Ligonier Academy  
Lake Mary, Florida

The Doctor of Ministry Degree Program  
Course Syllabus

DM804LA Reformed Philosophy of Ministry

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Catalog Description

This course will provide an in-depth examination of the distinctively Reformed understanding of the nature and purpose of the Christian minister and the Christian Church. This investigation will include the study of foundational Reformed documents such as the liturgies of Geneva and the Westminster Directory for the Public Worship of God. The Reformed view of the ministry will also be compared and contrasted with other views such as the Priesthood view of Rome and the CEO view of many contemporary churches. It will briefly touch on the detrimental effects of both the mega church as well as the emergent church movements on biblical Ecclesiology. The purpose of this course is to provide the student with a solid grasp of the distinctively Reformed understanding of the purpose and calling of the minister.

Course Overview

This course will begin with an overview of the doctrine of the Church. A foundation will be laid by examining the Ecclesiology of select sixteenth century Reformers on the subject and then investigating the Ecclesiology of the Dutch theologian, Herman Bavinck. We will consider the church’s work in terms of its liturgy of the covenant of grace (worship) as well as its service to its members through the labors of the pastor, his fellow-elders, and the deacons. We will also consider the service of the Church to the world. The nature of the calling of the pastor will be set within this context and the work of the pastor will be considered according to the taxonomy provided by Begg/Prime (a required reading book). We will also provide an overview of the church’s and the pastor’s work in worship, preaching and teaching, time management, pastoral care, including home visits, hospital visits, and the preparation of the saints for departure from this life and entrance into the next. In this context, we will also discuss funerals. Additional attention will be devoted to pre-marriage counseling and the wedding ceremony itself. We will also cover evangelism and missions.

The First Class

In order to get the course moving in a positive direction, students are required to listen to Dr. Terry Johnson’s talk on catholicity and community, which can be found at the following link: http://www.box.net/shared/h18fp4xi2k. Participants will be expected to have listened to and digested the contents of Johnson’s lecture, and be prepared to open our discussions with an evaluation of this talk.
**Required Reading**

I have listed these works in relative order regarding importance. It is expected at this level of study that each student will come to class having read the material and prepared to participate in the classroom discussions. Books marked with an asterisk are required reading.


*Martin Bucer, Concerning the True Care of Souls*. The Banner of Truth Trust. 2009.


________, *Institutes*, 4.1-2.


________, *The Second Helvetic Confession*, churches XVII-XXX.


**Sermons**

This selection of sermons is to acquaint the student with good preaching. It has been kept to a minimum because of time constraints for this class.


Iain Duguid’s “No Condemnation” is available online in audio-format at: [http://thegospelcoalition.org/resources/a/No-Condemnation](http://thegospelcoalition.org/resources/a/No-Condemnation)
