Children’s Leaders Continued Learning

 These new courses are designed for lay leaders who serve as the director or other positions of leadership within children’s ministry for their church, but for whom seminary is not the right fit. These courses seek to bridge the gap between the expertise and experience these leaders bring from their own background and professional life, and the particular skills and topics in children’s ministry.

 Each course will take place over six weeks. Currently, we plan to offer four courses in the 2024 and 2025. The courses will take place in the Spring and Fall of each year, and will have a maximum capacity of 8-10 students. Each course will have recorded content for the student to watch, additional resources to read and reflect on, an assignment aimed to root the participant in their particular context, and a Zoom call to allow participants to share their experience. Courses will be offered initially at $150 per student.

Additionally, these courses are designed so that the facilitator has hands on experience in the topic they are leading, and they are involved throughout the course to offer feedback and guidance for the students. The four classes currently in development are Teaching with Children, Worshipping with Children, Spiritual Care for Children in Crisis, and Missions with Children.

**Teaching with Children**

 We will offer this first course in Spring of 2024. The course features videos on curriculum selection, biblical study tools, Universal Design for Learning, and preschool teaching methods. Further, students will work with books and projects that will encourage them to see the teaching times in their ministries as opportunities to empower their students, and the curriculum as a tool rather than a requirement.

The course will begin April 1, 2024 and students will have until May 6 to complete the assignments. During the last week of the course, all participants will join in a Zoom call to share their experience and learn from one another. The course is designed to be accessible and fit in to leaders’ varied schedules.

 This first course is facilitated by Rev. Harrison Litzell. Harrison has been in children’s ministry for ten years, and works specifically in the meeting place of education and church life. He has designed this course and is available throughout the duration to offer feedback, assistance, and encouragement.

Contact Harrison Litzell at Litzell\_ha@mercer.edu to register.