TO SERVE THIS PRESENT AGE

CLC Course #1: We Serve the Same God: The Varieties of Black Religious Experience
Black religion is unique in using the rich and varied resources of black life and culture in articulating the depth and dynamism of the black religious experience. This workshop will highlight the diversity of black religious experiences as critical resources for empowering the Black Church in our contemporary moment. Recommended for: Laity, Clergy, Ministry Leaders, and Christian Educators

CLC Course #2: Using Technology to Amplify the Messages of the Black Church
Websites, social media, email, tablets—you name it—are present in today’s church environment. Using them well or not can aid or block churches from connecting with certain groups of people. This workshop is designed to assist participants with creating strategies for employing technology as an outreach, evangelism, and congregational care resource. Focusing more on technology as a communication tool, the instructor will focus on ways to share a congregation’s profile and news with the world and/or with its members. Recommended for: Communications Ministry, Clergy, Technology Ministry, and Curious Pew Leaders

CLC Course #3: Exploring Religious Identity and Race through Civil Dialogue
What does it mean to be religious in this time and in this place—and in your body? Participants will explore how religious individuals and communities construct religious identity in the United States, focusing especially on the intersection of religion and race. This workshop challenges participants to consider how religious identity extends beyond “faith” to include other aspects of identity. Workshop exercises will empower attendees to explore religious identity in community by exercising the skills of civil dialogue. Recommended for: Human Beings who want to Step Up to Hard Conversations

THE MINISTRY OF CARE AND SELF-CARE

CLC Course #4: Valuing Intergenerational Dialogue
This class will explore strategies for implementing inter-generational dialogue in churches, focusing on active listening, managing cultural differences, and a commitment to include all members in the life of the church.

CLC Course #5: Red, Black & Green: African American Church Leading in Creation Care
This workshop will explore the features of a green gospel and the actions necessary to face the challenges of ministry in the midst of disasters like Hurricanes Katrina (New Orleans), Harvey (Houston) and Maria (The Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico) which impact African Americans and people of color disproportionately as well as ways to develop coalitions which ensure that churches and communities live their best lives. Church leaders are more equipped than they believe to recognize community priorities, implement plans and projects that contribute to the well-being and flourishing of their members and the communities where they serve. Recommended for: Social/Political Action Ministry Leaders, Trustees, Clergy, and Pew Leaders

CLC Course #6: Beyond Sunday: When and How to Care for Your Congregation.
This session in congregational care and grief ministry is designed to assist congregational leaders with helping people with the difficult moments in their lives. The world is much more aware of the problems that result when a person’s mental health is neglected. The class will address death and dying and mental health concerns such as trauma, addictions, and depression. This class will give participants assistance with knowing when to refer persons for professional care. Recommended for: Clergy, Congregational Care Leaders, Missionaries

NURTURING THE NEXT GENERATION OF LEADERS

CLC Course #7: Youth Middle & High Class
This session is a town hall that gives each young person a safe space to talk about our world. From “Black Lives Matter” to making church a more inviting place, the group will talk and plan. The presenter will introduce activities that call for talk to turn into action—in the church and beyond. Recommended for: Youth – Middle School and High School

THE MINISTRY OF CHRISTIAN (LEADERSHIP) EDUCATION

CLC Course #8: Effective Leadership for the Black Church
Leaders in this workshop will examine the mission and ministry of their local congregation as a way to determine the church’s effectiveness. While some congregations do not take time to grade themselves, yearly or quarterly evaluations can be a way to steer the church back on course. Participants will gain insight into developing ministry mission statements and identifying service opportunities around key questions for ministry leaders and members. The session will take seriously the needs of a congregation’s local, regional, and global neighbors as fundamental starting points for living the sacrifice that God desires from us. Recommended for: Learners and Leaders

CLC Course #9: Bible Based in the Black Church
The Bible is a fascinating and inspiring collection of texts. Written across centuries, writers told the story of their belief in God and God’s work in history. This course examines this wonderful collection and provides resources for studying it. The instructor will build on devotional approaches to the study of the Bible by presenting resources for reflecting on its historical and literary aspects.

CLC Course #10: Embodying the Spirit: Worship and the Arts in the 21st Century
Artists live among us in the church. Though we sometimes limit the arts to music in worship, the arts can infuse worship with visual inspiration and words of encouragement. From spoken word and drama to paintings and praise dance, worship can find meaning in these expressions of service. The instructor and participants will develop ways to make the arts a vibrant part of congregational life. Recommended for: Worship and the Arts Ministry, Clergy Leaders, Ministers of Music, Pew Leaders, and Drama Ministry

CLC Course #11: The Future of Gospel Music in the Black Church
This course will show technological advances and resources for the choir director/musician for the future. Many times singers don’t want to stay in rehearsal long to learn necessary fundamentals. It will cover additional ways for home study with expectation of still time in actual rehearsal. Recommended for: Worship and the Arts Ministry, Clergy Leaders, Ministers of Music

CLC Course #12: Christian Formation for Christian Educators
Christian Formation is a lifelong journey of spiritual maturation that transcends all ages. It vibrantly engages persons in growing in their relationship with God, self, others, and the world. This class invites Christian Educators to seriously 1) examine their personal continuous journey towards being formed, informed and transformed by God; 2) explore several sources and resources for living a growing relationship with God, self, others and the world; and, 3) explore the impact of why, who, what, when, where and how of teaching. Recommended for: Clergy Leaders, Christian Educators, Ministry Leaders

CLC Course #13: Bi-vocational Ministry and the Health of the Minister
There is no such thing as a “part-time” pastor. The bi-vocational minister manages multiple professional responsibilities in addition to the care that she/he shows the members of a congregation. Something has to give, right? This workshop offers healthy and sustainable practices for the bi-vocational minister and/or aspiring—called bi-vocational minister. Recommended for: Clergy Leaders

THE MINISTRY OF STEWARDSHIP

CLC Course #14: Beyond the Tithe: An Economic Model for Church Sustainability
The work of missions is risky business! What is my reasonable service as it relates to living the Great Commission of the Church? What are the risks of setting the captives free; from spiritual prisons and/or physical ones? How do we move our congregations from the comfort of the pew in worship to the example of our Christ’s sermon in Luke 4? This session will provide strategies for educating congregations about mission activities that are more than giving money. It will also provide ways to develop mission and outreach ministries that budget time and money creatively. Recommended for: Missions Ministry, Deacons and Deaconesses, Clergy