

DS525 “Practicing the Faith”: Polity and Governance in the United Church of Canada
UNITED CHURCH DENOMINATIONAL STUDIES 1.0 credit
Instructor: Janet Gear February 5th 6-9pm, Feb 6th 9-5pm, 2016

Purpose

Within the context of a changing church and polity-under-construction, the goal of this course is to prepare learned and able leaders able to contribute at all levels to the health and well-being of the church and its governance. The course will provide opportunity to study and reflect together the polity and practices of the United Church of Canada, particularly as these pertain to congregations and regional structures. We will become familiar with *The Manual* and other UCC policy documents. This is a required course for United Church MDiv, Testamur, and Admissions students.

Learning Outcomes

Competencies are approved when you are able to demonstrate . . .

- an ability to describe, interpret and analyze, both orally and in writing, current policy and governance issues facing the United Church
- an ability to locate relevant sections of *The Manual* in response to questions and issues
- an ability to describe and analyze the current authority and function of the courts (Council/Board, Presbytery/District, Conference, General Council) of the church
- knowledge of the expectations of ministerial leadership as it pertains to UCC ethical stances, duty of care, authority and power of ministry personnel, oversight and discipline, sexual identity and sexual conduct
- knowledge of official document keeping procedures

Format

This 1.0 credit class will meet in an intensive weekend format. The course is taught as a seminar with instructional input from guest lecturers. Participation is through active listening, collegial group work, and in-class discussions. Preparation for the course includes pre-reading and an assignment (due in class). A final paper/project will be due by the end of the term.

Prerequisites: Normally DS523 or membership in the United Church

Expectations of the student

- 100% attendance
- appropriate preparation for participation in class activities and discussion
- assignments as outlined on syllabus

Required Texts and Reading

Students are required to purchase or download and bring to class the most recent edition of the United Church Manual. Reading and assignments will be posted on Moodle by beginning of Term II for all registered students.