

MANUAL FOR CANDIDATES

Nashville Presbytery

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Nashville Presbytery

www.nashvillepca.org

Leadership Development Committee (LDC)

ldc.nashvillepca@gmail.com

Members of the Committee

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TE Mitchell Carter – City Church of East Nashville –
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How Do I Come Under Care?

Want to come Under Care of the Nashville Presbytery?

(Typically done before seminary training or as soon as possible thereafter)

Have you:

- Read the Book of Church Order chapters 18-19?
- Been a member in full communion (not under discipline) of a PCA church within the Nashville Presbytery for at least 6 months?
- Felt called to preach the Gospel?
- Committed to submit yourself to the care and guidance of the Presbytery for studying and practical training for the pastoral office?

If you have answered yes to all of these you may be eligible to come under care. To get started, please complete the following:

1. Request Endorsement of Church Session- Church sends endorsement email. (See appendix 1) Due one week prior to LDC Committee Meeting.
2. Request Application and Candidacy Manual- from
3. File the following with David Filson (dfilson@christpres.org) and stated clerk (Neil Spence, nspence@rpcdickson.org) at least **two months** before stated Presbytery meeting.
 - a. Testimony of faith (1-2 pages written)
 - b. Call to ministry (1-2 pages written)
4. Applicant must appear before the Leadership Development Committee and be examined on the following:
 - Must have completed Experiential Religion Questions (pg. 16) and discussed with LDC sub-committee (prior to Under Care Exam)
 - Testimony of faith (1 page written)
 - Call to ministry (1 page written)
 - If satisfactory, candidate will come before the Nashville Presbytery.
5. Applicant must appear before the Nashville Presbytery and be examined on the following:
 - Testimony of faith
 - Call to ministry

- If satisfactory, candidate will come “Under care of the Presbytery.”
6. The LDC will appoint you an Under Care Advisor
 - a. Your advisor will be your contact person to walk you through the Internship, Licensure, and Ordination process. He will be your resource for any questions regarding the process, study guides, exams, and will provide encouragement and support.
 7. Yearly Under Care Candidate Report- Each year an under care candidate must make a report to the Presbytery answering the following:
 - a. What have I done this past year in ministry? (e.g. Meetings, Activities, Teaching, Worship, etc.)
 - b. What have I done this past year in theological study? (i.e. seminary)
 - c. What do I plan to do in service in the upcoming year?
 - d. Have I communicated with my under care advisor (appointed to you by the LDC) at least 3 times this year?
 - e. Be sure to secure the signature of your advisor on this report.
 8. Must complete one year of internship prior to ordination (see Internship Checklist)
 - BCO 19-7

How Do I Complete an Internship?

Have You:

- Come Under Care in the Nashville Presbytery? BCO 19-8
- Have you located a church and advisor willing to oversee the internship?
- Completed seminary or are you in progress?

If you have answered yes to all of these you may be eligible to complete an internship. An internship is to be one year of full-time ministry or multiple years of part time ministry (see presbytery checklist). To get started, please complete the following:

1. Get the Internship approved by Leadership Development Committee (prior to beginning the Internship)
 - Read BCO 19-7 through 19-16 and Internship Checklist (pp. 20-21)
 - Have Internship Advisor write a brief summary of what internship will include and send to ldc.nashvillepca@gmail.com, LDC Chair and Clerk
 - Contact LDC chair and LDC clerk to state desire to have internship approved
2. Presbytery approves Internship
3. Intern gives annual report to LDC committee
4. When Internship has concluded, the intern emails completed Internship Checklist to ldc.nashvillepca@gmail.com, LDC Chair and Clerk.
5. The Presbytery must approve internship at the following Presbytery meeting (BCO 19-13)

How Do I Become Licensed?

(Note: There are other situations where a person may desire to become licensed to preach in our presbytery. This page specifically addresses the process for candidates for gospel ministry.)

Have you:

- Come under care in Nashville Presbytery?
- Completed an Internship and had it approved by the Nashville Presbytery?

If you have answered yes to all of these you may be eligible to begin Licensure. To get started, please complete the following:

1. Email the Chair and Clerk of the Leadership Development Committee (LDC) at least 2 months before the meeting of presbytery you desire to be received as a licentiate (emails on pg. 2).
2. Read BCO chapters 18-1 to 19-6, carefully studying the questions of 19-3 and the Westminster Standards (Westminster Confession of Faith, Larger and Shorter Catechisms).
3. The chairman of the LDC will send study guides for the following 3 exams: English Bible, Theology, and Church Government (Book of Church Order). Complete these study guides in preparation for the exams.
4. When you are ready to take the 3 exams, the Chair will send the English Bible, Theology, and BCO written exams to be completed and returned by email to the Chair and Clerk at least 2 weeks prior to the LDC oral examination date.
5. You must also submit a written sermon by email to the Chair or Clerk at least one week prior to LDC oral examination. The sermon must not be longer than 15 minutes.

How Do I Become Ordained?

Have you:

- Come under care in the Nashville Presbytery?
- Completed an Internship and had it approved by the Nashville Presbytery?
- Been Licensed by the Nashville Presbytery?
- Received a call within the bounds of the Nashville Presbytery?

If you have answered yes to all of these you may be eligible to begin Ordination. To get started, please complete the following:

1. Email the Chair and Clerk of the Leadership Development Committee (LDC) before the meeting of presbytery you desire to be received as an ordinand.
2. Read BCO chapter 21, carefully studying the questions of 21-5 and the Westminster Standards (Westminster Confession of Faith, Larger and Shorter Catechisms).
3. The chairman of the LDC will send study guides for the following 3 exams: Sacraments, Church History, and the Greek & Hebrew Languages. Complete these study guides in preparation for the exams. He will also send you the requirements for the exegetical and theological papers.
4. When you are ready to take the 3 exams, the Chair will send the Sacraments, Church History, and Greek & Hebrew Language written exams to be completed and returned by email to the Chair and Clerk at least 2 weeks prior to the LDC oral examination date. Submit to Chair two papers, one exegetical paper and one theological paper (see guidelines for Papers below), and a copy of your seminary transcript to be completed and returned to chairman two weeks before LDC oral examination.

**SESSIONAL ENDORSEMENT OF AN APPLICANT FOR
CANDIDACY FOR THE GOSPEL MINISTRY**

Nashville- Presbyterian Church in America

Name of Applicant: _____

The Session, having met with the applicant before hand, should prepare the following report for presbytery.

1. What are the strengths of the applicant's Christian character, and how would you evaluate them?

2. List the weaknesses of the applicant's Christian character and how the applicant is improving upon them?

3. Do you have any other comments on the applicant's Christian character?

4. List and evaluate the areas of ministry (past or present) in which the applicant has served your congregation?

5. Do you see the call to ministry in the applicant?

6. Would you hire the applicant and desire him to be a part of your church staff, after his seminary study is complete? (We are not asking for a commitment.)

7. Does the applicant's wife and family, if married, agree with his desire to train for the ministry?

8. Have you discussed the course of study, choice of seminary, and financial matters of pursuing a theological education with the applicant?

9. Please describe the applicant's personal devotional life.

10. Does the session recommend this applicant for candidacy? Would you make this recommendation with any qualifications? If so, what?

Statement of Certification:

*We, the session of _____
Presbyterian Church, certify that the above applicant has been a
member of our congregation in good standing since _____
and we commend this member to the Committee on Candidates of
Providence Presbytery as an applicant for candidacy for the Gospel
Ministry.*

Signature of Moderator of the Session: _____

Date: _____

REFERENCE ON AN APPLICANT FOR THE GOSPEL MINISTRY

Nashville Presbytery – Presbyterian Church in America
Leadership Development Committee

Dear Friend:

_____ is applying to become a candidate for the Ordained Ministry in Providence Presbytery of the Presbyterian Church in America. Our committee has the responsibility of supporting and guiding those who sense that God is calling them to the ministry. We need your help in our consideration of the above-mentioned person's application for candidacy. Please answer as fully as you can, based on your knowledge of this person. Be assured that your comments will be kept in strict confidence. We thank you for your assistance.

1. Please comment on the applicant's character:

2. Please comment on the applicant's Christian Commitment:

3. Please comment on the applicant's discipline, perseverance and academic ability:

4. Please comment on the applicant's emotional stability:

5. Please comment on the applicant's capacity to relate to people:

6. Please comment on the applicant's level of maturity:

7. Would you have any reservations in recommending to our committee that we accept this applicant as a candidate?

Name of Reference _____

Relationship to Applicant _____

Signature _____ Date _____

Please return this form to the David Filson (dfilson@christpres.org) and Casey Cramer (casey.cramer@christcommunity.org). Thank you.

APPLICATION FOR CANDIDATES FOR THE GOSPEL MINISTRY

Nashville Presbytery – Presbyterian Church in America

(Please print or type your answers)

Personal History

1. Name: _____
2. Phone: _____
3. Present address: (street) _____
(city) _____ (state) _____ (zip) _____
4. Email address: _____
5. Birth date: _____ City & State: _____
6. Your Baptism: Date _____ As an infant? _____
By profession? _____
7. By which church? _____
8. Where is your church membership: _____
9. Marital status: _____
(If applicable, please answer the following)
Wife's Name: _____
Date of marriage: _____
Name and age of any children _____

Education

(List the last three institutions you attended)

Institution	Dates	Major	Grade Average	Degree

Employment Record

(List the last two employers)

Employer (Name and address)	Dates Employed	Reason for leaving	Job Responsibility

References

(List below five personal references who know you well, include your pastor, a person your own age, and one of your former professors or employers.)

Name	Address	Relationship

Personal Information

(Please make your answers legible and use the space provided)

1. Describe your relationship to the Lord Jesus Christ. When and how did you become a Christian?

2. At this point, what sense of call to the ministry do you have?

3. What people and experiences have influenced you to make this application for candidacy?

4. What activities, churches, ministries, and organizations have you been involved in that have given you an opportunity for Christian service?

5. What are the attitudes of your parents, spouse (if married), and children (if applicable) toward your decision to make application for candidacy?

6. What considerations and plans have you made for the financial commitment of your education?

7. In what ways can Nashville Presbytery be helpful to you during a period of candidacy, should you be approved?

8. Describe your personal devotional life? List the ways and means by which you are striving to grow as a Christian?

9. Have you ever applied to be received under care of any other presbytery or church body? If yes, give the name of the church body and date of application.

10. Have you completed the required reading? If not, will you have it finished by the time you meet with the Candidates Committee?

Applicant's Signature: _____

Date: _____

EXPERIENTIAL RELIGION (BCO 21-4) INTERVIEW WITH MINISTERIAL CANDIDATES

Name _____

Note: This document and its information will be kept private and will not be seen by anyone other than the Experiential Religion subcommittee.

We are a totally paperless committee. So, please fill out your answers on this document and return via email attachment to dfilson@christpres.org and casey.cramer@christcommunity.org.

1. What are you currently doing (apart from worship) to gain a better understanding of Scripture?
2. What from God's Word has had a special ministry in your life lately?
3. Is there anything from Scripture that you are currently having a particularly difficult time applying to your life?
4. What are your current habits of prayer?
5. Most recently, how have you seen the Lord work in your life or the lives of others through prayer?
6. Is there anyone in your life with whom you are not reconciled?
7. Is there any sinful act against another that you have not confessed?
8. Who knows you better than anyone else (besides your spouse), with whom you share freely and honestly?
9. How would you describe your relationship with your spouse?
10. Are there any areas of responsibilities with your spouse that you are neglecting?
11. How would you describe your relationship with your family (e.g., parents, children)?

12. Are there any areas of responsibilities with your family that you are neglecting?

13. What are your spiritual gifts?

14. How are you currently using your spiritual gifts?

15. Are you currently a member of a small group?

16. Do you know how to share the Gospel with another person?

17. Normally what would be the main points of the Gospel that you think needs to be shared?

18. Do you look for opportunities to share the Gospel with friends, neighbors or colleagues? Please give an example.

19. Are you praying for friends, neighbors, and colleagues who need to hear the gospel message?

20. On average, how many hours per week do you work?

21. How would you assess the amount of time you are currently working: not enough, just right, too much?

22. Do you think that you have a clear understanding of the Biblical principles of financial and material stewardship?

23. Are there any areas of your financial and material stewardship that need to be aligned with biblical principles?

24. What is your commitment to the biblical principles of tithing and giving?

25. When was the last time you looked at pornography? With whom do you talk about this issue?

26. Is your conscience clear that there is nothing in your own life that would disqualify you from becoming an ordained minister in the Presbyterian Church in America?

27. Do you know of anything that anyone else would say disqualifies you from becoming an ordained minister in the Presbyterian Church in America?

28. Does your spouse completely support you in going forward to becoming an ordained minister in the Presbyterian Church in America?

By typing my name here I am declaring that all I have written in my Experiential Religion Questionnaire is true to the best of my knowledge.

Name: _____

NASHVILLE PRESBYTERY INTERNSHIP CHECKLIST

Name _____

Preaching/Teaching/Worship:
Attestation

Date(s) Completed

- Preach (4 times, not including lab) _____
- o Sermons Evaluated (4 Times) _____
- Teach Class to Adults (6 times, could include Sunday School, Bible Study, etc.) _____
- o Adult Classes Evaluated _____
- Plan/Lead Worship (2 times) _____
- Observe & Discuss Wedding w/ Mentor _____
- Observe & Discuss Funeral w/ Mentor _____
- Observe, Discuss & Practice Baptism w/ Mentor _____
- Observe, Discuss & Practice Administering Lord's Supper w/ Mentor _____

Counseling:

- Discuss Pre-marital & Marital Counseling w/ Mentor _____
- Discuss Counseling on Death w/ Mentor _____
- Discuss Counseling on Besetting Sin w/ Mentor _____

Discipleship/Evangelism:

- Attend Officer Training & Discuss w/ Mentor _____
- Discuss your Personal Evangelism w/ Mentor _____
- Observe 1 Membership Interview (transfer or new member) & Discuss w/ Mentor _____
- Observe 1 Admission to Table Interview (of previously non-communing) & Discuss w/ Mentor _____
- Discuss Church Discipline w/ Mentor _____

Polity/Administration

- Attend 2 Session Meetings _____

- Attend 2 Deacon Meetings _____
- Attend 2 Presbytery Meetings & Discuss Events and Parliamentary Procedures w/ Mentor _____

Visitation

- Hospital Visits (6 times) _____
- Nursing Home Visits (2 times) _____

Reading

REQUIRED:

- The Bible (Genesis–Revelation) _____
- The Westminster Confession & Catechisms _____
- *Confessing the Faith* by Chad Van Dixhoorn _____
- The Book of Church Order of the PCA _____
- *Redemption Accomplished and Applied* by John Murray _____
- *The Whole Christ* by Sinclair Ferguson _____
- *Christianity & Liberalism* by J. Gresham Machen _____

RECOMMENDED:

- *On Being Presbyterian* by Sean Michael Lucas _____
- Robert’s Rules of Order in Plain English _____
- *Called to the Ministry* by Ed Clowney _____
- *Some Pastors and Teachers* by Sinclair Ferguson _____
- *Dangerous Calling* by Paul David Tripp _____
- *The Contemplative Pastor* by Eugene Peterson _____
- PCA Study Reports on...
 - Creation (2000) _____
 - Federal Vision, New Perspective & Auburn Avenue Theology (2007) _____
 - Women Serving in the Ministry of the Church (2017) _____

REPORT OF COMMISSION TO ORDAIN/INSTALL

Report of the Commission to ordain/install Mr./Rev.

_____ as Pastor of

_____.

The Commission met on _____, 20____,

at _____ a.m./p.m. at the church (or at _____).

A quorum was present. Commission members present were:

TE _____ RE _____

TE _____ RE _____

TE _____ RE _____

Others Present: _____.

The Commission meeting was called to order and opened with prayer by

_____. Mr./Rev. _____

was elected chairman and Mr./Rev. _____

was elected Secretary of the Commission. The order of Worship was

reviewed and approved by the Commission. The minutes were read and

approved. The Commission recessed with prayer by

_____ for the ordination/installation service. The

Chairman presided in the sanctuary service, which was opened with singing,

prayer and Scripture reading. The sermon was preached by Rev.

_____, on the topic/text:

_____.

The Chairman stated briefly the previous proceedings of the Presbytery, and

pointed out the nature and importance of the ordination/installation

ordinance. The Chairman propounded the constitutional questions to the

Candidate/Minister (BCO 21-5 or 21-9) and these were answered in the affirmative. The Chairman then propounded the constitutional questions to the congregation (BCO 21-6 or 21-10), and these were answered in the affirmative by the Members holding up their right hands. The Candidate then kneeled and was set apart to the holy office of the Gospel Ministry with prayer and the laying on of hands. (Or _____ led in prayer as _____ was installed as Pastor of the congregation.) He then rose and the Members of the Commission gave him the right hand of fellowship. The Chairman then declared that Mr./Rev.

_____ had been regularly elected, (ordained), and installed as Pastor of the Church. A charge to the Pastor was delivered by Mr./Rev. _____. A charge to the Congregation was delivered by Mr./Rev._____.

Following prayer and singing, the new Pastor pronounced the benediction. The minutes having been approved, the Benediction closed this portion of the Commission's business.

_____ Secretary

BCO / Church Polity Exam Study Guide Nashville Presbytery (2019 Revision)

The Book of Church Order, General Information

- Have you read the BCO? Are there parts of it you are out of accord with? Explain.
- What are the three main sections of the BCO?
- Who is the head of the church?
- Who governs the conscience of a man?
- What are the constitutional documents of the PCA?
- Can the BCO and the Westminster standards be amended, and if so, why would this be permitted and how would it be done?
- Which parts of the BCO are binding?

The Church and Its Members

- What is the “power” the church exercises? Where does the Bible teach this?
- List a few key principles of the Presbyterian form of church government. Where does the Bible teach each of these?
- What is the difference between a mission church and a particular church?
- Who has the authority to organize a particular church?
- Who owns the property of a PCA church?
- Who are the members of a PCA church? Where does the Bible teach this?
- What is the difference between a communing and non-communing member? Where does the Bible teach this?
- What is an associate member, and how are they cared for?
- What are the three “judicatories” of the PCA, their individual roles, and their relationships to one another?
- What is the difference between a committee and a commission?
- How is a congregational meeting called?
- Who is eligible to vote in congregational meetings, and what officers need to be present?
- Who approves and adopts the church budget?
- What is the purpose of public worship?

- What are the elements of public worship?
- What guides the rules for public worship?
- Who decides who preaches in the local church?

Elders and Deacons

- What is the doctrine of ordination? Where does the Bible teach this?
- What are the ordinary and perpetual offices in the church, and what are their respective responsibilities?
- Describe the process by which a man is called to serve as a teaching elder in the church.
- What must happen before an ordained teaching elder can take the field in a new presbytery?
- What are the distinctions between an associate pastor and an assistant pastor?
- What are the differences between a candidate, licentiate and intern?
- What are the exams for licensure?
- What are the exams for ordination?
- What are the distinctions between the roles of a ruling elder and teaching elder?
- What are the necessary steps for ordaining ruling elders and deacons?
- What is the parity among ruling elders and teaching?
- Are both teaching and ruling elders members of presbytery?
- What does the BCO tell sessions about their role in encouraging the baptism of infants?
- What are the roles of a deacon?
- What is your position on the question of women deaconesses? Defend from Scripture.
- Are both teaching and ruling elders members of presbytery?
- Who dissolves a pastoral relationship? Can a pastor who wishes to leave his congregation do so by simply turning in his resignation? How does that process work?

Discipline

- What is church discipline, and what are its goals and proper steps?
- Briefly describe the different church censures listed in the BCO.
- If someone is bringing charges against someone else in the church, where are those charges to be filed?

- What steps must be taken before formal charges can be filed against someone?
- When must a formal judicial process be pursued?

Sacraments

- Who may administer the sacraments?
- Summarize the content of the vows parents make when having their child baptized.
- Summarize the content of the vows made in church membership.
- Who admits people to the Lord's table, and what qualifies a person to come to the Lord's table?

True or False

- Heresy trials should consider whether or not the heresy in question deals with a matter which can be proved from Scripture.
- A minister deposed for scandalous conduct may never be returned to office.
- The testimony of more than one witness is necessary to establish a charge in ecclesiastical courts.
- Teaching elders and ruling elders both "sincerely receive and adopt" the constitution of the PCA, and must state any differences they have with those documents.
- The pastor is moderator of the local session.
- The session is responsible to inquire into the Christian conduct of church members.
- Only the Session's approval is needed for a Stated Supply who serves less than a year.
- No superior court of the church shall have any claim on any real property or equity in real estate belonging to a particular local congregation.
- A local church may dissolve their relationship with the PCA upon a majority vote of the congregation.
- In order to become a communicant member, a professing Christian must agree to the system of theology taught in the Westminster Confession of Faith.
- The time when young persons come to "years of discretion" is not precisely fixed in the church.

- A person seeking ordination in the PCA must affirm that he believes in the inerrancy of Scripture.
- The deacons are responsible in the same way that an elder is to give his assent to the system of doctrine taught in the Westminster Confession of Faith.
- A degree from an accredited seminary is mandatory for ordination.
- It is not possible to amend the Westminster Confession of Faith in the PCA.

English Bible Exam Study Guide

Nashville Presbytery (Fall 2018 Revision)

Note: For Recommended Resources, see the end of this document

General Bible:

- How many books are in the Old Testament? New Testament? Whole Bible?
- Have you read them all?
- What are the literary divisions of the OT books?
- Basic outline of OT history (i.e., the dates of important people and events)
- Basic outline of NT history (i.e., the dates of important people and events)
- Who wrote the Pentateuch?
- What are three distinctions between 1&2 Kings and 1&2 Chronicles
- What are three basic distinctions between the Wisdom books
- List the Minor and Major Prophets
- List the Pre-Exilic, Exilic, and Post-Exilic Prophets
- Be familiar with the authorship of Isaiah—one author or three. Which do you hold? (How would you defend single-authorship?)
- Describe the themes and general structure of Sermon on the Mount? Why does Jesus elevate the Law in this sermon? How do different theological traditions interpret it differently?

Locate:

- 10 Commandments (2 references)
- Lord's Prayer (2 references)
- NT summary of the Law
- OT and NT references to General Revelation
- 5 Levitical sacrifices, and how you would preach them as Christ-centered
- Reference and meaning of Passover
- Reference and meaning of Day of Atonement (Incorporate NT and OT refs)
- The Abrahamic Covenant
- The Mosaic Covenant

- The Davidic Covenant
- 3 Messianic Psalms
- 3 passages that uphold the Trinity (and explain how they do so)
- 3 Passages that uphold the deity of Christ (and explain how they do so)
- 2 Passages on the personhood and deity of the Holy Spirit (and explain how they do so)
- 2 Passages that deal with the tension between Law and Grace
- New Covenant
- Watchmen for the house of Israel
- The fall of Satan
- “The Just shall live by Faith” (OT and NT)
- Baptism of Jesus
- Temptation of Jesus
- 3 of Jesus’ parables, and what they teach
- 3 of Jesus’ miracles, and what they teach
- 3 of Jesus’ confrontations with religious leaders
- “I will build my church”
- Correcting a sinning brother
- The Comforter
- Great Commission
- The stoning of Stephen
- Paul’s Conversion
- Paul’s sermon in Athens (Areopagus)
- The Law as a schoolmaster
- Fruit of the Spirit
- Armor of God

Outline:

Give brief and basic outlines of the following—for the longer books, think by chunks, not by chapters.

- Genesis
- Exodus
- Leviticus
- Joshua
- Ruth
- Job

- Isaiah
- Hosea
- Jonah
- Matthew
- John
- Romans
- 1 Corinthians
- Galatians
- Ephesians
- Philippians
- Colossians
- Hebrews
- Revelation

Summarize:

- What are the basic distinctions of each of the four Gospels?
- What are the general themes that all the sermons in Acts have in common?
- What are some key problems Paul addresses in 1 Corinthians, and how does He address them?
- What are the key themes of 1 and 2 Peter?

For all of the books in the Bible, you should be able to state (1) the key theme of the book, (2) a passage that exemplifies that key theme, and (3) how to preach Christ from that book. Be brief.

- Genesis
- Exodus
- Leviticus
- Numbers
- Deuteronomy
- Joshua
- Judges
- Ruth
- 1&2 Samuel
- 1&2 Kings
- 1&2 Chronicles
- Ezra

- Nehemiah
- Esther
- Job
- Psalms
- Proverbs
- Ecclesiastes
- Song of Solomon
- Isaiah
- Jeremiah
- Lamentations
- Ezekiel
- Daniel
- Hosea
- Joel
- Amos
- Obadiah
- Jonah
- Micah
- Nahum
- Habakkuk
- Zephaniah
- Haggai
- Zechariah
- Malachi
- Matthew
- Mark
- Luke
- John
- Acts
- Romans
- 1 Corinthians
- 2 Corinthians
- Galatians
- Ephesians
- Philippians
- Colossians
- 1 Thessalonians
- 2 Thessalonians
- 1 Timothy

- 2 Timothy
- Titus
- Philemon
- Hebrews
- James
- 1 Peter
- 2 Peter
- 1 John
- 2 John
- 3 John
- Jude
- Revelation

List/State:

- 6 of the Apostles
- 6 of the judges
- Paul's prison epistles
- Paul's pastoral epistles
- 6 types/categories of psalms (e.g., lament)
- The 10 Commandments (you do not have to include the annexes); also be able to explain the relationship between the preface and the commandments
- The Lord's Prayer

People:

Brief summaries of the Lives and Significance of the following:

- Adam
- Abraham
- Moses
- Deborah
- Saul
- Samuel
- David
- Solomon
- Hezekiah

- Peter
- Barnabas
- Priscilla and Aquila
- Apollos
- Stephen

Apply:

- Give a redemptive-Historical approach to teaching kids the David and Goliath story.
- Beyond simply proving them wrong, how would you respond to someone who insisted they knew when Jesus would return and the world would end?
- How would you engage a Jehovah's Witness on the topic of the Deity of Christ?
- How would you outline a brief presentation of the Gospel from Scripture verses for an "unchurched" unbeliever? Would you do it differently for a "churched" unbeliever? If so, how?

What passages will you use when you are called upon in the following situations?

- Comfort a mourner
- Lead a funeral service
- Visit the sick and dying
- Explain the Lord's Supper as a "means of grace"
- Teach about the sanctity of life in the womb
- The role of marriage
- Teach marital duties
- Counsel a believer struggling with same-sex attraction
- Prove the once-for-all nature of Christ's sacrifice
- Counsel a worrier
- Counsel someone struggling with assurance of their salvation
- Expound the doctrine of predestination
- Encourage evangelism
- Teach elders their duties
- Teach the nature of Christian love

- Teach on how to deal with conflict in a local church
- Teach that man is unable to earn his way to heaven
- Explain church discipline
- Encourage someone to join the church
- Teach the authority of Scripture
- Teach the sufficiency of Scripture

Recommended Resources:

- *The ESV Study Bible*
- *Literary Introductions to the Books of the Bible* by Leland Ryken
- *A Biblical-Theological Introduction to the Old Testament* ed. Miles Van Pelt
- *A Biblical-Theological Introduction to the New Testament* ed. Michael Kruger
- *The Visitor's Book of Texts* by Andrew Bonar

Theology Exam Study Guide

Nashville Presbytery (2019 Revision)

While you will not be asked to simply list answers from the Westminster Shorter Catechism in a particular section on this exam (as you will be on the sacraments exam), it is advisable that you memorize Q&A 1-38 and 82-87. Many of your answers on this exam (and your ministry of teaching the Word) will require memorized knowledge of those questions and answers.

Note: For Recommended Resources, see the end of this document

Bible

- Given the diversity of the types of literature found in the Bible, in what ways does Scripture give us doctrine? Name at least 3.
- Define and distinguish between general and specific revelation. What is the purpose of each?
- What is the Bible—specifically defining inspiration, necessity, perspicuity, inerrancy and sufficiency.
- How do you interpret the fourth commandment and how does it apply today?
- How would you describe the overall role of Scripture in pastoral ministry?

The Godhead

- What is God according to WCF and Scripture?
- What are some of God's incommunicable attributes and what are some of His communicable attributes?
- What is the Trinity? What is the meaning of the ontological and the economic, with regard to the Trinity? How would you respond to a person who says it is wrong to confess the Trinity because the word itself is never used in Scripture?

- Distinguish the function of each member of the Trinity's function in a person's salvation.
- What is meant by the term "eternal generation of the Son?"
- Does the Incarnation of Jesus threaten the doctrine of God's immutability? Defend your answer.
- How many natures does Christ have?
- How many wills does Christ have?
- When did Jesus Christ's humiliation begin, and what is meant by the "humiliation and exaltation of Christ?" Pull in a couple Scriptures here.
- Briefly explain the nature of the following Christological heresies:
 - Docetism
 - Arianism
 - Nestorianism
 - Adoptionism
 - Apollinarism
 - Eutychianism
 - Kenoticism
- Define the person and the work of Christ, and Scripturally explain his three offices.
- What are some pastoral theological implication of:
 - The Incarnation of Christ
 - The Resurrection of Christ
 - The Ascension of Christ
 - The Active and Passive Obedience of Christ
- Does Jesus have a physical body at this moment? Why does this question matter with regard to our salvation?

Mankind and Falleness

- What is the *imago dei*? How is sanctification related to the image of God in humanity?
- What was lost in the fall of man?
- What is original sin? What does this mean for the Christian life?
- How would respond to someone who rejects God based on the presence of suffering and evil in this world?
- Can a sinful person do anything good? Explain.
- What is temptation and how does it work?
- Compare and contrast the will of man before the fall, after the fall and in glory.

General and Reformed Theology

- What is theology? Why is theology important? Answer with Scripture as part of your response.
- What are some basic differences between Systematic Theology and Biblical Theology?
- Be prepared to state the Apostles' Creed from memory.
- Have you read the Westminster Confession of Faith and Catechisms?
- What is WCF chapter 1 about and why does this start the WCF?
- Distinguish between biblical theism, Deism and pantheism.
- Define and distinguish between classical, evidential and presuppositional apologetics. Who are some representatives of each school of thought? Which do you favor?
- Define and defend from Scripture the five points of Calvinism.
 - How are these the five best reasons we have for brokenness and humility?
- Define and defend from Scripture the five solas of the reformation. Differentiate between "tota Scriptura" and "sola Scriptura."

- What is covenantal theology? Trace the covenants through Scripture. What are the covenants of redemption, of works, and of grace? How does Christ relate to the covenants of redemption, works, and grace?
- What are some of the key differences between covenantal and dispensational theology?
- According to Scripture, how were people in the Old Testament saved?
- What are the three categories of Old Testament Law, generally speaking? Which of these is still in effect for Christians? Why?
- How does Calvin discuss the three uses of the moral law?
- Define and differentiate between “supralapsarianism” and “infralapsarianism.” Why is it good to know this, and why must we use caution in how we discuss them?
- On eternal destinies, briefly explain:
 - Dispensational premillennialism
 - Historic premillennialism
 - Postmillennialism
 - Amillennialism
 - Your view of the second coming, the millennium, and judgment day.
- The doctrine of annihilationism, its theological implications and whether it is compatible with Scripture.
- How you would discuss with an unbeliever what Scripture says about heaven?
- How you would discuss with an unbeliever what Scripture says about hell.
- What is the difference between the “gifts of the Spirit” and the “fruit of the Spirit?”
- What gifts are mentioned in Scripture that are not given today? Explain and defend.

Salvation: Law and Grace

- What is penal substitutionary atonement? How does this differ from other views of atonement, like the moral example theory, Christus Victor, or governmental view?
- What is the *ordo salutis*? Support your answer from Scripture. How does it relate to the *historia salutis*?
- What is regeneration and how would you use Scripture to explain it to a non-Christian?
- Respond to the following statement: "In the Old Testament period man was saved by observing the law while in the New Testament period we are saved by grace."
- What is the doctrine of common grace? What is prevenient grace? Are the two the same?
- How would you counsel a person who said, "There is no use trying to do anything since everything is predetermined"?
- If a person lacks assurance of salvation in Christ does this necessarily mean he is not saved? Explain
- Use the WCF/WSC and Scripture to define the following:
 - Justification
 - Adoption
 - Sanctification
 - Saving faith
 - Glorification (note that there is not a straightforward question in the WSC on glorification, but there are questions that speak to it)
- Why is Justification an "act" and Sanctification a "work?"
- Are we sanctified by grace alone through faith alone? Explain with Scripture.
- Is sanctification an option? (If you are familiar with the "Carnal Christian Theory", the "Higher Life Movement", or "The Lordship Controversy", please state your views on one of these related issues.)

The Church

- Define the following Church government structures: prelacy, congregational and Presbyterian. What Biblical rationale would you give for a Presbyterian form of church government?
- What are the attributes of the church?
- What are the marks of the church?
- What is the doctrine of ordination?
- Are denominations Biblical? Explain using Scripture.
- What does the Nicene Creed mean when it describes the church as being “one, holy, catholic and apostolic.”

Sundries

- What are the various view of Creation Days in the PCA? Which do you hold and why?
- What is the regulative principle of worship? How does it differ from the principle of worship governing the Catholic, Anglican and Lutheran churches? Defend the regulative principle from Scripture.
- What do you believe the Bible teaches about death, the intermediate state and the resurrection of the body?
- What do you believe the Bible teaches about homosexuality? How would you lead your congregation in thinking and responding to homosexuality?
- Have you ever read Sinclair Ferguson’s book *The Whole Christ* or listened to his lectures on the Marrow Controversy? (If not, do one of those.) What is the most important thing you learned from these?
- When is divorce permitted? Defend from Scripture. (Specifically address the issues of abandonment, physical abuse, and use of pornography.)
- What is your understanding of the recent debates in the PCA about subscription to the Westminster Standards? What is your position in this matter?

- What is your view on the “New Perspectives on Paul” discussion over the past couple decades?
- What is your understanding of the Federal Vision Theology and the discussions related to it?
- Be prepared to explain and briefly defend any differences you may have with the Westminster Confession, Larger Catechism, or Shorter Catechism. (You will not have to do this from memory, but will be given a separate document after your exam.)

Recommended Resources:

Books:

General:

- The Westminster Confession of Faith and Larger and Shorter Catechisms
- *Confessing the Faith: A Reader’s Guide to the Westminster Confession of Faith* by Chad VanDixhoorn
- *The Christian Faith: A Systematic Theology for Pilgrims on the Way* by Michael Horton
- *ESV Study Bible*

Specific:

- *Taking God at His Word: Why the Bible is Knowable, Necessary, and Enough, and What That Means for You and Me* by Kevin DeYoung
- *The Doctrine of God* by Gerald Bray
- *The Holy Trinity: In Scripture, History, Theology, and Worship* by Robert Letham
- *The Person of Christ* by Donald Macleod
- *Know the Heretics* by Justin Holcomb
- *Covenant Theology: A Biblical, Theological, and Historical Study of God’s Covenants* by Ligon J. Duncan (free pdf available at monergism.com)

- *Redemption Accomplished and Applied* by John Murray
- *The Whole Christ: Legalism, Antinomianism & Gospel Assurance—Why the Marrow Controversy Still Matters* by Sinclair Ferguson
- *Is Hell for Real or Does Everyone Go to Heaven?* by Keller, Mohler, Packer, Yarbrough, Peterson, and Morgan
- *Perspectives on Pentecost* by Richard B. Gaffin, Jr.

Booklets (25-30 pgs):

- *What Is the Bible?* by Guy Prentiss Waters (booklet)
- *What Is the Trinity?* by David Wells (booklet)
- *What Is the Atonement?* by Richard D. Phillips (booklet)
- *What Happens After Death?* by Richard D. Phillips (booklet)
- *What Is Church Government?* by Sean Michael Lucas (booklet)

For Journal Articles, Webpage Articles, PCA Study Reports, and excerpts from books, see the “Theology Exam Reader” pdf that you were given by the LDC. These shorter readings are typically more focused on individual questions.

Sacraments Exam Study Guide

Nashville Presbytery (2019 Revision)

Note: For Recommended and Required Resources, see the end of this document

The Theology of the Sacraments

- Be prepared to quote from the Westminster Shorter Catechism, Q&A 91-97
 - Note: You are not required to quote from the Westminster Larger Catechism, Q&A 161-177 nor will anyone *expect* you to have them memorized. However, having those questions memorized will be helpful for you in answering several questions on this exam.
- What is the biblical and theological significance of circumcision in the Old Testament and how does it relate to baptism in the New Testament?
- What are common modes of baptism practiced in evangelical churches today? Which of these modes are considered right administration of the sacrament according to the Westminster Standards? Defend biblically. Would you perform immersion for someone who asked you to? Why or why not?
- Discuss the relationship between baptism and regeneration? Be sure to interact with various other views on this subject (e.g., Federal Vision, Baptist, Roman Catholic)
- What is the Abrahamic covenant and how does it apply in the church today.
- Briefly explain the implications of the following verses for our doctrine of baptism:
 - 1 Peter 3:21
 - Acts 2:38

- Acts 22:16
- Discuss the biblical and theological significance of Passover. How does it relate to the Lord's Supper?
- Discuss the four major views of the Lord's presence in the Lord's Supper. Defend your view from Scripture. Be sure to discuss the presence of Christ in the Supper.
- What is signified in the actual elements of the Lord's Supper?
- In what sense do worthy communicants feed upon Christ in the Lord's Supper?
- How are baptism and the Lord's Supper similar? How are they distinct?
- Is grace conferred in the sacraments? Explain. Be sure to interact with at least the Baptist and Roman Catholic views.
- How many sacraments are there in the New Testament church? Why is marriage not a sacrament?

Baptism: Practical Application

- Briefly discuss the reasons why a reformed Baptist minister would oppose a Presbyterian view of covenantal baptism. (Be sure your answer here would accurately represent our Reformed Baptist brothers).
- How would you as a Presbyterian minister respond to the reformed Baptist minister in the preceding question? (Be sure your answer here is biblical, historical, gracious, and thorough.)
- If someone asked you to "dedicate" his or her infant child, how would you respond?
- Are there any benefits a baptized child has that an unbaptized child does not?

- What is meant by the expression “improving your baptism?” As a minister, how will you shepherd your people to “improve their baptism?”

The Lord’s Supper: Practical Application

- What is fencing the table? Defend this practice biblically.
- Read BCO 58. What are the parts of the administration of the Lord’s Supper?
- May a person who struggles with assurance of salvation come to the Lord’s Table? If so, on what basis?
- How often should communion be served?
- Is it ever proper for a minister to serve communion to a shut-in or hospital patient? Why or why not? If yes, what requirements must be met in order for it to be proper?
- What is your view on paedocommunion? How does your interpretation of 1 Corinthians 11 inform your position regarding paedocommunion? Be sure to interact with Federal Vision view(s) on this subject.
- How would you respond to someone who suggested you use Doritos and Sweet Tea for communion elements in your church?
- A father tells you that he, having God-given authority over his children, would like to decide when his children are ready for the Lord’s Supper as a private family matter. How would you respond?

Sacraments and the BCO

- According to the BCO, who may administer the sacraments? Why?
- Summarize the questions asked of parents at the baptism of their children.
- Summarize the declarations and promises made in church membership (which are the same as those for admission to the Lord’s Supper).

- Who admits people to the Lord's Table, and what qualifies a person to come to the Lord's Table?
- If you have parents in your church who neglect to have their children baptized, how will you shepherd them this situation? How does the BCO speak to this?

Recommended Resources:

- Westminster Confession of Faith (chs. 27-29), Larger Catechism (Q&A 161-177), and Shorter Catechism (Q&A 91-97)
- The PCA's Book of Church Order (chs. 56-58)
- *Confessing the Faith: A Reader's Guide to the Westminster Confession of Faith*, Chad Van Dixhoorn, chapters 27-29
- *The Westminster Larger Catechism: A Commentary*, Johannes G. Vos, chapter 16
- *On Being Presbyterian*, Sean Michael Lucas, chapter 5
- *Reformed Dogmatics*, Herman Bavinck, book 4, part II, chapters 9-11
- *Institutes of the Christian Religion*, John Calvin, book 4, chapters 14-19
- *Institutes of Elenctic Theology*, Francis Turretin, book 3, topic 19
- *The Christian Faith: A Systematic Theology for Pilgrims on the Way*, Michael Horton, chapters 23-24

Required Readings:

The purpose of these readings is not busywork, but rather that you are familiar with the history of these discussions in the PCA before you answer them on your exam. You will find all of these documents on your "Sacraments Exam Reader."

- “Report of the Ad Interim Study Committee on Federal Vision, New Perspective, and Auburn Avenue Theology” (PCA Study Report, 32 pgs.)
- PCA Reports on Baptism:
 - “Baptism and Non-communing Membership” (PCA Study Report, 2 pgs.)
 - “Report on the Validity of Certain Baptisms” (PCA Study Report, 11 pgs.)
 - “Appendices to the Report on the Validity of Certain Baptisms” (PCA Study Report, 5 pgs.)
 - “Minority Report: *Ad Hoc* Committee on the Validity of Certain Baptisms” (PCA Study Report, 5 pgs.)
- “Report of the Ad-Interim Committee on Paedocommunion” (PCA Study Report, 22 pgs.)
- Calvin’s *Catechism of the Church of Geneva* (Q&A 309-373)

Church History Exam Study Guide Nashville Presbytery (2019 Revision)

Note: For Recommended Resources, see the end of this document

General Church History Questions

- Why are you being examined in church history? Is it important?
- Why is it important for a Reformed and Calvinistic pastor to have a familiarity with and working knowledge of the Church Fathers? How is this helpful in being a student of Calvin himself?
- What is meant by the categories of: 1) Ante-Nicene Fathers and 2) Nicene & Post-Nicene Fathers? Name two examples from each category.
- What is meant by the categories of 1) Greek Fathers and 2) Latin Fathers? Name two examples from each category.
- What do we mean when we talk about the "canon"? Discuss the process of the canon's formation (including dates) and its relation to the church.
- When and why did the Eastern and Western churches split? Be sure to explain the theological and ecclesiastical issues involved.
- What are centuries generally encompassing the Medieval Church? Name three *positive* things the Medieval Church did for the development of Christianity. List two foundational theological texts from the Medieval Church that continue to influence our understanding of the Christian faith.
- Briefly discuss the Medieval Roman Catholic sacramental system. Is this generally indicative of Roman Catholicism today?
- Write a paragraph or two describing the political, social, theological, and ecclesiastical contexts of the beginning of the Protestant Reformation.

- Describe the four major Reformations (note: the so-called “Counter Reformation” is not one of them). Identify key figures in each and describe their roles and contributions.
- Briefly nuance and distinguish Post-Reformation Lutheran (i.e., theologians immediately following and developing Luther’s theology) and Post-Reformation Calvinian (i.e., theologians immediately following and developing Calvin’s theology) understandings of justification by faith alone. How is this a relevant discussion for today?
- Briefly outline the historical Reformation and Post-Reformation development of covenant theology.
- What is meant by *scholasticism*? Generally speaking, how did later Reformers see areas for caution, as well as, areas of benefit? Name some of the key figures and works of Protestant Scholasticism.
- Briefly outline the history of the English Reformation. Who was Thomas Cranmer and what was his role in the English Reformation?
- Briefly outline the history and context of the Westminster Assembly. Describe the political and religious context of the Assembly. List the four documents of the Assembly and describe each briefly. Name five men who were at the Westminster Assembly.
- What was the Great Ejection of 1662?
- What was the role of Presbyterian faith during the time of the American Revolution?
- Describe the New Side-Old Side controversy in American Presbyterianism. Give dates, leaders, and issues.
- Describe the New School-Old School controversy in American Presbyterianism. Give dates, leaders, and issues.
- Briefly outline the history of American Presbyterianism, including the history and formation of the PCA.

Identification: Are You A Religious Man, 'Cause This List Is Long!

Folks to know really well:

- **Augustine:** Sketch his life, including major writings and controversies.
- **Martin Luther:** Sketch his life, including major writings, contributions, and controversies. Be sure to discuss his distinction between a “theology of glory” and a “theology of the cross.”
- **John Calvin:** Sketch his life, including major writings, contributions, and controversies. Based on your familiarity with his *Institutes of the Christian Religion*, discuss some of the structures and contours of his theology, as presented in that work.
- **John Owen:** Why is John Owen considered one of the most significant of English Puritans? What are the contours of some of his writings?
- **Jonathan Edwards:** Sketch his life, including major writings, contributions, and controversies. What are some major themes or contours of his theology with which you are familiar?

Church Fathers:

- What are the “Early Church Fathers”? Give their dates and describe their influence.
 - Clement of Rome, Ignatius of Antioch, Polycarp of Smyrna, Papias of Hierapolis, *The Shepherd of Hermas*, *The Epistle of Barnabas*, *The Homily of II Clement*, *The Epistle of Diognetus*, *The Didache*
- The Apologists: Give their dates (century is fine) and describe their major works and contributions.
 - Justin Martyr, Tertullian, Irenaeus, Cyrian of Carthage, Clement of Alexandria, Origen
- The Nicene and Post-Nicene Fathers: Give their dates (century is fine) and describe their major works and contributions.

- The Cappadocian Fathers (Basil the Great, Gregory of Nyssa, Gregory of Nazianzus), Gregory the Great, John Chrysostom, Ambrose of Milan, Jerome, Theodore of Mopsuestia, Eusebius of Caesarea, Cyril of Jerusalem

Pre-Reformers:

- Key pre-Reformation figures or groups that precipitated the Reformation: Describe their contributions.
 - Thomas Bradwardine, Girolamo Savonarola, the Waldensians, John Wycliff/the Lollards, Jan Hus/the Hussites, William Tyndale

19th-20th Century:

- 19th-20th century Dutch Theologians: Describe their influence and theological contributions.
 - Herman Bavinck, Abraham Kuyper
- 19th century Southern Presbyterian Theologians: Give their academic and ministerial contexts, and describe their contributions.
 - James Henley Thornwell, Robert Lewis Dabney, John Lafayette Girardeau
- 19th century Princeton Theologians: Give their years at Princeton, and describe their contributions.
 - Archibald Alexander, Samuel Miller, Charles Hodge, B.B. Warfield, A.A. Hodge

Briefly identify the following people: what they did, wrote, theological and ecclesiastical significance, dates or centuries, etc.

- Marcion
- Athanasius of Alexandria
- Radbertus
- Anselm
- Peter Abelard
- Bernard of Clairvaux

- Peter Lombard
- Thomas Aquinas
- Duns Scotus
- Martin Bucer
- Peter Martyr Vermigli
- Henry Bullinger
- John and Charles Wesley
- Samuel Davies
- William Carey
- Thomas Chalmers
- Asahel Nettleton
- Geerhardus Vos
- Charles Haddon Spurgeon
- J.N. Darby
- Friedrich Schleiermacher
- Walter Rauschenbusch
- J. Gresham Machen
- Cornelius Van Til
- John Murray
- Edmund Clowney

Councils and Confessions

Briefly date, describe, and identify the primary authors of the following confessions:

- Gallican Confession
- Scots Confession
- Belgic Confession
- Heidelberg Confession
- Second Helvetic Confession

- Discuss the first four ecumenical councils (why they met, what they decided, the major players, date, theological and ecclesiastical implications, etc.)
- When was the Second Council of Orange and what was determined at that council?
- Discuss the Synod of Dort—its historical setting and its theological conclusions.

Movements, Sects & Philosophy

Briefly identify the following four movements with general dates/centuries, leaders, distinctive features, results, and impact on today's Church in North America:

- Dutch Second Reformation
- Pietism
- Great Evangelical Revival in England (i.e., from Watts to Wilberforce)
- Neo-Orthodoxy. Also, what are some of the philosophical underpinnings of Neo-Orthodoxy (in your answer, consider Hegelianism, Idealism, etc.)?
- What should a pastor know about the history and thought of Jehovah's Witnesses?
- What should a pastor know about the history and thought of Mormonism?
- What should a pastor know about the history and thought of Islam?
- What are some of the key things a pastor should know about the history and features of the Enlightenment?
- Offer a Christian critique of logical positivism.
- "Kant saved science and made room for faith." Discuss.
- Offer a Christian critique of Nietzschean Nihilism.
- Briefly define Cartesian and Kantian thought and explain why a minister must understand both.

Recommended Resources:

Books:

2,000 Years of Christ's Power (4 volumes) by Nick Needham

- Wonderfully easy to read. The glossary and index of names at the back of each volume allow for you to easily find brief descriptions of people and events.

The Story of Christianity (2 volumes) by Justo Gonzalez

Church History: Volume II by John Woodbridge and Frank James III

- For people and events, this gives you the most basic information quickly. Buying the Kindle edition makes it easy to search for exactly what you need.

The Lion Concise Book of Christian Thought by Tony Lane

- This is now out of print but not terribly hard to find. Lane goes beyond the typical encyclopedia entry to tell something of the thought and contribution of many theologians. He also includes some important church councils.

On Being Presbyterian by Sean Michael Lucas

- "Part 3: Presbyterian Stories" gives good overviews for the questions about the context for the Westminster Assembly, American Presbyterianism, and the PCA.

Reformed Theology in America ed. by David Wells

- Deals well with questions about Princeton Seminary and its theologians, Southern Presbyterians, Westminster Seminary, and

Neo-Orthodoxy. The introduction is also helpful for contemporary and historical categories within Reformed Theology.

Know the Creeds and Councils by Justin Holcomb

- Helps give much-needed context for questions about the ecumenical councils and their results

For Journal Articles, Webpage Articles, and excerpts from books, see the “Church History Exam Reader” pdf that you were given by the LDC. These shorter readings are typically more focused on individual questions.

Nashville Presbytery Greek & Hebrew Exams (2019 Revision)

Your Name: _____

- Please do not make a copy of the exam.
- We are a totally paperless committee. So, please fill out your answers on *this* digital document and return via email attachment to davidlovesdiane@mac.com and casey.cramer@christcommunity.org

Exam Notes:

- According to BCO §21-4, every candidate for ordination must be tested as to “his knowledge of the Greek and Hebrew languages.”
 - However, the section concludes with this note: “A Presbytery may accept a seminary degree which includes study in the original languages in lieu of an oral examination in the original languages.”
 - The LDC of the Nashville Presbytery judges this to mean that a student must have satisfactorily completed at least six hours of Greek and six hours of Hebrew in Master’s-level courses.
 - If you have not completed these courses, please contact Casey Cramer to let him know (casey.cramer@christcommunity.org).
 - If you have completed these courses, please indicate the courses and the grades you received for each below.
1. List all your completed seminary courses, credit hours, and grades received for Greek and Hebrew (you may consult your transcripts if you’ve forgotten).

 2. Briefly describe your ongoing use of the Greek and Hebrew languages.

Nashville Presbytery

Theological and Exegetical Paper Expectations

(2019 Revision)

- According to PCA BCO §21-4, every candidate for ordination must prepare two papers as part of his examination. The relevant portion of §21-4 says:
 - He shall prepare a thesis on some theological topic assigned by Presbytery.
 - The candidate shall prepare an exegesis on an assigned portion of Scripture, requiring the use of the original languages.
- The Leadership Development Committee (LDC) will allow the candidate to submit a theological and an exegetical paper from his previous theological training, *provided the paper complies with the criteria listed below*. (This means a previously written paper may need to be reworked before it is presented to the committee.) If the candidate has not previously written either a theological or exegetical paper, the committee will assign him a topic and/or portion of Scripture on which to write.
- For the purpose of clarity of expectations, candidates for ordination in the Nashville Presbytery must adhere to the rules listed below. The candidate's papers will be evaluated on the basis of the following:
 - Adequacy of research according to common standards for graduate study. The LDC allows the student to choose either the MLA or Turabian format. The MLA format is described in Joseph Gibaldi and Walter S. Achtert, *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers*, third edition. The Turabian format can be found in Kate L. Turabian, *A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*, fifth edition. Failure to follow consistently one of these formats may result in a candidate's paper being returned for correction and resubmission.
 - Adequacy and originality of critical and creative thought according to the common standards for graduate work.

- Evaluation of the process, content, approach, and technique used in presentation of assigned topic. All sources must be documented. Plagiarism will not be tolerated.
 - Adequacy, clarity, correctness of written expression according to the common standards for graduate study. This means that the paper must be grammatically correct and proof-read. The committee reserves the right to return a paper with an unreasonable amount of grammatical or spelling errors for correction and resubmission.
 - Theological papers must show familiarity with the classic questions and problems associated with the assigned topic. The candidate must also evidence a use of the standard theological works appropriate to his topic (ask if you do not know them). The candidate will be evaluated on the clarity, cogency, profundity, and theological orthodoxy of his paper.
 - Exegetical papers must work with the original text and evidence the use of standard lexicons and grammatical reference works. Like the first paper, the candidate will be evaluated on his clarity, cogency, profundity, and theological orthodoxy.
 - In order to deal adequately with the topic or text each paper should be at least 10-12 pages long.
- Papers must be submitted to the committee at least *three weeks* before the candidate's scheduled oral examination before the LDC. Please send your papers via email attachment to dfilson@christpres.org and casey.cramer@christcommunity.org
 - *The committee reserves the right to disqualify a paper when any of the above criteria are not adequately observed.*