

THE OPC TIMOTHY CONFERENCE

March 18–21, 2015

Philadelphia 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 2015 OPC Timothy Conference will be hosted by Calvary OPC in Glenside, Pennsylvania, across the street from Westminster Theological Seminary.

The attendees will be exposed to the lecture materials given by four experienced Orthodox Presbyterian ministers and have the opportunity to attend a seminary class or two during their time at the conference. Given the historic significance of the area for American Presbyterianism in general and the OPC in particular, the OPC’s historian, elder John Muether, will be presenting a lecture on our church’s history and identity. Additionally, elder Darryl G. Hart will be leading a walking Presbyterian history tour of downtown Philadelphia, topped off with an authentic Philly cheesesteak.



Prof. Hart leading a Presbyterian history tour

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, 2015, 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 Philadelphia on Wednesday afternoon, March 18, and return home on Saturday morning, March 21.

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 Mark Sallade (pastor of Calvary OPC in Glenside, Pa.) 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.



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.



History and Identity of the OPC

Elder John Muether (the OPC's historian, a professor at RTS Orlando, and a member of the subcommittee on



Ministerial Training) will present highlights of OP history that have shaped the church's identity and culture as "the little church that stands for something big."

Preparing for the Ministry Now

Pastor Larry Westerveld (pastor of Trinity OPC in Hatboro, Pa.) 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.



Each of the conference lectures will explore some aspect of the 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.



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