

**Syllabus for Program and Mission Certification Course**  
**APCE Chicago Annual Event, February 7-9, 2022**  
**Instructor: Joyce MacKichan Walker**

**Schedule: 15 hours of in-person time**

*Monday, February 7, 2022*

3:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

7:30 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

*Tuesday, February 8, 2022*

9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

1:30 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

*Wednesday, February 9, 2022*

9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

**Course Description**

This course in Presbyterian Program and Mission will explore the mission of the PC(U.S.A.), and the many program resources available from the denomination. Critical examination and guided exploration will provide educators an opportunity to draw upon the richness of the Presbyterian tradition as they take leadership roles in their congregations and ministries. The course will provide opportunities for educators to explore how the program and mission of the PC(U.S.A.) will impact, guide, and influence their educational programs end events. (Excerpted from the *Educator Certification Handbook 2021*)

**Course Objectives**

Course participants will be enabled to:

1. Define the mission of the PC(U.S.A.) as it is described in the Bible and in our polity, and describe why the PC(U.S.A.) “does” mission and how the PC(U.S.A.) embodies mission
2. Locate, identify, and state educational uses for selected print and online denominational resources
3. Draw on the *Directory for Worship* as a significant resource for education and care in congregations, spiritual discernment, and worship planning – across all ages
4. Find and make use of the information in the Presbyterian Planning Calendar

**Required Texts:**

*Book of Order, 2019–2021 or 2021-2023 (Content is identical); NOTE: Both the downloaded version and the print version are required* - Free download at

[https://www.pcusa.org/site\\_media/media/uploads/oga/pdf/2019-23-boo-elec\\_010621.pdf](https://www.pcusa.org/site_media/media/uploads/oga/pdf/2019-23-boo-elec_010621.pdf)

Print version <https://www.pcusastore.com/Products/OGA19001/book-of-order-20192021.aspx>

*The Presbyterian Planning Calendar:*

<https://www.pcusastore.com/Products/9781732846715/presbyterian-planning-calendar-20212022.aspx>

*HINT: Check with church leadership and your Presbytery in case you can get a free copy of either or both resources. By now there may be leftover copies lying around!*

**Required reading and assignments before the course:**

1. **Carefully read** the *Directory for Worship* in the 2019-2021/2021-2023 *Book of Order*.
2. **Spend a minimum of 3 hours surfing** [www.pcusa.org](http://www.pcusa.org) for a general sense of the multitude of program and mission resources available from the PC(U.S.A.) Once you choose an area of interest and get it assigned to you, focus on that specific area. Prepare a twenty (20) minute presentation about it, with the intent of helping Christian educators use these resources in their ministries. A list of possible program areas will be provided, and choices and assignments will be made on a first come/first served basis. Specific directions will be provided at course registration.

**CONTENT OF SESSIONS AT THE APCE ANNUAL EVENT:**

**Monday, February 7, 2022**

**3:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.**

Connect personally about call to education/formation ministries  
Presentations/explorations of program resources of the PC(USA)

**7:30 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.**

Scavenger Hunt through the Presbyterian Planning Calendar

**Tuesday, February 8, 2022**

**9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.**

Presentations/explorations of program resources of the PC(USA)

**1:30 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.**

**(2 hours)** What is the “mission” of the church? What is the “program” of the church?  
Biblical descriptions and Book of Order descriptions examined.  
Small groups create session plans for a session or adults on the topics: “Why Our Church ‘Does’ Mission” and “How the PCUSA defines and embodies mission”

**(2 hours)** Exploration of the *Directory for Worship* for use as a Certified Christian Educator

**(1/2 hour)** Martha Miller – “Equip” resources, and Certification Process questions (5:30 pm)

**Wednesday, February 9, 2022**

**9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.**

**(3/4 hour)** Katie Snyder on Presbyterian and Reformed principles behind curriculum resources; highlights of formation resources across ages for small medium and large churches; cross-generations learning; and maybe “Learning settings beyond “Church school.” Polity expectations re educational resources.

**(3/4 hour)** Assigned learning in the Exhibit Hall – polity and program and mission related

**(1 hour)** Presbyterian Polity, Program and Missions learnings for the church. Review final project.

(Noon – 2:00 p.m. Optional but highly recommended Free Lunch and Resources with the Point Luncheon folks. *Presently under negotiation.*)

## **FINAL PROJECT**

Prepare a paper that reflects on the information and explorations of this course, the equivalent of three pages double-spaced. Presentation options will be provided. Due date will be March 12, one month from the last day of the APCE Annual Event. Full details will be provided.