

## *The Lay Ministry Institute of the American Baptist Churches of Connecticut*

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On the behalf of the American Baptist Churches, welcome to what we believe will be a wonderful journey that is aimed at assisting lay persons in developing a deeper and more meaningful relationship with God. There are many benefits of developing this deeper relationship with God. Persons who work to develop a deeper relationship with God, usually practice a more committed form of Christian discipleship. This practice includes the discovery of one's calling and giftedness for life, a better competency in the life of the local congregation, and an increased level of confidence in one's ability to serve God and the church.

There are three Cycles of the Lay Ministry Institute of the American Baptist Churches of Connecticut:

### **Cycle 1- Biblical Foundations**

### **Cycle 2- Discovering Our Giftedness and Uniqueness for Ministry**

### **Cycle 3- Investing Ourselves into the Kingdom of God**

Individuals who successfully complete all three cycles will graduate from the Institute and receive a Certificate of Completion. Successful completion of the Lay Ministry is a wonderful personal, spiritual and intellectual achievement. Your graduation from the Lay Ministry Institute indicates your commitment to excellence and a determination to mature in your faith. The Institute's goal is also to help you to develop into a stronger lay leader for your church. Your journey will begin with 5 classes for each cycle. Each class lays the foundation for good Christian discipleship. The classes in Cycle 1 are designed to provide a solid **Biblical Foundation** for future growth and Christian maturity. The focus of Cycle 2 is **Discovering Our Giftedness and Uniqueness in Ministry**. The focus of Cycle 3 is **Investing Ourselves into the Kingdom of God**.

The **Biblical Foundations** cycle will take place in the Summer of 2017 and will consist of 5 classes that are designed to help strengthen six areas of a Christian's life. Each class session consists of a lecture that takes place in the morning. In the afternoon, the student will be given a laboratory assignment that must be completed alone or in a group. The day ends with a time for group reflection. Reflection time is an opportunity for the entire class to learn from the insights of one another. All laboratory work must be completed and turned in by the last afternoon. The laboratory work represents the student's ability to understand and to utilize the resources that are necessary for the development of the disciplines of the Christian faith. Therefore, it is important that the student makes every effort to complete each assignment in a timely manner.

The classes offered in Cycle 2 and Cycle 3 will follow a format similar to those in Cycle 1. The Course Outline and the requirements for each Cycle will be furnished when the student registers. There will be an application process and a fee as well as opportunities for scholarships. It is our hope that you will prayerfully consider enrolling and ultimately graduating for the Lay Ministry Institute.

ABCCONN Lay Ministry Institute has been designed to meet the need of our laity so that you will be better equipped to meet the challenges of the Christian life in this 21<sup>st</sup> century. This will result in mature disciples and healthier congregations that will bear much fruit for the Kingdom of God.



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*Lay Ministry Institute*

**CYCLE 1**  
**Biblical Foundations**  
**Summer 2017**

**CYCLE 2**  
**Discovering Our Giftedness and**  
**Uniqueness and for the Ministry**

**CYCLE 3**  
**Investing Ourselves into the**  
**Kingdom of God.**

