

CHAUTAUQUA INSTITUTION NEW CLERGY PROGRAM

2017 CONFERENCE INFORMATION AND APPLICATION

Applicant Qualifications

- Ordained or recognized clergy in their respective Abrahamic faith tradition
 - Currently serving in a congregational setting
- Have between 2 and 5 years of experience serving a local congregation

The Chautauqua Setting

Approximately 10,000 people gather each week throughout a 9-week summer season to explore the relationships among the contemporary worlds of religion, public life, the arts, and education. A weekly theme provides the focus within an historic ecumenical and interfaith setting. Lecturers from among the world's top scholars, leaders, and performers engage the community. Program participants enjoy unique access to many of the week's religion speakers, key Religion Department staff, and the Conference leadership.

Located in western New York, Chautauqua provides an unparalleled experience of education, recreation, and Performing Arts. To learn more about Chautauqua, the Department of Religion chaplains and daily interfaith lecture platform, or other aspects of the 2017 season, visit www.ciweb.org.

The Conference

Chautauqua Institution's Interfaith New Clergy Program is an intensive summer professional seminar for those new to congregational leadership within the three Abrahamic faiths, facilitating theological discussion that goes beyond a pastoral or congregational focus, and using the unique environment offered at Chautauqua to experience a broader view of religious community. In both structured and unstructured settings, program fellows will engage in discussions focusing on issues and experiences of theological growth, leadership, shared community, social justice, and the dynamics specific to those clergy new to religious leadership and congregational work. Attention will also be given to fostering a cohesive, supportive clergy group, as relationships forged in this environment are intended to continue beyond the week's experience.

Those who have been in congregational leadership between 2 and 5 years are invited to apply. The Institution will provide full accommodations (housing, meals, gate passes) for clergy and their spouse or partner, except for travel expenses to and from Chautauqua. Participants will reside on the Institution grounds, share meals, and enjoy the unique recreational and artistic setting of the Institution. Daily meetings with the program's Director and distinguished Department of Religion lecturers will be a feature of the program.

The program will maintain a fairly rigorous schedule of professional development and interaction, although time for recreation will be built into the week's schedule. As such, this program is not conducive to the inclusion of children; and spouses/partners, while encouraged to come, may be excused for certain aspects of its programming.

THE DEADLINE FOR ALL APPLICATIONS IS APRIL 1, 2017.

All applications are requested to be submitted electronically to Derek Austin, Director of Clergy Development Programming, at daustin@ciweb.org. We look forward to receiving your application!

2017 NEW CLERGY PROGRAM APPLICATION FORM

* Please fill out and return completed form electronically *

Last Name _____ First _____

Spouse/Partner (only if attending) _____

Address _____ City/State/Zip _____

Email _____ Cell Phone _____

Current Position and Place of Calling _____

Address _____ City/State/Zip _____

Denomination/Religious Body _____

Seminary or Comparable Study _____

Ordination Date and/or Completion of Study _____

Physical challenges, special dietary or other needs we should be aware of: _____

_____ I have attached a recent photo of myself (and my spouse/partner) to this application for the housing hosts

Which week are you applying for?

Week 1 (June 24 – July 1) _____

Week 7 (August 5-12) _____

Either _____

Please submit this application via email, along with answers to the narrative questions below, to:

daustin@ciweb.org

Dr. Derek Austin, *Director, Clergy Development Programming*

THE DEADLINE FOR ALL APPLICATIONS IS APRIL 1, 2017.

Successful candidates will be notified of their selection by APRIL 15, 2017.

NARRATIVE RESPONSES

1. How did you hear about the New Clergy Conference, and what about the program prompted you to apply?
2. Describe how you discerned your calling or draw to a sacred vocation.
3. If this is a second or third career, describe your previous field(s) of work, listing specific experience, locations and timeframes.
4. Tell us about your congregation (size, location, social character, outreach, inner dynamics, etc.).
5. What are the specific responsibilities of your position.
6. What has most *encouraged* you about religious leadership and congregational work since beginning this career?
What has most *discouraged* or been a difficult *challenge* for you?
7. What would you consider to be your theological growing edge at this point in your career as clergy?
8. Describe your experience in ecumenical and interfaith activities, and whether your current setting includes or provides opportunities for interfaith experiences and collaboration.
9. What changes do you believe are essential for the future of organized religion and its local congregational expression today?
10. How well do you feel you work and participate in a group dynamic, and what do you feel you bring to it?