

LOVE+TEACH+HEAL LEADERSHIP ACADEMY
FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What is the LOVE+TEACH+HEAL LEADERSHIP ACADEMY?

Organized groups of dedicated laypeople throughout the Episcopal Diocese of Pittsburgh, exploring Christian faith, life, and practices. We seek growth in Christian faith for personal, public, and church settings, building up the body of Christ, together.

Who can participate? Who should participate?

- Any baptized member of the Diocese of Pittsburgh who is interested and willing to commit to attendance at our regular meetings from January 2019 to May 2019.
- You are curious, open to sharing from your own experience and learning from others, and wondering about how God is calling you to serve. You are eager to develop the skills and interests you bring already, as well as open to new possibilities when others in our group note further talents and abilities.
- No previous experience needed. You don't need to be a regular Bible-study attendee, time-tested vestry member, seminary graduate, or even have been a Christian for long! Simply commit to participating and bring your faith as it exists right now with willingness to develop relationships.
- Groups will focus on Episcopal expressions of Christianity, yet are open to Lutheran ecumenical partners who seek licensure as lay worship leaders in the Southwestern Pennsylvania Synod (Ev. Lutheran Church in America).

What is required of participants?

- Submit registration by mail or email. The registration form includes brief questions to assist leaders in understanding and organizing each group. Registration is *not* the same as application. Everyone who will commit to participating has a place in an Academy group.
- Meet for two hours every other week in one of four regional Leadership groups. There will be a group that meets by video conference for those who cannot travel.
- Attend closing group liturgy at the end of May 2019.

Where and when will the 4 groups meet?

- Locations: North Hills, South Hills, East End, and Online (via video conference)
- Two hours every other week.
- Specific times and locations will be determined in collaboration with registered, participating group members to maximize convenience and participation.

What will we do when we meet?

- Our materials will include the Bible, the Book of Common Prayer, and *Walk in Love: Episcopal Beliefs in Practices* by Scott Gunn and Melody Shobe. The diocese will provide copies of *Walk in Love* to participants. We will read sections of these three primary texts in preparation for each of our meetings.
- Each meeting will focus on a central topic (such as baptism, the church year, the Creeds, etc.) and include brief presentations from participants based on personal experience, a time to explore the Bible and connect readings to both the topic and associated practices in church and in our personal lives, and a presentation with discussion about the topic.

How do I register?

- Registration is available in paper and electronic forms from your priest or parish leader. It is also available via link on the diocesan website (<https://www.episcopalpgh.org/love-teach-heal-leadership-academy/>). If you have any difficulty finding the form, please email Natalie Hall at nhall@episcopalpgh.org.
- Please submit electronic form to nhall@episcopalpgh.org - or – send paper form to:

Episcopal Diocese of Pittsburgh
Attn: LTH Leadership Academy
The Rev. Canon Natalie Hall
325 Oliver Avenue, Suite 300
Pittsburgh, PA 15222

Who is leading the Leadership Academy?

LOVE+TEACH+HEAL LEADERSHIP ACADEMY meetings will be led by Canon for Faith Formation and Evangelism, Natalie Hall with occasional guest speakers throughout. Having successfully led formation-based growth and development at two parishes in the wider Pittsburgh region and published a confirmation curriculum that is currently in use by over 50 congregations nationwide (*Chosen Together* with Spirit and Truth Publishing), Hall is eager to share everyday faith practices that have built up faith and life in congregations, both local and national.

Who is sponsoring the Leadership Academy?

The Academy was developed under the direction of Bishop McConnell who hopes that many members of our diocese take advantage of this resource. At a minimum, he hopes that 1-2 people from each of our 36 parishes will participate. Bishop McConnell understands that ministry loves company! Therefore, the Leadership Academy is designed to build relationships by creating environments in which church members grow to imagine and experience possibilities to support one another's life and ministries.

What will happen if I participate in the Leadership Academy?

With faithful participation, group members will complete their LOVE+TEACH+HEAL LEADERSHIP ACADEMY experience with newly considered faith practices for home, church, and other areas of life. At minimum, the Academy can reframe personal faith practices and create a setting in which participants develop new relationships that may result in new and renewed efforts at supporting current ministries. The diocese further expects that many participants may discern a sense of call to become a licensed lay leader or develop new ministries specific to their church and community, potentially in collaboration with other parishes.