CLAREMONT
SCHOOL of THEOLOGY

Continuing Education Courses

Continuing Education Online Courses for Ecumenical Partners & The Western Jurisdiction of The United Methodist Church

Rev. Stephanie Moffitt

Congregational Renewal: Leading Faithful Change in the Local Church

Page 3

Bishop Grant Hagiya & Rev. John Woodall

The Fundamentals of Church Administration

Page 4

Western Jurisdictional Bishops

Building Beloved Community: The Courage to Love in the Face of Tyranny

Page 4

Rev. Paige Eaves & Sandee Furuta

Re-Imagining Church Properties for Affordable Housing

Page 5

Rev. Dr. Peter Wernett

An Integrated System Approach to Outreach: Connecting Congregations with Non-Church Households

Page 6

Rev. Dr. Samuel Hong

Reading the Gospels with United Methodist Perspectives

Page 7

Dr. Frank Rogers

An Introduction to Spiritual Direction

Page 7

Bishop Cedrick Bridgeforth

Go and Do Likewise: Setting Ministry Priorities

Page 8

Rev. Sherry Ferriman

Called to Proclaim: Foundations for Faithful Preaching

Page 8

Bishop Karen Oliveto

Leading Faithfully: Pastoral Presence and Prophetic Imagination

Page 9

Rev. Sherry Ferriman
Rev. Melissa MacKinnon
Rev. Dr. Jeff Conklin-Miller

The Mission of God and the People Called Methodist

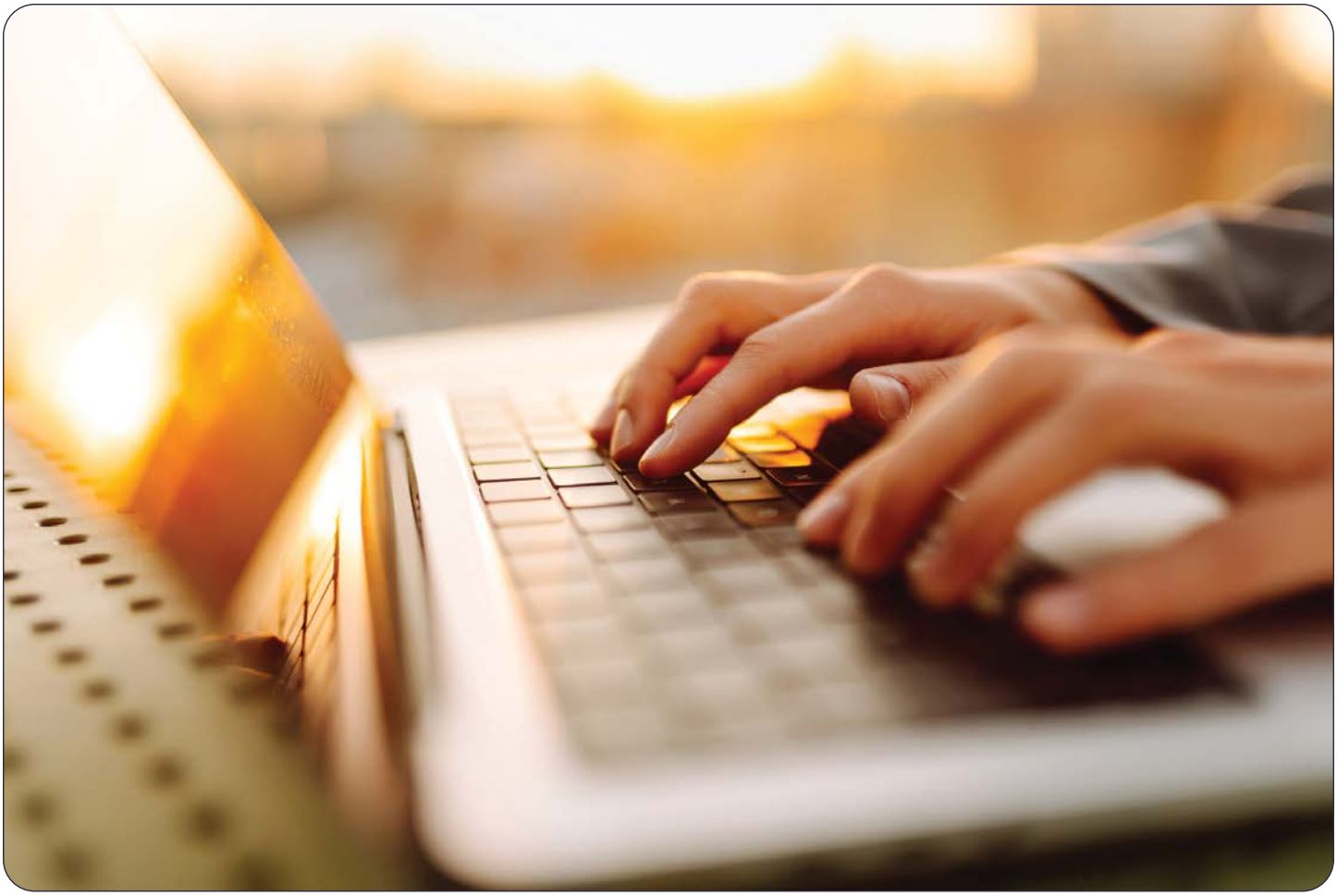
Page 10

Bishop Dottie Escobedo-Frank

ReStart and ReImagining Church

Page 11

July-August 2026



Summer 2026 CE Courses

In the months of July and August 2026, leaders from the Western Jurisdiction of the UMC will offer a series of Continuing Education Courses for Lay, Clergy and church leadership teams. These courses range from one to five weeks and will be taught fully online via Zoom. Check the course brochure below for detailed descriptions and schedules.

Register and pay for enrollment using **the QR code**. Scholarship codes may be available through your Annual Conference leadership.

Please note: Some courses offer an option for "Congregational Team Registration." For this ticket option, the Team Leader should register once. Further information will be directed to the Team Leader to share with up to 4 additional participants.

Contact:

- **Rev. Blair Trygstad Stowe** | bstowe@cst.edu
- **Bishop Grant J. Hagiya** | ghagiya@cst.edu

Links:

Links to sessions will be sent to those who enroll.

Almost all of these courses qualify for Advanced CLM credit.

Congregational Renewal:
Leading Faithful Change in the Local Church

Rev. Stephanie Moffitt
Director of Vital Leadership Journeys in the Mountain Sky Conference

Description of Class:

Congregational renewal is not a one-time event—it is a process that unfolds through shared discernment, courageous leadership, and faithful experimentation. This month-long intensive course is designed for small teams of clergy and lay leaders from the same congregation who are ready to engage that process together.

This experience combines theological grounding, practical tools, and real-time application. Rooted in Wesleyan theology and shaped by the realities of today's church, the course invites participants to move beyond quick fixes and into sustained, Spirit-led renewal.

Each week includes a live teaching session, guided small-group conversation, and a practical assignment that participants complete with their church team. This format ensures that learning is not abstract, but immediately connected to the life of the congregation.

Over 5 weeks, participants will:

- *Assess their congregation's current reality and vitality*
- *Explore Wesleyan theological foundations for renewal and transformation*
- *Learn to interpret congregational systems and culture*
- *Identify opportunities for innovation and fresh expressions of ministry*
- *Design and begin implementing a 90-day renewal experiment tailored to their context*

By the end of the course, each team will have developed a contextualized Congregational Renewal Plan, along with the leadership alignment and practical next steps needed to move forward.

This course is ideal for congregations seeking not just new ideas, but a structured pathway to faithful, sustainable change—grounded in theology, shaped by community, and practiced in real time.

Who Is the Class For:

Small teams from local churches, ideally between 3 and 5 people, including the pastoral leader and others in leadership roles. Solo registration is possible, but work between class sessions will need to involve others in leadership roles at a church.

Dates/Times of Class:

July 2nd, July 9th, July 15th, July 23rd, July 30th

5 pm to 7 pm Mountain Time (4 pm to 6 pm Pacific Time)

Start Date:

July 1st with a welcome email and first pre-class reading

End Date:

July 30th with a celebration of learning during our last class

Textbooks:

All materials will be shared through a Google Classroom site, including resources, videos, and a course guide (syllabus). Books and other materials that have shaped this course will be shared and excerpts provided for readings and discussions.

Cost:

- *$250.00 per church team (up to 5 persons)*
- *$160.00 per person without a church team.*

Maximum class enrollment is 25 participants

The Fundamentals of Church Administration

Bishop Grant Hagiya
Co-President and Professor of Leadership & Innovation, Claremont School of Theology

John Woodall
President & Executive Director of the Cal-Pac Foundation

Description of Class:

This course is designed to offer the "nuts and bolts" of church administration. It will tackle issues that aren't provided by most seminaries: insurance, leases, staff relations, how to read a financial spreadsheet, audits, basic stewardship, annual conference tables/forms, and productivity.

Who Is the Class For:

Clergy, laity, churches, Licensed Local Pastors, Local Pastors, Advanced CLM members, Church Administrators and Secretaries, and anyone who wants a practical class on church administration

Dates/Times of Class:

Mondays, 5:00 p.m. (PT) to 7:30 p.m. (PT);
Four consecutive Mondays

Start Date:

Monday, July 6

End Date:

Monday, July 27

Textbooks:

Church Administration & Finance Manual: Resources for Leading the Local Church by Otto Crumroy, Jr., Frank Witman, Stan Kukawka, and Paul Witman.

The fully revised and updated version. Through a generous benefactor, who is covering half the cost of the book, we will include the book (value: $45.00) with the cost of the registration fee of $160.00.

Cost:

$160.00 (Continuing Education credits [1 CEU] are offered through the Claremont School of Theology.)

Building Beloved Community:
The Courage to Love in the Face of Tyranny

WJ Active Bishops:

- *Kristin Stoneking (July 7)*
- *Dottie Escobedo-Frank (July 14)*
- *Carlo Rapanut (July 21)*
- *Sandy Olewine (July 28)*
- *Cedrick Bridgeforth*

Description of Class:

A four-session journey reading the book, practicing neighboring, and building a concrete action plan together. Each session asks participants to read, reflect, practice, and make one concrete move toward beloved community.

Who Is the Class For:

This course is for people who want to move beyond agreement, concern, or conversation alone.

Dates/Times of Class:

Tuesdays, July 7, 14, 21, & 28; 6 p.m. – 8 p.m. (Pacific)

Start Date:

July 7, 2026

End Date:

July 28, 2026

Textbooks:

"Building Beloved Community: The Courage to Love in the Face of Tyranny"
https://www.resourceumc.org/en/churchwide/council-of-bishops/building-beloved-community

Cost:

$160.00

Re-imagining Church Properties for Affordable Housing

Sandee Furuta
California-Pacific Associate Director of Resourcing & Property

Rev. Paige Eaves
California-Pacific Assistant to the Bishop

Description of Class:

When the time comes to imagine new uses for your church campus, you may wonder if affordable housing is the answer. Affordable housing advocates will tell you that church land is one of the most important available assets for addressing the housing crisis, and your colleagues may know of congregations that have been blessed by multimillion-dollar payouts.

But it's complicated.

This three-session course explores what it takes to move from vision to reality. Through inspiring success stories, hair-raising accounts of projects that have struggled, and clear, practical guidance, participants will gain a grounded understanding of how churches can responsibly engage in affordable housing development.

Sessions will cover discernment and mission alignment, common pitfalls and risks, and the essential building blocks of a project—from partnerships to financing to community engagement.

Whether you are just beginning to ask "could we?" or already exploring a project, this course will help you move forward with clarity, caution, and hope.

Who Is the Class For:

Church leaders, Conference and District staff, church-friendly housing professionals, and anyone who is interested.

Dates/Times of Class:

July 7, 14, & 21 from 5:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. PST

Start Date:

Tuesday, July 7, 2026

End Date:

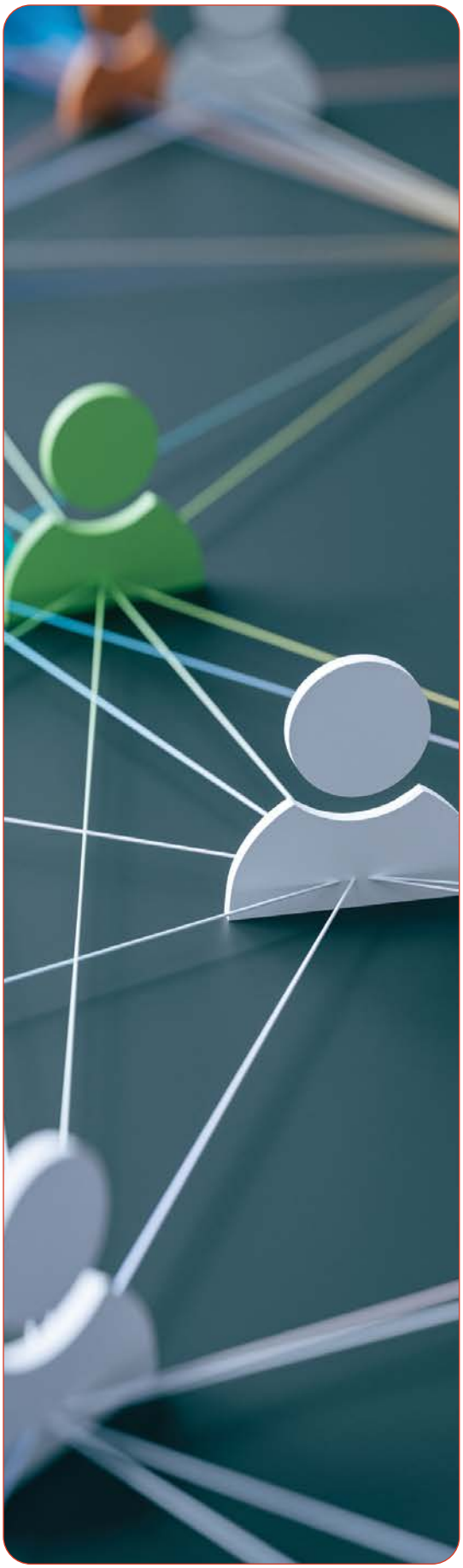
Tuesday, July 21, 2026

Recommended Reading:

Gone for Good?: Negotiating the Coming Wave of Church Property Transition, edited by Mark Elsdon

Cost:

$125.00



An Integrated System Approach to Outreach:

Connecting Congregations with Non-Church Households

Rev. Dr. Peter Wernett
Founder of MissionInsite, Trustee of Claremont School of Theology

Description of Class:

The class will focus on bringing theology and practical application together to shape a ministry plan to connect with non-churched households.

The class will provide a process for a local congregation to analyze their current mission statement and how it shapes its evangelistic efforts to connect with non-church households within the Wesleyan tradition.

This will be followed by determining the demographic and socioeconomic similarities and differences between the church congregants and the non-churched households in the ministry area. Included is financial, religious, and ministry application information.

Following the July 29 session, the team will conclude their activity by designing a ministry effort to implement in the fall. This ministry effort will be presented at the August 25 class session.

Who Is the Class For:

Teams of 3 to 5 people per church. Teams should include clergy and laypersons.

Dates/Times of Class:

July 8, July 15, July 22, July 29, August 25
5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Start Date:

July 8

End Date:

August 25

Textbooks:

MissionInsite Demographic System

Cost:

$250.00 per church team (up to 5 persons); $160.00 per person without a church team.

Reading the Gospels with United Methodist Perspectives

Rev. Dr. Samuel D. Hong
District Superintendent, Cal-Nev Conference

Description of Class:

This course offers an accessible approach to reading the Gospels and Acts, combining scholarly insight with practical application for everyday life. The course integrates United Methodist perspectives and practices throughout, helping participants engage Scripture in ways that are both theologically grounded and personally transformative.

Who Is the Class For:

This class is open to all—no prior biblical studies background is required. By the end of this course, participants will have gained a deeper understanding of the Gospels and Acts, developed skills for faithful interpretation, and discovered how Wesleyan insights can inform their daily discipleship.

Dates/Times of Class:

Fridays, 5:00–7:30 p.m.
(July 10, 17, 24, and 31)

Start Date:

July 10

End Date:

July 31

Textbooks:

Samuel D. Hong. 2025. "Introduction to the New Testament: The Gospels & Acts" (PDF)

Frederick David Carr and Brady Alan Beard, eds. 2025. *Reading Scripture in Wesleyan Ways*. Nashville: Abingdon Press.

Cost:

$160.00

An Introduction to Spiritual Direction

Dr. Frank Rogers Jr.
Muriel Bernice Roberts Professor of Spiritual Formation & Narrative Pedagogy, Co-Founder & Co-Director, Center for Engaged Compassion

Description of Class:

Spiritual direction is a facilitated process in which a person explores how they might live ever more fully out of their spiritual essence and ever more aligned with the sacred reality that sustains them. This class will introduce the spiritual direction process and invite participants into a guided group experience of it.

Who Is the Class For:

Clergy, laity, and anyone interested in spiritual direction

Dates/Times of Class:

Monday, July 13: 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. (1 class only)

Start Date:

July 13, 2026

End Date:

July 13, 2026

Textbooks:

- *Holy Listening: The Art of Spiritual Direction, by Margaret Guenther*

Cost:

$49.00

Go and Do Likewise:
Setting Ministry Priorities and Deciding Where to Begin

Bishop Cedrick Bridgeforth
The Greater Northwest Area

Description of Class:
This course helps clergy and laity discern ministry priorities together, move from conversation to commitment, and identify one faithful place to begin. It is grounded in Luke 10, a vision framework, the distinction between mirror talk and window work, and the conviction that the church must love God and neighbor through concrete, neighbor-centered action.

Who Is the Class For:
Churches, clergy, and laity. We encourage churches to send a team of clergy and lay leaders together to discern their own local church's priorities.

Dates/Times of Class:
Thursdays, July 16 and July 23; 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. (Pacific)

Start Date:
July 16, 2026

End Date:
July 23, 2026

Textbooks:
None

Cost:
$79.00

Called to Proclaim:
Foundations for Faithful Preaching

Rev. Sherry Ferriman
Program Director for the Compelling Preaching Initiative, Mountain Sky Conference

Description of Class:
Recognizing that the word preaching can feel intimidating or narrowly defined, this course invites participants to broaden their understanding of preaching as both a sacred responsibility and a practical craft. Participants will reflect on their own story, calling, and theological grounding while developing foundational skills for proclamation.

Through guided reflection, biblical engagement, and hands-on learning, participants will explore the purpose of preaching, the identity and formation of the preacher, approaches to biblical interpretation, and practical frameworks for crafting clear, faithful, and relevant forms of proclamation, including sermon structures, testimony, and personal witness.

By the end of the course, participants will leave with a stronger foundation for proclamation, increased confidence in their voice, and practical tools they can apply in a variety of contexts.

Who Is the Class For:
The class is open to laity and clergy, with an emphasis on foundational skills for proclamation.

Dates/Times of Class:
Saturdays, July 18 and 25, 2026, 9:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m., 12:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.. Two sessions per day.

Start Date:
July 18, 2026

End Date:
July 25, 2026

Textbooks:
N/A

Cost:
Four Class Sessions: $160.00

Leading Faithfully:
Pastoral Presence and Prophetic Imagination

Bishop Karen Oliveto
Instructor

Description of Class:

This short-term course engages the practice of prophetic leadership as it emerges through pastoral presence, communal discernment, and faithful action. Grounded in Scripture, Wesleyan theology, and United Methodist ecclesiology, the class explores how leaders are called to respond creatively and courageously to the complex realities facing congregations and communities in the current social-political climate.

Participants will reflect on leadership "for such a time as this," attending to the intersection of pastoral care, prophetic witness, justice, and adaptive change. The course emphasizes discernment of context, listening deeply to congregations and communities, and leading with integrity amid uncertainty, polarization, and transformation.

Through conversation, guided reflection, and practical case studies, participants will be invited to deepen their understanding of prophetic leadership as a relational, pastoral, and Spirit-led practice within the connectional life of the United Methodist Church.

This three-session format is designed to be formative and collegial, supporting participants as they reflect on their own leadership vocation and current ministry challenges.

Who Is the Class For:

This class is intended for clergy, local pastors, and lay leaders who are navigating change, transition, or complex leadership realities in congregational, district, or extension ministry settings. It is especially suited for leaders seeking to integrate pastoral engagement, prophetic imagination, and Wesleyan leadership practices in their current context.

Participants from diverse ministry settings, cultural contexts, and stages of leadership experience are welcome.

Dates/Times of Class:

Wednesdays July 22, 29, and August 5. 5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. (Pacific)

Textbooks:

- *The Prophetic Imagination* by Walter Brueggemann
- *Jesus and the Disinherited* by Howard Thurman

The instructor will also provide selected readings and short excerpts.

Cost:

$125.00

The Mission of God and the People Called Methodist

Rev. Dr. Jeffrey Conklin-Miller
Professor of United Methodist Studies,
Claremont School of Theology

Rev. Melissa Roux MacKinnon
Director of Field Education,
Claremont School of Theology

Rev. Sherry Ferriman
Program Director for the
Compelling Preaching Initiative, Mountain Sky AC

Description of Class:

This course invites laity to discover the scriptural story of the mission of God (Missio Dei) and the unique role the "People called Methodist" play within it. We will trace how the Methodist spark ignites both personal renewal and social transformation. You'll explore how your faith is woven into a much larger tapestry of grace, gaining a deeper sense of belonging and a clearer vision of how to live out your purpose in the world today.

Who Is the Class For:

Primarily, this course is aimed at laity, offering an introductory engagement with the scriptural framework of the Missio Dei (Mission of God) and the particular place Wesleyan and Methodist identity and practices play in that broader story.

Dates/Times of Class:

Thursdays, August 6, 13, 20, 27.
5:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. (Pacific)

Start Date:

Thursday, August 6, 2026

End Date:

Thursday, August 27, 2026

Textbooks:

None

Cost:

Four Class Sessions: $160.00

ReStart and ReImagining Church

Bishop Dottie Escobedo-Frank
Resident Bishop, California-Pacific Annual Conference

Description of Class:

We are in an epochal moment when the speed of change in the world affects the ministry of the church. We can't afford to "wait and see" or to "ride out the change." Today is the time to engage in new ways to be the church in the world. We will look at the concepts of "ReStart" and "ReImagining" our way forward.

Who Is the Class For:

Clergy and Laity

Dates/Times of Class:

Thursday, July 16, 9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. (PT)

Start Date:

Thursday, July 16, 2026

End Date:

Thursday, July 16, 2026

Textbooks:

- *ReStart Your Church*, by Dottie Escobedo-Frank
- *The Ten Faces of Innovation*, by Tom Kelley

Cost:

$49.00

cst.edu

Communications

Alyssa Fisher and WJ Communicators
Public Relations

Lay Missional Planting Networks