

# Orthodox Presbyterian Shiloh Institute

## June 28-30, 2016

Report of the Director  
October 4, 2016

### **Purpose**

OPSI is designed to introduce prospective ministers to the work of the Orthodox Presbyterian Church as a means of recruiting able young men for OPC ministry and future participation in MTIOPC. This is similar to the Timothy Conference, but with an older age group in view (last year college; first two years seminary).

To fulfill this purpose the following themes were taught and discussed at length:

- The OPC: continuity with Reformed tradition and distinguishing characteristics.
- The centrality, nature, and benefits of being a confessional church.
- The importance of the means of grace in the church's mission.
- The meaning of a culturally-aware pilgrim church.
- The work of a minister of the Word in an organized church and a mission work.

### **OPC.org**

The Shiloh Institute has a page on [opc.org](http://opc.org) under "Christian Education/Camps and Conferences" [www.opc.org/cce/Shiloh\\_Institute.html](http://www.opc.org/cce/Shiloh_Institute.html)

### **Participants and Location**

Six students applied, were accepted, and attended. Of the six students we had four seminarians: three from Westminster Theological Seminary, one from Trinity Evangelical Divinity School in Chicago, one recent graduate of the University of Texas, Austin, and one recent graduate from Reformed Bible College in Sanford, Florida.

Instructors arrived on Tuesday, June 28, to make preparations for the arrival of the students later that day. Our location in the White Mountains makes travel arrangements a lot simpler, due to the proximity of Manchester Boston Regional and Logan airports.

This was our sixth year at Camp Shiloh in Jefferson, New Hampshire, overlooking the White Mountains. The main lodge is very suitable for lectures and discussions, and at a very reasonable cost. This venue would easily accommodate a dozen or more students. Retreat director Greg Gordon is a delightful and accommodating host who shares our mission as a committed Presbyterian (PCA).

### **Instruction**

Each of the four instructors gave a two hour talk interspersed with discussion and then two separate two hour periods to discuss pre-assigned readings.

Darryl Hart taught “The OPC and Global Calvinism”  
John Muether taught “A True Presbyterian Church at Last”  
Stephen Tracey taught “The View of an OPC Immigrant”  
Greg Reynolds taught “The Shape of OPC Ministry”

A fair amount of free time, as well as leisurely meals, allowed plenty of opportunity for informal discussion among participants and instructors.

As in the past we allotted time before departure to help Greg Gordon with wood splitting. He cuts, splits, stacks, and burns about 22 cords a year.

## **2016 Assessment**

Having completed its seventh year, the positive feedback from students continues to indicate that the Institute is achieving its stated purpose. The Shiloh institute continues to feed students into the OPC internship program. Survey respondents all strongly agreed that the institute is beneficial in preparation for ordained ministry and all indicated that they would recommend the Institute to other ministerial candidates.

In response to our survey, all of the instructors were rated highly, and all respondents thought the reading was very appropriate. Although the facilities were modest, food, accommodations, and meeting space continued to score well in student evaluations. Students continue to appreciate the balance of free time and fellowship time. “It was a good strong introduction to the OPC,” observed one student, “I would strongly recommend it for someone who is in seminary and is set on the OPC.” Wrote another, “the material does not overlap with my [seminary] classroom experience. . . . It nicely supplements it while providing practical instruction regarding ministry in the OPC.”

The variety of seminaries and colleges represented continued to enhance the atmosphere of the Institute and the interaction among students. Once again we had two college students.

## **Next Year**

The 2017 Shiloh Institute is scheduled at Camp Shiloh on June 20–22.



Camp Shiloh, Jefferson, NH



2016 Shiloh Institute



The Presidential Range in the White Mountains from the Shiloh porch, Jefferson, NH

Respectfully submitted,

Gregory E. Reynolds