



An invitation to
LISTEN, PRAY, DISCERN, AND GROW



PBUCC CREDO Seminars

We are pleased to invite you to attend the 2019 Pension Boards-United Church of Christ CREDO (PBUCC CREDO) Seminar, to be held at the Virginia Diocesan Center at Roslyn near Richmond, Virginia, May 14-20, 2019.

PBUCC CREDO is a seven-day journey of personal and spiritual discovery that includes interactive sessions and time for self-reflection. For many, CREDO is a movement of God's grace that has helped them imagine, and realize, new possibilities for growth and change in key areas of their lives—spiritual, vocational, health, and financial. PBUCC CREDO is a commitment to your whole being.

While seven days away can be a challenge, we recognize the even greater challenge of serving in ministry in these fast-paced, changing times. Finding time to address your own needs, hopes, and dreams may well have fallen from your list of priorities. However, the wellness of those around you directly depends on your own health and well-being. We encourage you to take the time to read through this invitation and ponder how the opportunity for renewal and refocusing would bear good fruit in your personal life and ministry.

The Pension Boards is currently able to extend this invitation to select members who are authorized ministers in the United Church of Christ. It is our hope in the future to expand the invitation pool so if you are able to attend in 2019, we recommend you do so since space is limited.

If you are interested in applying, follow the application steps on page 5.

With gratitude for who you are and what you do,

Rev. Krista L. Betz
Director, Ministerial Assistance

Rev. Dr. Jane E. Heckles
Coordinator, CREDO Seminars

PBUCC CREDO FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What is CREDO's history?

For more than 20 years, Episcopal and Presbyterian leaders have benefited from the CREDO program offered by their respective pension groups. Nearly 8,000 Episcopal and Presbyterian clergy have attended a CREDO seminar. Since 2015, the Pension Boards-United Church of Christ, Inc. (PBUCC) has worked in partnership with them and has contracted with the Episcopal Church Pension Group to provide all administrative functions of PBUCC CREDO.

What happens at a PBUCC CREDO seminar?

A holistic understanding of wellness is the cornerstone of the PBUCC CREDO process. Seminars include a carefully-crafted blend of learning opportunities and activities that support an experiential learning model. The design seeks to honor each person and recognizes that participants have different needs and learning styles.

During the week, there are large group gatherings and opportunities for more intimate discussions with a select small group. Faculty-led workshops and plenaries are enhanced by the chance to fully engage experienced faculty members in one-on-one consultations.

Each seminar is interspersed with times of listening, questioning, and learning, as well as quiet times for reflection, worship, and contemplation. Space is provided for physical activity, relaxed socializing, and opportunities for fun, laughter, and joy.

With the help of an experienced faculty team, you will build a CREDO Covenant for personal growth throughout the week. Your CREDO Covenant is one you'll take home with you and carry in your heart, where it will inspire intentional practice and continued growth, guiding you in the years ahead.

How does PBUCC CREDO define wellness?

The PBUCC CREDO program is a holistic wellness benefit for eligible members of the Pension Boards' Annuity and Medical Plans. PBUCC CREDO concentrates on four interrelated dimensions of wellness, which helps participants examine and evaluate each area of their lives:

Spiritual

CREDO offers you a sacred space to contemplate your interior life and relationship with God in Christ, and to experience God's deep love for you.

Vocational

CREDO helps you discern more clearly who God calls you to be and how to live that call with integrity, energy, and hope.

Physical and Psychological Health

CREDO helps you reflect on your physical and psychological well-being, supports stewardship of your body, and helps you develop a plan to address your health needs.

Financial

CREDO helps you learn to be a better steward of your personal financial resources and discern how to use them in response to God's call.

Who is eligible to attend a PBUCC CREDO seminar?

Authorized Ministers in the United Church of Christ who

- are members of both the Pension Boards' Annuity Plan and UCC Medical Plan
- are between the ages of 30 and 58
- have at least three years of membership/service

Why is the invitation list limited this way?

The Pension Boards serves its members through a variety of benefits programs. It was determined that for the launch of PBUCC CREDO, the focus would be mid-career clergy. If additional resources come available, it is expected that the invitation list would also expand.

Who are the faculty at PBUCC CREDO seminars?

A diverse team of faculty leads each PBUCC CREDO seminar. They are selected based on their gifts as mentors and teachers in one of the wellness components: church vocation, physical health, personal finance, and spirituality or psychological health. This group of eight persons leads as a team, sharing plenary and workshop presentations. Faculty members guide participants in a visioning and discernment process and are available throughout the seminar for individual consultations. Faculty members come from across the country and are affiliated with the United Church of Christ.



What are my responsibilities?

In return for PBUCC's investment in you, you will be expected to participate in the full seven days of the seminar; 10-20 hours of pre-seminar self-assessment; a post-seminar evaluation; and the self-guided follow-up program. Arriving late or departing early are not options.

Is enrollment limited and is there an application deadline?

Yes. Space is limited to 30 participants per seminar with a deadline of October 20, 2018.

Does my application guarantee participation?

No. Applications are accepted with preference going to those who apply earliest or who were waitlisted the year before. By November 10, 2018, applicants will receive notice about their status – either accepted or waitlisted.

What will this cost?

As an incentive to participate, travel, lodging, meals, and seminar costs are underwritten by the Pension Boards. You will only be assessed a \$500 participant fee. You may wish to bring a small amount of spending money for gifts, souvenirs, or optional gratuities for conference center staff.

Is scholarship assistance available?

Yes. Don't let the cost prohibit your participation since scholarships are available. If you are selected, you may then apply for a scholarship.

What is the refund policy?

Your fee will be refunded in full if you cancel at least 60 days prior to the beginning of the seminar. If you cancel after the 60-day deadline, there is no refund.

Can my spouse or partner attend with me?

No. PBUCC CREDO seminars are a benefit for those participating in Pension Boards' plans (Annuity and Medical), so only plan participants may attend. We provide seminar materials to facilitate involvement with your spouse or partner before, during, and after the seminar. If your spouse or partner is a Pension Boards' plan participant and they receive an invitation, we ask that you attend separate seminars to maximize the benefit of the PBUCC CREDO experience.

How will my assessment materials be used?

All assessment materials are confidential and the property of each participant. They are for your use at the seminar, providing a base on which to build your CREDO Covenant for growth. While an anonymous aggregate of the material will be provided to the faculty during the seminar and used in research/evaluation, identified material is not shared with PBUCC or any other UCC offices.

How can I apply for CREDO?

Go to www.credo.pbucc.org and click on the “Seminar Login” icon. At the “Welcome to CREDO” screen, log in to the website using the ID number in the yellow box on your invitation letter. For more questions or assistance with the application process, please contact **1.888.274.2828** or credo@cpg.org.

Where should I go to get more information?

Visit the PBUCC CREDO website at www.credo.pbucc.org, or contact Rev. Dr. Jane Heckles, CREDO Coordinator, at credo@pbucc.org or **1.800.642.6543, ext. 2804**.



Upcoming 2019 Conference

May 14-20, 2019
Virginia Diocesan Center at Roslyn
Richmond, Virginia

Questions?

For information about the seminars in general, contact the Pension Boards-United Church of Christ via the website **www.credo.pbucc.org** or email **credo@pbucc.org**.

For information about the application process or once you are a confirmed participant, contact the Church Pension Group, CREDO office at **www.credo.org**; email **credo@cpg.org**; or call **1.888.274.2828**.

For information about the United Church Board for Ministerial Assistance or the benefit plans and programs offered through the Pension Boards, visit **www.pbucc.org** or email **ministerialassistance@pbucc.org**.

The Pension Boards–United Church of Christ, Inc.
475 Riverside Drive, Room 1020 | New York, New York 10115-0059

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