

TLC

Workshops to provide support and skill development
for teachers, leaders and parents

A program of The Presbyterian Church in Canada



50

Easy-to-use,
Focused, Flexible
Teacher/Leader Courses



Teacher/Leader Courses

Who?

TLC programs are organized by congregations, presbytery committees, or any other group of people interested in providing training and encouragement for people involved in nurturing faith. TLC workshops are led by experienced facilitators who know our church. These workshops are helpful for

- church school teachers and administrators
- youth leaders
- Christian Education Committee members
- clergy
- parents
- special event leaders.

What?

The organizers of a TLC event choose workshops, provide hospitality, and gather at least 20 participants interested in learning. The TLC Advisory Team helps the organizers identify leadership and provides honoraria for workshop leaders. The workshop leaders provide information and experiences that help the group to explore the chosen topics. Participants share their questions, their insights and their own experiences, enriching the event for everyone.

Where?

TLC events can take place anywhere in Canada. Smaller communities may find it helpful to invite ecumenical neighbours in order to meet the goal of 20 participants.

When?

TLC events can occur any time, but most groups find that a Saturday program works best.

Why?

The goal of the TLC program is to educate and nurture teachers, leaders and parents in The Presbyterian Church in Canada.

Sample TLC program

9:00 – 9:30	Coffee, gathering, name tags, worship
9:30 – 10:45	Choice of workshop A or B
10:45 – 11:00	Refreshment break
11:00 – 12:15	Choice of workshop C or D
12:15 – 1:00	Lunch (may be catered or brown bag)
1:00 – 2:15	Choice of workshop E or F
2:15 – 2:30	Summary, evaluation, sending off

Cost

There should be an affordable fee for each person; paying to attend helps people recognize the value of the event. Hosts set the cost for their own event. Many organizing groups charge a modest fee of \$10, which offsets the cost of lunch and snacks. Workshop leaders (plus their travel) are paid out of the national TLC budget.

How to get started

Find a group of people interested in making TLC happen in your area. Your planning group should be representative of the different groups of people you hope to include: teachers, committee members, clergy and parents. Speak to a few people to find out what courses are needed. Choose several (usually six) courses. Contact the TLC Advisory Team to discuss leadership needs. The Advisory Team can provide some leaders, but most likely you will need to find some local resource people as well.

Your planning team should choose workshops from the 50 topics listed in this brochure.

TLC Advisory Team

Tori Smit:

1-800-619-7301, ext 271; tsmit@presbyterian.ca
(National Church Office)

Heather Jones:

905-737-6498; hjones@presbyterian.ca
(TLC Co-ordinator)

Anne Yee-Hibbs:

905-308-8306; synodaec@on.aibn.com
(Synod of Southwestern Ontario)

Lynda Reid:

416-466-5352; lyndareid@bellnet.ca
(Synod of Central, North Eastern Ontario & Bermuda)

Susan Sheridan:

416-946-8536; ssheridan@utoronto.ca
(Knox College Resource Centre)

Laura Duggan:

905-895-5512; duggan@on.aibn.com
(Minister, St. Andrew's PC, Newmarket)

Jen Donnelly:

416-485-4000; jenniferdonnelly@gmail.com
(Minister, Armour Heights PC)

Teacher/Leader Courses

Workshop Descriptions

Area 1: Planning and Administration

1 Church school: the basics

What does your Sunday morning children's program need to succeed: a facelift (new language in your promotional material, a paint job for your classrooms), a new curriculum, a new schedule? The place to start is the question "What is the goal for our Sunday school?" Learn how to find answers to that question, and what to do with the answers you find. **E C T**

2 The care and maintenance of church school teachers

Teachers who are supported and encouraged in their role are better able to engage and inspire their students. Learn how to help teachers increase their skills and their satisfaction with their role. **E C T**

3 Start well: recruiting leaders for church school

Recruitment is much more than finding a warm body who likes kids. Building a strong team of church school leaders takes time and thoughtful consideration. Learn how to match ministry skills with the teaching task. The investment will pay off! **E C T**

4 Why have ministries for children and youth?

"We have no children in our church, so there is no need for a children and youth ministry."
"We have no ministry for children and youth, so there are no children in our church."
It is difficult to know how to break this deadlock. Ministry with children and youth consumes significant resources, and it can be very difficult to overcome inertia when there is no program in place. For congregations that have nothing in place for children, this workshop explores how to set goals and how to get started. **E C W**

5 Christian education in the small church

Congregations with small membership have both a unique challenge and a unique opportunity for Christian education. This workshop explores how best to do Christian education in the small congregation. **E T**



T	Teachers
C	Clergy
E	CE committee
P	Parents
W	Worship Committee
Y	Youth leaders

6 How to say “welcome” and mean it

From the time children enter the church until they leave, they should feel welcome. How do you get everyone in the congregation involved in welcoming children? How do you make your educational space more welcoming? How do you welcome new children and their families? Learn how others answer these questions, and bring your own questions – and answers! **E C W**

7 Welcomed at the table – now what?

Most congregations have invited children to take part in communion. Many resources for introducing the sacrament are available, but after initial teaching about communion, how do you continue to develop understanding and appreciation of the sacraments? **W P T**



8 Leading with Care: using the policy of protection in your congregation

Meeting the requirements of our denomination’s *Leading with Care* policy is a must for all programs involving children and youth. How does this affect your programs? How do you meet the ongoing requirements for screening and training volunteers? **E C T**

9 Where have all the children gone? Programming for summer and other low-attendance times

Summertime re-introduces the “chicken or egg” dilemma: are there no programs for church because there are no children, or are there no children at church because there are no programs? Look at options for nurturing faith even in the “low” times: Vacation Bible School, Backyard Bible Camp, summer Sunday school, parking lot parties, fun in the park, and more. **E C**

10 Workshop rotation model: there’s a WoRM in my church school!

A model that combines the Multiple Intelligences Theory and a desire to make children intimately familiar with the stories of the Bible, this “new way” of organizing Sunday school encourages congregational involvement and inspires creativity in the church school. **E T**

11 Workshop rotation rejuvenation

Sometimes, after a few years, those who use the workshop rotation model in their Sunday school benefit from a “shot in the arm.” This workshop explores fresh new approaches and gives participants opportunities to ask questions and explore concerns. **E T**

12 Intergenerational events – does that mean EVERYONE?

Yes, it does! Learn how to turn most events in your congregation into intergenerational gatherings. Fostering relationships among all generations makes a stronger family – and gives everyone a chance to learn and grow. You can make the annual meeting interesting for everyone! You can make the study program meaningful for everyone! Learn how. **E C P**



13 Intergenerational worship – does that mean EVERYONE?

Yes, it does! Worshipping with all ages requires careful planning and preparation. Learn about the special needs of children, and the different dynamics, patterns and resources involved in making worship services for all ages meaningful for everyone.

E C P

14 Isn't church for Sundays?

It's hard enough to plan for the regular church school program. Why should we try to start something mid-week? Learn about mid-week programs that strengthen commitment to faith and the church. *Logos, Kids of the Kingdom, Partners, Pathways to Leadership* are just a few of the possibilities. **E C**

15 Supporting the parents in your church

Do we want children and youth to become people of faith? Then we must help parents to share faith. Research indicates that the prime influence on children's faith is the family. How can we support families in this task? Learn about seasonal publications, plans for reading the Bible together, and other home-based resources that can be shared with your families. **E C P**

16 Growing in faith at home and at church

Thriving Sunday school programs acknowledge that faith grows best when instruction at church is balanced with experience at home. This workshop will share ideas about how to strengthen the connections between church and home. Helping parents reinforce the lessons from church, and sharing simple Christian rituals, such as blessing the children and mealtime candle-lighting ceremonies, can help families nurture everyone's faith. **E P C**

Area 2: Skill Development

17 Resources...resources...resources

This workshop looks at a wide variety of different resources that are helpful for Christian education – video, books on computer, crafts, learning activities, and children's Bibles. Workshop leaders will share their impressions of resources that they would not want to be without. **T E**



18 Opening Doors to Discipleship

Opening Doors to Discipleship is a series of three free, interactive, online courses in the Presbyterian/Reformed tradition to help teachers and leaders equip themselves to be faithful teachers and leaders. The courses are A: Teaching Skills, B: Bible Background, and C: Presbyterian/Reformed Faith. Each course has 12 sessions which should, ideally, be done with a learning group from your own congregation. Learn how this program can strengthen your congregation. **T C**

19 The Bible from scratch

This workshop explores how the Bible can become more than just "words on a page." Conversation time explores ways to help teachers and leaders make the Bible come alive with children, youth and adults. **T E**

20 Simple steps to planning an excellent lesson

Are you new to church school teaching? This workshop gives you a simple outline for how to begin. The easy-to-use process can be used over and over. **T E**

21 The art of good storytelling

Stories bring the Bible to life! This workshop focuses on a variety of ways to tell stories and improve your storytelling skills. **T C**

T	Teachers
C	Clergy
E	CE committee
P	Parents
W	Worship Committee
Y	Youth leaders

22 Cut it! Fold it! Glue it!

Explore creative activities that offer children a way to respond to the Bible story. This hands-on (literally!) workshop allows participants to try new craft techniques. **T**

23 Play it!

Everyone loves a game! There are many ways to make Bible stories fun for everyone. Learn new games, adapt old favourites, and find out where to find more game suggestions. **T**

24 When children “act out”

The word “discipline” comes from the same root word as “disciple.” When children or youth forget how to behave properly, how can we lovingly “discipline” to restore peace and harmony? **T C**

25 How to reach everyone: understanding learning styles

The theory of multiple intelligences helps teachers and leaders understand how to make lessons interesting and memorable for everyone. Learn how to engage the kinesthetic learners, along with those who prefer to learn by verbal/linguistic means. This theory applies to all ages, making it helpful for leaders of Sunday school classes and adult study groups. **T E**

26 Teaching kids to care and share

Engaging children and youth in meaningful service is an excellent way to strengthen their commitment to the community of faith. Discover mission and service ideas that have worked in other congregations. This workshop also considers the possibilities of encouraging family service projects. **T E Y**

27 The magic of drama

Lights! Camera! Action! Bible stories can come alive with some good directing. Learn how to bring out the dramatic flair in everyone. **T E**

28 A picture is worth a thousand words

Through 2,000 years of Christianity, art has been a powerful way to communicate the gospel. This workshop explores how children, youth and adults can use artwork to deepen and express faith. **T E**

29 Turning your church school into a caring community

As teachers and leaders, we do more than teach about Christianity. We aim to walk in the Christian way and follow the teaching and example of Jesus. This workshop offers practical ways to turn your group/class into a community of people who truly care for each other. **E T C**

30 Transformation of the heart: using your teaching experience to develop your own spirituality

Sometimes you hear people say, “I teach because I learn so much!” This workshop explores how to turn your teaching experience from “just another thing I have to do” into true spiritual growth that you do not want to live without. **T Y**

31 Music on the menu

Many people feel inadequate when it comes to leading music. This workshop gently leads people to greater confidence, offering suggestions, techniques and just plain great music that will inspire everyone to lead music. **T E**



32 From purple to green: a colour parade through the Christian year

The Christian year, with its cycle of rich patterns and vibrant tradition, is alive with colour. This workshop explores how congregations can bring the Christian year alive in something as simple as an Easter butterfly cross or a walk to the Bethlehem stable. Suggestions are given for home rituals, too. **T E P**

33 Special people: special care

Almost every community has children who require special attention to allow them, and the children around them, to get the most out of their learning experiences. Explore how teachers, classes and congregations can respond effectively to children with special needs. **T E C**

34 Teaching kids to pray

Children as young as two or three can learn to pray. In this workshop, discover how children think about and experience prayer at different ages. Learn how you can guide children in developing a prayer life. **T P**

35 The pastoral care of children

How do you help children who are hurting – from the death of a pet or classmate, from divorce, from neglect? This workshop offers both theoretical ways of understanding children's grief and practical things you can do. **T C**

36 Diwali, Chanukah and Christmas: living in a multi-faith world

This workshop helps teachers and church leaders to understand the uniqueness of Christianity in a multi-faith context. **T E**

37 Ages and stages of development

Why are some ages more difficult to engage? Why is the Parable of the Workers in the Vineyard so difficult for ten-year-olds? How do our images of God change as we grow from preschooler to adult? This workshop gives an overview of the theories of physical, mental and moral development, and how they affect our approach to teaching scripture and nurturing spirituality. **T P**

38 Stewards of creation

We teach when we instruct and when we act. This workshop explores ways to teach and live our call to care for God's creation. Explore new resources in this area. **T P**

39 Answering difficult questions from children

What happens when children asks tough questions? This workshop provides skills that parents and teachers need to answer well. It also focuses on how to avoid unhelpful answering, which causes children to stop talking. **T P**

40 Bully for you

Bullying is a problem that just doesn't seem to go away. Yet bullying can be lessened with education, awareness and good programs. Find out what resources and materials are available to help the children and youth in your church school and communities. Find out what churches can do to help with the issue of bullying.

T P Y



- T** Teachers
- C** Clergy
- E** CE committee
- P** Parents
- W** Worship Committee
- Y** Youth leaders

Area 3: Youth Ministry

41 Youth Christian life in a pop culture world

How do young people live as Christians in a pop culture world? This workshop gives adults a glimpse into the world of youth, and offers hints as to how adults can help youth make sense of it all. **Y E P**

42 Pathways to leadership

This workshop looks at different ways to help youth assume leadership in the church and community. Using the resource *Pathways to Leadership* and other resources, participants explore ways to encourage leadership skills in teens. **Y W E**

43 Youth ministry 101 (the basics of youth ministry)

Every congregation – whether small, medium or large – can offer good youth ministry, but maybe not a youth group! This workshop explores how to build and maintain a vibrant youth ministry. **Y C E**

44 Nurturing faith in youth

The teen years can be a time of great spiritual sensitivity. Learn tried and true methods to help youth stay in touch with God. **Y C E**

45 Making a world of difference

Why and how do youth get so excited about a serving/mission project, igniting their exuberance and care? Find out how to engage youth in mission projects that matter. **Y E**

46 Pastoral care for today's young people

Far from the idyllic idea of teens and young people enjoying flurries of parties and carefree hours of leisure, today's young people report stress levels that are difficult to manage. Explore issues that teens face within their lives and their communities. Learn how to talk with youth about faith and the significant challenges (and joys!) in their lives. **Y C**

47 Mentoring youth

Mentors can be a powerful influence in the lives of youth. How do you choose, train and support mentors? What materials are available to help in this task? **Y C**

48 Teens – who are they?

We may think we know what it is like to be a teen, but this is a “good reminder” workshop. It focuses on the moral, physical, mental, emotional and spiritual development of youth. The more adults understand youth, the better they are able to help them face the future in faith. **Y C P**

49 Youth who want to contribute more...

This workshop suggests ways to integrate youth who want to make a fuller contribution to church and community life. **Y W**

50 Tweens and junior highs – the exuberant years

The liveliness and intensity of tweens and junior highs is an opportunity for church leaders. Learn about programs that appeal and strategies that work with youth ages 10 to 15. **Y P T**



- T** Teachers
- C** Clergy
- E** CE committee
- P** Parents
- W** Worship Committee
- Y** Youth leaders