

Pilgrim Theological Seminary

“Preparing Christian Leaders to Serve the Church and the World.”

Welcome to Pilgrim Seminary (www.pilgrimseminary.org). Our mission is to provide minimal cost, high quality, theological education to men and women who live in the coastal South Carolina area and to others through our distance education and partnering churches program. In addition, we provide educational opportunities to persons incarcerated in federal and state prisons throughout the United States.

Pilgrim Theological Seminary currently offers an Associate in Ministry degree and a Bachelor of Divinity (B.Div.) degree. Myrtle Beach Wesleyan College, our sister institution, will offer an Associate of Christian Studies and a Bachelor of Christian Leadership degree when the college program begins in fall of 2020, although some courses will be made available before that time. The college will add a Bachelor of Christian Education degree beginning in the fall of 2021. Courses taken through the college and the seminary are inter-transferable.

Myrtle Beach Wesleyan College and Pilgrim Seminary is an incorporated South Carolina non-profit religious institution whose primary purpose is preparing Christian leaders to serve the church and the world. As an institution that offers only religious and theological degrees, the institution is exempt from oversight by the South Carolina Commission on Higher Education. The work of the seminary is overseen by a Board of Governors which is responsible for the institution's educational, operational, and fiscal integrity.

As a relatively new institution, we have considerable distance to travel before reaching many of our goals. Gaining full accreditation, a process which generally takes several years, is one of the highest priorities of our Board of Governors, as well as developing new and innovative educational programs to serve our students and the wider Christian community.

Pilgrim Seminary admits students of any race, color, national origin, and ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs, and activities generally accorded or made available to the students at the school. We do not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, or ethnic origin in the administration of its educational policies, admission policies, scholarship and loan programs, and athletic and other school programs.

Our Philosophical Roots



Pilgrim Seminary is in many ways a continuation of the work begun in the late 1800s by Rev. John Heyl Vincent, a bishop in the Methodist Episcopal Church. He was one of the earliest pioneers of what is today called distance education.

Bishop Vincent and several colleagues established the Chautauqua College of Liberal Arts and the Chautauqua School of Theology, allowing students to study in their own community through a rigorous program of directed self-study. He and Lewis Miller also founded Chautauqua Institution which still flourishes today in Western New York as a center for arts, religion, and culture.

We have built upon Bishop Vincent's belief that the opportunity for life-long education should be available to everyone.

- It is our belief that a person should be limited in the pursuit of higher education only by their desire and ability.
- We believe that the door to higher education, especially theological education, should be a wide open door.

- We reject the corrosive concept that higher education must be thought of as a high priced commodity to be bought and sold rather than as a precious inheritance that one generation passes on to the next.
- We believe that it is the right and duty of every individual to perfect their God given talents and to have access to the kind of education that will enable him or her to do so. None of us has all of the gifts that God can bestow, but each one of us has at least one gift which can be a blessing to another.

The times in which we live and the future vitality of the Church and our nation demand that people everywhere have access to easily accessible and affordable higher education. Such opportunity must be available to all, not just to persons of means or to those unfortunate souls willing to be burdened by years of barely manageable debt at the end of their higher education experience.

Our Educational Ministry with Prisoners

The Wesleyan tradition has a long history of ministry with men and women in prison. Some have said that the founders of Methodism, John and Charles Wesley, perhaps spent as much time at Newgate prison as they did at Aldersgate Church. John Wesley had a profound understanding of God's grace and spent his life proclaiming the good news of Christ to those who were often well outside the mainstream of society.

Over the last two centuries Methodists have established hundreds of colleges and universities, many of which were founded to meet the needs of “common” people. Pilgrim Seminary hopes to continue this legacy of Christian service, especially among those who can most benefit from the blessings of theological education.



To understand our educational ministry with incarcerated persons, one must understand that prisons are really communities. Many are larger than the small towns that surround them. There are approximately one thousand federal and state prisons in the United States and inside each of those prisons the Church is present, made up of the believers who live there. We call this the church-behind-the-wall.

It is a wonderful thing that congregations on the outside carry on ministries of many kinds with those who are incarcerated. However, only so much can be done by the church-outside-the-wall. The primary work of the Kingdom in prisons is entrusted to the believers who live on the inside. They know the language and culture of prison life. They are there 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Just as it is the task of God's people everywhere, it is their task to teach, proclaim, evangelize and serve in an effort to win and transform their prison community for Christ.

As Christians, we believe in the redemptive power of Christ that rescues us from who we once were and makes us new people. God's grace is never bound by human expectations but is freely given to all who will believe. And among those who believe, God especially calls some who once knew the depths of sin to now proclaim the heights of redemption through the set apart ministries of the church.

The believers in prison are often educationally under equipped to best fulfill their critical mission. Pilgrim Seminary is committed to educationally supporting the church-behind-the wall. We are also committed to helping every incarcerated man or woman who has the desire and ability to pursue higher education make the most of their God given gifts, talents, and abilities.

PILGRIM SEMINARY DEGREE PROGRAMS

The academic program of Pilgrim Theological Seminary is designed to help meet the educational needs of men and women who:

- Wish to develop a deeper understanding of the Christian faith in order that they may become more committed and effective followers of Jesus Christ for the sake of his Church and the world.
- Wish to pursue theological study but who, for a variety of reasons, are unable to avail themselves of campus oriented programs.
- Wish to develop knowledge and skills conducive to full time service in the church, or in Christian charitable and social service organizations.
- Wish to develop specialized knowledge and skills in specific areas of study.
- Wish to develop knowledge and skills conducive to helping people ravaged by the difficulties of life rebuild their lives.
- Wish to take programs of study in theology to augment and inform their studies in other disciplines.
- Need a convenient and inexpensive way to continue their theological education.

Our Educational Goals

It is the seminary's goal that students who graduate from this institution will be able to:

- Evidence spiritual growth in their Christian faith.
- Model servant leadership in his or her own life and in relationship to others.
- Interpret Scripture accurately.
- Think and reason theologically.
- Articulate the truth of the Christian faith, especially in light of competing points of view.
- Understand and make use of the basic documents of faith found in the Scripture, creeds, and traditions of the Church.
- Communicate clearly, responsibly, and with integrity in written and oral forms.
- Lead in Christian worship with reverence and relevance.
- Develop biblical perspectives on current issues facing the Church and society.
- Care for and guide others as valued persons who are loved by God.
- Demonstrate competency to teach and lead others.
- Develop lifelong habits that nurture physical, mental, and emotional well-being.
- Appreciate the importance of participating in civic life and volunteer service.
- Demonstrate competency in the essential skills and methods of their field of study to a professionally recognized standard.

Our Theological Foundations

All theological education programs are based upon certain core beliefs. Such beliefs influence the selection of faculty, the development and delivery of programs of study, and the overall educational mission of any institution of higher learning. Pilgrim Theological Seminary adheres to the historic beliefs of the Christian faith community found in the Apostles' and Nicene Creeds. The seminary's

statement of theological foundations is as follows:

God - We believe in the one true, holy and living God, Eternal Spirit, who is Creator, Sovereign and Preserver of all things visible and invisible. He is infinite in power, wisdom, justice, goodness and love. His mercy is over all his works and his will is ever directed to his children's good. We believe that the one God reveals himself as the Trinity: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, distinct but inseparable, eternally one in essence and power.

Jesus Christ - We believe in Jesus Christ, truly God and truly man, who is the gift of the Father's unending grace, the basis for our hope, the promise of our deliverance from sin and death. In Christ the divine and human natures are perfectly and inseparably united. He is the eternal Word made flesh, the only begotten Son of the Father, who was born of the Virgin Mary by the power of the Holy Spirit. As ministering Servant he lived, suffered and died on the cross. He was buried, rose from the dead, ascended into heaven and will come again to Earth. He is the Savior and Mediator, who intercedes for us, and by him every person will be judged.

The Holy Spirit - We believe in the Holy Spirit who proceeds from and is one in being with the Father and the Son. The Holy Spirit convinces the world of sin, righteousness and judgment and leads men and women through their faithful response to the gospel into the fellowship of the Church. He comforts, sustains and empowers the faithful and guides us into all truth.

The Bible - We believe that the Bible, Old and New Testaments, reveals the Word of God so far as it is necessary for our salvation. It is to be received through the Holy Spirit as the true rule and guide for faith and practice. Whatever is not revealed in or established by the Holy Scriptures is not to be made an article of faith, nor is it to be taught as essential to salvation.

The Church - We believe that the Christian Church is an inclusive community of all true believers under the Lordship of Christ. It is the redemptive fellowship in which the Word of God is faithfully preached by those divinely called, and the sacraments are duly administered according to Christ's own appointment. Under the discipline of the Holy Spirit the Church exists for the maintenance of worship, the edification of believers, and the conversion and redemption of the world.

The Sacraments - We believe that the Sacraments, ordained by Christ, are symbols and pledges of the Christian's profession of faith and of God's love toward us. They are means of grace by which God works invisibly in us, enlivening, strengthening and confirming our faith in him. We believe that the act of baptism signifies entrance into the household of faith. Baptism symbolizes repentance, inner cleansing from sin, new birth in Christ, and is a mark of Christian discipleship.

We believe that the Lord's Supper, or Eucharist, is a sign of our redemption, a memorial of the suffering and death of Christ, and a token of love and union that Christians have with Christ and with one another. Those who rightly, worthily, and in faith participate in Holy Communion partake of the body and blood of Christ in a spiritual manner until he comes.

Reconciliation and Salvation through Christ - We believe humanity is fallen from righteousness and, apart from the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, is destitute of holiness and is inclined to evil. Unless a person has a spiritual change of heart, he or she cannot see the Kingdom of God.

We believe God was in Jesus Christ reconciling the world to himself. The offering Christ freely made on the cross is the perfect and sufficient sacrifice for the sins of the whole world, redeeming humanity from all sin. We believe that salvation is a free gift of God's grace and is received through personal faith in Jesus Christ. In him all those who believe have eternal life, a perfect righteousness, adoption into the family of God, and the spiritual blessings needed for life.

Justification, Regeneration, and Sanctification - We believe that no person is accounted righteous before God through his or her good deeds or merit, but that those who are truly sorry for their sins and have faith in Jesus Christ are justified before God.

We believe that regeneration is the renewal of humanity in righteousness through Christ, by the power of the Holy Spirit. By this new birth the believer becomes reconciled to God and is enabled to serve him with heart, soul, mind and strength. Although we have experienced regeneration, it is possible to fall into sin; yet, even then, we may be renewed in righteousness by the grace of God.

We believe that sanctification is the work of God's grace through the Word and the Spirit, by which those who have come to faith are cleansed from sin in their thoughts, words and deeds, and are enabled to live in accordance with God's will, and to strive for holiness in their daily lives. We believe that this experience does not deliver us from the infirmities, ignorance and mistakes common to all men and women, or from the possibility of further sin.

Good Works - We believe that good works are the necessary fruits of faith that follow regeneration. They do not have the ability to remove our sins or to enable us to avert divine judgment. We believe that good works, which are pleasing and acceptable to God, spring from a true and living faith. Through and by our actions our faith is made evident.

Christian Marriage - We believe that Christian marriage is a holy union of one man and one woman in which they commit, with God's help, to build a loving, life-giving, faithful relationship that will last for a lifetime. We affirm the Christian ideal of chastity in singleness and fidelity in marriage.

The Judgment and the Future State - We believe all people stand under the righteous judgment of Jesus Christ, both now and in the last day. We believe in the resurrection of the dead; the righteous to life eternal and the wicked to condemnation.

Public Worship - We believe divine worship is the duty and privilege of humanity who, in the presence of God, bows in adoration, humility and dedication. We believe divine worship is essential to the life of the Church, and that the assembling of the people of God for such worship is necessary for Christian fellowship and spiritual growth. We believe the order of public worship need not be the same in all places but may be modified by the Church according to circumstances and the needs of the people.

Seminary Degree Programs

Pilgrim Seminary offers two degrees, an Associate in Ministry and a Bachelor of Divinity. The Associate in Ministry degree program has been designed to meet the needs of those whose context for ministry requires less formal higher education than is required in the Bachelor of Divinity program.

Note: Courses taken through the Course of Study of the United Methodist Church are transferable into this degree program. The degree requires the completion of 60 credit hours. Required courses:

English Composition; Science; Math; Public Speaking; Interpersonal Communication; Introduction to Ministry; Principles of Biblical Interpretation; Old Testament I; Old Testament II; Gospels and Acts; Pauline and General Epistles; Church History I and II; Christian Theology I and II; Mission of the Church; Evangelism and Discipleship; Spiritual Formation; Preaching and Worship; and Christian Ethics.

The Bachelor of Divinity

The Bachelor of Divinity (B. Div.) incorporates much of a traditional three year seminary graduate program into an undergraduate degree thus saving students time and money without sacrificing the knowledge and skills necessary for effective ministry. The program seeks to offer excellent preparation for persons interested in pastoral ministry, missionary service, and significant lay leadership responsibilities in the local church.

The degree requires the successful completion of 126 credit hours. All of the courses in this degree are required. The program is divided into eight sections. A student must successfully complete

all eight sections, an internship, and a Capstone Project to earn a Bachelor of Divinity degree. We strongly encourage all degree-seeking students to have a specific context for Christian service and a mentor with a theological degree and ministry experience.

It is our belief that learning can be greatly enriched when done in relationship to others - education in community - as it is sometimes called. We support this concept and encourage our students to share their learning experiences through group study, discussions, and in other helpful ways. Many benefits come from a healthy and lively exchange of ideas and perspectives. To this end, the seminary partners with local churches who wish to use our study resources in their educational program.

Bachelor of Divinity Required Courses

Studies in Psychology

General Psychology, Human Growth and Development, Group Dynamics, Social Psychology, and Abnormal Psychology.

Studies in Communication

English Composition, Introduction to Communication, Public Speaking, Small Group Communication, and Interpersonal Communication.

Studies in American Society

Sociology, Marriage and Family, Social Problems, American History, and American Government.

Biblical Studies

Principles of Biblical Interpretation, Old Testament I and II, The Gospels and Acts, and Pauline and General Epistles.

Church History, Theology, and Ethics

Church History I and II, Christian Theology I and II, and Christian Ethics.

The Church in Mission

Spiritual Formation, Christian Missions, Evangelism and Discipleship, Preaching and Worship, and Church Health and Growth.

Christian Caregiving and Counseling

Criminal Justice, Drugs and Society, Encountering Death and Dying, Introduction to Counseling, and Crisis Counseling.

Church Management (select two)

Leadership, Management, Organizational Behavior, Marketing, Managing Non-Profit Organizations

Additional Requirements

Nine credits in science and math are required (at least three credits from each area); a three credit internship, and a three credit Capstone Project.

GENERAL INSTITUTIONAL POLICIES

Earning Academic Credit

Academic credit is earned at Pilgrim Seminary by meeting all course requirements for a particular course. This includes requirements such as passing examinations, completing assignments, papers or projects. The successful completion of a course requires a minimum score of 70%.

The seminary does not have grades of D or F. A student receiving less than 70% in a course receives an I (incomplete) and is encouraged to engage in further study and retake exams or complete other assignments. Pilgrim Seminary uses the following grading scale:

Less than 70% = Incomplete (I) 71-80% = C 81-90% = B 91-100% = A

Grades are added to a student's academic record only when a course has been successfully completed with a C or better. To ensure academic integrity, we require that all exams be taken at an authorized seminary Learning Center or, when necessary, be proctored by an adult unrelated to the student. A proctor must be a person of high moral character and be willing to oversee the taking of a series of exams. Paper exams are provided for incarcerated students.

Incarcerated students are reminded that in most prisons one must have permission to take correspondence courses. The seminary provides a form for students to be completed by an appropriate prison official verifying that the student has permission to participate in our educational program.

In some prisons the staff is not permitted to proctor exams. In this situation, an exam can sometimes be proctored by a non-family member on a person's visitors list, a prison volunteer, or other appropriate person. Please remember that individual proctors must be approved in advance.

More Ways to Gain Academic Credit

In addition to programs of study offered by the seminary, credit towards an Associate's or a Bachelor's degree can come from a variety of other sources. The seminary is willing to consider appropriate AP courses that have been successfully completed. A student may also transfer credits earned at accredited colleges, universities, or seminaries for which he or she received a grade of C or better. Grades from non-accredited institutions will be evaluated on a case by case basis.

We also accept a number of nationally recognized exams such as CLEP, DANTES, NOCTI, Excelsior College, and Thomas Edison College exams. We will consider appropriate programs of study that carry a recommendation for college credit from the American Council on Education or the National College Credit Recommendation Service. The seminary also offers Challenge Exams for academic credit. These are subject specific exams based upon a student's prior learning. A passing score of 70% is required and the exam can be taken only one time.

Textbooks and Other Learning Resources

All of the textbooks in the seminary program are available for purchase through retailers such as Amazon and Barnes and Nobel. They are also often available for rent and sometimes can be found in local and college libraries.

Many of the textbooks for seminary courses are included in the Myrtle Beach Wesleyan College *One Price for Your Textbooks* program. Through an arrangement with Cengage Learning our non-incarcerated students are able to access many of their textbooks online for one year at a cost of \$120. This arrangement also gives our students access to Questia, an online library with thousands of books. Because our incarcerated students cannot access the internet we will continue to use printed books and study resources for this group.

Academic Integrity Policy

Pilgrim Seminary students are expected to maintain the highest standards of personal and academic honesty and integrity. The seminary will not tolerate academic dishonesty, plagiarism or cheating on exams. Should a student be found in violation of the academic integrity policy, he or she will be prohibited from taking additional courses and his or her entire academic record will carry a permanent notation of dismissal for academic dishonesty.

Admission Requirements

Pilgrim Seminary seeks to make higher education in Christian perspective available to as many people as possible. We strongly recommend that those who wish to enter our program as degree-

seeking students will have already received a high school diploma or a GED. We do not require SAT or other standardized test scores for admission.

The relationships of the seminary, inclusive of the Board of Governors, administration, faculty and staff, and students are reflected in the Pilgrim Seminary Covenant. This short agreement, which everyone who wishes to participate in the seminary community must be willing to accept, helps guide and regulate our life together.

We the Board of Governors, administration, faculty, staff, and student body of Pilgrim Seminary promise to help one another:

- Honor God by our words and actions, aspiring to love our Creator with all of our heart, mind, soul and strength.
- Honor one another as children of God by treating others as we wish to be treated.
- Do what is right in the eyes of God, setting our minds upon those things that are true, noble, right, pure, lovely, and admirable, and whatever is excellent and praiseworthy.
- Strive to mature in Christian love as we seek to remember that, “Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, and it is not proud. It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, nor does it keep a record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, and always perseveres.” (1 Cor. 13:4-8).
- Support the mission of the seminary by commitment to its ideals and helping to provide for its financial needs.

Cost of Participation

Pilgrim Seminary does not charge tuition. This, however, does not mean that the program is free. All students are encouraged to make a monthly donation to the program, *as the Lord has enabled them*, to help defray the cost of their education. This obligation is part of our shared Pilgrim Seminary Covenant.

When a person decides to become a Pilgrim Seminary student, he or she becomes part of a faith based educational community. As members of that community, we willingly assume the obligation to help finance the educational program from which we benefit. And, even more importantly, we assume the obligation to help one another grow in knowledge and faith and to continue on the path that leads to life eternal.

There are three program fees that apply to non-incarcerated students: *First*, there is a one-time \$20 non-refundable application fee. *Second*, there is a \$52 per year Administrative Fee. This fee is due within 15 days after notification of acceptance. *Third*, for students seeking academic credit there is an examination fee of \$75 per course. This fee helps cover the cost of developing, administering and grading examinations, recording course grades, maintaining permanent student records, and program administration. The fee is payable when you register to take a course and is non-refundable after you begin the course.

Students who are not taking a course for academic credit are classified as *auditing students*. They are eligible to take classes on a space available basis. Auditing students are requested to make a specific donation for each course they take.

Fees are waived for incarcerated students based upon their general lack of funds. The obligation to donate towards the cost of their education, *as the Lord enables them*, is not waived. Those in prison who have the resources to pay the normal seminary fees are encouraged to do so.

Any potential or current student who is unable to afford the cost of attending Pilgrim Seminary is encouraged to complete a Request for Financial Assistance form through the Admissions Office.

In addition to donations made by our students and their families, Pilgrim Seminary is dependent upon the generous contributions of individuals, churches, foundations, and course sponsors to help extend higher education in Christian perspective to as many people as possible.

COLLEGE AND VISITING FACULTY

Business

Dan Lowe AA, Macomb Community College; BA, Michigan State University; MBA, Wayne State University; JD, University of Detroit.

Rob Orchard BA, Westminster College; MBA, University of Georgia.

Rose Turner BS, State University of New York; MBA, Strayer College.

Jerry Williams BA, The Citadel; MBA, Winthrop University; MEd, Coastal Carolina University.

Legal Studies

Carl Anderson BA, Allegheny College; JD, Boston University School of Law.

Gregory Altman BA, College of Charleston; MA, Liberty University; JD, Nashville School of Law.

J. Marshall Biddle BS, University of South Carolina; JD, University of South Carolina.

Adria L. Johnson BA, University of South Carolina; MSW, University of South Carolina; JD, Regent University School of Law.

Psychology

Dave Bogage BA, Indiana University of Pennsylvania; MA, Wayne State University; PhD, Wayne State University.

Kathleen Gomes BS, University of Bridgeport; MS, University of Bridgeport; Certificate of Advanced Study, University of Bridgeport.

Patti Longendyke BS, New York Institute of Technology; MS, Capella University.

General Studies

Wanda Barnes BSSW, Radford University; MSW, Radford University.

Shala Cox BAS, University of Mount Olive; MAEd, Ashford University.

Katrina Daniels BA, Mathematics, University of North Carolina; MA, Mathematics, University of North Carolina Wilmington.

Edward Hunt MS in Environmental Science, North Carolina A&T State University; BS in Natural Resources, Western Carolina University; and AAS in Forestry Management, Southeastern Community College.

Katie Parton BS, Troy University; MA, University of Nebraska.

Angela Roberts BS, Chemistry, University of South Carolina.

SEMINARY AND VISITING FACULTY

Cynthia B. Belt BS, University of Maryland; MDiv, Wesley Theological Seminary; DMin, Wesley Theological Seminary.

Gerry Breshears, Professor of Theology, Western Seminary BA, University of New Mexico; MDiv, Denver Seminary; PhD, Fuller Theological Seminary.

Samuel George BA in Religion, Furman University; MDiv, Yale University Divinity School; DMin, Drew University

David H. Jannaro Coordinator of Allendale Campus BA in Political Science; MDiv, Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary; .DMin, New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary

Sharon Jones BA Norfolk State University; MDiv. Virginia Union University

Andrea Middleton King BA, University of South Carolina; MEd, The Citadel; MDiv, Wesley Theological Seminary; DMin, Wesley Theological Seminary.

Regina H. Moore BBA-Management, Howard University; MDiv, Duke University; DMin, Duke University.

Gene Roberts BS, Business Administration, The Citadel; MM; Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary; DMin, North Greenville University.

David Watson Academic Dean and Associate Professor of New Testament, United Theological Seminary (Ohio) BA, Texas Tech University; MDiv, Southern Methodist University; PhD, Southern Methodist University.

Tim Whited Coordinator of Lee Campus BA, Southern Methodist University; MDiv, Asbury Theological Seminary.

Robert Yarbrough Professor of New Testament, Covenant Theological Seminary BA, Southwest Baptist College; MA, Wheaton College Graduate School; PhD, University of Aberdeen.

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