

**DS525 “Practicing the Faith”: Polity and Governance in the United Church of Canada  
UNITED CHURCH DENOMINATIONAL STUDIES 1.0 credit**

Instructor: Janet Gear Wednesday January 9<sup>th</sup> & Thursday January 10<sup>th</sup>  
10hrs total (class time TBA, may include evening) 2018

**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 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.

Note that the course may include a presentation/conference on the One Ministry Paper to be scheduled during January Interterm. This will be a required portion of the course. All registered students will be informed of the details.

**Prerequisites:** Normally DS523 (UCC History & Ethos) or membership in the United Church

**Expectations of the student**

- 100% attendance
- appropriate preparation for participation in class activities and discussion
- **pre-course 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 for all registered students.