



MERCER
SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY

SCHOOL *for* MINISTRY CATALOG

SPRING 2026

The George Mercer School of Theology
Episcopal Diocese of Long Island
65 Fourth Street, Garden City, NY 11530

www.mercerschool.org





From a “School of Theology” forming men for the priesthood ...



The MERCER Story

The Mercer School began in the post-WWII period to encourage men employed full-time to become Episcopal priests to fill the need for pastors for churches growing in the new communities springing up during the postwar period. The model for the school was a four-year version of the curriculum offered in three-year courses of study offered at residential seminaries. The level of work and commitment were comparable to that of any advanced degree professional academic program.

CLASSES

The School for Ministry will meet online via Zoom one Saturday each month, from February through June.

The **Spring Semester 2026** dates are:

2/21; 3/14; 4/11; 5/9; 6/3. Class sizes are limited.

Follow the School for Ministry tab on the Mercer website, or contact Canon Ted Gerbracht, Director of Academic Programs

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EMAIL: tgerbracht@dioceseli.org

NT1 Synoptic Gospels

Time: 9:00 am – 10:15 am

Instructor: Dr. Ian Kinman

The course introduces the Synoptic Gospels (Matthew, Mark, and Luke). The course looks to their structural similarities and to the meaning(s) of various synoptic pericopes with due regard to their geographical, socio-political, and religious contexts to expose and explain themes and issues in the Synoptics. Selected passages from each of the Synoptic Gospels are exegeted in detail.

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AS2 History of the Book of Common Prayer

Time: 10:30 am – 11:45 am

Instructor: Right Rev. Dr. R. William Franklin

In this course we will explore our current Book of Common Prayer in light of the evolution of Anglican Worship. Having established the context for our conversation, we will cover the spirituality and practicality of the book. With Prayer Book Reform discussion and forums active on social media and the recent General Convention, we will also consider which parts of our Prayer Book tradition should be retained as well as what might be discarded.

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To a “School for Ministry” preparing all for 21st century ministries ...



MERCER in the Early 21st Century

Until a global pandemic disrupted academic life, we gathered around a table seminar-style, or for larger classes in a horseshoe arrangement. Some students interacted with their instructor via video conference. Lay learners and men and women preparing for ordination engaged in the class side by side. In some classes lay students significantly outnumbered ordinands. As in the early days of Mercer, tuition for classes is funded by the Mercer Scholarship fund, with laity paying \$25 per course.

LT2 The Book of Common Prayer Rubrics, Rites and Resources

Time: 1:15 pm – 2:30 pm

Instructor: Rev. Dr. Sean Wallace

The first of two courses on the structure, use and theology of the 1979 Book of Common Prayer and all attendant resources. This course will focus on the calendar, lectionary, Daily Offices, Baptism, Holy Week, and Holy Eucharist.

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TH2 Systematic Theology

Time: 10:30 am – 11:45 am

Instructor: Rev. Dr. Joshua Samuel

The second of a two-course sequence offering a systematic study of Christian doctrines such as God, Christ, Holy Spirit, Trinity, Church etc. Participants will read and reflect on themes fundamental to the life and witness of the Church. Taking into consideration the realities of religious pluralism and racism in our society, the course will end with discussion on theologies of religious diversity and Black liberation theology.

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To a fully online School for Ministry focused on those preparing for the diaconate and theological education for the laity

MERCER Now – Post Pandemic

Today's classes feel quite different. In mid-March 2020 we moved our classes online and have continued to teach and learn via Zoom, even as the need for physical separation has diminished. Travel time to Mercer has been cut substantially; and we can see and interact with each other in Gallery mode, before, during, and after class. While we will continue online through the 2024-25 academic year, we will be exploring ways to come together in-person. Keep checking our website for details.



Bishop Franklin with some of our ordination track students. Canon Ted was hosting the Zoom call.

TH3 Anglican Theology

Time: 9:00 am – 10:15 am

Instructor: Rev. Dr. Michael Hull

Anglican Theology' considers Anglican/Episcopal theology, a distinctive theology that is at once Catholic and Reformed. This theology came into its own in sixteenth-century England; it is grounded in the primitive church; and it continues to flourish and develop in our own day around the world. This course considers the succession of Anglican/Episcopal theological thinking through key texts in five broad strokes: the Formularies of the Church of England; Richard Hooker & the Caroline Divines; the Georgian Period; the Oxford Movement; and the contemporary Anglican Communion. The course considers theological emphases, methodologies, and perspectives that are characteristically Anglican/Episcopal.

[REGISTER HERE](#)

NT3 Acts and Pauline Epistles

Time: 1:15 pm – 2:30 pm

Instructor: Dr. Ian Kinman

The course introduces the “Gospel according to Paul” and the Acts of the Apostles. It begins with an exposition of St. Paul as he speaks of himself in his letters and as he is spoken of in Acts within his Jewish and Hellenistic milieu. The focus of the course is an introduction to the thirteen letters of the corpus Paulinum. Selected passages from Paul's letters and Acts are exegeted in detail.

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The School for Ministry invites your suggestions and feedback about our programs.

In addition to our scheduled meetings as a school, watch for the return of our popular mid-day short “Lunch and Learn” courses.



A prayer for students

Open our minds to your grace, O Lord, as we begin our studies today. You are the source of all wisdom and truth: so guide us along the right path that we may persevere in our studies and scholarship. May we learn well what we need to know; may we understand what we need to learn; may we remember what we need to explain. Give to our efforts the success you would have for them, O Lord, so that we may use wisely the knowledge we acquire and thus live contentedly in your love and the service of our neighbor; and in due time, may we receive by your grace, the eternal reward you have prepared for us. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

St. Catherine of Siena