

Orthodox Presbyterian Shiloh Institute

June 17-19, 2014

Report of the Director
October 6, 2014

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 Summer Institute has a new page on [opc.org](http://www.opc.org/cce/Summer_Institute.html) under "Christian Education"
http://www.opc.org/cce/Summer_Institute.html

Participants and Location

Seven students applied, were accepted, and attended. We also had two auditors, for a record total of nine. Of the nine students we had seven seminarians: one from Reformed Theological Seminary in Jackson, one from Westminster Theological Seminary, and five from Westminster Seminary in California; and one college student from Grove City College.

On Monday, June 16 two of the instructors arrived to make preparations for the arrival of the students the following 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 fourth year at Shiloh Retreat 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 was not able to be present, so John Muether summarized and lead a discussion of “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.

For the first time we allotted time before departure to help Greg Gordon with wood splitting. This will become a part of the daily routine in the future.

Financial Report

INCOME

CCE Budget	\$6,000.00
Lakeview OPC donation	\$1,000.00
Total funds	\$7,000.00

EXPENSES

	Budget	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010
Meals & Lodging	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00	\$1600.00	\$1,800.00	\$1,500.00*	\$3,143.57**
Student travel	\$3,000.00	3,190.75	2568.07	2,581.40	2,198.60	1,506.00
Instructor travel, stipends & expenses	\$2,000.00	1,483.19	1,591.27	1,349.07	1,634.14	1,227.58
Budget total	\$7,000.00		\$6,100.00	\$6,100.00	\$6,100.00	\$5,100.00
		\$6673.94	5759.34	5,730.47	5,332.74	5,791.58

*Shiloh Retreat Center, Jefferson, NH 2011 to present **Driftwood Inn, Bailey Island, ME

Budget note: travel stipends for students have become increasingly higher percentages of the OPSI budget. This is largely due to travel itineraries obtained at the last minute, and in future years we plan to establish incentives for students to book their travel early.

2014 Assessment

Having completed its fifth year, the positive feedback from students continues to indicate that the Institute is achieving its stated purpose. It has been heartening to learn that half of last year’s yearlong internship applicants are alumni of the summer institute (8 of 16). 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 (we have modified the length of readings and delivered in a more timely fashion, based on last years student feedback). Although the facilities were modest, food, accommodations, and meeting space continued to score well in student evaluations. Students appreciated the balance of free time and fellowship time. The institute was “definitely a very helpful supplement” to seminary, according to one student. Wrote another, “I wish I could go again.”

The variety of seminaries and colleges represented continued to enhance the atmosphere of the Institute and the interaction among students. For the second year in a row we had two college students.

Next Year

The 2015 Summer Institute is scheduled at Shiloh on June 23–25.

Newsletter

We plan to continue providing a newsletter to all students who attended the institute.



Shiloh Retreat, Jefferson, NH



2014 Summer Institute



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