

American Baptist Churches of New York State Lay Study Program

BASIC CHRISTIAN BELIEFS

A Brief Course Description

This course is designed to help students explore their own beliefs based on Scripture as illuminated to him or her through comprehensive study and interaction with others. Topics to be studied are: the nature of scripture and revelation, God, creation, humanity, salvation, the Holy Spirit, Jesus Christ, and the church.

Expected Outcomes

Students will have examined the biblical and theological basis of basic Christian beliefs.

Students will become more aware of the variety of theological perspectives within Christianity.

Students will learn how to evaluate their own Christian faith and begin to develop their own faith statements.

Students will have become better acquainted with various resources that are available for studying basic Christian beliefs.

Those students who are gifted and called to lead in teaching and preaching will have become more confident and capable in presenting basic Christian beliefs to others.

Class Expectations

Students will read the assigned readings and participate in class discussions.

Students taking the course for credit will attend at least eight out of ten classes.

Students taking the course for credit will complete the 'final project' which is to be a paper on their personal Christian beliefs. This paper will be made available to the other students in the class. The students will present their papers to the instructor who will read them, make comments on them and return them to the students.

Classes

The course is expected to have ten classes which are two hours long. A short break may be included in the middle of the class time. Classes may be designed to include a variety of learning experiences, including but not limited to: interactive lectures, small and large group discussions, and oral presentations by students.

Suggested Resources

Texts

A Bible in which you feel comfortable writing notes

A Little Book for New Theologians by Kelly A. Kapic, Inter Varsity Press

Other Resources (a starting place)

For Scripture: Bible Hub, Bible Gateway