



SAVANNAH PRESBYTERY'S
J. RICHARD BASS

School
OF THE Laity



Since 1988, Savannah Presbytery has offered the J. Richard Bass School of the Laity, a two-year program that has strengthened the faith and equipped the leadership of more than 320 graduates throughout our presbytery (and beyond). Over the past few years, courses have been opened to persons who would like to engage in single classes rather than commit to the full, two-year coursework, allowing them to participate as their schedules and interests permit. We have also been encouraged by the continuous return of SOL graduates who have chosen to engage in an intriguing study or retake a core course.

In response to the recent health pandemic, Savannah Presbytery moved its School of the Laity program *online*, which had the benefit of making our courses accessible to a wider audience. With this wider reach, and with anticipated ongoing pandemic concerns, we will be advancing into a *hybrid-model* of the School of the Laity for June of 2021 where participants will be able to choose to join online or be part of a limited, in-person class. **Our March session, however, will be ONLINE only.** Here is the line-up of our March course offerings:

MARCH 13-14, 2021



NEW TESTAMENT SURVEY

This course, led by Rev. Dr. Mitzi Smith, the J. Davison Philips Professor of New Testament at Columbia Theological Seminary in Decatur, Georgia, will offer a general overview of the New Testament with an emphasis on examining *contexts* - the historical and literary contexts of the Biblical writings as well as one's own personal context – and their roles in our goal of interpreting and understanding the New Testament. Participants will also discuss and prioritize contemporary justice issues when reading the New Testament.

In preparation for the class, students are asked to obtain a study Bible with Apocrypha (such as *The Harper Collins NRSV Study Bible*) and read *Toward Decentering the New Testament: A Reinroduction* by Mitzi J. Smith and Yung Suk Kim

PRESBYTOPIA: A Celebration of All Things Presbyterian!

Participants will join Rev. Andy Meeker, pastor of Wilmington Island Presbyterian Church in Savannah, to look at how our Reformed/Presbyterian history, theology and practices continue to shape our understandings of God, our lives and the world around us. Special emphasis will be placed on gaining a deeper appreciation of John Calvin, the 16th century reformer and our spiritual forefather. In preparation for the class, students are asked to read one (or more) of the following: *Being Presbyterian in the Bible Belt: A Theological Survival Guide for Youth, Parents, & Other Confused Presbyterians*, Foote & Thornburg; *Presbyterian Questions, Presbyterian Answers*, McKim; *More Presbyterian Questions, More Presbyterian Answers*, McKim; *Presbyterian Beliefs, Revised Edition: A Brief Introduction*, McKim; *The Presbyterian Handbook*; *Calvin for Armchair Theologians*, Elwood



Registration Forms are available at www.savannahpresbytery.org

Questions? Contact Marty Susie, SOL Registrar, at msusie1@savannahpresbytery.org