

Save These Dates

for Upcoming Events from the Perkins Office of External Programs

June 2021-May 2022

Certificate in Spiritual Direction, August Cohort Applications Due - June 30, 2021

Become a mentor in the Christian way of life and help others find the movement of the Holy Spirit in their lives. Every August and April new CSD cohorts are formed. Learn more by visiting smu.edu/perkins/csd or by calling 214-768-3664.

Testimony HQ: The Community Needs Your Story, Applications Due - July 1, 2021

Engage in the latest Lilly Endowment-funded initiative in the Office of External Programs, Testimony HQ, and learn how to introduce and foster testimony as community engagement in your congregation and neighborhood. Thirty churches (ten per year for three years) within a 350-mile radius of Dallas will be selected to participate. A downloadable application form will be available on June 1 at testimonyhq.com. Email testimonyhq@smu.edu for additional information or learn more in a related article on page 4 of this brochure.

The Roy D. Barton Lecture - September 20, 2021

Sponsored by the Perkins Hispanic/Latin@Ministries Program, the 2021 Roy D. Barton Lecture features Perkins graduate, Bishop Cynthia Fierro Harvey, who serves as Resident Bishop of the Louisiana Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church. For more information contact mhernandezprobus@smu.edu



Bishop Fierro Harvey



Alyce McKenzie



Owen Lynch

A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Pulpit! Preaching and Humor - October 18, 2021

This workshop, sponsored by the Perkins Center for Preaching Excellence, features two of SMU's Altshuler Distinguished Learning Professors, Dr. Alyce McKenzie and Dr. Owen Hanley Lynch. Explore the use of humor in sermons as more than a means for entertainment and laughter. Learn to harness the power of humor in its various forms and functions. Offer congregations a deeper, more challenging and delightful engagement of God's good news in their lives and the wider world. Contact preaching@smu.edu for more information.

Perkins Fall Convocation - November 15-16, 2021

After many months behind masks and closed doors, let's emerge and engage! Join us for this annual event where clergy, laity and anyone with a passion for life-long learning come together to explore relevant topics as they relate to church and community. This year's Fall Convocation is built around the theme, "Stories that Challenge, Connect and Heal," and will feature renowned speakers who will address each of those topics with engaging presentations. Plans at this time include in-person and virtual engagement. However, university health and safety protocols, based on recommendations from local health officials, may impact how registrants can participate in this event. For email updates on Fall Convocation event details and registration visit smu.edu/perkins/oepupdates and select Perkins Fall Convocation.



Lillian Daniel



Amy-Jill Levine



Patrick B. Reyes

Certificate in Spiritual Direction Continuing Education Workshop - December 1-2, 2021

Delve into the practice of spiritual direction to enhance your ministry or for your own personal benefit. This workshop will focus on “Internal Family Systems” as a resource for understanding relationships that shed light on the spiritual journey. Seasoned directors and newcomers alike are welcome. Visit smu.edu/perkins/csd for more information.



Perkins Certificate in Practical Ministry, January Term Courses - January 6 - 14, 2022

The Perkins Certificate in Practical Ministry is a continuing education track designed for non-credit students looking for specialized training in relevant, applicable, practical knowledge that informs and empowers their life-long spiritual journey and ministry. This program consists of five, two-hour graduate-level courses that will equip students for specialized practical ministry in their church or community context. Courses will be held during January and May Terms. Email theoexternalprograms@smu.edu or call 214-768-3664 to learn more.

January Courses and Meeting Dates:

Adaptive Leadership (hybrid) – January 6 – 8, 2022

Engaging the Bible – January 9 – 14, 2022

Developmental Stages – January 9 – 14, 2022

Perkins School of Youth Ministry - January 10-13, 2022

Perkins School of Youth Ministry coordinates training programs exclusively designed to resource those in the church whose ministries focus on youth and young adults. PSYM has been engaging and equipping youth workers every January since 1988. From the “Foundations” curriculum for newbies to offerings for seasoned youth ministry workers, PSYM enables a robust community of learning where every youth worker is empowered to share their experiences, contexts, successes, and failures. Visit perkinsyouth.com for more details.



Certificate in Spiritual Direction April Cohort, Applications Due - February 28, 2022

Become a mentor in the Christian way of life and help others find the movement of the Holy Spirit in their lives. Every April and August new CSD cohorts are formed. Learn more by visiting smu.edu/perkins/csd or by calling 214-768-3664.

Perkins Summit for Faith and Learning - March 24-26, 2022

Choose from a broad selection of courses on the Bible, theology and spirituality taught by Perkins faculty and esteemed guest, Dr. Angela Gorrell, Assistant Professor of Practical Theology, George W. Truett Theological Seminary. For email updates on Perkins Summit event details visit smu.edu/perkins/oepupdates and select Perkins Summit for Faith and Learning.



Angela Gorrell



Perkins Certificate in Practical Ministry, May Term Courses - May 19 - 27, 2022

These relevant, practical, continuing education courses build upon the January Term Courses listed above. Email theoexternalprograms@smu.edu or call 214-768-3664 to learn more.

May Courses and Meeting Dates:

UM Studies (hybrid) – May 19 – 21, 2022

Engaging Theology – May 22 – 27, 2022

Ministry with Youth – May 22 – 27, 2022

Disability Theology and Ministry 1 – May 22 – 27, 2022

Evangelism I – May 22 – 27, 2022

Perkins Certificate in Practical Ministry

New specializations are being developed to deepen your ministry.



The Perkins Certificate in Practical Ministry is a continuing education track designed for non-credit students looking for specialized training in relevant, applicable, practical knowledge that informs and empowers their life-long spiritual journey and ministry.

This program consists of five, two-hour graduate-level courses that will equip students for specialized practical ministry in their church or community context. Students begin their study with a series of courses featuring “fundamental” curriculum as a foundation. Two additional courses of specialized instruction fulfill each unique certificate. Courses will be held during January and May Terms. For more information email theoexternalprograms@smu.edu or call 214-768-3664.

Certificate Concentrations for 2022:

- Christian Education and Children's Ministry
- Disability Theology and Ministry
- Evangelism
- Spiritual Direction
- Young Adult Ministry
- Youth Ministry

Future Certificate Concentrations Under Consideration:

- Ministry on the Margins
- Sexuality and the Church
- Urban Ministry
- Women's Studies

Reboot Youth Ministry Initiative

Youth ministry restarts here.



Thanks to generous support from the Lilly Endowment, the Reboot team of Perkins School of Theology is here to bring a new approach to youth ministry—one that involves the whole church and that integrates work with youth into the life of the congregation. If your church is ready to be innovative, we can help you customize a plan that maximizes the particular gifts and mission of your people.

Get your congregation thinking, discussing, and praying about youth ministry. Where have you been? Where do you want to be headed? Our free, downloadable Reboot Starter Guide has been developed to put you on a path to imagine, dream, and plan a new approach to youth ministry that is as unique as your church. Visit rebootyouthministry.com to learn more and download your free Starter Guide.



Testimony HQ: Testimony as Community Engagement

Creating thriving congregations by sharing stories of God's presence in our lives.



The community needs your story

A seismic shift in church culture is currently emerging across the country: the integration of testimony as a means of community engagement. Perkins School of Theology is embracing this moment by helping congregations in the region thrive with their newest grant initiative, Testimony HQ.

Christians telling stories about how and where they experience God's activity in their life is "life-giving," writes Brian McLaren. "When people see how others are discerning the presence of God in their lives, they are inspired to do the same." Thanks to generous funding from the Lilly Endowment, Priscilla Pope-Levison and Bart Patton have launched the Testimony HQ program to increase the practice of testimony as community engagement both inside and outside the church.

Testimony HQ will introduce and foster the practice of testimony in 30 churches (10 cohorts per year for three years) within a 350-mile radius of Dallas. By generating safe havens where Christians learn how to express to others their understanding of God's movement in their lives, this program will help Perkins School of Theology to extend the breadth and depth of its stated mission, to prepare women and men for faithful leadership in Christian ministry.

If your church is ready for this venture – adventure! – into testimony as community engagement, we invite you to apply for a spot in our first cohort. Visit testimonyhq.com to download an application form. Applications will be available on June 1, 2021 and will be due by July 1.

