

Class Schedule

Winter and Spring 2025

- Pastoral Care with Lisa Watson
- Formation for Mission

July 20-25, 2025 at Synod School

- Polity with Pam Prouty
- Reformed Theology with Elsie Anne McKee

Fall 2025

- New Testament – OPSF Online
- Old Testament – OPSF Online

Winter and Spring 2026

- Spiritual Development – In person
- Proclamation – OPSF Online

July 26-31, 2026 Synod School

- Congregational Leadership and Congregational Revitalization led by Loren Shellabarger and Ian McMullen

Fall 2026

- Old Testament – OPSF
- New Testament – OPSF
- Worship – In person



The Academy is a joint effort of and underwritten by the following entities:

- Presbytery of East Iowa
- Presbytery of Minnesota Valleys
- Presbytery of Missouri River Valleys
- Presbytery of North Central Iowa
- Presbytery of Northern Plains
- Presbytery of Northern Waters
- Presbytery of Prospect Hill
- Presbytery of the Twin Cities Area
- Synod of Lakes and Prairies
- Omaha Presbyterian Seminary Foundation (OPSF)

The Academy



**Deepening faith and
encountering Christ in a
new way**



There is not one blade of grass, there is no color in this world that is not intended to make us rejoice.

-John Calvin

An Invitation

Would you like to

- grow in your faith and knowledge?
- grow as a leader?
- have more opportunities to serve God as needed in your area?

We invite you to consider joining The Academy, a unique learning community.

What is The Academy?

Simply put, it is a series of 12 courses designed to develop well-equipped, thoughtful people to better serve councils in a variety of capacities. For some this may lead to becoming

commissioned ruling elders (CREs) while others delight in learning and growing as a leader. We are lining up some of the finest instructors we can find!

Where will this be held?

Each summer two classes will be held at the Synod School of the Synod of Lakes and Prairies at Buena Vista University in Storm Lake, IA.

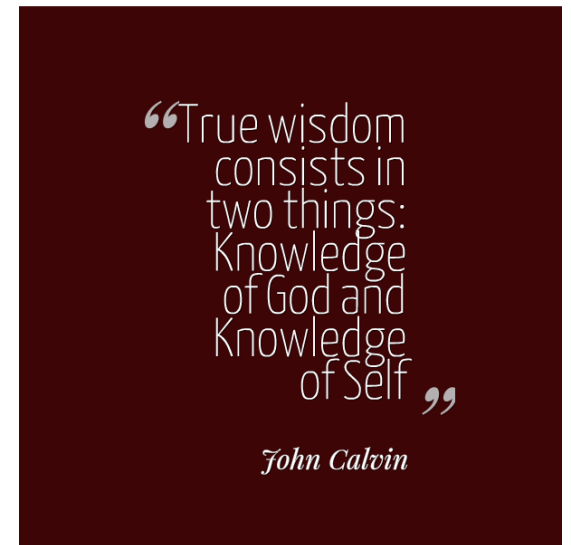
Beginning in 2025, in collaboration with the Omaha Presbyterian Seminary Foundation (OPSF), foundational courses will be shared as a part of their Lilly Grant. This enables Academy participants to also get a Certificate in Compelling Preaching.

What is the cost to me?

Tuition: If you are a member of a participating presbytery, the tuition is \$1,375/person for all 11 courses (which will fulfill the educational requirements to become a CRE). If your presbytery is not a partner, each class will be \$175 or \$1,925. *This may decrease, depending on arrangements with OPSF.*

Other expenses: Each participant will purchase required books, pay annually for room and board at Synod School

(approximately \$400/double or \$490/single), as well as travel and room/board expenses for Fall and Spring classes. The Synod of Lakes and Prairies will provide a Synod School scholarship of \$100/summer for Academy participants (already calculated in the prices above).



Updated registration information can be found at <https://www.lakesandprairies.org/the-academy>