



The CEU News

Continuing Education Update

July, 2022

A Publication of the Wesley Leadership Institute
Holston Conference of the United Methodist Church

Events - Coming Soon!

Check the Holston [online calendar](#) for a full listing of future events.

July:

Church Finances

July 11-15 Online 1.5 CEUs

In this course, taught by Dr. Lovett Weems, you will explore building and funding congregational budgets, accurate tracking of giving, increasing methods of giving and streams of income, and proper financial administration of funds, examining all from both a theological perspective and from best practices of financial transparency and accountability. The registration deadline for CEU for this course is June 29

Sentiments of a Survivor: Having the Conversation About Cancer

July 11-31 Online 1.5 CEUs

This transformative class will take the learner from scared to prepared when talking about the diagnosis, treatment, and “after cancer life” for themselves or a loved one, by studying the story of someone who survived the ordeal and talks about it with faith, humor and honesty.

Forging a New Path – Moving the Church Forward in a Post-Pandemic World

July 12 Online 0.1 CEUs

In this webinar, Rebekah Simon-Peter, author of *Forging a New Path* will discuss questions that people in churches across the country are having. The author focuses on three persistent questions: When do things go back to normal? How do we get people (back) to church? And how do we do more with less?

Preaching in the African-American Experience

July 14 Online 0.1 CEUs

Walter Cross, Jr., pastor in the Holston Conference of The United Methodist Church, will lead us, discussing the topics: Preaching in Context, Being a Prophetic Voice of the Community, Prophetically Calling for Truth, History and Style of the Black Preacher, Homiletic Approach, and Learning From Preachers Who Influenced Me.

Mission U

July 22-23 Cokesbury UMC-Knoxville 0.7 CEUs

This year, as we study Luke 13, we find ourselves in a period of disruption and uncertainty. In the midst of a devastating pandemic, divisive political climate, unaddressed systemic racism, ecological crises and economic turmoil, we turn to the stories of Jesus that have anchored Christian communities for two millennia. Our newly designed Mission u 2022 is more flexible and intergenerational than ever - with curricula for youth, children and adults focused on the 13th chapter of the Gospel of Luke.

Even More Ways to Effectively Communicate with Your Church and Community

July 26 Online 0.1 CEUs

In this session, Kevin Slimp will move beyond the information shared in his first session and look deeper at ways to effectively communicate to the church and outside the walls of the church. Kevin will cover a lot of topics during this session, including: Methods of Communications, Improving the Design of Information sent out from the church, What people want to hear from their church, Things we often forget to communicate with our congregations, Technology to improve communication at all size congregations, and more.

August:

Black Clergy Women of the UMC Annual Meeting

August 1-3 Schaumburg, IL 1.3 CEUs

This year's theme is "Brave Enough." The event includes worship, plenaries, workshops, meeting and social times.

Creating Safe Spaces for Children and Youth Ministries

August 1-12 Online 1.0 CEUs

In this two-week online workshop, you'll learn why you should have and follow an up-to-date policy, what the policy includes generally and specifically, where to go for help when needed – and what your next steps should be, including writing (or editing) a policy, if needed. Through readings, discussion questions, and an optional Zoom meeting, you will hear how Children & Youth Ministers, volunteers, pastors, administrators, and others, are reducing their risk of abuse or false accusations of abuse.

The Academy for Spiritual Formation

August 14-19 Richmond, VA 2.0 CEUs

This year's Academy theme is "Pilgrimage with the Psalms." Come to worship, study, rest, and renew your relationship with God. (*Note: Also see Director's article for 2-year study.*)

Religion and Science: Pathways to Truth

August 15 - October 17 Online 2.0 CEUs

Must we reject belief in God to accept the findings of science?

Dr. Francis S. Collins, Director of the National Institutes of Health, hosts this ground-breaking series in which several leading scientists, theologians, and philosophers explore the contrasts and similarities between religion and science. This group of experts considers if and how religion and science might coexist and even complement one another in the 21st century.

Digital Ministry for a Non-Digital Native

August 16 Online 0.1 CEUs

In this session, we will focus on: The why of digital ministry in a post-pandemic world, The theological basis for digital ministry, How to put your attention on where it matters, Practical and doable steps to take digital ministry to the next level, This session is for pastors and church staff navigating this new world who'd love some encouragement and know-how.

CEU QUICKLINKS:

[PeoplePortal User Instructions](#)

(Includes directions for submitting CEU requests)

[Event Evaluation Form](#)

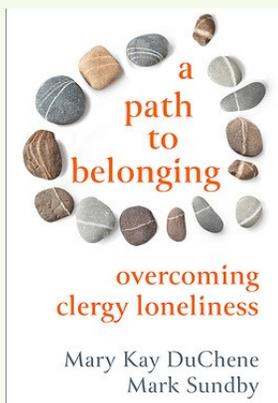


CLERGY NOTES:

Now that most of our moving clergy have started to settle in at their new appointments, this is a good time to remind everyone to let your district admins know if any of your contact information (e.g. cell phone number, email address, etc.) has changed recently. Check your data in your PeoplePortal to verify that everything is correct.

Note that your User ID should always be your primary email address . If you change it to something else, you may not be able to log in to your clergy profile records. If you have issues logging in to your account, contact your district admin or, if not available, you can email Donna Hankins. (dhankins@holston.org)

Book Review



[A Path to Belonging: Overcoming Clergy Loneliness](#)

- by Mary Kay DuChene & Mark Sundby

Loneliness, or the feeling of being cut off from others, is an epidemic among people in America. Studies have shown that up to half of Americans are lonely. While some may think that clergy have a strong built-in community, this is not often the case. According to leadership development consultants Mary Kay DuChene and Mark Sundby, clergy are as lonely as the general population.

In *A Path to Belonging: Overcoming Clergy Loneliness*, they argue that clergy need to address their experience of loneliness. First, loneliness can interfere with leadership effectiveness. Second, it offers a ministry opportunity to connect with people around the topic of loneliness. But clergy must first deal with their own loneliness and begin to experience the healing balm of social connection.

Each chapter begins with a case study that illustrates an aspect of clergy loneliness. DuChene and Sundby draw on original research on loneliness among clergy across denominations by administering the state-of-the-art inventory to measure loneliness and following up with qualitative interviews. The authors then offer tools and remedies for the path toward a healthy sense of contentment and belonging. The book also explores what judicatory leaders, congregations, and friends and family of clergy can do to support clergy.

By normalizing and reframing loneliness, however, *A Path to Belonging* not only suggests ways to overcome the loneliness present in ministry. DuChene and Sundby propose an even larger vision: Perhaps clergy can also help the congregations they serve become social connectors in their communities and thereby begin to solve the epidemic of loneliness in the United States.



A Message from Our Director

I will assume that you have heard the phrase: "Go big or go home." It is a challenge in which someone is saying to you, stop playing it safe. Do something big and extraordinary or just get out of the way and go home.

I am challenging someone to "Go big or go home."

Recently, Bishop Wallace-Padgett shared an email with me from a person involved with the Upper Room Academy for Spiritual Formation. The academy is offering five, \$1000 scholarships to persons within Holston to sign up for the two-year academy that begins this coming January. After some thought, Bishop Wallace-Padgett and I decided that we would offer the scholarships in the following manner. A scholarship will be offered to one person in each of the following five categories: a lay person (to be determined by the Board of Laity); and on a first-come basis, a scholarship will be offered to an elder, a deacon, an associate member, and a local pastor.

While \$1,000 may sound significant....here comes the Go big part...to complete the two-year academy (8 week-long sessions over the two years) will cost somewhere between \$8,000-9,000 to cover, tuition, room, board, books, and travel to Alabama for the in-person sessions.

I offer this for your consideration. It will be a significant commitment of time in class (8 weeks). It will require reading volumes of material. I will require travel and it will require money.

If you are interested in claiming the scholarship, please contact me. After talking it over with Mickey Rainwater, chair of the BOM, we decided that it would best be a first come--first awarded deal. We would have no way to determine who to give it to, so let me know as soon as possible if you are interested.

For more information please visit this website:

<https://academy.upperroom.org/event/two-year-42/>

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