

# PA ACADEMY of MINISTRY

## ECUMENICAL AND INTERFAITH RELATIONSHIPS

May 20-21, 2016

**Dr. Charles A. Maxfield**

*The church does not live in isolation. More and more we are challenged to relate to those who worship and believe differently. This class will offer participants guidance in engaging "the other" in respectful and faithful ways.*

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### **Before you come:**

1. Make a list of all the religious groups in your community. If you live in a rural area, you may find it practical to use your school district as your community.
2. Try to locate these groups on the [Outline of World Religions](#). If you can't locate them all, that's o.k. We will work on this in our class. This outlined list will be submitted as part of your project for this class at the close of our sessions.
3. Read [What Kind of Unity](#) and [The New United Church of Christ and the Ecumenical Movement](#) by Dr. Maxfield.
4. Make a list of ecumenical and interfaith activities in which your congregation participates. This will be submitted as part of your project.
5. Read [Christianity and Other Religions](#). Reflect on which positions make sense to you, and which do not. Be prepared to discuss in class.

### **Assignment:**

We are all troubled by acts of terror committed in the name of religion. Using your knowledge of other religions, and of the attitude of Christians toward other religions, write a pastoral letter to your congregation (or any congregation in general) explaining as best you can what is happening and what our attitudes and actions can be.

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## Sessions

### **First session** *What do we believe?*

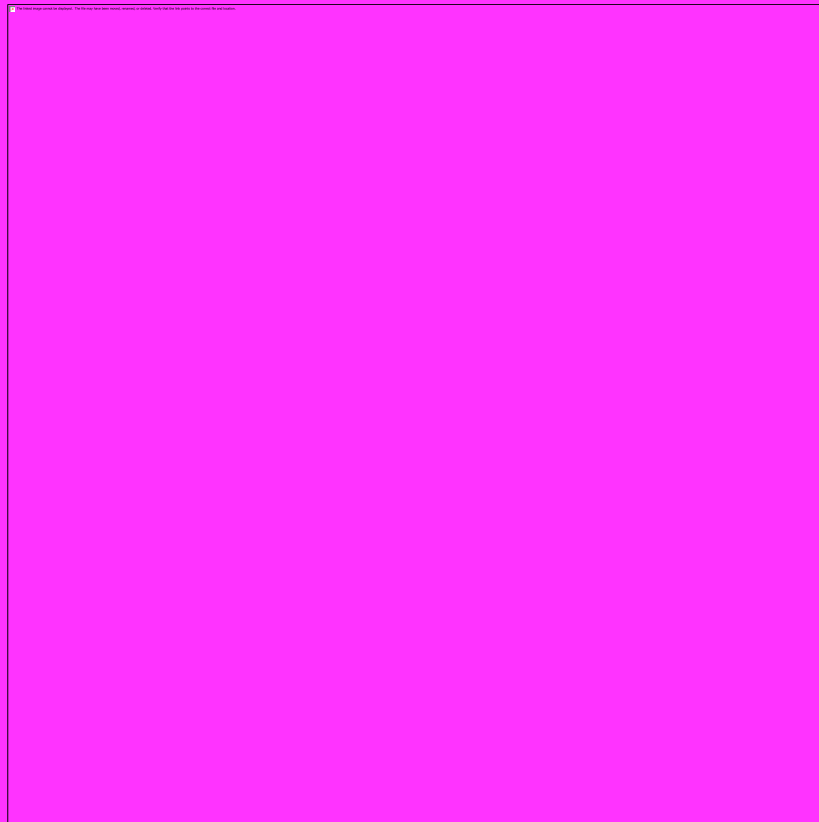
1. Catholicity in the history of the United Church of Christ and its antecedents
2. What do Christians believe about other religions?

### **Second Session** *Religions in our world today*

1. A brief survey of world religions
2. the problem of fundamentalism

### **Third session** *Ecumenism and Interfaith relations in our local churches*

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#### **Dr. Charles A. Maxfield**

Chuck Maxfield is an ordained minister of the United Church of Christ. He received the M.Div. degree from Lancaster Theological Seminary in 1970, and a Ph.D. from Union Theological Seminary of Richmond, Virginia, in 1995. He has served churches in Maine, Massachusetts, New York, North Dakota, and Pennsylvania. He has taught in the history departments of the State University of New York (SUNY)-Cortland, Broome Community College, DeSales University and Eastern University, and the Religion Department of Holy Family University. He participated in the Lay Ministry

training program of New York Conference for 12 years, directing the program for six of those years.