



# Exploring the UCC

a course in history, theology & polity

*The United Church of Christ* traces its roots to the earliest days of the Protestant Reformation—a denominational narrative that reflects the arc of Protestantism and the evolution of the American national story.

A denomination that believes *God is still speaking*, the UCC seeks to ensure its pastoral leaders spend time exploring the denomination's rich history, its covenantal and inclusive theology, and its organizational polity. Understanding where we've come from and how we arrived where we are informs both our present and our future—and reveals God's work in our corporate and individual lives through the centuries.

This eight-week course offers —

- structured online learning — with weekly assignments
- personal connection with weekly video conferences
- wide reading that seeks to spark interest and curiosity
- practical assignments that deepen a UCC connection

The goal: helping participants build a solid base of knowledge about the UCC — its history and story, its beliefs and practices, its structure and organizational norms — and deepen their affiliation with and identity in the United Church of Christ.

## The Essential Details

**DATES** Oct 1 – Nov 27  
Each course week is expected to run from Wednesday through Tuesday.

**COMMITMENT**  
Approx. 24-32 hours of classwork, including weekly video conferences, over eight weeks

**COST** \$575  
Scholarships may be available from your Committee on Ministry

**REQUIRED TEXTS**  
Walker, Randi Jones. *The Evolution of a UCC Style: History, Ecclesiology, and Culture of the United Church of Christ*

Zikmund, Barbara Brown, ed. *The Living Theological Heritage of the UCC, Volume 7: United & Uniting*

### Instructor: The Rev. Cheri Lovell



Ordained in the United Church of Christ in 1998, Cheri Lovell has served every level of the denomination in both professional and volunteer capacities. President of the Western North Carolina Association and a member of the Executive Committee of the Southern Conference Board of Directors, Cheri has worked with churches, pastors and lay leaders in every Conference of the UCC, and has attended nine General Synods.

An experienced instructor, Cheri serves as a member of the Lilly-funded Financial Literacy & Management in Ministry Project at Seattle University's School of Theology & Ministry. She has created curricula for two courses in the online post-graduate certificate program, and has taught three of the program's six courses. Cheri has also taught at Lancaster Seminary as a guest instructor, and has led workshops on a variety of topics across the UCC.

A graduate of the University of North Carolina, Cheri began her career in banking and investments before returning to Emory University to earn a Master of Divinity and a Certificate in Women's Studies. A consultant to churches and not-for-profit organizations, Cheri offers strategy, management and governance services through her Charlotte-based firm, The Strategic Org.

For more information and to register online, visit [exploringtheucc.org](http://exploringtheucc.org)