

# The OPC Timothy Conference

March 18–21, 2020

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

The OPC Timothy Conference is for promising young men who are nominated by their sessions and willing to be educated and challenged regarding the call to gospel ministry. Attendance will be quite limited in order to enhance the experience of the men who are invited to attend.

The purpose of the OPC Timothy Conference is to seek out and encourage godly young Orthodox Presbyterian men to consider the gifts that God has given them and whether the Lord of the church may be calling them to pursue gospel ministry. This goal is in accordance with the mandate given to the Subcommittee on Ministerial Training by the general assembly to “assist the churches in seeking out men with apparent gifts for the gospel ministry, and in pressing upon them its urgent claims.”

This goal is also in keeping with the apostle Paul’s exhortation to young Timothy to “fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you” (2 Tim. 1:6), and “guard the good deposit entrusted to you” (2 Tim. 1:14). Paul also said, “What you have heard from me ... entrust to faithful men who will be able to teach others also” (2 Tim. 2:2).

Participating in the OPC Timothy Conference will be those who are already ministers, as Paul was, together with young men who must be urged to take up fully the “gospel trust” given to the church and its ministers. Young, unordained “Timothys” are to be found in the covenant homes of OPC church



*Westminster Theological Seminary*

Theological Seminary (pictured here) and attend a seminary class. Attendees will also hear lectures at the OPC’s denominational offices in nearby Willow Grove by experienced Orthodox Presbyterian ministers.

families where the spirit and practice of a Lois or Eunice live on today (2 Tim. 1:5).

The 2020 OPC Timothy Conference will take place in the Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, area. The conference will include the opportunity to visit Westminster

## Eligibility & Applications

Eligibility to attend is based on the Subcommittee on Ministerial Training inviting young men in late high school (juniors and seniors) through early college (freshmen and sophomores) who have been nominated by their sessions. Session nominations must be submitted by no later than January 10, 2020, via e-mail to Rev. Danny Olinger, general secretary of the Committee on Christian Education ([danny.olingier@opc.org](mailto:danny.olingier@opc.org)). ***Please use the application provided, which may be downloaded from the Timothy Conference page at OPC.org.***

## Costs

All costs for the conference (including transportation to it) will be borne by the Committee on Christian Education, which will provide food

and local transportation as necessary.

## Travel Arrangements

Travel arrangements should be made in consultation with the conference registrar, Danny Olinger (danny.olinger@opc.org). Attendees should plan to fly into Philadelphia on Wednesday evening, March 18, and return home on Saturday morning, March 21.

## Topics and Speakers

*We are pleased to have as conference speakers men who have pastoral, teaching, and church-planting experience and are deeply involved in the preparation of men for gospel ministry as mentors and instructors.*

### ***The Office of the Minister***

John D. Van Meerbeke (pastor of Living Hope OPC in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania) will describe the responsibilities and privileges of the office of minister. He will explain the distinctions between pastors, teachers, and evangelists. He will also describe the various tasks that constitute a minister's work and emphasize the importance of this office for the well-being of the church and the witness of the gospel.



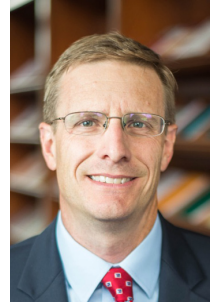
### ***The Call to the Ministry***

Pastor Joel D. Fick (pastor of Redemption OPC in Gainesville, Florida, and a member of the Subcommittee on Ministerial Training) will explore the various ecclesiastical and personal elements involved in a call to the ministry and provide guidance for the participants in their own consideration of whether to pursue the ministry.



### ***Seminary Education: What and Why***

Dr. David VanDrunen (professor at Westminster Seminary California and a member of the Subcommittee on Ministerial Training) will explain what a Reformed seminary education involves and why we believe that it is necessary for future ministers in light of our commitment to raising up a learned ministry.



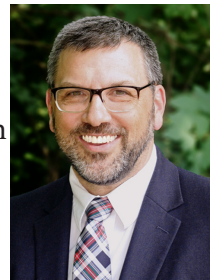
### ***Preparing for the Ministry Now***

Thomas D. Church (pastor of Immanuel OPC in Bellmawr, New Jersey) will explain to participants how to diligently prepare themselves now for a future in the ministry. He will include discussion of both academic preparation in an undergraduate program and personal preparation in regard to their participation in the life of the church, piety, financial stewardship, family commitments, etc.



### ***The Process Toward Ordination***

Rev. Danny E. Olinger (general secretary of the Committee on Christian Education) will draw together the elements of instruction received during the conference and set out the various steps that a candidate for OPC ministry must undergo as he comes under care, is licensed, and is finally ordained. He will give a sense of the work of a presbytery's candidates and credentials committee and the nature of the exams that it administers, and will indicate how seminary education and pastoral internships fit into this process.



*Also Featured at the Timothy Conference:*



*Westminster professor of church history Chad Van Dixhoorn (with bow tie) will host Timothy Conference participants for a meal and a discussion about the Westminster Assembly*



*Over lunch, OPC short-terms missions coordinator David Nakhla (with gray T-shirt, at English camp in Ukraine) will share how service in short-term missions can be a part of preparation for gospel ministry*

***The Timothy Conference is sponsored by the Subcommittee on Ministerial Training of the Committee on Christian Education of the Orthodox Presbyterian Church***