MTIOPC SPRING 2027

Course and Seminar Descriptions

Book of Discipline (1 credit):

The purpose of this course is to encourage ministers and ruling elders 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.

Seminar: Eastern Orthodoxy in Reformed Perspective

This course examines the fundamental differences between Eastern Orthodoxy and confessional Reformed theology, arguing that their contrasting doctrines of the relation between God and man produce fundamentally different understandings of authority, salvation, sacraments and eschatology. Eastern Orthodoxy distinguishes between God's unknowable essence and his participable, uncreated energies, understanding salvation as theosis through sacramental participation in divine life. Reformed theology confesses the simple and immutable triune God, whose covenantal condescension establishes personal communion with himself and promises the heavenly glorification of humanity without sacramental participation in the divine essence or the divine energies. The central argument of the course is that the Reformed doctrine of the covenant of works, fulfilled by the Mediator in the covenant of grace, provides the biblical and theological foundation for understanding the Creator–creature relation, the authority of Scripture, justification by faith alone, and the believer's consummate communion with the triune God. Through biblical exegesis and engagement with primary sources, students will examine how these two theological systems offer fundamentally different accounts of how the image of God advances from its original creation to its eschatological consummation in Christ.

Seminar: With Reverence and Awe: The Basics of Reformed Worship

Discussion Topics for the seminar include:

- The Development of Reformed Worship in Geneva, Scotland, and America
- The Regulative Principle of Worship
- The Dialogical Principle of Worship
- Exclusive Psalmody and Inclusive Psalmody
- History of Reformed Hymnody
- Church Offices and Worship Practice

Participants are encouraged to read Hart and Muether's *With Reverence and Awe: Discovering the Basics of Reformed Worship* and additional shorter readings which will be distributed electronically in advance of the seminar.