



CHRIST THE KING

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Officer Training

Introduction

Serving as a spiritual leader in Christ's church is a great honor and privilege. Though not every Christian man is called or qualified to serve as a church officer, all Christian men are called and capable of leading their families by exhibiting and cultivating many of the same godly virtues that *must* distinguish church officers (1 Tim. 3:2-4, 8-9). While this course is designed especially for training those men who were nominated and aspire to serve as an elder or deacon, much of its content will be beneficial to any Christian man who aspires to be a more effective spiritual leader.

Course Outline

FORMAL TRAINING:

1. The Officer's Character
 - Personal piety
 - Family worship/discipleship
 - Marriage health/family life
 - Financial stewardship
2. The Officer's Convictions
 - Biblical knowledge
 - Doctrinal standards (WCF)
 - Presbyterian polity (BCO)

PRACTICAL TRAINING:

3. The Officer's Calling
 - Shepherd leadership (elders)
 - Servant leadership (deacons)
4. The Officer's Coaching
 - Elder/Deacon Practicums
 - Candidate Evaluations

Candidating Process

1. Nomination
2. Vetting
3. Formal Training
4. Practical Training
5. Examination & Election
6. Ordination & Installation

Required Reading

1. The Westminster Confession of Faith
2. PCA Book of Church Order
3. *Confessing the Faith: A Reader's Guide to the Westminster Confession of Faith* (van Dixhoorn)
4. *How Jesus Runs the Church* (Prentiss Waters)
5. *The Shepherd Leader: Achieving Effective Shepherding in Your Church* (Witmer)
6. *The Deacon: Biblical Foundation for Today's Ministry of Mercy* (van Dam)
7. *With Reverence and Awe: Returning to the Basics of Reformed Worship* (Hart/Muether)

Class Schedule

Formal training classes will meet every first and third Sunday (September through November) from 9:00-10:00am and conclude by the Spring of 2027. Attendance is required for all prospective candidates planning to be examined and approved for ordination by the session.

September 6	The Officer's Character (1 Timothy 4:6-16) <u>Assignment</u> : Complete Character Assessments (Self and Spouse)
September 20	The Officer's Convictions – Bible Knowledge (2 Timothy 2:14-26) <u>Assignment</u> : Read <i>Confessing the Faith</i> (Chaps. 1-5) Answer chapter review questions
October 4	The Officer's Convictions – Doctrinal Standards PART 1 Scripture, God, and His Decrees (WCF 1-5) <u>Assignment</u> : Read <i>Confessing the Faith</i> (Chaps. 6-8) Answer chapter review questions
October 18	The Officer's Convictions – Doctrinal Standards PART 2 Sin and the Savior (WCF 6-8) <u>Assignment</u> : Read <i>Confessing the Faith</i> (Chaps. 9-13) Answer chapter review questions
November 1	The Officer's Convictions– Doctrinal Standards PART 3 Salvation (WCF 9-13) <u>Assignment</u> : Read <i>Confessing the Faith</i> (Chaps. 14-18) Answer chapter review questions
November 15	The Officer's Convictions – Doctrinal Standards PART 4 Salvation (WCF 14-18) <u>Assignment</u> : Read <i>Confessing the Faith</i> (Chaps. 19-24) Answer chapter review questions
January 3	The Officer's Convictions – Doctrinal Standards PART 5 Christian Life and Moral Duties (WCF 19-24) <u>Assignment</u> : Read <i>Confessing the Faith</i> (Chaps. 25-29) Answer chapter review questions
January 17	The Officer's Convictions – Doctrinal Standards PART 6 Church and Sacraments (WCF 25-29) <u>Assignment</u> : Read <i>Confessing the Faith</i> (Chaps. 30-33) Answer chapter review questions

February 7	The Officer's Convictions – Doctrinal Standards PART 7 Church Authority, Afterlife, End Times (WCF 30-33) <u>Assignment:</u> Read <i>How Jesus Runs the Church</i> (Chaps. 1-3) Answer chapter review questions
February 21	The Officer's Convictions – Presbyterian Polity PART 1 Form of Government (BCO 1-26) <u>Assignment:</u> Read <i>How Jesus Runs the Church</i> (Chaps. 4-5) Answer chapter review questions
March 7	The Officer's Convictions – Presbyterian Polity PART 2 The Rules of Discipline (BCO 27-46) <u>Assignment:</u> Read <i>With Reverence and Awe</i> Answer chapter review questions
March 21	The Officer's Convictions – Presbyterian Polity PART 3 The Directory for the Worship of God (BCO 47-63) <u>Assignment:</u> Read <i>The Shepherd Leader</i> Part 1 (Elder candidates) Read <i>The Deacon</i> Parts 1-2 (Deacon candidates)
April 4	The Officer's Calling – The Elder as a Shepherd Leader <u>Assignment:</u> Read <i>The Shepherd Leader</i> Part 2 (Elder candidates) Read <i>The Deacon</i> Part 3 (Deacon candidates)
April 18	The Officer's Calling – The Deacon as a Servant Leader <u>Assignment:</u> Read <i>The Shepherd Leader</i> Part 3 (Elder candidates) Read <i>The Deacon</i> Part 4 (Deacon candidates)
May 2	The Officer's Coaching – Elder/Deacon Practicums <u>Assignment:</u> Study for Written Exams
August 1	Officer Elections
August 8	Officer Ordination & Installation

Reading Assignments & Course Materials

Reading assignments and other course-related materials will be posted and made available to download from the church website (www.christthekingpsl.com) by the week they're assigned. Completed assignments must be emailed to Pastor Jason (pastorjasonCTK@gmail.com) no later than two weeks after their assigned date.

Officer Vows (BCO 24-6)

1. Do you believe the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments, as originally given, to be the inerrant Word of God, the only infallible rule of faith and practice?
2. Do you sincerely receive and adopt the *Confession of Faith* and the *Catechisms* of this Church, as containing the system of doctrine taught in the Holy Scriptures; and do you further promise that if at any time you find yourself out of accord with any of the fundamentals of this system of doctrine, you will, on your own initiative, make known to your Session the change which has taken place in your views since the assumption of this ordination vow?
3. Do you approve of the form of government and discipline of the Presbyterian Church in America, in conformity with the general principles of biblical polity?
4. Do you accept the office of ruling elder (or deacon, as the case may be) in this church, and promise faithfully to perform all the duties thereof, and to endeavor by the grace of God to adorn the profession of the Gospel in your life, and to set a worthy example before the Church of which God has made you an officer?
5. Do you promise subjection to your brethren in the Lord?
6. Do you promise to strive for the purity, peace, unity and edification of the Church?

The Calling and Qualifications of Church Officers

How do I know if I'm called?

- Nominations – Identifying candidates (initial *external* call, Prov. 25:6-7)
- Preliminary Interviews – Gauging interest (initial *internal* call, “If someone *aspires*”)
- Character Assessment – “Flyover” of qualifications (1 Timothy 3; Titus 1)

“A good servant of Christ Jesus” (1 Tim. 4:6-16)

- “Keeps a close watch on yourself” (v. 16) – see also Acts 20:28
- “Train yourself for godliness” (v. 7) – prioritizes what’s most important and not sidetracked by lesser or frivolous pursuits (bodily training/irreverent, silly myths) – see also 1 Cor. 9:27
- “Set the believers an example in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith, in purity” (v. 12)