

LAY STUDY PROGRAM

AMERICAN BAPTIST CHURCHES OF NEW YORK STATE

PURPOSE

The purpose of the Lay Study Program of American Baptist Churches of New York State is two-fold. It offers an opportunity for:

- Personal Growth and Enrichment -- Anyone is welcome to take one, a few, or all courses offered.
- Leadership Development – Courses help people to prepare for leadership in the local church

CURRICULUM

Each course is 20 hours class time and is structured for 10 two-hour sessions.

Baptist Heritage

Introduction to the principles and practices of American Baptists. Focus is on Baptist history, doctrines, governance, worship, and pastoral tasks.

Basic Christian Beliefs

Enables students to explore their own beliefs based upon Scripture as illuminated to him or her through comprehensive study.

Christian Education

Introduction to Christian education in the local church; deals with theory, purpose, teaching skills, program planning, educational structure, and resources.

Christian Ethics

Relate Christian ethical traditions to contemporary issues

Church Administration

Provide students with practical information that can be readily applied to the wide variety of tasks that are required for proper administration of a church.

Church History

Explore the history of the Christian church from the disciples of Jesus through developments and conflicts in the twenty-first century.

Introduction to Christian Counseling

Course seeks to equip students in how they may understand a person's need for help and what are the ways in which they may offer assistance.

Ministry to Individuals

Help students gain a significant degree of self-understanding in ministry to individuals to become comfortable with the sharing and communication of feelings.

Ministry Through the Small Church

Learn about small church ministry by understanding: the nature of the small church; worship patterns; pastoral care; leadership style; administration; community ministry; economics; conflict; nurture; and celebration.

New Testament

Acquaint students with full scope of New Testament writings, including the context in which various documents were written; the variety of approaches taken by different writers; and the applications of the New Testament to our present day.

Old Testament

A survey of writings that make up the Old Testament history provides students an opportunity to see how events and experiences of Israel fit together to make up Old Testament.

Preaching

Study the elements, foundations, and structure of a sermon. Course includes "hands-on" discussion, practice and preparation of sermons.

Spiritual Development

Experience a deeper journey of spiritual growth through the disciplines of Scripture reading, journaling, prayer and personal interaction.

Understanding Other Religious Traditions

Help students understand and appreciate religious traditions other than Christianity.

Worship

Provide an understanding of: what worship is and how American Baptists engage in worship; how to plan for worship; the elements of worship; and spiritual events and dates of the Christian calendar.

FEES

The registration fee for each course is \$60.00. For family members living in the same house, the fee is \$60.00 for the first person and \$30.00 for each subsequent person. Students may audit a course, without credit, for \$30.00. The cost of the textbooks for each course is in addition to the registration fee.