shapes personal and corporate decision-making. Useful strategies for leading group Bible study help congregations respond faithfully to the Biblical witness and cultivate a whole congregation approach to Bible study.\* .

Wimberly, Anne Streaty. *Soul Stories: African American Christian Education*. Abingdon, revised edition 2005.

In this revision of *Soul Stories*, Dr. Wimberly moves even more in the direction of Christian Education with African American families. *Soul stories* link persons' everyday life with the Christian Scriptures. The soul

stories in this revised volume take on a cross-generational orientation with emphasis on linking stories of family identities, events, relationships, and story plot with Bible stories and exemplary Christian faith stories found in the African Diaspora. This orientation builds on an awareness of the continued fragmentation of Black family life and the disconnect between generations on one hand, yet, on the other hand, the profound yearning of Black people for a common family history. The goal of Dr. Wimberly's model is to enliven the values associated with the image of "village" in order to empower and equip African Americans today.

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

How do you motivate the volunteers on your staff? Are you "burning out" your best people? What can you do with the pew-sitters? Do you find it hard to ask for help? This insightful, practical book by Marlene Wilson, an international authority on volunteerism, will help you answer these and other questions about volunteers in the church. Problems in any church's volunteer program can be corrected, says Wilson. We can learn to care as much about people as we do about programs by using sound principles for human resource management. This new book for all churches points out common problems, establishes management principles, answers questions, and offers a plan to turn the volunteer challenge into a reality.

### **Developmental/Age Group**

Bass, Dorothy. *Practicing Our Faith: A Way of Life for a Searching People*. 2nd edition Jossey-Bass, 2010. (Adult)  
<http://www.practicingourfaith.org/>

Many Christians are looking for ways to deepen their relationship with God by practicing their faith in everyday life. This best-selling guide helps take belief out of the realm of theory and shows how to live it out in a series of twelve central practices such as hospitality, forgiveness, healing, testimony, and keeping Sabbath. Designed to work across a wide range of Christian laypeople, leaders, denominations, and study groups, this is the second edition of the book.

Bass, Dorothy and Susan Briehl. *On Our Way: Christian Practices for Living a Whole Life*. Upper Room, 2010. (Young Adult)

Written for emerging adults, this book explores twelve practices particularly applicable to persons in their twenties: Study, Discerning God's Call, Living as Community, Friendship and Intimacy, Making a Good Living, Care for Creation, Honoring the Body, Singing Our Lives to God, Knowing and Loving Our Neighbors of Other Faiths, Peacemaking and Nonviolence, Doing Justice, and Living in the Presence of God.

Caldwell, Elizabeth. *I Wonder: Engaging a Child's Curiosity About the Bible*. Abingdon Press, 2016. (Children)  
How can anyone completely answer the difficult questions that children ask: Who created God? Will there be another flood? Is the Bible true? But then, we adults have questions too: With so many options and Bible translations, where can I go for help? What is the best Bible for my child? How do we talk about miracle stories, healing stories, and the creation stories? What about violence? When kids ask about the relevancy of the Bible for today, what do we say? How we read and interpret the Bible with children may mean the difference between whether or not it will continue to be an important source for their faith development as they become young adults. *I Wonder* is a resource for adults who want to explore ways to help children read, engage, wrestle, and grow into deeper understanding of the Bible. It is for those who come to the Bible with souls open to be fed and who want their children to seek faith and wisdom. It will also help readers address timeless questions and issues including recent biblical scholarship, literary analysis, reading the Bible from their social location and reading the Bible in a multi-faith world.

Dean, Creasy Kenda, and Foster, Ron. *The Godbearing Life: The Art of Soul Tending for Youth Ministry*. Upper

Room, 2005. (Youth)

In *The Godbearing Life*, the authors offer a lively spiritual primer and practical guide for those who pastor young people. Dean and Foster rechart a course for youth ministry through the classical spiritual disciplines of the church. The book identifies families, congregations, and mentor relationships as the "holy ground" where young people are most likely to say "Yes!" to God.

Williams, Cassandra, ed. *Children Among Us: Foundations in Children's Ministry*. Louisville: Witherspoon Press, 2003. (Children)

In this book, respected authors provide a multi-layered approach to welcoming children into the life of the church. They call for a commitment on the part of the entire faith community to engage children in multiple venues of ministry. The contributions are biblically based, theologically grounded, and informed by current scholarship and coupled with practical information on how children learn, grow and respond to the "often-too-adult-world" of Christian faith. This is a multifaceted, multidisciplinary look at what it means to work with our littlest people of the path of faith. (Out of print; available used and in some libraries.)

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

McKim, Donald. *Presbyterian Questions, Presbyterian Answers*. Westminster/John Knox, 2004.

Presbyterians often have questions about Presbyterian theology and beliefs that are basic to Christian faith itself. Featuring a unique question-and-answer format, *Presbyterian Questions, Presbyterian Answers* is an accessible and concise treatment that provides a sampling of these questions on important topics and brief but complete answers from a distinguished Presbyterian theologian. Arranged according to doctrinal topics, the book is ideal for individual and group study, church officer training, new member and confirmation classes, and all those who are interested in Presbyterian theology.

Weeks, Louis. *To Be a Presbyterian*. Geneva Press, 2nd edition, 2010

Noted author and Presbyterian Louis B. Weeks offers a timely update to his primer on the life, history, tradition, and beliefs of the Presbyterian Church. Offering more than just a brief overview, Weeks ties explanations of Presbyterianism to actual congregational situations and examines major themes in Reformed life. New sections address spiritual practices, "hot-button" issues among Presbyterians, changes in hymnody, and respect for God's creation. The adoption of a Presbyterian Brief Statement of Faith, the growth of newer Reformed churches worldwide and their influence on Christian worship and work in the U.S.A., and the growing importance of other world religions also receive Weeks's authoritative attention.

### **Worship and Sacraments**

Benedict, Daniel, *Patterned by Grace: How Liturgy Shapes Us*, Nashville, TN: Upper Room Books, 2007.

This volume with original prayers and reflection questions, is an excellent text for new members studying worship, or for a congregation's worship committee to read as a preparation for its work. Topics include corporate liturgical practices like Baptism, Communion, and the Christian year, as well as personal practices of daily prayer and scripture reading.

Dyrness, William. *A Primer on Christian Worship: Where We've Been, Where We Are, Where We Can Go*, Eerdmans Publishing, 2009.

A respected scholar of theology and culture, William Dyrness here explores Christian worship in terms of its past, present, and future. He shows where the church has been, theologically and historically speaking, and

how that shapes - and needs to shape -where the church will go. Through accessible language, clear examples, and thoughtful questions for reflection and discussion, Dyrness makes an essential conversation about worship available to a wide audience of pastors, worship leaders, and church members.

### **Biblical Interpretation**

Hayes, John and Carl R. Holladay. *Biblical Exegesis: A Beginner's Handbook*. Third Edition. Westminster/John Knox Press, 2007.

The new edition retains the features of the first edition: a minimum of technical terms, solid introductory guidelines in exegetical method, and a valuable presentation of exegetical theory and practice. The new edition is even more ideal for general introductory courses in Old and New Testament, exegesis courses on specific books, homiletics and preaching courses, and courses focusing on historical topics.

Fee, Gordon D. and Douglas K. Stuart. *How to Read the Bible for All Its Worth*. Fourth Edition. Eerdmans, 2014.

Your Guide to Understanding the Bible Understanding the Bible isn't for the few, the gifted, the scholarly. The Bible is accessible. It's meant to be read and comprehended by everyone from armchair readers to seminary students. A few essential insights into the Bible can clear up a lot of misconceptions and help you grasp the meaning of Scripture and its application to your 21st-century life. More than half a million people have turned to *How to Read the Bible for All Its Worth* to inform their reading of the Bible. This third edition features substantial revisions that keep pace with current scholarship, resources, and culture. Changes include: updated language, a new authors' preface, several chapters rewritten for better readability, updated list of recommended commentaries and resources covering everything from translational concerns to different genres of biblical writing, *How to Read the Bible for All Its Worth* is used all around the world. In clear, simple language, it helps you accurately understand the different parts of the Bible---their meaning for ancient audiences and their implications for you today---so you can uncover the inexhaustible worth that is in God's Word.

Rhodes, Arnold B., *The Mighty Acts of God*. Geneva Press, Revised, 2000 by W. Eugene March.

This new edition of Arnold Rhodes's *The Mighty Acts of God* is an essential tool for learning more about the Bible. The original volume, which has been well-loved as a guide for Bible study, has been carefully revised by W. Eugene March to incorporate the most up-to-date historical and theological research. From the beginnings of creation to final consummation and hope, readers will find the same easily readable quality as in the first edition along with helpful questions for either group or individual study.

\*Descriptions are taken from publisher provided information on the internet.