

THE OPC TIMOTHY CONFERENCE

April 9–12, 2014

Charlotte, North Carolina area

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 the 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 the 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 her ministers. Young, unordained “Timothys” are to be found in the covenant homes of OPC church families where the spirit and practice of a Lois or Eunice live on today (2 Tim. 1:5).

The 2014 OPC Timothy Conference will be hosted by Matthews OPC in Matthews, North Carolina. Within an easy drive is Greenville Presbyterian Theological Seminary (pictured above), which has graciously allowed the conference to use its facilities for one day of the schedule.

The attendees will be exposed to the lecture materials given by five experienced Orthodox Presbyterian ministers and to seminary classes during their time in the Southeast. Also, the OPC’s historian, elder John Muether, will make a special presentation on our church’s history.



ELIGIBILITY

Eligibility to attend is based on the Subcommittee on Ministerial Training inviting young men in late high school (juniors and seniors) through early college (freshman and sophomore) who have been nominated by their session. Session nominations must be submitted by no later than January 15, 2014, via e-mail to the Rev. Danny Olinger, general secretary of the Committee on Christian Education (olinger.1@opc.org). *Please use the application that may be downloaded from OPC.org.*

COSTS

All costs for the conference (including transportation to it) will be borne by the Committee on Christian Education in conjunction with the host church, which will provide food and local transportation as necessary.

TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS

Travel arrangements should be made in consultation with the conference registrar, David Winslow (winslow.1@opc.org). Attendees should plan to fly into the Charlotte area on Wednesday evening, April 9, and return home on Saturday morning, April 12.

TOPICS AND SPEAKERS

We are pleased to have as conference speakers ministers who have had pastoral, teaching, and missionary experience and have been deeply involved in the preparation of men for gospel ministry as mentors and instructors.

The Office of the Minister

Pastor Stephen Oharek (pastor of Reformation OPC in Oviedo, Fla.) 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 Boyd Miller (pastor of Covenant OPC in LaGrange, Ga.) 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 the light of our commitment to raising up a learned ministry.

Preparing for the Ministry Now

Pastor Nathan Trice (pastor of Matthews OPC in Matthews, N.C., and a member of the OPC's Committee on Diaconal Ministries) will explain to participants how they might most 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

The 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 the 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.



*Sponsored by the
Subcommittee on
Ministerial Training
of the Committee on
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of the Orthodox
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