

**Ministerial Training Institute of the
Orthodox Presbyterian Church**

December 1, 2021

Dear Brother in Christ:

The Ministerial Training Institute of the Orthodox Presbyterian Church (MTIOPC) announces the three courses offered during the Spring 2022 term, including a class open to deacons, OPC Sunday school, and Christian Education teachers who are interested in making ministry to those with disabilities an essential part of their congregation.

- **Disability and the Church**, taught by the Rev. Stephen J. Tracey (one credit)
- **Reformed Worship**, taught by the Rev. Dr. Glen J. Clary (one credit)
- **Westminster Standards**, taught by the Rev. Dr. Chad B. Van Dixhoorn (two credits)

Classes begin with online reading and writing assignments on **February 1, 2022**. The Disability and the Church class will include videos.

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. Secondly, you will have an opportunity to interact with students from across the country who are studying or currently serve as Orthodox Presbyterian pastors, OP ruling elders, and men in various stages of ministry from other denominations. Third, you will study content identified by the OPC as needing specific attention.

The benefit to MTIOPC for having you as a student is that you bring your gifts and talents to share with other students. Your participation as an OPC minister, elder, licentiate, or men under care also makes this denominational effort a success.

The demands of MTIOPC courses will equal or exceed the demands of seminary classes. Plan to spend between three to five hours a week on course work, depending on the class, before Intensive Training.

The courses include **mandatory Intensive Training**, which will be held in two different locations and on two different dates next May 2022:

- Intensive Training for **Reformed Worship** and **Westminster Standards** will meet on **May 3–5** in Calvary OPC in **Glenside, Pennsylvania**. Non-commuting students will arrive on Monday, May 2 and leave at 11 a.m. on Thursday, May 5. (Book return flights for after 1:30 p.m.)
- Intensive Training for **Disability and the Church** will be held on **May 17–19** at Lakeview OPC in **Rockport, Maine**. Students should plan to arrive on Monday, May 16 and leave after 10 a.m. on Thursday, May 19. (Book return flights for after 1 p.m. If flight costs are prohibitive, contact Pat Clawson.)

Admission to the Disability and the Church class also is open to deacons and those who serve in their church's Christian Education or Sunday school ministries and

are not ordained. To participate, a non-ordained OPC member must send a letter of recommendation from their session to the MTIOPC director (danny.olinger@opc.org).

Students will receive pass/fail grades after their coursework is complete and may only take one course a term.

All students, including church planters, must pay a \$50 per course registration fee that is fully refundable upon successful completion of the course.

The additional cost to students, besides commitment of your time and energies, will be the cost of books and materials, plus travel expenses in excess of the MTIOPC travel scholarship for qualified students.

OPC ministers, licentiates, and men under care qualify for a travel scholarship of up to \$350 to help defray the cost of travel to Intensive Training. An additional \$100 for travel expenses also is available if matched by your local session or presbytery.

Food, lodging, and local transportation will be provided free for all students. OPC elders, deacons, non-ordained members taking the Disability class, and ministers from other denominations are asked to pay their long-distance transportation costs.

MTIOPC will provide free housing in the homes of church members or in double rooms in hotels. Students who request a single hotel room must pay an additional \$200 to offset the cost.

Registration deadline is January 28, 2022.

To pay your registration fee, use the link <https://give.opc.org>. Scroll down to Committee on Christian Education. Hit "Donate now." At MTIOPC Fees, total your amount and hit "Give."

If you prefer, write a check payable to the *Committee on Christian Education* with *MTIOPC* written on the memo line. Mail the \$50 registration fee and optional \$200 single hotel room fee to: The Committee on Christian Education, ATTN: MTIOPC, 607 N. Easton Road, Building E, Willow Grove, PA 19090-2539

Applications and course descriptions are attached as well as available on the Ministerial Training Institute of the OPC site on: <http://www.opc.org/cce>

Please distribute this letter to men under care, licentiates, elders, as well as deacons and those serving in your congregation's Christian Education or Sunday school ministries who might be interested in attending the Disability class.

For more information, contact Pat Clawson, MTIOPC coordinator, at 215-896-6825 or e-mail pat.clawson.opc@gmail.com.

We look forward to serving you as a student of the Institute.

In Christ, Danny E. Olinger
MTIOPC Director
Danny.Olinger@OPC.org

MTIOPC Spring 2022 Course Descriptions

Disability and the Church (1 credit)

This course is designed to give an introduction to disability and the church to OP pastors, licentiates, men under care, ruling elders, deacons, and non-ordained OPC members who serve in their congregation's Christian Education or Sunday school ministries. The course seeks to help them to think biblically and practically about disability from a reformed perspective. This class will emphasize that every person bears God's image, suffers from the effects of the fall into sin, needs the Savior, and will have a resurrected body in an eternal state. Assigned readings will review the major theological themes of creation, the fall, providence, salvation, the church, and the resurrection. These will serve as a foundation for practical application during intensive training:

- Assessing Your Church: Barriers, Accessibility, Attitudes
- Welcoming people and families with disabilities, Signs of Hospitality
- Christian Education: Classroom, Adapting Curriculum, Friendship, Buddies
- 'The other six days': Respite, Support, Diaconal Assistance

Reformed Worship (1 credit)

This course introduces the biblical, theological, and historical roots of Presbyterian worship. The primary aim of the course is to equip students to plan and lead worship services that are in accordance with Holy Scripture and the subordinate standards of the Orthodox Presbyterian Church. Topics include the regulative principle of worship, the Christian Sabbath (the Lord's Day), the reading and preaching of Scripture, the sacraments, psalmody, hymnody, corporate prayer, benedictions, the order of worship, and the architectural setting of worship.

The Westminster Standards (2 credits)

The purpose of this course is to enable the student to get a clear understanding of the rich heritage of the Reformation faith. The course offers a detailed analysis of the contents of the Westminster Confession of Faith (WCF). The relationship between the WCF and the Larger and Shorter Catechisms is discussed. The goal is for the student to know the system of doctrine formulated in the WCF and the two catechisms, and to be able to subscribe to these standards with integrity. The method used includes reading of assigned materials, review of specific commentaries on these standards, and study of a detailed syllabus that reduces the doctrines of the Confession to a series of clear propositions. Special attention will be given to the OPC's form of subscription to the Westminster standards.