

Christian Education Theory and Practice

A Christian Educator Certification Course

Date: October 4-6, 2016, beginning at 1:30 p.m. on October 4 and ending at noon on October 6. This is a **hybrid** course; the at-home portion begins on September 6, 2016.

Leader: Dr. Cindy Kissel-Ito

Event location: Union Presbyterian Seminary: Paisley Hall, 1204 Palmyra Avenue, Richmond, VA 23227

Registration: \$295 includes lunch on Wednesday, October 5, refreshments, and breakfast for those staying on campus

CEUs: 3.0

For: Church educators and members involved in Christian education. Note: You do NOT need to be seeking certification to enroll in this course.

This thirty-hour hybrid course seeks to engage participants in investigation of the theoretical foundations and current practices of educational ministry. Participants will explore theories and practices that shape and support educational ministry, articulate a personal religious education theory and engage in curriculum design and evaluation.

This course prepares educators for church leadership in the area of Religious Education Theory and Practice and fulfills the requirements for coursework in this area for PCUSA educator certification.

To register for **Christian Education Theory and Practice**, [click here](#).

Purposes of this course

Students will:

1. investigate definitions and approaches to religious education.
2. become familiar with the components of religious education theory.
3. engage in reading and reflection on current literature in religious education theory and practice.
4. identify and critically assess a personal theory of religious education.
5. design and evaluate educational events that demonstrate understanding of theoretical foundations and best practices in educational ministry.

Required Text

Seymour, Jack L. *Teaching The Way of Jesus: Educating Christians for Faithful Living*. (Nashville, TN: Abingdon Press, 2014.)

Required Reading (required chapters available on course Blackboard site)

Elias, John L. *A History of Christian Education: Protestant, Catholic and Orthodox Perspectives*. (Malabar FLA: Krieger, 2002.)

Noddings, Nel. *Philosophy of Education, 3rd edition*. (Boulder, CO: Westview, 2012.)

Roberto, John. *Reimagining Faith Formation for the 21st century*. (LifelongFaith Associates, 2015.)

Particular Theorists (for class presentation: assigned by the instructor)

Caldwell, Elizabeth. *God's Big Table: Nurturing Children in a Diverse World*. (Pilgrim Press, 2011.)

Dykstra, Craig. *Growing in the Life of Faith: Education and Christian Practices*. (Westminster/John Knox, 2005)

Foster, Charles. *From Generation to Generation: The Adaptive Challenge of Mainline Protestant Education in Forming Faith*. (Cascade Books: 2012.)

Wimberley, Anne Streaty. *Nurturing Faith and Hope*. (Wipf and Stack Publishing, 2010)

Web resources

Life Long Faith Associates:

“Reimagining Faith Formation” <http://www.reimaginefaithformation.com/>

“Faith Formation Learning Exchange”
<http://www.faithformationlearningexchange.net/>

Talbot School of Theology internet resource: Religious Educators of the 21st century
<http://www2.talbot.edu/ce20/> (last accessed January 11, 2015)

Course Requirements

Course Participation:

Participants engage in online and face to face learning. All assignments must be successfully completed to receive notice of satisfactory accomplishment for PCUSA certification and/or Continuing Education Units (CEUs).

- This course includes four weeks of online engagement, in which students will participate in online discussion and directed individual assignments. Posted reading assignments should be completed in advance of online discussion to ensure full participation. Written assignments should be submitted in a timely manner and submitted as directed by the instructor.
- On-campus session: students are expected to attend and fully participate in the scheduled twelve hours of class on- campus.

Assignment Descriptions:

1. Weekly online discussion of posted reading assignments.
2. Small Group Project: Students will critically read an assigned text written by a Christian education theorist. The small group will design and teach a class session (one hour) that introduces learners to the assigned author’s theoretical framework. Texts will be assigned by the instructor at the beginning of the course.
3. Personal Theory of Religious Education: This paper presents the student’s own philosophy of religious education and articulates understanding of the 5 basic components discussed in class. The paper should begin with an opening

definition/ description of religious education that is elaborated in subsequent sections of the paper with the headings: purpose and aim of education; context; the role of teachers and learners; curriculum; methods. Explicit connections to existing models of religious education must be included. This final paper should be 5-7 pages in length or a page for each section listed above. **Due by October 21, 2016.**

Schedule of Topics

Week 1: **September 6-10**

Overview, Definitions of Religious Education

Philosophy and Education

Components of Religious Education theory

Week 2: **September 11-17**

Purpose and Context of Religious Education Theory

Historical and contemporary contexts

Religious educators of the 20th century

Week 3: **September 18-24**

Learners and Teachers

Curriculum and Methods

Particular Theories: John Roberto

Week 4: **September 25- October 1**

Best practices in lesson planning and evaluation

Week 5: **October 4-6** on-campus session

Particular Theories: teaching presentations

Education through Worship: Anne Wimberley, *Nurturing Faith and Hope*

Education in Communities of Faith: Charles Foster: *Generation to Generation*

Education as Spiritual Formation: Craig Dykstra: *Education and Christian Practices*

Education as Christian Instruction: Elizabeth Caldwell: *God's Big Table*

Summary Reflections and Evaluation

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About the Leader:



Cindy Kissel-Ito is Director of the Extended Campus Program and Visiting Assistant Professor of Christian Education at Union Presbyterian Seminary. She also teaches in courses in Religious Studies at Virginia Commonwealth University. She is a member of the Educator Certification Committee of the Presbyterian Church (USA). Dr. Kissel-Ito's passion for education in the church has been shaped and nurtured by her thirty plus years of ministry as chaplain, pastor, presbytery staff, and educator throughout the Mid-Atlantic.

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Schedule of Events

Union Presbyterian Seminary, Paisley Hall, 1204 Palmyra Ave., Richmond

Note: At-home session begins on September 6

Tuesday, October 4

11 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.	Register in Paisley Hall
1:30 – 3:30 p.m.	Session I
3:30 – 3:45 p.m.	BREAK
3:45 – 4:45 p.m.	Session II

Wednesday, October 5

8:30 – 9:30 a.m.	Session II
9:30 – 9:45 a.m.	BREAK
9:45 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.	Session III
11:45 a.m.	Community Chapel (optional)
12:30 – 1:30 p.m.	LUNCH
1:30 – 3:30 p.m.	Session IV
3:30 – 3:45 pm.	BREAK
3:45 – 4:45 p.m.	Session V

Thursday, October 6

9:00 – 10:15 a.m.	Session VI
10:15 – 10:30 a.m.	BREAK
10:30 – 11:30 a.m.	Session VI