



Apostello Academy

Innovative. Christian. Leadership.

BACKGROUND

The Apostello Academy is an offering of the San Diego School of Christian Studies, a program of First United Methodist Church of San Diego. The School's purpose is to create meaningful educational experiences challenging adults in the greater San Diego region to grow in their understanding and practice of the Christian faith - a faith that works in the world.

MISSION

The mission of the **Apostello Academy** is to prepare and send dynamic disciples of Jesus Christ for innovative Christian leadership in the church and in the world.

"Apostello" is the word for "sent" in Greek, the language of the New Testament, and implies being sent with direction and purpose. Jesus said to his disciples, "Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, so I am sending you." (John 20:21)

KEY CONCEPTS

APOSTELLO

The concept of Apostello suggests sending with a sense of purpose and direction. The word "Apostello" appears frequently in the New Testament (in fact, 133 times) and is most often translated as "to send" or "sent." The word implies a sending with authorization and direction to accomplish a specific task, whether great or small, whether of shorter or longer duration.

ACADEMY

The concept of Academy suggests thoughtfulness, wisdom, and depth. The strongest Christian faith is rooted not in shallow theology or in fleeting spiritual highs, but in the rich soil of Christian traditions. When we ground our own personal beliefs and practices in these traditions, our faith is strengthened and sustained. We become what the Psalmist called "a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither." (*Psalm 1:3*)

ABOUT THE DEAN

Rev. John Fanestil is Dean of the Apostello Academy. Born and raised in San Diego, John is an ordained Elder in the United Methodist Church, and has worked for decades at the intersections of the church, the academy, and movements for social justice. John is a graduate of Dartmouth College, Oxford University, where he studied as a Rhodes Scholar, and the Claremont School of Theology. His first book, *Mrs. Hunter's Happy Death*, was published by Doubleday in 2006. Now a Ph.D. candidate at the University of Southern California, he is under contract with Yale University Press for a book telling an unexpected tale of American origins.

Contact: Rev. John Fanestil / jfanestil@fumcsdd.org / 619-823-6223

PROJECT INCUBATOR

Designed to meet the needs of local churches and non-profit organizations, the Project Incubator takes teams of leaders through a six-month experience of project design and preparation, offering the support of a learning cohort and hands-on coaching from proven practitioners in the field of faith-based leadership

*Working individually or in teams, participants in the **Project Incubator** will prepare to pilot a project, program or ministry lodged within a faith-based or non-profit institution.*

KEY PRINCIPLES & PRACTICES

A number of key principles and practices lie at the core of the **Project Incubator** experience:

Project. A “project” can be a project, program or ministry of any intended duration. The specific scope, shape and scale of each project will be chosen by the participants themselves. Participants will incubate their project through collaboration with a team of leaders from their home institution, by the review and support of peers within the Project Incubator cohort, and with the counsel and coaching of the expert faculty of the Apostello Academy faculty.

Incubator. The concept of an “incubator” suggests an entrepreneurial spirit, risk-taking innovation, and fun. It is most strongly associated with the world of the private sector, where innovative teams of leaders pilot “start-up” companies in hopes of attracting investment in the form of capital. The analogy for risk-taking leaders within faith-based organizations is the piloting of new projects, programs or ministries that hold the promise of attracting investments in the form of prayers, presence, gifts, and service.

Cohort: Cohort-based learning affords participants the creativity that results from working with others who share common passions, interests and challenges. Participants in the Project Incubator benefit not only from developing their own plan with their own team, but from “eavesdropping” on and “consulting” with others. Projects developed through a process of cohort-based collaboration are invariably superior to those developed by even strong teams working in isolation.

Coaching: Coaching is an ongoing relationship between a coach and a leader (or leaders) that is expected to bear fruit in the form of greater confidence, improved competencies, and concrete results. Coaching is a mutual and supportive relationship, benefitting both parties to the relationship. Leaders derive individual benefit from their relationship with coaches, and also share these benefits with their home organizations.

Pilot Project. A pilot project is a time-limited program, project or ministry, the implementation and evaluation of which enable leaders to test the viability of a new venture. The principal “work-product” of the Project Incubator experience will be the design and launch of a pilot project testing the viability of their project, program or ministry.

CURRICULUM

Curriculum: The *Project Incubator* will offer a 6-month curriculum designed to:

- Strengthen participants' core leadership competencies.
- Expose participants to a diverse array of faith-based ventures.
- Create a culture of mutual support, where "failures" and "successes" are both celebrated as risk-taking endeavors that advance the work of God in the world.

Cohort Size: Each Project Incubator will be capped at 12 projects or 25 individuals to maximize cohort cohesion and to allow for the required attention from faculty coaches.

Calendar: The *Project Incubator* calendar consists of a five-week course in Leadership and five Interactive Workshops in which teams of participants design and pilot a new project, program or ministry to be housed at their home institution. Spread across six months, the Project Incubator prepares teams of leaders to pilot new projects in September (PI 2017.1) or January (PI 2017.2).

OUTCOME MEASURES

Graduates of the *Project Incubator* will have:

- o Engaged in COLLABORATIVE DIALOGUE with leaders from diverse settings.
- o Forged STRATEGIC RELATIONSHIPS with coaches, consultants and other leaders from their cohort.
- o Assembled a LEADERSHIP TEAM, rooted in their home institution and/or community.
- o Developed a PROPOSAL and PLAN for their project, program or ministry.
- o Prepared to launch a PILOT PROJECT to test the viability of their project, program or ministry.

FACULTY

Rev. Michael Christensen, Ph.D. is the founder of WorldHope Corps which incubates social business projects in Malawi and Uganda; and the former national director of Communities of Shalom of the United Methodist Church. Author of 9 books on pastoral leadership, spirituality and social justice, Michael is an ordained Elder in the United Methodist Church.

Rev. Craig Brown is the Lead Pastor of the First United Methodist Church of San Diego. An ordained Elder in the United Methodist Church, Craig is a graduate of Fuller Theological Seminary.

Rev. Dr. Bill Jenkins is the Executive Director of Christ United Methodist Ministry Center in San Diego. Raised in Mississippi during the 1960s Civil Rights era, Bill is a graduate of Delta State University, Southern Baptist Seminary and Columbia Theological Seminary.

Rev. Dr. Rebecca Laird is Professor of Christian Ministry in the PLNU School of Theology and Christian Ministry and an ordained Elder in the Church of the Nazarene.

TUITION: \$1,200/individual, \$1,800/pair, \$2,250/team of three.

SCHOLARSHIP: To inquire about scholarship support, please contact apostello@fumcsd.org.

PROJECT INCUBATOR - CURRICULUM AT A GLANCE

PI 2017.1 – For Pilot Projects in Fall 2017

Wednesdays, 7 – 8:30 pm

Instructor/Coach: Rev. Dr. Michael Christensen, Dr. Rebecca Laird

PI 2017.2 – For Pilot Projects in Winter 2018

Wednesdays, 7 – 8:30 pm

Instructor/Coach: Rev. Craig Brown, Rev. Dr. Bill Jenkins

<i>Before the start of the first class, participants will complete a PROJECT PROPOSAL, using a template provided by the Apostello Academy, to assist instructors in establishing effective coaching relationships.</i>		
1	<u>1/11/17</u> <u>4/19/17</u>	Incubator 1 – Introduction. The opening session introduces you to the basics of designing and launching a successful PILOT PROJECT. A diagnosis of project types will enable the coach to cluster participants for ongoing small group consultations.
<i>Coaching consultations in small groups precede each session by arrangement of the instructors.</i>		
2	<u>1/18/17</u> <u>5/3/17</u>	Leadership 1 – Leadership & Vision. Overview of leadership models and trends, discerning and setting direction, rooting projects in vision, mission.
3	<u>1/25/17</u> <u>5/10/17</u>	Leadership 2 – Your Leadership Style. DISC Profile Inventory (Dominance, Influence, Steadiness, Conscientiousness). Team building, team assessment and team skills.
4	<u>2/1/17</u> <u>5/17/17</u>	Leadership 3 – Developing Other Leaders. Leadership versus management, assessment of people and practices of multiplication.
5	<u>2/8/17</u> <u>5/24/17</u>	Leadership 4 – Creating and Communicating Inspiration. Initiating movement toward vision, developing communication skills, and using proper communication tools.
6	<u>2/15/17</u> <u>5/31/17</u>	Leadership 5 – Leader as Learner. Feedback tools, continual growth as a leader, and models of lifelong learning.
<i>Coaching consultations in small groups continue to precede each session, as coaches walk teams through the creation of a PLAN that will culminate in their launch of a PILOT PROJECT to test the viability of their project, program or ministry.</i>		
7	<u>3/15/17</u> <u>6/7/17</u>	Incubator 2 – Positioning Your Pilot. A landscape analysis of potential competitors will also help you to identify prospective partners.
8	<u>4/19/17</u> <u>9/14/17</u>	Incubator 3 – Shaping and Scaling Your Pilot. A
9	<u>5/3/17</u> <u>10/12/17</u>	Incubator 4 – Preparing Your Pilot. A project timeline, readiness-assessment and prospecting strategy will help ensure that you are ready to pitch your pilot.
10	<u>5/17/17</u> <u>11/9/17</u>	Incubator 5 – Pitching Your Pilot. Developing an effective Elevator Pitch, Email Pitch Template, and Online Presence will help you recruit participants in your Pilot Project.
<i>4/26/17 Guest Lecture: Leadership When the Going Gets Tough – Rev. Dr. Art Cribbs.</i>		