

DIOCESE OF VERMONT
LONG-TERM CHRISTIAN FORMATION PROGRAMS
Updated April 2007

PROGRAM	TIME COMM.	TRAINING REQ'S	COST	RESOURCES TO HELP PAY	WHO'S DOING IT OR HAS?	THEOLOGY/NOTES
Adult Journey	3 years, 25 sessions/year, 1.5-2.5 hours/week	Leader must be skilled in psychology or reflection	\$139.95 per congregation (includes Leader's Guide, Participant's Book and Congregational Use License on CD-ROM)		Has not been used in Vermont	http://www.leaderresources.org/view/products/item/88/ Provides Biblical and spiritual growth Addresses two questions: "How does my story resonate with the Gospel story?" and "How can I live the Gospel story in my life?" Less academic, more spiritual approach Could be led by laypeople
Alpha	15 weeks, 3 hours/week	Requires facilitator, music entertainer	No charge; donations accepted toward food and cost of weekend away.	N/A	John Mitchell; Manchester; Chester; Colchester; Randolph; Trinity Lutheran and St. Michael's, Brattleboro	http://alphacourse.org/ Conservative and evangelical Materials need to be adapted to be inclusive Needs more than one leader Structure: Supper: light meal together at beginning of each session that gives people a chance to get to know each other; after each talk, participants divide into small groups to discuss the topic of the evening, ask questions and express opinions; small groups: listen, learn, discuss and discover, ask anything.
Cathedral Meditation Center	Meditation Group: Tuesday evenings during academic year. Introductory course: 5 weeks	Led by Dean Poppe	No cost		Cathedral Church of St. Paul, Burlington	http://www.stpaulscathedralvt.org/www.stpaulscathedralvt.org_files/page0005.htm The Christian Meditation Group meets each Tuesday evening. This form of silent, imageless prayer using a mantra or prayer word, rooted in the New Testament, was taught by John Cassian and the 4th century Desert Christians, and is found in the fourteenth century, "The Cloud of Unknowing." Meditation, also known as contemplative prayer, seeks God in silence and stillness beyond word and thought. Newcomers are welcomed to the group to discover this ancient prayer tradition for contemporary men and women. The meeting includes quiet music, a short talk on meditation, 30 minutes of silent meditation, followed by a question and answer period and ending with the short service of Compline. Introduction to Christian Meditation is a course taught by

						Dean Ken Poppe and offered at various times at the cathedral and throughout the Diocese of Vermont. The course will focus on the practice of Christian contemplative prayer. Each session will consist of a regular time for silent meditation and a presentation of a different way of contemplative prayer, ancient and modern, from Christian tradition and its practice. Participants will set aside time each day for meditation, keep a journal and share their experiences with the group.
Clinical Pastoral Education (ACPE accredited)	400 hours combined practical and classroom training in pastoral care. 2 days per week Sept.-April or full-time 10 weeks in summer.	Certified CPE Supervisor in an accredited CPE center/institution	\$700 per unit	Continuing Education grants through Committee on Christian Formation; limited scholarships.	Fletcher Allen Health Care; Dartmouth Hitchcock Med Ctr; 300+ centers throughout USA.	www.ACPE.org Interfaith, nationally-accredited program in pastoral care open to laypersons, seminarians, and clergy.
College of Preachers	One week per session for as many sessions as desired (first come, first served). At least four conferences required from the regular program offerings of the College.	Professional staff, some employed in DC, others (e.g., Herbert O'Driscoll) brought in.	Core Curriculum Program: \$500 plus registration fees for conferences.		Nationwide participation	http://www.collegeofpreachers.org/ Designed around the liturgical year, this preaching and reflection component is done within the participant's regular preaching setting. A lay listening committee meets regularly with the preacher to provide feedback and assistance on nine sermons that are delivered over the course of the year. The preacher and listening committee also receive feedback from a reader who is on the College's Associate Faculty. The Parish Component of the Core Curriculum Program recognizes that maximum growth in preaching requires more than study leave or continuing education.
Diocesan Study Program (DSP)	2 years, one Sat. a month Sept. through June	Co-leaders and guest lecturers	\$250 per year plus cost of textbooks	Scholarship funds available (through Diocese?)	The Rev. Dr. Lee Alison Crawford; Anne Clarke Brown; Liz Stedman; John Morris	http://www.dioceseofvermont.org/Education/DSP.html Vermont program in operation since 1970s Open to lay and ordained leaders Curriculum includes study of theology, church history, scripture, ethics, etc. Certificate and diploma options

Disciples of Christ in Community (DOCC)	21 weeks, 1.5-2 hours/week (shorter version of EFM)	Off-site training for presenter and facilitator for 3 days	\$240 leadership training plus \$55 per participant and \$350 for materials		Lisette Baxter, St. Andrews, Colchester. Used extensively in Vermont.	http://www.sewanee.edu/Theology/DOCCFolder/DOCCHome.html In-depth like EFM but easier Academically challenging EFM graduate can teach it Has youth program for 16-20-year-olds
Education for Ministry (EFM)	4 years; weekly meetings 34 weeks/year	Mentor trained and certified by Sewanee	\$340/annual with license; \$450/annual without license		Ann Ely; Tanya Wallace; Joel Hill. Leslie Black helps run an EFM group in Hanover, NH, which has folk from both dioceses.	http://www.sewanee.edu/EFM/EFMhome.html One of earliest lay ministry programs; now used internationally Similar to attending seminary Certificate upon completion Academic and personal growth Option (requirement?) for weekly homework Extensive time commitment for leader and team Language would need to be adapted
Fresh Start	Clergy – once a month for 18 months. Lay Leaders – 4 times a year on a Saturday for up to 3 years.	None	Carried by the diocese. This is a national program brought to Vermont. The start-up costs were \$1200 for training each Fresh Start facilitator. Currently 5 trained facilitators in VT.	NA	Running in over 60 dioceses. VT has about 10 clergy who were or are in transition and who have participated. Lay leader program starts Feb. 2005. Ca. 12 congregations invited. VT one of the first to use lay leaders approach.	http://www.episcopalfoundation.org/research/freshstart.html By invitation to clergy and congregational lay leaders that are in transition. “Transition” usually means from the time a priest who is in charge leaves her/his congregation until 18-24 months after the new priest has arrived. Also for newly ordained clergy. Most important part is building deep relationships between and among clergy, congregations and the Ministry Support Team. Thus, program “modules” (25 total) are about facilitating a conversation more than imparting knowledge. “The wisdom is in the room” – participants share experiences and knowledge together. Program based on national church research that shows that first 18-24 months of relationship between a clergy leader and congregation are crucial for successful ministry. Program tries to smooth bumps of transition.
Kerygma, “Discovering the Bible”	Sept.-May (30 weeks)	Provides study guides, leader’s guide, training weekend, idea book			Used in 20,000 churches over 25 years	http://www.kerygma.com/courses/foundational/discovering.htm “Not for the faint of heart” Covers entire Bible Small group discussion and interaction

Leadership Academy for New Directions (LAND)	Decided by Diocese	Designed to suit diocesan or congregational needs, ministry development “projects” are designed in peer support groups for use in participants’ local contexts.			Genie Rayner, Molly Comeau, Jean Jersey, Lori Borden, Tom Ely	http://cep.anglican.ca/browse_courses.php?action=submit&table=institutions&id=410 Sponsored by New Directions Ministries, Inc. Contact: Warren Frelund, Mason City, IA (wffrelund@mchsi.com) See links for Small Church Ministries on various ECUSA websites. Diocesan and/or regional programs and process focused on training all baptized members of all orders in ministry development especially for small and/or rural congregations and communities.
Leadership Program for Musicians (LPM)	3 years, currently on hiatus					http://www.wartburg.edu/discovering/lpm.html
LifeCycles	Three cycles with 6 units/modules (36 sessions). May be expanded, can be repeated and/or continuous.	12 sessions for leadership training – 6 on Baptismal Covenant and Book of Common Prayer, 6 on ministry in daily life. Outlines of daily devotions and Bible study methods; general session format if going beyond 12 sessions. Leaders’ Guide available. Overview and sample pages at www.leaderresources.org/discipleship.htm . Also available (among many other possibilities): Discipleship Groups. Volunteer consultant (usually local) as support/facilitator.	Congregational membership (limited-use license) of 3-year commitment, based on size of congregation: 1-25/ \$200; 26-75/\$300; 76-200/\$400; 201-800/\$500. Diocesan membership also available, with access to more resources.		Bellows Falls, “Gather at the River Regional Ministry,” Three Rivers Regional Ministry, St. Mark’s, Newport St. Andrew’s, St. Johnsbury	www.leaderresources.org/downloads/memberships/lifecycles/intro_and_overview Experiential activities for small groups of adults involving liturgy and reflection on learning and ministry. Purpose: to deepen baptismal ministry in local settings; to become more articulate, active “apostles at work in God’s world” in “vital, ministering communities” by engaging scripture, creative liturgy, inviting a deeper spiritual life, supporting participants in ministry, and developing knowledge and skills for Christian living. Primary audience: congregations wanting to strengthen spiritual formation and pastoral leadership. Minimal reading required, but options for more in-depth reading and exploration available. Participants expected to have or develop a Rule of Life.

Pastoral Enrichment Program	2003-2007		Varies – usually none	Underwritten by a grant from the Lilly Foundation	Susan Ohlidal	http://www.dioceseofvermont.org/PastoralEnrProg/PEPhone.html Program coordinated between Episcopal Divinity School and Dioceses of Vermont, New Hampshire and Maine. Opportunities to deepen baptismal ministry, strengthen ministerial arts, continue education, refresh and renew spiritually. Specific opportunities available: Week-long Study Leave at EDS, workshop opportunities on baptismal ministry, Week-long Summer Course at EDS, variety of continuing education for pastoral leaders.
Spiritual Formation Project	2004-2006	Current Spiritual Directors; others interested in spiritual formation programs and group direction	varies	Underwritten by a grant from Trinity Wall Street Foundation	Susan Ohlidal, Jane Wolf	Project in conjunction with Pastoral Enrichment Program; offers further education and training to current spiritual directors, including developing skills for group spiritual direction. Opportunities to learn and practice Spiritual Fitness as formation practice with in-depth opportunities to become Spiritual Fitness Trainer in local community/region.
via media	None	Training includes one day express training, curriculum CD-Rom, marketing materials on CD-Rom, 8 part single DVD video series. Training locations vary across the U.S.	\$495/parish. Note: should the diocese determine to become a participant/sponsor, the cost per parish would decrease.	McClure Initiative II grants	St. James, Arlington; St. Peter's, Bennington; St. Mary's, Northfield; St. John's, Randolph; St. John's in the Mountains, Stowe	http://www.everyvoice.net/viamedia/ Program represents renewed commitment to evangelism in the Episcopal Church. An evangelism tool that presents the basic tenets of Christianity from an inclusive, Anglican approach to scripture, traditions, and reason. Leads participants to a broader view of the journey of faith and the role that the Church can play in society. Represents an inherently Anglican program that represents the mainstream of American Anglicanism and will help grow the Episcopal Church.