

**New York School of Ministry  
April & May 2021 Offerings**

Registration at <https://arena.nyucc.org/default.aspx?portal=4&page=3347>

*The New York School of Ministry offers a variety of video-conferenced courses, where participants interact with excellent instructors in real time and are in conversation with peers "face to face" from their home computers. No traveling required.*

**Thursday evenings, 6:30 – 8:30 PM, April 15, 22, 29, 2021**

***Leadership Theories for a Pandemic-Changing Church***, taught by Rev. Marsha Williams, Ph.D.

\*Continuing Education for Ministers and Lay Leaders

Cost: \$50 for Participants from the NY Conference  
\$70 for Participants from other denominations and UCC conferences

**Registration is open**

As the church rapidly changes, leadership skills and styles must adapt as well. In this course we will examine the characteristics of three theories: transformational, servant and situational leadership and how best to apply them to a pandemic-changing church. The course provides 6 hours of continuing education for authorized ministers whose associations require it.

This course addresses these Marks of Faithful and Effective Authorized Ministers:

**BUILDING TRANSFORMATIONAL LEADERSHIP SKILLS**

- Empowering the Church to be faithful to God's call, reflective of Christ's mission, and open to the surprises of the Holy Spirit.
- Strategically creating the future of God's Church.

**Saturday, May 15, 2021, 9:00 AM – 1 PM**

***Speaking of God in the Depths of Suffering***, taught by Rev. J. Mark Lawson, Ph.D.

\*NYSOM Spring Learning Event: Education for All

Cost: \$25 for all

**Registration opens soon**

Nothing is more common to the human experience than suffering. During the twentieth century, suffering reached catastrophic proportions for much of the human family, calling traditional belief systems into question. Now, we are confronting a pandemic, the unraveling of our political institutions, threats of foreign and domestic terrorism, and continuing revelations about the depth of systemic racism in the US. As Christ's church, we are called to think theologically about these realities, not simply as an intellectual exercise, but so that we may embody hope even in situations that seem hopeless. In this learning event, we will explore how the Judeo-Christian tradition has responded to human suffering across the ages, and how more contemporary theologians are wrestling with an unprecedented intensity of suffering today. This event provides 4 hours of continuing education for authorized ministers whose associations require it.

This course addresses these Marks of Faithful and Effective Authorized Ministers:

**ENGAGING SACRED STORIES AND TRADITIONS**

o Exhibiting knowledge, understanding, and continuing study of the Hebrew Scriptures and the New Testament.

**CARING FOR ALL CREATION**

o Providing hope and healing to a hurting world.

**PARTICIPATING IN THEOLOGICAL PRAXIS**

o Practicing theological reflection and engagement as part of one's sense of ministerial identity.

o Integrating theological reflection in teaching, preaching, and ecclesial and community leadership.

**Saturday, May 22, 2021, 9:00 AM – 12:15 PM**

***Working with Spiritual Struggles***, taught by Rev. Wayne E. Gustafson, DMin, LMHC

\*Continuing Education for Ministers and those Preparing for Ministry

Cost: \$25 for Ministers and Members in Discernment from the NY Conference

\$35 for Ministers and Students from other denominations and UCC conferences

**Registration is open**

Parishioners frequently come to their pastors for help with particular spiritual struggles: how to recover a sense of meaning or purpose when life events have challenged their core beliefs and values; how to make difficult decisions that bring them into conflict with their personal beliefs or their religious community; how to recover when they have been harmed by a religious leader or a religious community. The course provides 3 hours of continuing education for authorized ministers whose associations require it.

*This curriculum is taken from "Spiritually Integrated Psychotherapy," a 30 hour training program for psychotherapists offered by "ACPE: The Standard for Spiritual Care and Education." Primary authors: Russell Siler Jones, ThD, LPCS and Jill Snodgrass, MDiv, MA, PhD.*

*This course has been modified by Dr. Gustafson for pastoral ministry with permission.*

**Course Learning Objectives**

At the conclusion of this course, participants will be able to:

1. Recognize and describe spiritual struggles.
2. Identify spiritual struggles commonly encountered in parishioners.
3. Identify and begin using helpful strategies for addressing spiritual struggles in ethical and effective ways.

Technology: These courses uses the platform Zoom. You do not need to have a Zoom account to participate. You do need to have a webcam. If you would like to set up a test to see how Zoom works on your computer, please email Rev. Dr. Marjorie Purnine, Dean of the New York School of Ministry, at [mpurnine@uccny.org](mailto:mpurnine@uccny.org) .