

## **The United Church of Christ: History, Polity, and Identity**

Northeast Ohio School of Ministry

Living Water Association Ohio NorthEast

Saturdays, Oct. 5 - Nov. 2, 2019, 10:00 a.m. to (approx.) 3:00 p.m.

This syllabus is subject to revision, as necessary.

### **Description**

This course explores the questions of “Who is . . . ?” and “What is . . . ?” the United Church of Christ. Students will gain an appreciation for UCC history, polity, and identity through this class. They will also examine the ongoing struggle between autonomy and covenant.

### **Instructors and Host Pastors**

- The Rev. Dr. Gene McAfee, course administrator, (216) 382-7227, deanofschoools@livingwaterone.org
- The Rev. Dr. Robert P. (“Rip”) Noble
- The Rev. Doug Horner
- The Rev. Jeff Gerber
- The Rev. David T. Hill
- The Rev. Mindy Quellhorst
- The Rev. Geoffrey Black

### **Readings**

Constitution and Bylaws of the United Church of Christ (available online at [https://www.uccfiles.com/pdf/UCC\\_Constitution.pdf](https://www.uccfiles.com/pdf/UCC_Constitution.pdf))

The following volumes are available for purchase at UCC Resources (as “Western Reserve History and Polity Bundle”

[https://www.uccresources.com/products/western-reserve-history-and-polity-bundle?\\_pos=1&\\_sid=d5567630b&\\_ss=r](https://www.uccresources.com/products/western-reserve-history-and-polity-bundle?_pos=1&_sid=d5567630b&_ss=r)

. . . save some bucks!) and elsewhere:

Post, Margaret Rowland, and Tom Dipko (rev.) History and Program of the United Church of Christ. (2007)

Gunnemann, Louis, The Shaping of the United Church of Christ. (1977, expanded 1999)

In particular, chapters 5, 6, 7 and 8. Other chapters according to interest.

Johnson, Daniel, and Hambrick-Stowe, Charles, editors, Theology and Identity: Traditions, Movements and Polity in the UCC (1990)

Zikmund, Barbara Brown, editor, Hidden Histories in the United Church, volumes I and II. In particular, chapters 1, 2, 6, 9, 10 and 11, Volume I. Other chapters according to interest.

**Paper:**

“My ‘Fav Five’ Reasons for Being Part of the UCC.” 5 typed pages in length; required for credit; emailed to [deanofschools@livingwaterone.org](mailto:deanofschools@livingwaterone.org) by Oct 24; bring copy to class Oct 26

**Schedule:**

Session/Date/Time	Topic	Instructor(s)	Location
Session I Saturday, Oct. 5, 2019 10 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.	AM Opening Worship Introductions and Orientation to Course UCC 0-65  BYO Lunch, coffee provided Host Pastor, Doug Horner, Conversation on Ministry and Tour  PM Many Peoples of the UCC Closing Worship	Rip Noble  Doug Horner  Rip Noble	St. Paul's Community Church, UCC, 4427 Franklin Blvd, Cleveland 44113 (corner of W. 45th St. and Franklin Blvd, Ohio City area, near west side of Cleveland)
Session II Saturday, Oct. 12, 2019, 10 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.	AM Opening Worship Congregational-Christian roots  BYO Lunch, coffee provided	Rip Noble  Jeff Gerber	First UCC New Philadelphia (201 Fair Ave. NW, New Philadelphia 44663)

	<p>Host Pastor, Jeff Gerber, Conversation on Ministry and Tour</p> <p>PM E&amp;R roots Amistad video Bridging video Closing Worship</p>	Rip Noble	
<p>Session III Saturday, Oct. 19, 2019, 10 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.</p>	<p>AM Opening Worship Theology as reflected in the Preamble to the Constitution and the Statement of Faith</p> <p>BYO Lunch, coffee provided Host Pastor, David Hill, Conversation on Ministry and Tour</p> <p>PM Ministry: definitions, authorization, expectations, code Closing Worship</p>	<p>Gene McAfee</p> <p>David Hill</p> <p>David Hill</p>	<p>First Church in Oberlin (106 N. Main St., Oberlin 44074)</p>
<p>Session IV Saturday, Oct. 26, 2019, 10 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.</p>	<p>AM Opening Worship Local Church Setting of the UCC</p> <p>BYO Lunch, coffee provided Host Pastor, Mindy Quellhorst, Conversation on Ministry and Tour</p> <p>PM Wider Church Setting of the UCC Closing Worship</p>	<p>Mindy Quellhorst</p> <p>Mindy Quellhorst</p> <p>Geoffrey Black</p>	<p>United Church of Christ, Congregational, Vermilion (990 State St., Vermilion 44089)</p>
<p>Session V Saturday, Nov. 2, 2019, Time TBA</p>	<p>Association Meeting Students Attend Meeting Students and Instructors Introduced with Churches</p> <p>Lunch</p> <p>Meet with Association Executive</p> <p>Closing Communion Service for Course</p>	<p>Gene McAfee</p> <p>Nayiri Karjian</p> <p>Rip Noble Gene McAfee</p>	<p>Bath Church (3980 W. Bath Rd., Akron, 44333)</p>