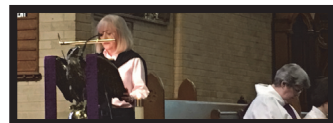
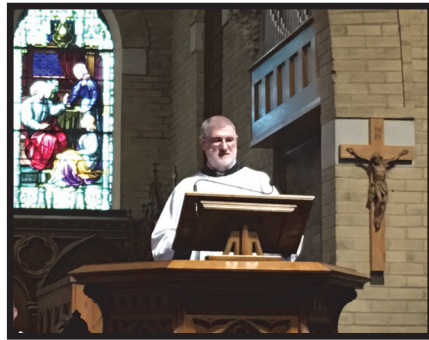


2017-2018 Catalog and Class Schedule

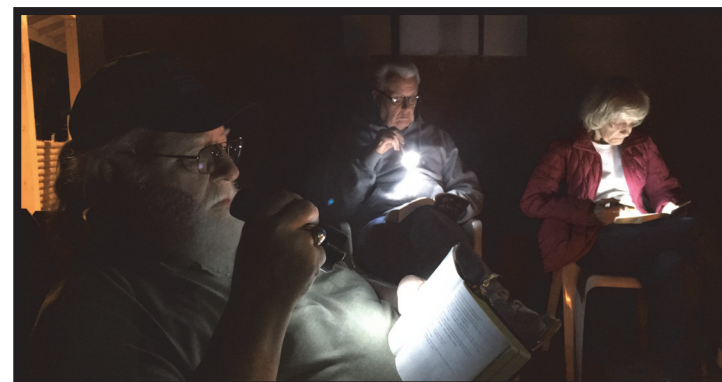


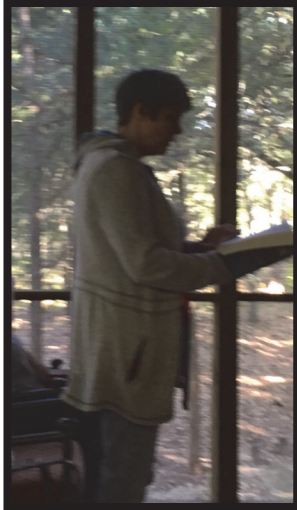
**THE STANTON CENTER FOR MINISTRY
FORMATION**

Equipping lay and ordained leaders to fulfill the Baptismal call to ministry

Contents

1. A Message from the Dean.....3
2. Stanton Center Mission and Mission Statement.....4
3. Stanton Center Weekend Schedule.....5
4. Admissions and Attendance Requirements.....6
5. Rule of Life.....7
6. Academic Procedures and Policies.....8-11
7. Stanton Center Curriculum Chart 2017-2018.....12-13
8. Online Courses.....14
9. Lay Leader Diplomas and Concentrations14-15
10. Lay Orders.....16-17
11. Diaconal Formation.....18-19
12. Course Descriptions.....20-22
13. Faculty.....23-26
14. Schedule of Classes.....28
15. Calendar.....29





A Message from the Dean

Welcome to the Stanton Center!

We are glad you have decided to explore the courses offered in the Diocese of Dallas through the Stanton Center. Our classes are open to anyone who is interested in a more in-depth exploration of the Christian faith. The faculty and students of the Stanton Center form a community of people who learn, worship, and grow together as we seek to fulfill the call placed upon each of us through our Baptismal vows.

The students at the Stanton Center come for many different reasons. Some are discerning a call to ordained ministry or training for possible ordination to the diaconate. Others are seeking to know more so they can be better equipped as lay leaders in their home parish, working in Christian Education, youth leadership, or perhaps leading small groups. Still others are truly learning for the sake of learning, going deeper in their study of the Christian faith and eager to engage in a process of personal growth. Young and not-so-young, new Christian and cradle Episcopalian, all of them find something special at the Stanton Center: focused learning, in-depth conversation, and spiritual nourishment.

If you are interested in attending the Stanton Center for any of the above reasons, I urge you to contact Janet Page, the Stanton Center Director, and make an appointment with her. She can help you design a program that is right for you and help you begin a new journey in your faith.

May God bless the work of the Stanton Center and strengthen through it the ministry of the whole Diocese of Dallas. May this be a place where your knowledge grows, and your vocation is clarified, strengthened and empowered, and your faith and devotion deepened.

The Very Rev'd Dr. Neal O. Michell

Dean



Stanton Center Mission

The Stanton Center at the Cathedral Church of St. Matthew serves the Diocese of Dallas by providing:

- a variety of courses in theology and spirituality, designed to meet the needs of all Christians who desire to grow and mature in their discipleship.
- diploma programs for lay leaders in our parishes with concentrations in the areas of Evangelism, Catechesis, Youth Ministry, and Pastoral Care.
- training towards certification in Spiritual Direction.
- all the required education and preparation for individuals seeking ordination to the Diaconate in the Diocese of Dallas.
- continuing education and seminars for clergy and lay leaders.

Mission Statement

The Stanton Center seeks to restore the historic role of the Cathedral as the center for mission and spiritual life in the Diocese of Dallas. The focus of the Center's mission is to equip and sustain lay and ordained leaders, enabling them to carry out the Great Commission and the Great Commandment. In this way the Center assists the Diocese in nurturing and maintaining the sacred traditions of the Church and enabling all Christians to answer the call to ministry which we receive in Baptism.

AUGUST

- | | |
|--------------|-----------------------|
| Sat, Aug. 12 | Orientation 9am-2pm |
| Sat, Aug. 19 | Classes and Eucharist |

SEPTEMBER

- | | |
|---------------|-----------------------|
| Sat, Sept. 16 | Classes and Eucharist |
|---------------|-----------------------|

OCTOBER

- | | |
|--------------|------------------------|
| Sat, Oct. 21 | Classes and Eucharist |
| Oct. 27-29 | Stanton Center Retreat |

NOVEMBER

- | | |
|--------------|-----------------------|
| Sat, Nov. 18 | Classes and Eucharist |
|--------------|-----------------------|

DECEMBER

- | | |
|--------------|-----------------------|
| Sat, Dec. 16 | Classes and Eucharist |
|--------------|-----------------------|

JANUARY

- | | |
|--------------|-----------------------|
| Sat, Jan. 20 | Classes and Eucharist |
|--------------|-----------------------|

FEBRUARY

- | | |
|----------------|-----------------------|
| Sat, Feb. 17 | Classes and Eucharist |
| Sat, Feb. 24th | Lenten Quiet Day |

MARCH

- | | |
|---------------|-----------------------|
| Sat, March 17 | Classes and Eucharist |
|---------------|-----------------------|

APRIL

- | | |
|---------------|-----------------------|
| Sat, April 21 | Classes and Eucharist |
|---------------|-----------------------|

MAY

- | | |
|-------------|------------------------|
| Sat, May 19 | Classes and Graduation |
|-------------|------------------------|

Schedule of Classes

CLASS	TERM	DAY	TIME	INSTRUCTOR
Church History	full year	Saturday	8:00-11:00am	TBA
Cross-Cultural Ministry	spring	Saturday	1:00-4:00pm	Luc-Tayengo
Ethics	spring	Saturday	1:00-4:00pm	TBA
Evangelism	full year	Saturday	4:00-7:00pm	Headington
Homiletics	fall	Saturday	1:00-4:00pm	Michie
Intro. To Christian Life	full year	Saturday	8:00-11:00am	G. Luck
Intro. To Christian Ministry and the BCP	full year	Saturday	1:00-4:00pm	D. Luck
Old Testament	full year	Saturday	4:00-7:00pm	TBA
Systematic Theology	full year	2nd Saturday of each month	2:00-5:00pm	Stanton
The Creeds	full year	Saturday	8:00-11:00am	TBA

Classes at the Stanton Center are held one weekend each month. Full-year classes begin in August and run through May. Half-year classes run from August through December (fall) and from January through May (spring). The academic calendar for 2017-2018 may be found on page 29 of this catalog.

All students are encouraged to participate in the Eucharist held in the Cathedral and the shared lunch which follows in the Great Hall on Saturday. Participation in the Saturday Eucharist is required for those who are postulants or candidates for Holy Orders.

Saturday	8:00 - 11:00 a.m.	Morning classes
	11:15 a.m.	Eucharist
	12:00 p.m.	Lunch
	1:00 - 4:00 p.m.	Afternoon classes
	4:00 - 7:00 p.m.	Late afternoon classes

Campus

All Stanton Center classes meet on the campus of St. Matthew's Cathedral located at the corner of Ross Avenue and Garrett. Ample free parking is available on class weekends. For a map of the location please visit our website at www.episcopalcathedral.org.

A catered lunch is provided to students each month for \$10 or at a discounted rate of \$85 for all ten class months when paid in advance (on or prior to the September class weekend).



Admissions

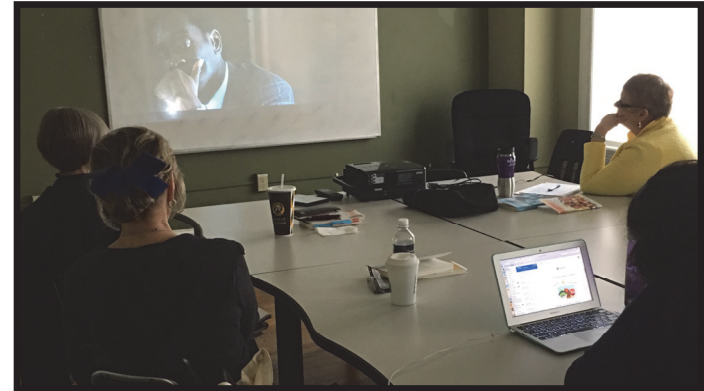
The Stanton Center is open to any adult interested in pursuing in-depth Christian theological study. An application for admission can be obtained from the Stanton Center office any time during the academic year by calling 214.823.8134 ext.229, by emailing jpage@episcopalcathedral.org, or by visiting our website at www.episcopalcathedral.org. The application for admission includes academic history, a clergy recommendation, and an admission essay. Deadline for admission is August 15th; there is no admission fee.

Students have the option of taking courses for credit or audit. Students completing courses for credit must fulfill all requirements for attendance, class participation, study, and any course requirements such as research papers, examinations, and field projects assigned by the instructor. Students who are pursuing a Diploma in Ministry, a Diploma in Christian Studies, or Lay Leader Certification must take the required coursework for credit and will receive a letter grade for each course.

Students who wish to take courses for personal spiritual growth may audit one or more courses each year. Students who choose to audit a class may not miss more than two classes and must complete requirements for reading and class participation, but no written assignments are required. Completed courses will be listed on the students' transcript as "audit" with no course grade noted.

Attendance Requirements

All students are invited to attend Orientation Day in August. Students who are taking courses for credit are required to attend. Students taking courses for credit may not miss more than two classes during the year and still receive credit (no more than one absence for half-year courses). Appeals regarding this attendance policy must be made to the instructor and approved by the director.



The Rev. Andrew Van Kirk

An assistant priest at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church in McKinney, Fr. Andrew would like to one day be like the dad in *A River Runs Through It*: a minister who combines a glorious day fishing with the reading of his Greek New Testament streamside.

- Th. Min., Princeton Theological Seminary
- M. Div., Princeton Theological Seminary
- B. A., Duke University

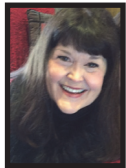
The Rev. Dr. Andrew R. Wright

Fr. Wright serves as the Associate Rector for Children, Families & Young Adults at Trinity Episcopal Church in Fort Worth. He is a member of the North American Academy of Liturgy, and his studies have focused on Liturgical Theology and Liturgical Hermeneutics.

- Th.D., The General Theological Seminary
- S.T.M., The General Theological Seminary
- M. Div., The University of the South
- B. A., Texas Christian University

Stanton Center Administration

The Very Rev. Dr. Neal O. Michell, Dean
thedean@episcopalcathedral.org



Janet Page, Director
jpage@episcopalcathedral.org

Stanton Center Restructure Committee

Janet Page, Sponsor

The Rev. Dr. Marcia Ponders, Project Mgr.

The Rev. Mark Hall

The Rev. Canon Diana Luck

The Rev. Virginia Kivel

Zoe Holmes

Steve Sale

Rule of Life

The following Rule of Life is suggested as a model for students attending the Stanton Center. All students are urged to adopt a personal Rule of Life as a part of their spiritual development.

1. Daily prayer
2. Daily reading and reflection upon the Scriptures
3. Weekly attendance at worship in your home parish
4. Monthly attendance at the Stanton Center Eucharist
5. Seeking the counsel of a spiritual director or advisor
6. Annual spiritual retreat



The annual Stanton Center Retreat offers students quiet time in a peaceful setting for reading, reflection, worship, and prayer.

Academic Procedures and Policies

Registration

Registration begins in April for the following academic year and continues through the first day of class. All students must submit a registration form, including a \$25 non-refundable registration fee, prior to the first class session. Registration forms can be found on the website (www.episcopalcathedral.org) or requested by emailing jpage@episcopalcathedral.org.

Students may complete late registration or add a course prior to the second class session. No late registrations or adds are allowed after the second class session.

Parish Groups

Groups of 3 or more people from the same parish taking the same class may request an application for a 10% group discount by contacting the director prior to submitting their registration forms.

Dropping a course

Students may drop a course through the end of the second weekend of classes with no academic penalty. The course will not be entered on the student's transcript. Course tuition will be refunded (if applicable) with the exception of the \$25 registration fee, which is non-refundable.

Withdrawal

Students wishing to withdraw from the Stanton Center **after the second class** session will receive a grade of "W". **No tuition refund** will be given for these classes. Students who have signed a financial agreement for paying tuition in monthly installments must fulfill their full financial obligation to the Stanton Center.

Auditing a course

Any course may be audited. Anyone wishing to audit a course should note this on the registration form. Although students who are auditing a course are not required to write papers or take exams, they should expect to complete reading assignments in order to participate in class discussions. Check with the course instructor for specific expectations.

The Rev. Mike Michie

Fr. Mike is a career church planter and the rector of St. Andrew's in McKinney, a growing church whose vision is to proclaim a 'faith for all ages' and to communicate the timeless Gospel message.

- CITS, Seminary of the Southwest
- M.A. in Theology, Oral Roberts University
- M.P.A., Texas State University
- B.A., University of Texas

The Very Rev. Dr. Neal O. Michell

Installed in 2013 as Dean of St. Matthew's Cathedral, Dean Michell has led clergy conferences and workshops in numerous dioceses. His doctoral dissertation was *Contemporary Anglican Worship in a Postmodern Era*. He is currently working on his third book, *Core Values in Anglicanism*.

- D. Min., Fuller Theological Seminary
- M. Div., University of the South
- J.D., University of Houston
- B. A., University of Texas at Austin

The Rev. Dr. Marcia Pounders

Mtr. Marci is Associate at Church of the Ascension in Dallas. She had a distinguished career as Chaplain and Coordinator for Supportive, Palliative, and Hospice Services at Baylor University Medical Center and is currently a Spiritual Director in the SMU Perkins Spiritual Directors Network.

- D. Min., Perkins School of Theology
- M.Div., Perkins School of Theology
- B.S., University of Louisville

The Rev. Leslie Stewart

Mtr. Leslie is a Church Planter currently serving at the Church of the Resurrection in Plano. She holds a Certificate in Spiritual Direction from Our Lady of Guadalupe Abbey, Pecos Benedictine Monastery.

- M. Div., Perkins School of Theology
- B. S., Embry Riddle Aeronautical University

The Rev. Rebecca Tankersley

Mtr. Rebecca is the Assistant Rector at St. James Episcopal Church in Dallas. She serves as the Eastern Convocation Chair and is a member of EDOD's Finance Committee and Executive Council. In addition, Mtr. Rebecca serves as a spiritual director and retreat leader for the Diocese.

- M.Div., Perkins School of Theology
- J.D., University of Michigan
- B.A. in English and Psychology, University of Michigan

Ms. Toni Luc-Tayengo

Toni has a degree in anthropology, spent two years working as a missionary in Africa, and is currently involved in ministry with Latinos and youth.

- M. Div., Perkins School of Theology at SMU
- B.A., Southern Methodist University

The Rev. Canon Diana Nelson Luck

Deacon Diana has been teaching the Diaconal courses for the Diocese of Dallas since 1999. She has served as a deacon at St. Matthew's Cathedral since her ordination in 1996, and as Archdeacon of the Diocese for ten years.

- L.M., The Anglican School of Theology
- B.A., The University of Texas at Arlington

The Rev. Canon George Luck

Fr. Luck has been leading students into an understanding and appreciation of the Old Testament since 1972 and Spiritual Theology since 1998, first at the Anglican School of Theology and now at the Stanton Center.

- *Honor Professor of Old Testament*
- M. Div., Philadelphia Divinity School
- B.A., University of North Texas



The Rev. Canon George Luck
Honor Professor of Old Testament

Independent Study

Some courses may be taken as an Independent Study. Permission must be given by the director and the instructor teaching the course. Reasons for taking a course as an Independent Study will be considered on an individual basis.

Academic Advising

All new students taking classes for credit must schedule an admissions appointment with the Stanton Center director before registering for classes. It is also recommended that each returning student check in with the director before registering for classes to make sure they are meeting the requirements for their program of study.

Grading Policies

The following grade symbols are used for class assignments:

- A Outstanding
- B Very good
- C Acceptable or average
- D Below-average work; no credit given
- F Failure to do minimal work; no credit given

“Rewrite” —This mark is given at the instructor’s discretion if the student’s response does not fulfill the assignment or answer the question that was asked. The student is given the opportunity to try again and there is no grading penalty if the replacement response (rewrite) meets assignment guidelines and is received within the time limit set by the instructor.

The following grade symbols are used on the official grade report or transcript:

- A Outstanding or exceptional work
- B Very good or commendable work
- C Acceptable or average work
- D Below-average work; no credit given
- F Failure to do minimal work; no credit given
- Au Audit, no grade assigned
- Inc Incomplete grade (see policies below)
- W Withdrawn from course

Late Assignments

Assignments that are turned in after the assigned date will receive a grade that is one letter grade lower than the earned grade for each month they are late. This policy will apply unless the student has made arrangements with the instructor for an extension due to illness or emergency.

Appeal Process for a Course Grade

1. The student who wishes to appeal a course grade should schedule a conference with the instructor to discuss the grade.
2. If the student wishes to appeal a course grade further, an appointment should be made with the director or dean.

Incomplete

Students may apply for a course grade of “Incomplete” prior to the final class session by obtaining an Incomplete Grade Contract from the director. Contracts must be approved by the course instructor and signed by the student, course instructor, and the director. Once an Incomplete Grade Contract is signed, all work must be turned in to the instructor by the date indicated on the contract. If all work is not received by the instructor on or before that date, a grade of “F” will be entered on the student’s transcript. Special circumstances which warrant an exception to this policy will be determined **only** through consultation with the director.

Policy on Plagiarism

Plagiarism is defined as intentionally representing the words or ideas of another as one’s own in any academic exercise. Plagiarism will not be tolerated at the Stanton Center and may be grounds for failing the course or dismissal from the school as determined by the dean, the director, and the course instructor. All students are required to sign a copy of the Stanton Center policy on plagiarism prior to the first class session indicating their understanding and acceptance of this policy.

Transfer of Credits

Credit for equivalent coursework from another institution may be given upon the receipt of an official transcript and with the approval of the director and the appropriate instructor. Students should submit the course outline for the courses they would like to have considered for transfer credit in addition to the official transcript.

Program Requirements

Students are responsible for meeting the requirements for a particular program as set forth in the Stanton Center catalog at the time of their entrance to the school. Students who do not successfully complete any courses during a given academic year are considered “withdrawn” and become subject to the requirements of the catalog for the year of their re-entry.

Faculty



The Right Rev. James Stanton

Consecrated the sixth bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Dallas on March 6, 1993, Bishop Stanton’s episcopacy was well-known for his strong advocacy of biblical authority and his success in strengthening mission and evangelism ministries throughout the diocese. The Stanton Center is honored to once again begin the faculty list with the namesake of the school, a scholar whose life and ministry has reasserted traditional values of Christian faith, order, and morality.

- D. D., Church Divinity School of the Pacific
- D. D., Nashota House
- D. D., Southern California School of Theology, Claremont

Carrie Boren Headington

Carrie teaches and speaks throughout the United States and abroad. She serves as the Diocesan Missioner for Evangelism.

- Diploma in Theology, Evangelism, and Apologetics: Oxford University
- M.A. in Education, Harvard University CTH
- B.A., Yale University

The Rev. Marc Dobson

Fr. Marc is the rector at Good Shepherd in Cedar Hill. His passion is to teach the Word of God so that the church may mature in the faith and grow in their understanding of mission and ministry.

- M. Div., Trinity Episcopal School of Ministry
- B. S., Geneva College

The Rev. Canon Pam Dunbar

Deacon Pam is the Diocesan Missioner for Christian Formation and Youth Ministry. She loves the energy and growth in her own faith that comes with serving young people and those who minister to them.

- School for Deacons, Diocese of Northwest Texas
- B.A., California State University

requirements. The second semester will focus on the unique learning needs of children and youth.

Systematic Theology

The study of God in which the major doctrines of the Christian faith are presented in an organized and ordered overview that remains faithful to the witness of Scripture and the tradition of the Church.

The Creeds

The ancient creeds were the early Church's guide to reading the Bible. They also have served as the foundation of Anglican self-understanding and ecumenical effort. They enable us to put first things first. They "fence" out false understandings of the faith. This course will expound their meaning in such a way as to draw out their pastoral and missional implications.



Requirements for Ordination

In all cases, admission to the Stanton Center is separate from admission to the application process for ordination. Information regarding the application and discernment process for ordination is available from the Diocesan office, and it is the student's responsibility to obtain this information. Receiving a Licentiate in Diaconal Ministry or a Diploma in Christian Ministry from the Stanton Center does not in any way guarantee eligibility for ordination. Students seeking ordination are responsible for communicating with the Diocesan office regarding any changes in the requirements for ordination, which may not correspond with the program requirements set forth in the catalog.

Tuition and Fees

Registration fee (non-refundable, separate from tuition): \$25

Tuition for taking a full-year course for credit: \$400

Fee for auditing a full-year course: \$300

Tuition for taking a half-year course for credit: \$200

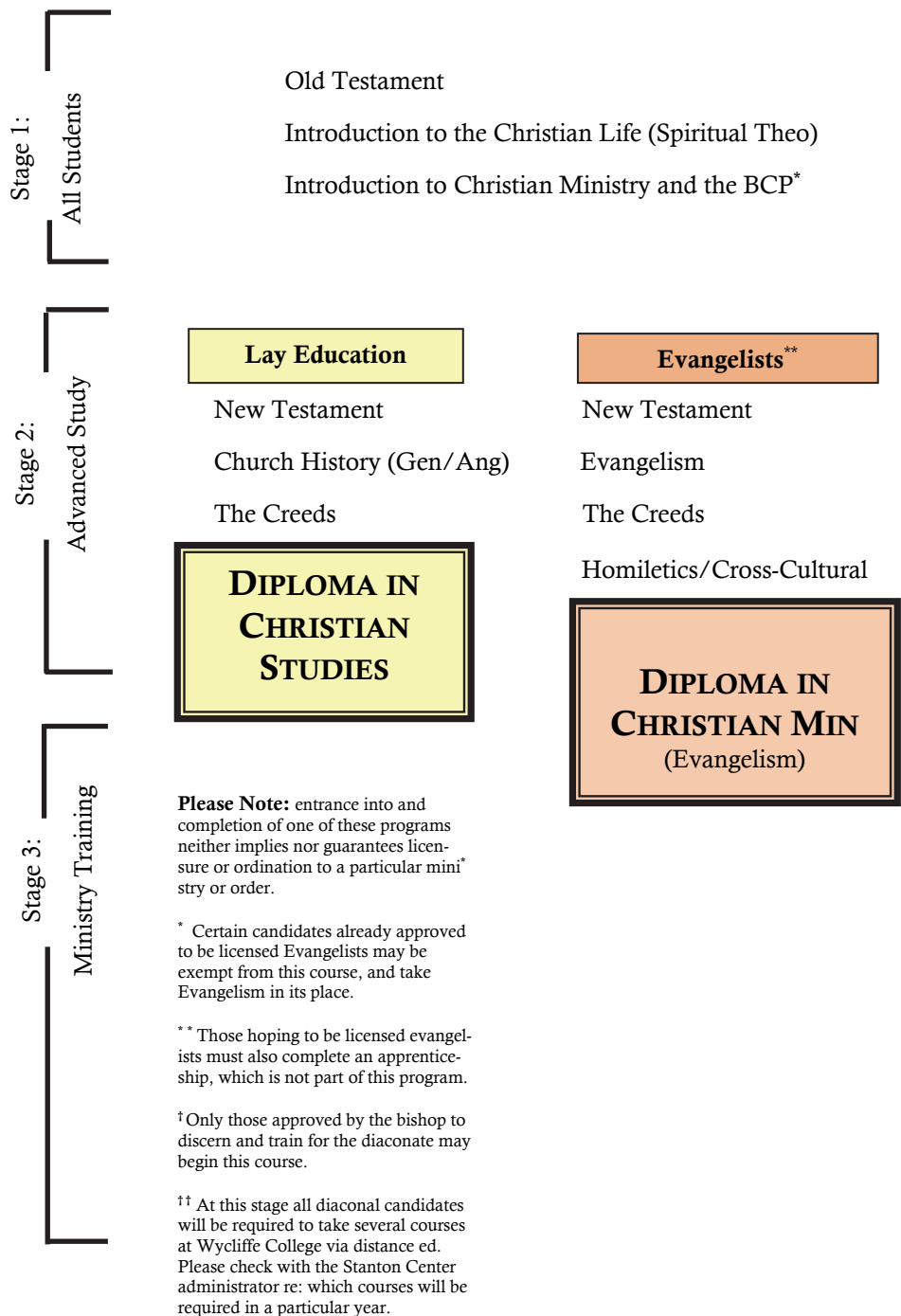
Fee for auditing a half-year course: \$150

Tuition for "Guide for the Perplexed": \$150 credit/\$100 audit

Saturday lunch for 10 months (optional): \$85 when paid in advance—on or prior to the September class weekend



New students must pay tuition in full by the first day of class. Returning students **who register by June 1st** have the option of paying tuition in installments **with the completion of a financial agreement at the time of registration.** Credit cards are accepted through PayPal. Grades or diplomas will not be issued to students who have not met their full financial obligation to the Center. Students experiencing financial need should speak to their rector about a recommendation for a partial scholarship.



Homiletics

A study of liturgical preaching and homiletic skills. Instruction includes a reflection on the pastoral and liturgical place of the sermon. In addition to classroom homiletical exercises and critiques, students preach during Stanton Center services. *Prerequisites: Old Testament.*

Introduction to Christian Life (Spiritual Theology)

An introduction to the basic elements of Christian spirituality, emphasizing the nature of the spirituality of Christian Scripture, and an analysis of Christian experience in light of Biblical revelation and Christian tradition. The course explores a variety of spiritual practices and techniques by application to the student's pilgrimage.

Introduction to Christian Ministry/Book of Common Prayer

This course assists the student in discerning a call to ministry. It will include instruction in the nature and functions of various ministry orders. In consultation with the instructors, each student will select and carry out a ministry project which corresponds with his or her own ministry interests. Students will also develop a working knowledge of the Book of Common Prayer

New Testament

An exploration of the content, composition and theological emphases of the Synoptic Gospels of Matthew, Mark and Luke, as well as the Gospel of John. Attention is given to major interpretive approaches and their presuppositions. The course also highlights the Book of Acts, the letters of Paul, the Pastoral Epistles, Hebrews, and the Book of Revelation, emphasizing their historical context, structure and theological content.

Old Testament

An in-depth exploration of the history, faith and literature of the people of Israel, from the origins of Israel's oral tradition to the time of the Divided Kingdom. The course is also an exploration of the prophetic literature of the Hebrew Scriptures, Wisdom literature, apocalyptic materials and the Psalms. Classes focus on Old Testament theology and its application to the Christian faith.

Pastoral Ministry

An introduction to the Church's ministry of pastoral care, including active listening, responding to grief and loss, family systems, pastoral care in various contexts, the use of the Pastoral Offices in the Book of Common Prayer, and lay pastoral ministry.

Spiritual Leadership of Groups/Children and Youth

This course will include training in group dynamics, adult learning, leading Bible studies, small group ministry, and other group activities such as retreats. Successful implementation of a ministry project will be part of the course.

Anglican History

A comprehensive overview of the history of the Church in England before the Reformation, the distinctive character of the Reformation in England, the history of the Anglican Community in North America since 1607, and the historical precedents to its 21st century challenges and opportunities.

Church History

An exploration of Christian thought from the institution of the Church through the Reformation to the contemporary schools. The course will emphasize Anglican history and theology in the second semester.

Cross-Cultural Ministry

This class is designed to enable students to develop skills for building relationships across cultural lines for effective ministry with people who are different from us.

Diaconal Theology/Liturgical Role

A study of the history and theology of the diaconate, its traditional purposes and contemporary applications. The theological and practical role of the deacon in the liturgy is included.

Ethics

An examination of the classic tradition of Christian moral theology in which the student assesses and evaluates a wide variety of moral questions in contemporary life. The course looks critically at the interaction between our faith and our actions. The perspective is that of the Anglican tradition.

Evangelism

This course will explore the nature of the Christian Gospel, how it has spread over time, and the mission of the church. Practical ways to share the good news in our every day lives and as a parish in today's contemporary culture will also be discussed.

Guide for the Perplexed

This is the first online course offered at the Stanton Center not in real-time., so that students can access the material when they are able. It is aimed at lay people, and addresses common questions we all have of the faith in such a way as to open up deep and perennial theological questions. The faculty will include the bishop, the theologian-in-residence, and our canon theologian. The course will include chat-room interaction and a final paper.



Catechists

New Testament
Church History (Gen/Ang)
The Creeds

Deacons[†]

New Testament
Church History (Gen/Ang)
The Creeds

Homiletics /Ethics
Evangelism
Spir. Leadership of Groups/
Children & Youth

^{††}Homiletics / Ethics
Evangelism
Diaconal Theology / Liturgy
Pastoral Ministry

**DIPLOMA IN
CHRISTIAN MIN**
(Catechesis)

**LICENTIATE IN
DIACONAL MIN**

Program of Study for Diaconal Formation

Online Course Offerings

In the 2017-2018 academic year, the Stanton Center will experiment with two new options for online courses in order to make theological education more accessible to students throughout the vast reaches of the Diocese of Dallas.

A Class in Real Time

Students will be able to take Systematic Theology either in person at St. Philip's Episcopal Church in Frisco, or by Skyping the class from a distance. The class instructor will be none other than our esteemed retired Bishop, The Rt. Rev. James M. Stanton. This promises to be a rare opportunity to study some of the big ideas of the Christian faith with a much-admired and gifted teacher.

A Class not in Real Time

The Rt. Rev. George Sumner will lead an esteemed group of teacher/theologians in addressing many of the hardest questions of the faith in a course entitled, "A Guide for the Perplexed". Students will login at their convenience to watch a series of ten lectures, followed by opportunities to converse with members of the learning community via chatroom. Instructors will tackle questions such as "Why do bad things happen to good people?" and "Why would God want the death of His Son?"; concepts to truly challenge the minds of those who want to better understand the faith. The class begins after Labor Day and runs for 20 weeks.

Lay Leader Diplomas and Concentrations

The following programs for lay leaders are offered at the Stanton Center. Each program includes foundational courses designed to deepen the individual's understanding of Scripture and specialized coursework to equip lay leaders for a particular area of Baptist ministry. Upon successful completion of the required coursework, participants will be awarded either a two-year Diploma in Christian Studies or a three-year Diploma in Christian Ministry (with a specific area of concentration).

The goals for the Diaconal Formation program are as follows:

- To meet the canonical requirements for the education and formation of those seeking ordination to the Diaconate as set down by the Episcopal Church and the Diocese of Dallas.
- To adhere to the guidelines of the North American Association for the Diaconate.
- To provide a complete formation and education program in a three-year time frame.
- To structure the program so that new students can enter the program each August.

Students in the Diaconal formation program are required to address the following five canonical areas of study: Scripture, Theology and Church Tradition, the Diaconate, Human Awareness and Understanding, Spiritual Development and Discipline, and Practical Training and Experience. Each of these areas of study are addressed in coursework offered at the Stanton Center

Required Courses for Diaconal Formation

Old Testament, Intro. to Christian Life, Intro. to Christian Ministry and the BCP, New Testament, Church History, The Creeds, *Homiletics*, *Ethics*, *Evangelism*, *Diaconal Theology/Liturgical Role*, and *Pastoral Ministry**

*At least three of the italicized courses must be taken either online or in residence at Wycliffe College, Toronto or another seminary approved for Diaconal formation by the Diocese of Dallas. See the Stanton Center director for more information.



Philosophy of Diaconal Formation

Diaconal ministry is an extension of the ministry of Christ, who came not to be served but to serve, and who commissioned the apostles to continue his work: “As the Father sent me, so I send you.” The institution of the Diaconate in the New Testament church was intended to maintain and expand the ministry of apostolic proclamation and to exhibit its inseparability from concern for the material, social, and economic needs of the people.

The New Testament records that the first deacons assumed social responsibilities on behalf of the apostles. In the patristic church, deacons were the managers of the church’s property and finances, and exercised pastoral care by taking the Eucharist to the sick and those far away. By the Middle Ages, however, the office of deacon had become a transitional one towards priesthood, and the diaconal function of assuming social responsibility was fulfilled instead by monastic orders, Godly princes, and faithful bishops who were expected to alleviate the burden of the poor.

With the rise of the secular state, the government took over diaconal functions and no longer saw those functions as a ministry. Over time, the church came to view its ministry as being centered on only the gathered community of the faithful.

In recent times, the church has committed itself to reclaiming the original wholeness of its ministry. The Diaconate connects service with proclamation and worship. Ordained deacons personify, sacramentalize, and enable the ministry of service to which all are called in baptism. Therefore, deacons must be educated, accountable leaders who identify and facilitate servant ministry.

Deacons “interpret the church to the world and the world to the church.” Deacons are trained to understand, speak and explain the sacred and the secular in both realms. Deacons ask the probing questions in the world and the church, drawing each out of their places of complacency and comfort. Such challenging questions point to the life-giving presence of Christ eternally connecting the world and the church.

Adapted from Guidelines for Deacon Programs, North American Association for the Diaconate, © 2000.

These programs of study meet the educational requirements for licensing by the Diocese of Dallas in particular areas of Lay Ministry as noted below and on the chart on pages 12-13. In order for an individual to be considered for licensing by the Diocese as a Lay Minister, the parish must request licensing and certify that there is a need for the lay ministry in the parish. The licensing of Lay Ministers by the Diocese of Dallas will be in accordance with Canon III.4.1(a) of the Constitution and Canons of the Episcopal Church.

Diploma in Christian Studies

Required courses: Old Testament, Intro. to Christian Life, Intro. to Christian Ministry and the BCP, New Testament, Church History, and The Creeds,

Diploma in Christian Ministry - Concentration in Evangelism

(Required for induction into the Order of Lay Evangelists)

Required courses: Old Testament, Intro. to Christian Life, Evangelism, New Testament, The Creeds, Homiletics, and Cross-Cultural Ministry

Diploma in Christian Ministry - Concentration in Catechesis

(Required for induction into the Order of Lay Catechists)

Required courses: Old Testament, Intro. to Christian Life, Intro. to Christian Ministry and the BCP, New Testament, Church History, The Creeds, Homiletics, Ethics, Spiritual Leadership of Groups/Children and Youth, and Evangelism

Diploma in Christian Ministry - Concentration in Pastoral Care

(Recommended for licensing as a Lay Eucharistic Visitor)

Required courses: Old Testament, Intro. to Christian Life, Intro. to Christian Ministry and the BCP, New Testament, Church History, The Creeds, Evangelism, Pastoral Ministry, and Cross-Cultural Ministry

Diploma in Christian Ministry - Concentration in Youth Ministry

Required courses: Old Testament, Intro. to Christian Life, Intro. to Christian Ministry and the BCP, New Testament, Church History, The Creeds, Evangelism, Youth Ministry, and Cross-Cultural Ministry

Lay Orders

What are Catechists and Evangelists?

Catechists and evangelists are lay people, called by God, trained and licensed by the Church to teach the faith and share the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Lay Catechist

Catechists are those who have a particular call to teach the apostolic faith “once delivered to the saints” (Jude 1:3). First, they are prepared to teach the faith to new Christians and young people preparing for Baptism, Confirmation, Reception, and the Reaffirmation of their Baptismal Vows. Second, they are prepared to assist parish clergy in the ongoing ministry of Christian formation. Third, they are prepared to assist the Bishop in teaching the faith in diocesan Mission congregations, new church plants, and other small parishes as the Bishop may request. Their work in the diocese is overseen by the Bishop, and in each congregation by the rector or vicar.

Catechists have a long and rich history in the Episcopal Church and the Anglican Communion. They have often served in places that cannot afford full-time clergy, or new communities that have not yet called a priest. (Link Radner’s essay.) In this way they have often been at the cutting edge of church growth in challenging contexts. Catechists have been crucial in the work of teaching the faith to the next generation, which is the work of the whole Christian community, not just the clergy.

Lay Evangelist

Evangelists are those who have a particular call to “go into all the world” and share the Gospel (Mark 16:15), so that those who do not know Christ may be brought to the knowledge and love of Him (BCP, *Prayer for Mission*, p. 101). They are gifted and trained to present the Good News in such a way that people are led to receive Christ as Savior and follow Christ as Lord in the fellowship of the Church.

Evangelists, like catechists, have a crucial place in our church’s history and mission. In the Church Missionary Society of the 19th century, and the East African Revival of the early 20th century, millions came to a saving faith in Christ in the fellowship of his Body the Church, leading to what we now call the Anglican Communion in many lands. Evangelists are everyday Christians who are called to bring Christ to every man, woman, and child, making disciples of all nations (Matt. 28:16).

Lay Catechists: If you, your priest, and your Christian community have discerned in you a particular gifting and passion for teaching the faith, then you may be called to the ministry of a lay catechist. You may be involved in teaching Sunday School in your church, or leading small groups, or volunteering with the youth group. Perhaps you are an experienced teacher who wants to go deeper into the Christian faith, to be better equipped to teach it to others. Or perhaps you would like training in how to be a more effective teacher or small group leader. If any of this is true, then being a Catechist may be what God is calling you to.

Lay Evangelists: If you, your priest, and your Christian community have discerned in you a particular gifting and passion for sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ with those who do not know him, then you may be called to the ministry of a lay evangelist. You may find yourself sharing the faith in daily conversations with friends or co-workers, or feel led by the Spirit to share the Gospel with someone sitting next to you in an airport. Perhaps you would love to be better equipped to share your faith, but sometimes feel uncomfortable doing so. Perhaps you are already gifted in bearing witness to the Gospel, but would like better training in Christian doctrine, apologetics, or cross-cultural ministry. If any of this true, then you may be called to be an Evangelist.

