

**CERTIFICATE
IN
THEOLOGY PROGRAM**



The Journey Continues



Dr. Edward L. Wheeler, President
Interdenominational Theological Center

MISSION STATEMENT

THE INTERDENOMINATIONAL THEOLOGICAL CENTER (ITC) is a consortium of six denominational seminaries whose mission is to educate Christian leaders for ministry and service in the Church and the global community. ITC educates and nurtures women and men who commit to and practice a liberating and transforming spirituality; academic discipline; religious, gender, and cultural diversity; and justice and peace.



ARE
YOU
CALLED
TO MAKE A
DIFFERENCE?

THE ITC CERTIFICATE IN THEOLOGY PROGRAM CAN HELP YOU ALONG THE JOURNEY!

The Certificate in Theology Program, unlike any other continuing education module, provides persons with a recent call to ministry, those who are veterans in pastoral ministry, and laypersons with a desire to know more and become empowered for greater service, to study and learn together. It is a rare and enriching educational context that is cross-denominational and cross cultural. Students listen, learn, and engage in the richness of dialogue among peers, and prepare and deliver coursework under the instruction of many of the same learned scholars that teach in the masters' degree curriculum of the Interdenominational Theological Center (ITC).

3

In existence for two decades, the Certificate in Theology Program has become intrinsically woven in the tapestry of ITC. Extending beyond the gates of the academy in Atlanta, GA, the program has been offered in more than fifty (50) cities throughout the United States, Canada, Japan and the Caribbean, graduating nearly 1500 students. Supported by ITC's President, distinguished faculty and President-Deans of the Constituent Seminaries, the Certificate in Theology Program continues to grow.

On the premise that the education process never ends as you prepare to serve in the local or broader community, and extending to the global Church; we encourage you to fulfill your calling to make a difference by enrolling in this exciting and rewarding program of theological education that promises to challenge you while honing your academic and spiritual growth.

For information on Certificate Program study sites in your area or how to become a host site, contact the Certificate Program Office at 404.527.7766 or email scaswell@itc.edu. You may also visit our website at www.itc.edu.



The Certificate in Theology Program is designed to provide an organized, structured series of courses for ministers and lay persons who want to improve their knowledge and preparedness for ministry. Because this is a Certificate Program, all interested persons, with or without college degrees, are invited to participate. The courses are taught by seminary-trained instructors with Master's or Doctoral Degrees and feature recorded lectures by members of ITC's distinguished faculty.

The program is offered in a way that minimally taxes the students' time or budget, while providing learning in an ecumenical context and the opportunity to interact and dialogue among peers with various philosophical and theological viewpoints. Our goals include the broadening of students' perspectives infused with scholarly instruction and the strengthening of the students' ability and resolve to go and serve where God leads.

The program consists of approximately nine to twelve months of study during which a student may complete eight (8) courses. Each course lasts approximately 4-6 weeks (one class session per week) and two or more courses will be offered during each term.

COURSE OFFERINGS:

- **INTRODUCTION TO NEW TESTAMENT**
- **INTRODUCTION TO PASTORAL CARE**
- **INTRODUCTION TO CHURCH ADMINISTRATION**
- **HISTORY OF THE AFRICAN-AMERICAN CHURCH**
- **INTRODUCTION TO PHILOSOPHY & THEOLOGY**
- **INTRODUCTION TO CHRISTIAN EDUCATION**
- **INTRODUCTION TO HEBREW BIBLE/OLD TESTAMENT**
- **INTRODUCTION TO PREACHING & MISSIOLOGY**



001 - Introduction to New Testament

This course provides a beginning introduction to the New Testament. After touching on the historical situation in which Christianity arose, it examines the gospels and the tradition about Jesus, the major letters of Paul, and the book of Revelations. We will ask about the authors and intended readers of the New Testament writings, and about their structures, and aims. In this way, the student may gain a basic understanding of what the New Testament is and what messages its writers were trying to communicate.

002 - Introduction to Pastoral Care

The purpose of this course is to introduce students to the ministry of care within local congregations. The basic assumption of the course is that the ministry of care in the local church is the work of the entire congregation including the pastor as well as the members of the church.

003 - Introduction to Church Administration

The purpose of this course is to teach church leaders how to plan, implement, and evaluate the effectiveness of administrative roles and responsibilities, as well as, train and motivate others to support church programs and ministries to ensure progress.

004 – History of the African-American Church

This course focuses on a critical analysis of the origin, growth, accommodation and modification of the history of the Black Religious Experience through the emergence of the institutional life of the Black Church.

005 - Introduction to Christian Education

This course offers an examination of the origin, extent, influences, potential, and direction of Christian religious education in the Church. The students will explore contemporary challenges that call for Christian educational responses and will develop appropriate models for congregational learning.

006 – Introduction to Philosophy and Theology

This course is designed to provide an overview of the significant aspects of philosophy, which are directly connected to and have impacted theology. This course will introduce the student to the nature and content of philosophy and theology giving attention to the development of church doctrines. Additionally, an emphasis will be placed on the contemporary Black Christian experience in a globalized society.

007 - Introduction to Hebrew Bible/Old Testament

This Hebrew Bible/Old Testament survey course is intended to: 1) Center the Bible in the Christian faith by critically examining how the Bible that was written by human beings could be regarded as the infallible word of God. 2) Enable students to appreciate the process by which the canon of the Bible emerged. 3) Show how, in spite of its infallibility, the Bible is the inspired word of God. 4) Introduce methods of studying the Hebrew Bible/Old Testament with special reference to the historical-critical method.

008 - Introduction to Preaching and Missiology

This course is designed to bring together the theoretical and practical aspects of sermon development. Students explore a theological understanding of preaching and a psychological-sociological analysis of the formal elements of sermon development, construction, and delivery. Students write and deliver sermons in a clinical experience. Evaluation and discussion occur in peer situations to aid the student's effectiveness in using the sermon as a liberating force in contemporary times.

The **Missiology** component explores the theological and anthropological basis for understanding Christian mission in today's complex and diverse world. While we begin with an introduction to the academic discipline entitled Missiology, we are introduced to biblical, theological and ecclesiological sources that help shape authentic and relevant responses and approaches toward three major missional themes challenging the contemporary church: ecumenism, evangelism, and inter-religious/interfaith dialogue.



TUITION

Tuition is **\$200.00 per course**, \$100.00 of which must be paid at the time of registration or at the first class. The balance is payable within two weeks. This schedule must be followed by all students and financial aid is not available through ITC for participants in the Certificate in Theology Program.

TEXTBOOKS

Students are responsible for purchasing textbooks for the courses. A list of book titles and ISBN numbers are provided to students upon enrollment in the program. The textbooks are moderately priced and may be purchased at local book stores or through online sources such as www.amazon.com and www.cokesbury.com.

CLASS SCHEDULES

Classes usually meet on a mid-week evening from 6:00 p.m. until 9:00 p.m. or on a Saturday morning from 9:00 a.m. until 12:00 noon. However, in consideration of the schedules and needs of all concerned, other class meeting times may be determined mutually by the Coordinator, Instructor and students. NOTE: Since class meeting days and times vary, you may contact the Certificate Program Office for information relative to a specific study site location. The courses may be offered in the order listed in this brochure.

COURSE CREDITS

Students are evaluated on a non-academic “Pass”/”Fail” grading system and those who complete all eight (8) courses receive the Certificate in Theology and earn twelve (12) Continuing Education Units (C.E.U.s). Because this is a program of enrichment, degree credits cannot be earned and C.E.U. credits will not be converted into degree credits by ITC. The Certificate is issued at a special graduation ceremony held annually during ITC’s commencement weekend.



FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE PROGRAM CONTACT:

Ms. Susie Caswell, Program Director
ITC Office of the Certificate Program
700 Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive, SW
Atlanta, GA 30314
Phone: (404) 527-7766
Fax: (404) 527-0901
Email: scaswell@itc.edu

Visit ITC website at www.itc.edu

CONSTITUENT SEMINARIES

Gammon Theological Seminary
United Methodist

Charles H. Mason Theological Seminary
Church of God in Christ

Morehouse School of Religion
Baptist



Phillips School of Theology
Christian Methodist Episcopal

Turner Theological Seminary
African Methodist Episcopal

Harry V. & Selma T. Richardson
Ecumenical Fellowship
At Large