

Orthodox Presbyterian Shiloh Institute

June 20-22, 2023

Report of the Director

October 2, 2023

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 under "Christian Education/Camps and Conferences" www.opc.org/cce/Shiloh_Institute.html

Participants and Location

The 2022 institute having been canceled due to a lack of applications, six students were accepted for the 2023 institute. One had to decline at the last minute, so five attended, of whom there were two seminarians, three college graduates who will attend seminary in the fall. Two came from Reformed Theological Seminary in Orlando Florida, two from Reformed Bible College, and one from Covenant College. Due to a conflict with the General Assembly schedule our next OPSI will be June 17–19, 2025

Instructors and students arrived on Tuesday, June 20. 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 eleventh 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 commitment to the Reformed faith.

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 various tasks around the camp.

Financial Report

INCOME

| | |
|------------------------------|-------------------|
| CCE Budget | \$9,000.00 |
| <u>Lakeview OPC donation</u> | <u>\$1,000.00</u> |
| Total funds | \$10,000.00 |

EXPENSES

*Travel was more expensive due to Covid this year.

For comparison, expenses for the previous five years are included here:

| | Budget | 2023 | 2021 | 2019 | 2017 | 2016 | 2015 |
|---------------------------------------|-------------|-------------------|------------|------------|------------|-----------|-----------|
| Meals & Lodging | \$2,000.00 | \$2,000.00 | \$2,000.00 | \$2,000.00 | \$2,000.00 | \$2000.00 | \$2000.00 |
| Student travel | \$3,000.00 | 2,423.91 | 4,106.81* | \$2,896.21 | \$2289.18 | \$2061.65 | 2156.64 |
| Instructor travel, stipends, expenses | \$2,000.00 | 2,020.19 | 2,051.49 | \$1,986.35 | \$2025.05 | 2543.37 | 2203.92 |
| Total Budget | \$10,000.00 | \$10,000.00 | \$7,000.00 | \$7,000.00 | \$7,000.00 | \$7000.00 | \$7000.00 |
| Total Expenses | | \$6,444.10 | \$8,153.30 | \$6882.56 | \$6,314.23 | \$6605.02 | \$6360.56 |

2021 Assessment

Having completed its tenth 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.

We now have a data base for all students who have attended OPSI since its inception in 2010. Fourteen of those students are currently ministerial members of the OPC. Several others are pursuing ordination and three are on the verge of ordination (after completion of internships).

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 about to enter seminary. The seminaries from which the sixty-two students have come are: Bethlehem Seminary, Calvin Theological Seminary, Covenant Theological Seminary, Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary-Hamilton, GCTS-Jacksonville, Greenville Presbyterian Theological Seminary, Mid-America Reformed Seminary, North American Seminary, Reformed Presbyterian Theological Seminary, Reformed Theological Seminary-Dallas, RTS-Jackson, RTS-Orlando, Trinity Evangelical Divinity School, Westminster Seminary California, and Westminster Theological Seminary.

Next Year

Due to a conflict with the General Assembly schedule in 2024 the next Shiloh Institute is scheduled for June 17–19, 2025.



Camp Shiloh, Jefferson, NH



Students helping Camp Shiloh prepare for winter



2023 Shiloh Institute



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

Respectfully submitted,

Gregory E. Reynolds