

MINISTERIAL TRAINING INSTITUTE  
OF THE  
ORTHODOX PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

November, 2007

Dear Brother in Christ:

The Ministerial Training Institute of the Orthodox Presbyterian Church (MTIOPC) is making preparations for the spring semester, which will begin on February 1, 2008. The courses to be offered by the MTIOPC this spring are (1) Pastoral Theology, taught by William Shishko; (2) Reformed Worship (Liturgics), taught by Larry E. Wilson; (3) Defending the Faith (Presuppositional Apologetics), taught by William Dennison; and (4) Ecclesiology, taught by Craig Troxel.

The benefit to you becoming an MTIOPC student is that you will sit under some of the most distinguished ministers and elders of the OPC. A second benefit is that you will have an opportunity to interact with students from across the country who are studying to become Orthodox Presbyterian pastors, students who are currently OP pastors, students who are ruling elders in the denomination, and others interested in the reformed faith. Third, you will be studying in areas identified by the OPC as areas needing specific attention.

The benefit to MTIOPC having you as a student is that you bring your gifts and talents to share with other students. A second benefit for MTIOPC is that your participation makes this denominational effort a success.

The demands of MTIOPC courses will equal or exceed the demands of seminary courses. Courses will require considerable preparation. They will involve a combination of readings, papers, internet interaction, and a required intensive educational training. The intensive training for Pastoral Theology will be held in Franklin Square, New York from April 26-May 1, 2008. The intensive training for Reformed Worship, Defending the Faith, and Ecclesiology will be held in Wheaton, Illinois on May 20-22, 2008. You may want to consider how many courses your schedule will permit. Please review the future schedule of MTIOPC courses to determine your best opportunity to take these courses.

The cost to you, besides commitment of your time and energies, will be the cost of books and materials, and any travel expense you incur in excess of the MTIOPC travel scholarship provided to assist in attending the required intensive training week. In addition, there is a \$50 per course registration fee that is fully refundable upon completion of the course. If additional funds are required, you might want to approach your session and presbytery. Please note the cost on the application/registration form for OPC elders and men from other ecclesiastical bodies.

The MTIOPC makes available a travel scholarship to help defray the cost of traveling to the intensive training. For men under care and licentiates, the scholarship is a grant of \$150 with an additional \$100 available if matched by the local session or presbytery. For pastors, the scholarship is a grant of \$100 with an additional \$100 available if matched by the local session or presbytery.

Please complete the MTIOPC Student Application/Registration Form and return it with your registration deposit to the address below. You should respond with your application as soon as possible. Although classes do not start until February 1, 2008, enrollment will be limited.

Please contact me if you have any questions or comments about MTIOPC. You may contact me at 112 Evergreen Drive, Aliquippa, PA 15001, call 724-774-7427, or e-mail [thomas.2@opc.org](mailto:thomas.2@opc.org).

Danny Olinger, MTIOPC Director, and I look forward to serving you as a student of the Institute.

In Christ,

James H. Thomas, Jr., Ed.D.

MTIOPC Administrator

Ministerial Training Institute of the  
Orthodox Presbyterian Church

Spring 2008  
Description of Courses

Defending the Faith (Presuppositional Apologetics) – Bill Dennison - Two Continuing Education Credits

The purpose of this course is to provide a thorough introduction to presuppositional apologetics, and to highlight its importance in the theological encyclopedia and the life of the church. The first half of the course is an introduction to presuppositional apologetics. Topics include the history of apologetics; the nature of presuppositional apologetics; and the relationship between presuppositional apologetics and Scripture, the person of God, preredemptive revelation, the doctrine of the Fall, the covenant of grace – Jesus Christ, and the doctrine of the church.

The second half of the course deals with presuppositional apologetics and the marketplace. Topics include Cornelius Van Til and the theistic proofs for God's existence, the problem of evil, criticisms of miracles from a scientific worldview, religious-mystical experience, psychology, and postmodernism. The course concludes with a discussion of why presuppositional apologetics is so important to the future of the Orthodox Presbyterian Church.

Ecclesiology – Craig Troxel – Two Continuing Education Credits

The purpose of this course is to acquaint students with the biblical and historical foundations of Presbyterian church government and the consequent principles and practice by which the body of Christ should be understood and shepherded. A well-informed and biblical ecclesiology equips a minister with competency for his conduct in the church, and it prepares him for the theological challenges and controversies which often confront him in the area of ecclesiology.

Furthermore, those who have Reformed convictions about the church are increasingly challenged by the modern Zeitgeist of American evangelicalism and its thorough saturation with the parachurch agenda. Orthodox Presbyterian ministers and elders who live in such an age must be prepared to articulate the conviction that “there is no ordinary possibility of salvation” outside of the visible church (Conf. 25:2) And they must give a thoughtful and winsome defense of the church's rightful claim to ordain “stewards of the mysteries of God” (I Cor. 4:1) and to exercise the “keys of the kingdom” (Matt. 16:19) as the “pillar and foundation of the truth” (1 Tim. 3:15).

Pastoral Theology – Bill Shishko - Two Continuing Education Credits

This course combines personal reading, intensive training, and actual exposure to church life in an Orthodox Presbyterian congregation. The goal of the course is to help students develop a truly biblical approach to the pastoral office and its various responsibilities. Subjects to be covered include: the minister in relation to himself, the minister in relation to his family, the minister and

his session, shepherding, ruling, miscellaneous duties, and the minister in the presbytery and general assembly. The intensive training period will include workshops with the church session and board of deacons. This course will be most beneficial for men who are on the threshold of pastoral ministry or for those who have recently entered the pastorate as ordained ministers. Class size is limited to six students.

Reformed Worship (Liturgics) – Larry Wilson - One Continuing Education Credit

The purpose of this course is to equip students (1) to grasp the principles and ethos of biblically Reformed worship embodied in the OPC's *Directory for Public Worship* (DPW), (2) to plan and conduct public worship services in a manner that consciously expresses that ethos, and (3) to evaluate contemporary pressures on pastors in light of those principles. Students will survey principal aspects of public worship. A careful reading of the DPQ will be augmented by selected readings that introduce the biblical, theological, and historical roots of the provisions of the Directory and which argue differing sides of debated issues. Topics covered will include the Lord's Day, the significance of public worship, the regulative principle of worship, the elements of worship, the "dialogue" of worship, order and flow in public worship, leadership in public worship, song in public worship, admission to and administration of the sacraments, ordinations and installations, weddings, and funerals. The intensive training will focus on the practice of planning and conducting public worship, both Lord's Day worship and special occasions such as ordinations and installations, weddings, and funerals.

**MINISTERIAL TRAINING INSTITUTE  
OF THE  
ORTHODOX PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
**Student Application/Registration Form**  
Spring 2008

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Last Name	First	Middle
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Address	City	State	Zip Code
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E-mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Seminary: \_\_\_\_\_

Denomination: \_\_\_\_\_ Presbytery: \_\_\_\_\_

Status: ( ) OPC Pastor ( ) OPC Licentiate ( ) OPC Man Under Care ( ) OPC Ruling Elder ( ) Minister or ministerial candidate of another ecclesiastical body

Please enroll me in the following course(s):

- ( ) Defending the Faith (Presuppositional Apologetics), taught by William Dennison - Two Continuing Education Credits
- ( ) Ecclesiology, taught by Craig Troxel – Two Continuing Education Credits
- ( ) Pastoral Theology, taught by William Shishko - Two Continuing Education Credits
- ( ) Reformed Worship, taught by Larry Wilson - One Continuing Education Credit

There is no charge for tuition for OPC pastors, OPC licentiates, or OPC men under care. OPC elders will be charged \$50 per course. Others will be charged \$100 per course.

For all students, there is a \$50 per course registration fee that is fully refundable upon completion of the course. Registration is finalized when the completed registration form and refundable fee are received.

Classes begin February 1, 2008. Mandatory intensive training for Pastoral Theology will be held in Franklin Square, NY on April 26- May 1, 2008. Intensive training for Defending the Faith, Ecclesiology and Reformed Worship, a required part of the MTIOPC course, will be held in Wheaton, Ill on May 20-22, 2006.

Please note that MTIOPC grants continuing education units (CEU). One CEU is equivalent to fifteen hours of class time.

Registration materials and questions should be addressed to James H. Thomas, Jr. Ed.D., MTIOPC Administrator, 112 Evergreen Drive, Aliquippa, Penna. 15001 Email: thomas.2@opc.org