

## 2015 Shepherd Leader Training Syllabus

DRAFT

(still reserve the right to revise)

### Required Sources:

- Timothy Witmer, *The Shepherd Leader* (Each student must purchase for him/herself)
- Westminster Confession of Faith, Larger and Shorter Catechism with scripture references (<http://www.pcaac.org/resources/wcf/>) You may prefer this version, without scripture references (OPC) for quick chapter location (<http://www.opc.org/confessions.html> )
- PCA Book of Church Order (<http://www.pcaac.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/02/2014-BCO-Reprint-ALL.pdf> )
- Tim Keller, *Center Church* (selections) (each student must purchase for him/herself)
- A Selected Readings listed for each session (usually provided by instructor and can be located under “files” in the group “Shepherd Leader Training” with Christian Community Builder (CCB)-  
<https://cpcnewhaven.ccbchurch.com/login.php?url=%2Findex.php>

### Part One:

#### The Role of Shepherd Leader In Context of Church Polity

##### Session 1: The Chief Shepherd’s Call For Under-Shepherds

###### Reading Assignments:

- PCA Book of Church Order, Part 1:16-`17, 24
- *The Shepherd Leader* by Timothy Witmer (chapters 1-3)
- *The Steward Leader* by Timothy Keller

###### Discussion and Handouts

- Introduction: Mt 16: The Nature And Mission of the Church and call for Shepherd Leaders
- Discerning A Call To Elder/WLB

##### Session 2: The Nature, Extent and Limits of Church Power

###### Reading Assignments:

- PCA *Confession of Faith*, Chapter 1, section 6, Chapter 30, Of Church Censures
- *Book of Church Order*, Preface (Sections 1 & 2), Part 1, chapter 1-3
- James Bannerman, *The Church of Christ*, Vol. 1, Part 1, chapter 2, Part 2: Chapter 1, 3,4,5
- Edmund Clowney, *The Distinctive Emphasis in Presbyterian Polity*
- John Murray, *The Weak and the Strong*

###### Discussion and Handouts

- The Preliminary Principles of Church Power
- Small Group Discussion: James Bannerman Review

##### Session 3: Biblical Church Polity

###### Reading Assignments:

- PCA *Book of Church Order*, Part 1: Chapters 10-14, 27-38. (skim)
- Thomas Witherow, *The Apostolic Church*

- T.F. Torrance, Eldership In The Reformed Church [http://eldership.org/resources/elders\\_sjt.html](http://eldership.org/resources/elders_sjt.html)
- T. David Gordon, *Arguments in Church Courts* (skim)
- Supplemental Readings
  - C.f. Samuel Miller, *Conduct in Church Courts* (Selections)
  - C.f Samuel Miller, Ruling Elder Chapter 2-3 (skim)

#### Discussion and Handouts

- Acts 15- A “Presbyterial” Turning Point
- Church Government and Offices Distinguished

### **Session 4: The Discipline and Governance of the Church**

#### Reading Assignments:

- BCO, Part 1, Part II, 27-46 (skim)
- WCF 11, 14, 17, 18
- WLC #45
- Timothy Witmer, *Shepherd Leader* chapter 4, Part 2 Intro, chapter 5.
- Daniel Wray, *Biblical Church Discipline*
- Supplemental Readings:
  - Calvin’s Institutes, Book IV, Chapter 12, Sections 1-13

#### Discussion and Handouts

- Church Government, Discipline, Discipleship and Christian Assurance
- A Confessional Cheat Sheet in Church Discipline
- Case Templates Life on Life Discipleship

### **Session 5: The Duties and Qualifications of Shepherd Leaders**

#### Reading Assignments:

- BCO: Part 1: Chapters: 7, 8, 24
- Timothy Witmer, *Shepherd Leader* chapter 6-9
- *Samuel Miller, Ruling Elder*, Chapter 11: Qualifications
- Preston Graham, *Women in Ministry*
- Supplemental Reading:
  - Gordon P. Hugenberger, *Women In Leadership*

#### Discussion and Handouts

- CPC “Elder Job Description”
- CPC “WLB Job Description”
- Women in Leadership: Titus 2

**Part 2:**  
**Ministry within a Total Christ/Five Mark Church**  
*Incomplete*

### **Session 7: The Five Marks of Total Christ Spirituality Explored**

#### Reading Assignments:

- WCF 25
- *T. F. Torrance, Royal Priesthood*, Chapter 2, The Function of the Body of Christ”
- Mission Anabano Website
  - Mission, Vision, Strategy
  - What Kind of Churches

Discussion and Handouts

## **Session 8: Gospel Centered Ministry**

Reading Assignments:

- Tim Keller, *Center Church*, Part 1 (chapter 1-3) and Part 2 (chapter 4-5)
- Preston Graham, “Gospel Centered Empowerment”, *Vision Anabano* Issue 2

Discussion and Handouts

## **Session 9 Missional Ministry**

Reading Assignments:

- Preston Graham, *Why Plant Churches* (located on Mission Anabano Website)
- Tim Keller, *Center Church*, Keller, *Center Church*, Part 3 (chapters 7-10)
- Preston Graham Jr. *The Centrality of the Church as a Social Strategy*

Discussion and Handouts

## **Session 10: Confessional Ministry**

Reading Assignments:

- WCF 1
- Michael Horton, *Apostle Creed*, Introduction
- Samuel Miller, *Doctrinal Integrity...* Chapter 1, “Arguments in Favor of Creeds,” Chapter 2 Answers for “Objections to Creeds”, “Concluding Remarks”
- On Theological Issues, Read:
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Discussion and Handouts

- PCA’s “Good Faith” Subscription Policy (Selections)

## **Session 11: Sacramental Ministry**

Reading Assignments:

- WCF 21, 27-29
- BCO Part III (chapters 47-57)

- James Torrance, *Worship, Community and the Triune God of Grace, Introduction, Chapter 1*
- Bard Thompson, *Liturgies of the Western Church*, "The Westminster Directory" (p. 345ff), "Geneva" (p. )
- Preston Graham, *The Mystery and Manners of Sacraments*, Vision Anabaino Vol 3.
- Samuel Miller, *Public Prayer (selections)*
- *Supplemental:*
  - C.f. E. Brooks Holifield "Mercersberg, Princeton, and the South: The Sacramental Controversy in the Nineteenth Century", *Journal of the Presbyterian Historical Society*, 54 (1976), p. 245ff,
  - John Calvin, *Treatise on Lord's Supper*
  - John Williamson Nevin, *The Mystical Presence...*Chapter 1,Section 1: "Statement of Doctrine" (read), *Chapter 3, Section 2, "The Mystical Union"* and Section 3: "The Lord's Supper"

#### Discussion and Handouts

- New Covenant Worship
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### **Session 12: Communal Ministry**

#### Reading Assignments:

- Richard Hayes, *Ecclesiology and Ethics*
- *When Helping Hurts: A Review*
- Preston Graham, *Lesslie Newbigin's Missional Ecclesiology Explored*
- *Supplemental Readings:*
  - Lesslie Newbigin, "The Nature of the Unity that We Seek": 1. From the Church of South India (1957) *Religion in Life*, 26, 2 (1957): 181-190.
  - Lesslie Newbigin, *Household of God*, Part 1, I "Context" Part 6, V, "Mission and Unity" (p. 170-174)

#### Discussion and Handouts

- Holistic Ministry of Empowerment Centered Mercy
- Evangelical Unity and Ecumenism
- Policy on RC Baptism

### **Session 13: Other Special Issues In Ministry**

- Marriage and Divorce
  - Preston Graham, *The Marriage Calling* (Selected readings)
- Gender and Sexuality
  - Wesley Hill, *Washed and Wasted* (Selections)
- From Baptism to Lord's Supper
  - Preston Graham, *Baptism That Saves* (Selections)
- Children and Worship
  - Preston Graham, *Together in God's Presence*
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Reading Assignments:

Discussion and Handouts

Reading Assignments:

Discussion and Handouts

Reading Assignments:

Discussion and Handouts

Reading Assignments:

Discussion and Handouts

### **Part 3: Special Issues in Leadership and Ministry**

Session 8: Issues in Leadership

- Women in Leadership
- Gender and Sexuality
- Issues in Marriage

Session 9: Issues in Theology

- Preston Graham, A Baptism That Saves (Chapters 1-2, 3 skim)
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Reading Assignments:

Discussion and Handouts

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