GLOBAL METHODIST CHURCH | **CERTIFIED LAY MINISTRY TRAINING COURSE**

Basic Bible: Introduction to Scripture and Inductive Bible Study

Course Dates:
Friday, October 2, 5:30PM–8PM (Introduction to Scripture, Dr. Matt Ayars,
Saturday, October 3, 8:30AM–1PM (Introduction to Inductive Bible Study, Dr. Rick Boyd)

Course Description

This course provides a foundational introduction to the nature, formation, interpretation, and practical study of the Christian Scriptures. Students will explore how the Bible came into being, how the canon was recognized by the Church, how the Scriptures have been transmitted and translated through history, and how Christians can faithfully read and interpret the Bible today. Special attention will be given to Christian bibliology, including the doctrines of inspiration, authority, inerrancy, sufficiency, clarity, and the unity of Scripture.

The course also introduces students to inductive Bible study methods, equipping them to read Scripture carefully, contextually, and faithfully. Students will learn how to interpret biblical texts according to genre, literary structure, historical context, and canonical themes while avoiding common interpretive errors. By the end of the course, students should be able to approach Scripture with greater confidence, theological understanding, and practical skill for teaching, preaching, discipleship, and personal spiritual formation.

Learning Outcomes

By the completion of this course, students should be able to:

1. Explain the basic development, structure, and organization of the Old and New Testaments.
2. Describe the historical formation of the biblical canon and explain the relationship between Christian doctrine and the recognition of canonical Scripture.
3. Identify the major doctrines of Christian bibliology, including inspiration, authority, inerrancy, sufficiency, clarity, and the unity of Scripture.
4. Demonstrate an understanding of the history of biblical manuscripts, textual transmission, and the development of major Bible translations.
5. Distinguish between major English Bible translations and explain the differences between formal equivalence, dynamic equivalence, and paraphrase translations.
6. Articulate the overarching redemptive message of Scripture from Genesis to Revelation.
7. Define and recognize major biblical literary genres and explain how genre affects interpretation.
8. Apply inductive Bible study principles to interpret biblical books, passages, and pericopes responsibly and contextually.
9. Analyze the relationship between the larger message of a biblical book and the interpretation of its individual parts.

10. Utilize basic Bible study tools and resources, including study Bibles, concordances, Bible dictionaries, online resources, and commentaries.
11. Recognize common interpretive errors caused by deductive reading strategies, proof-texting, and neglect of literary or historical context.
12. Demonstrate increased confidence and competency in reading, studying, and teaching Scripture within the life of the Church.

Required Reading

- *The Holy Bible* (students are strongly encouraged to read the Bible from Genesis to Revelation before taking the course) | Recommended translation/versions:
  - ESV Study Bible
  - New Living Translation
  - New International Version
  - New Amercan Standard (1994 Edition)
  - New Revised Standard Version
- *How to Read the Bible for All Its Worth* by Gordon D. Fee and Douglas Stuart

Recommended Reading

- *Inductive Bible Study* by David R. Bauer and Robert A. Traina
- *The Hermeneutical Spiral* by Grant Osborne
- *The Bible as Literature* by David Grubbs
- *Can We Trust Bible Translations?* by Bill Mounce
- *Why Knowing Biblical Greek Matters* by Bill Mounce
- *Whose Bible Is It?* A Short History of the Scriptures by Jaroslav Pelikan
- *Essential Bible Study Tools* for Ministry by David R. Bauer

Link to Supplemental Resources