The OPC Timothy Conference

April 7–10, 2027 South Holland, Illinois

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 gospel ministry. Attendance will be limited in order to enhance the experience of the men who are invited to attend.



2026 Timothy Conference

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 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 its 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 2027 OPC Timothy Conference will be hosted by First OPC in South Holland, Illinois. Conference participants will be introduced to a seminary environment and attend classes at Mid-America Reformed Seminary located in Dyer, Indiana. The conference will also include the opportunity to hear lectures by experienced Orthodox Presbyterian officers.

Eligibility & Applications

Eligibility to attend is based on the Subcommittee on Ministerial Training inviting young men in late high school (juniors and seniors) through early college (freshmen and sophomores) who have been nominated by their sessions. Session nominations must be submitted by no later than January 22, 2027, by completing and submitting the Timothy Conference application.

Costs

All costs for the conference (including transportation to it) will be covered by the Committee on Christian Education, which will provide food and local transportation as necessary.

Travel Arrangements

Travel arrangements should be made in consultation with the conference registrar, Judy Alexander (alexander.1@opc.org). Attendees should plan to fly into Chicago on Wednesday evening, April 7 and return home on Saturday morning, April 10.

Topics and Speakers

We are pleased to have as conference speakers men who have pastoral, teaching, and church-planting experience and are deeply involved in the preparation of men for gospel ministry as mentors and instructors.

The Office of Minister



Rev. Dr. Harrison Perkins (pastor Oakland Hills Community Church) 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



Rev. Joel D. Fick (pastor of Redemption OPC in Gainesville, Florida, and a member of the Subcommittee on Ministerial Training) 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.

Preparing for the Ministry Now



Rev. Daniel R. Svendsen (pastor of First OPC in South Holland, Illinois) will explain to participants how to 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.

Seminary Education: What and Why



Rev. Dr. David M. 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 light of our commitment to raising up a learned ministry.

The Process Toward Ordination



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 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.

The Timothy Conference is sponsored by the Subcommittee on Ministerial Training of the Committee on Christian Education of the Orthodox Presbyterian Church.