

# Learning Experiences for Clergy Development

Virginia Conference Clergy Development Program

## **Purpose of the Program**

Clergy Development is an effort to promote and support lifelong learning. Using Ministerial Education Funds, grants are awarded to cover a portion of the cost of registration, lodging, and meals for learning experiences selected by the Clergy Development Committee. The participant is responsible for travel costs, materials, time, and full participation in the event.

## **Application Process**

This brochure is designed to give an overview of learning experiences approved for funding through the Clergy Development program. Applicants are welcome to apply for funding toward other learning experiences by submitting additional information with their funding application. For the complete application process, including the application form, go to [www.vaumc.org/ClergyDevelopment](http://www.vaumc.org/ClergyDevelopment).

## **Application Deadlines are the first of each quarter:**

October 1, January 1, April 1, and July 1

## **Learning Experiences**

Life-long learning is critical to continued effectiveness in ministry. Life-long learning includes both *transformational learning* and *development of basic ministry skills*. The Virginia Conference [\*Characteristics of Effective Clergy\*](#) outline the expectations for effectiveness in ministry. The Clergy Development Committee has selected the following learning experiences with qualified leadership that meet the following criteria:

- Promotes servant leadership and spiritual growth
- Encourages theological reflection
- Encourages personal growth and self-awareness
- Strengthens skills applicable for ministry.

## ***Transformational Learning:***

### **Workshops and Retreats**

#### ➤ **Courage and Renewal Retreats**

[www.couragerenewal.org](http://www.couragerenewal.org)

*Based on the Circle of Trust® approach, our programs and retreats help you discover the clarity and courage to bring your true self to your life's work. Courage & Renewal can help you find a deepened sense of purpose and meaning, expanded capacity to listen and be present, an improved ability to build trustworthy relationships, more courage to live authentically, renewed passion for work and a deeper commitment to serving others.*

#### ➤ **Emotional Intelligence and Human Relations Workshop (EQ HR)**

The Center for Emotional Intelligence & Human Relations Skills, 301-432-8933

[www.eqhrcenter.org](http://www.eqhrcenter.org)

*This core EQ HR Center workshop is an intensive four or five-day session designed to enable participants to learn about, build and practice emotional intelligence skills in a small group setting. Skilled facilitators provide tools and feedback to enable participants to learn about themselves and to immediately practice emerging skills.*

➤ GBHEM Clergy Peer Groups

A pilot project to expand clergy continuing education through peer groups, sponsored by the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry. Contact: GBHEM, P. O. Box 340007, Nashville, TN 37203, 615-340-7409, [continuinged@gbhem.org](mailto:continuinged@gbhem.org) or [Nurturing Innovative Clergy Leadership](https://www.gbhem.org/nurturing-innovative-clergy-leadership).

*The vision for this program is to develop a usable format for an ongoing continuing education program aimed at clergy who have been working five years or more. The model is group-based continuing education with a focus on providing the space and resources for regular theological reflection, enhance practical ministerial skills and renewed spiritual vitality, informed about the current issues of the day, accountability for physical health and self-care, and support for innovative leadership. Groups are self-initiated in your geographical area.*

➤ Spiritual Formation and Spiritual Direction Programs

- Shalem Institute for Spiritual Formation, (301) 897-7334  
[www.shalem.org](http://www.shalem.org) or email [info@shalem.org](mailto:info@shalem.org)
- The Academy for Spiritual Formation, sponsored by the Upper Room, (877) 899-2781, ext. 7233  
<http://academy.upperroom.org/> or email [academy@upperroom.org](mailto:academy@upperroom.org)

## **Personal Coaching**

➤ Clergy Career Renewal by the BrownMiller Group, Richmond, VA

Bonnie Miller, 804-288-2157

[www.brownmiller.com](http://www.brownmiller.com), or email [BonnieMiller@brownmiller.com](mailto:BonnieMiller@brownmiller.com).

*Career counseling will assist clergy with career development and career renewal. Career counseling will be tailored to each individual's needs and is a supportive combination of assessment and personal strategic planning. The focus of career counseling could include personal work styles and how to build on strengths and manage challenges, exploring interaction skills, stress management techniques, life planning, and assessment of skills and vocational interests.*

➤ Executive Coaching with Wilkes Consulting, LLC.

Wilkes Consulting, LLC, 804-405-3771

[www.susanwilkes.com](http://www.susanwilkes.com) or email [info@susanwilkes.com](mailto:info@susanwilkes.com)

*Executive Coaching offers an individualized process to leverage strengths and realize full leadership potential. Coaching is a collaborative process of self-discovery, goal setting, and action taking, all designed to help you become more effective in accomplishing your goals and more fulfilled in doing so. Coaching helps you move forward in your leadership. Susan Wilkes is skilled in using and interpreting Emotional and Social Competency Inventories.*

➤ Life Coaching for Clergy with Dr. Jim Robey

Jim Robey Coaching, LLC; 205-960-3157

[www.jimrobeycoaching.com](http://www.jimrobeycoaching.com) or email [coachjimrobey@gmail.com](mailto:coachjimrobey@gmail.com)

*Dr. Jim Robey, a Master Certified Coach and an Elder in the North Alabama Conference, is the first UM clergy to be officially endorsed by the UMC for the Ministry of Life Coaching.*

➤ Passion in Partnership Christian Coaching

Founded and based in the North Carolina Conference, The UMC, Passion in Partnership is currently engaged in six conferences with thirty-nine coaches throughout the country. Contact Peg Aldridge, 704-785-4957 or [peg.aldridge@passioninpartnership.net](mailto:peg.aldridge@passioninpartnership.net); [www.passioninpartnership.net](http://www.passioninpartnership.net).

*One-on-one appreciative inquiry coaching for clergy with certified coaches. Typical engagements include transition coaching into new appointments, stretch assignments as clergy live into new and expanded responsibilities with additional staff, a first solo appointment.*

"Call and Identity" Coaching for More Effective Ministry

Shepherd's Staff Ministry, Inc., 804-327-0707

[www.shepherd-staff.org](http://www.shepherd-staff.org)

*Call and Identity Coaching™, developed by Dr. Maurice Graham, is the practical application of putting Pastoral Intelligence™ into your ministry to achieve your desired goals. Call and Identity Coaching empowers ministers to gain clarity in their calling (purpose), increase spiritual growth and self-awareness, as well as leadership skills. We will help you develop a life and ministry plan that will enhance your effectiveness and satisfaction in ministry. This coaching can be done by phone, virtually, as well as in-person. For more information, contact Dr. Steve Booth at [stevebooth2020@gmail.com](mailto:stevebooth2020@gmail.com) or call (804) 327-0707.*

## **Development of Basic Ministry Skills:**

➤ Festival of Homiletics for Transformational Preaching

Sponsored by Day 1, (800) 866-8631

<http://www.festivalofhomiletics.com/>

*Held annually in May. The Festival of Homiletics is a week-long conference that brings together a wide variety of outstanding preachers and professors of homiletics to inspire a discourse about preaching, worship and culture. Our goal is to engage theologically the practices of preaching and worship, as well as issues related to congregations in the 21st century.*

➤ Intentional Growth Center at Lake Junaluska, NC, serves as a continuing education and renewal center for both clergy and laity. IGC designs and offers courses and growth experiences in a variety of areas for church leaders. Contact: (800) 482-1442, [www.lakejunaluska.com/igc](http://www.lakejunaluska.com/igc).

➤ Mediation Skills Training Institute for Church Leaders

Sponsored by the Lombard Mennonite Peace Center, 630-627-0507

<http://www.lmpeacecenter.org/events/msti/index.html> or [Admin@LMPeaceCenter.org](mailto:Admin@LMPeaceCenter.org)

*This program is recognized nationally as a premier event for equipping church leaders in valuable tools for addressing conflict in churches. The institute is designed to equip church leaders with the skills necessary to deal effectively with interpersonal, congregational, and other forms of group conflict. It also includes a component on congregational intervention and consultation, placed within the context of family systems theory.*

➤ School for Congregational Development

Sponsored by the General Boards of Discipleship, Global Ministries, and Path1; (877) 899-2780

[www.gbod.org](http://www.gbod.org)

Held annually in August. *Through Plenaries, Worship, Seminars, Ministry Tracks, Lunch Idea Marts, and Leading Edge Workshops you are invited to immerse yourself in a 4-day experience of learning, networking, and spiritual renewal.*

### **Request for Consideration:**

The Clergy Development Committee recognizes that this list is not comprehensive. Applicants are welcome to apply for funding toward other learning experiences by submitting additional information with their funding application. In requesting consideration of a new learning experience, refer to the Virginia Conference [\*Characteristics of Effective Clergy\*](#) which outline the expectations for effectiveness in ministry. Suggested learning experiences must meet one or more of the following criteria:

- Promotes servant leadership and spiritual growth
- Encourages theological reflection
- Encourages personal growth and self-awareness
- Strengthens skills applicable for ministry.

### **For more information or to submit your application, contact:**

Center for Clergy Excellence  
P. O. Box 5606  
Glen Allen, VA 23058  
804-521-1126  
FAX: 804-521-1176  
[ClergyExcellence@vaumc.org](mailto:ClergyExcellence@vaumc.org)

*Sponsored by the Virginia Conference Board of Ordained Ministry and the Cabinet.*