

***Ministerial Training Institute
of the
Orthodox Presbyterian Church***

December 18, 2023

Dear Brother in Christ:

The Ministerial Training Institute of the Orthodox Presbyterian Church (MTIOPC) announces three courses for the **Spring 2024** semester:

- **Book of Discipline**, taught by Mr. Mark Bube
- **Ecclesiology**, taught by the Rev. Dr. A. Craig Troxel
- **Jeremiah Seminar**, taught by the Rev. Dr. Matthew H. Patton

The benefit to you becoming an MTIOPC student is that you will sit under some of the most distinguished ministers and elders of the OPC. Secondly, you will interact with students from across the country who are studying or serving as Orthodox Presbyterian pastors, licentiates, men under care of a presbytery, or ruling elders, and ministers from other denominations. Third, you will study content identified by the OPC as needing specific attention.

The benefit to MTIOPC is that you bring your gifts and talents to share with other students, making MTIOPC a denominational success.

The demands of MTIOPC courses will equal the demands of seminary courses. Depending on the class, students should expect to spend about two to four hours weekly on reading and writing assignments before attending Intensive Training.

The mandatory Intensive Training for all classes will be held **May 21-23, 2024**, at Grace Orthodox Presbyterian Church in Columbus, OH. Non-commuting students should plan to arrive on Monday, May 20, flying into John Glenn Columbus International Airport (CMH). Classes will conclude by noon on Thursday, **May 23**. Return flights may be scheduled after 1:30 p.m. Thursday, May 23.

Classes begin February 5, 2024, with online reading and writing assignments. Students may only sign up for one course and will receive pass/fail grades at the completion of their coursework.

All students, with the exception of OPC church planters, must pay a \$50 registration fee that is fully refundable upon successful completion of the course.

Tuition is free for OPC church planters, ministers, licentiates, and men under care. Tuition is an additional \$50 for OPC elders and \$100 for non-OPC ministers.

OPC pastors, licentiates, and men under care of a presbytery qualify for a travel scholarship of up to \$400 to help defray the cost of travel to Intensive Training. An additional \$100 for travel expenses also is available if matched by your local session or presbytery. CHMCE reimburses travel costs for CHMCE church planters.

All students will be housed in double-occupancy hotel rooms. Any student who prefers a single-occupancy hotel room must pay an additional \$200 fee to offset the costs.

Please send in your registration form and fees by the **January 31st** deadline. **Enrollment is limited.**

Registration is finalized when your registration form, refundable \$50 registration fee, and any applicable tuition and hotel fees are received. A registration form and course descriptions are attached as well as available with the MTIOPC catalog on the <http://www.opc.org/CCE>.

Please share this letter with OPC men under care, licentiates, and elders who may not be on our contact list.

For questions, contact Judy Alexander, the MTIOPC coordinator, at 407-761-8783 or e-mail: alexander.1@opc.org.

We look forward to serving you as a student of the Institute.

In Christ,

Danny E. Olinger
MTIOPC Director
Danny.Olinger@OPC.org

MTIOPC Spring 2024

Course Descriptions

Book of Discipline (1 credits):

The purpose of this course is to encourage Christ's undershepherds in their loving exercise of biblical church discipline, as they seek to carry out faithfully the duties and responsibilities enumerated in the Book of Discipline of the Orthodox Presbyterian Church. Jurisdiction, charges, process, review, and censure are covered in detail. Some applied exercises in the area of church discipline are used to help students think through the challenges faced in this difficult area of ministry.

Ecclesiology (2 credits):

The purpose of this course is to acquaint students with the biblical and historical foundations of Presbyterian church government and the consequent principles and practice by which the body of Christ should be understood and shepherded. A well-informed and biblical ecclesiology equips a minister with competency for his conduct in the church, and it prepares him for the theological challenges and controversies which often confront him in the area of ecclesiology.

Furthermore, those who have Reformed convictions about the church are increasingly challenged by the modern Zeitgeist of American evangelicalism and its thorough saturation with the parachurch agenda. Orthodox Presbyterian ministers and elders who live in such an age must be prepared to articulate the conviction that "there is no ordinary possibility of salvation" outside of the visible church (WCF 25.2). And they must give a thoughtful and winsome defense of the church's rightful claim to ordain "stewards of the mysteries of God" (1 Cor. 4:1) and to exercise the "keys of the kingdom" (Matt. 16:19) as the "pillar and foundation of the truth" (1 Tim. 3:15).

Jeremiah Seminar:

The Rev. Dr. Matthew H. Patton, pastor at Covenant OPC in Vandalia, Ohio, is conducting the seminar on the Book of Jeremiah. The seminar is a byproduct of Dr. Patton's work for a planned 2025 commentary on Jeremiah that will be included in the Zondervan Exegetical Commentary of the Old Testament.

The goal of the course is to show how a close reading of the book exalts the crucified and risen Christ in distinct ways. It will address the pastoral and homiletical issues raised in the book unto the end that believers might be motivated to a deeper faith in Christ and to a greater love of God and others.

The course will meet an hour each week online for eight weeks. Approximately four hours per work per week will be needed to complete the seminar. Students will not be permitted to attend the online classes for the seminar and not participate in the in-person training sessions at Grace Church. The size of the seminar will be limited to *eight* participants.