

## COURSE DESCRIPTION

### **DS515: Confessing the Faith: Worship, Creeds and Subordinate Standards in the Reformed Tradition (PCC) Fall Term 2016 – Weekend Format**

*Instructor: The Rev. Dr. Ross Lockhart, Associate Professor, St. Andrew's Hall  
Director of Presbyterian Formation, Vancouver School of Theology*

**Purpose:** To help students prepare for their role as ministers and leaders in the Presbyterian Church in Canada (PCC) by: (1) exploring ways of leading worship, both in weekly Sunday worship and special occasions; (2) examining the place of creeds and confessions in the PCC; and (3) exploring resources on, and considering leadership in, initiating and implementing change that strengthens the missional focus of congregations.

**Format:** The class will meet over two weekends (September 15 to 17 & November 24 – 26) Thursday evenings 6 pm to 9 pm, Friday 9 am to 4 pm and Saturday 9 am to 4 pm. There will be introductory lecture material on most subjects, and the rest of the class time will be spent in discussion based on assigned readings, knowledge that students have gained from other classes, especially liturgy and worship, knowledge gained from our own experience of participating in and/or leading worship, and of encountering the changes in society and church that require change in the church. Please note that all students are required to attend a Barriers Workshop on the PCC policy on sexual abuse and harassment as well as our Leading with Care policy. If you have not already taken one, such a workshop will be arranged for you through Presbytery.

**Adobe Connect:** For those unable to attend in person, off-site attendance through Adobe Connect is possible. Real-time participation is required. Daily links will be provided to off-site students by the instructor.

**Content:** Class time and assignments will focus

- (1) on worship resources, including *The Book of Common Worship*, with an emphasis on the various parts of the worship service (order of service, prayers, reading of scripture, preaching and music); including “hands on” practice of leading communion and baptism, how to officiate at funerals and a discussion on “worship wars” and how to implement positive change in worship patterns.
- (2) On an introduction to the confessions of faith that are subordinate standards of the PCC, with focus on the PCC’s *Confessing the Faith Today: the Nature and Function of Subordinate Standards*.
- (3) On readings and discussion of recent thinking on the kind of leadership required in today’s context for initiating and implementing congregational change.

**Expectations:** Attendance at classes, active and informed class participation, completion of reading assignments, class presentations and an essay are required. Integration with learning from other courses and life experience is expected. Familiarity with *The Book of Common Worship, Book of Praise, and Book of Forms* is assumed.

**Evaluation:** will be based on class attendance and participation, and on satisfactory preparation and completion of assignments. These will include class presentations prepared in advance called “Detective of Divinity Reports” and the writing of one properly researched paper. The paper will be a thoughtful response in eight to ten pages to any one of The Presbyterian Church in Canada’s “subordinate standards,” integrating three doctrines of the church to the worshipping life of a congregation. How might our “subordinate standards” help congregations articulate and convey our Reformed understanding of Christianity as they seek to “confess their faith in the risen Christ” in an increasingly secular Canadian context?

### **Course Outline:**

#### **Weekend #1**

Thursday, September 15 - 6 pm to 9 pm

#### **Reformed and Reforming Worship: Why Worship?**

*Detective of Divinity Report Due: The Mystery Worshipper*

Friday, September 16 - 9 am to 4 pm

#### **Truth through personality? Preaching today**

*Detective of Divinity Report Due: Exegesis of the Situation, Exegesis of the Self*

#### **Praying Attention: the discipline of public and private prayer for Christian leadership**

*Detective of Divinity Report Due: Write a prayer of Confession for Christmas Eve, a Prayer for Illumination for an Easter Sunday, a Prayer of Intercession for Remembrance Sunday.*

Saturday, September 17 - 9 am to 4 pm

#### **Sacraments: Baptism & The Lord’s Supper**

*Detective of Divinity Report Due: Create a (maximum) 5 minute children’s time on either Baptism or The Lord’s Supper*

## **Weddings & Funerals**

*Detectives of Divinity Report Due: Write a brief (5 minute) wedding or funeral sermon*

## **Weekend #2**

Thursday, November 24 – 6 pm to 9 pm

### **Creedal & Loving it: How Believing shapes Beholding, Belonging & Behaving**

Introduction to the Apostle's Creed

*Detectives of Divinity Report Due: Complete the "I believe" assignment creating your own statement of faith/creed.*

Friday, November 25 – 9 am to 4 pm

### **The Westminster Confession**

*Detectives of Divinity Report Due: Select two of the 33 Chapters from the Westminster Confession and "re-write" them in modern day language while trying to maintain the original meaning. Just as Eugene Peterson paraphrased scripture in "The Message" so too will you "paraphrase" the Westminster Confession.*

### **The Declaration of Faith Concerning Church and Nation**

*Detectives of Divinity Report Due: You are teaching a confirmation class to teenagers using Living Faith. Create an outline of a session exploring Living Faith – what do you hope to communicate and how do you go about reaching your audience of teenagers. Be creative!*

Saturday, November 26 – 9 am to 4 pm

### **Living Faith: A Statement of Christian Belief**

*Detective of Divinity Report Due: If you were abandoned on a deserted island, what three doctrines would you take with you and why? Make reference to our subordinate standards in your 750 word response.*

### **I'm (Not) Sorry: Apologetics and Confessing the Faith in a post-Christendom Canada**

## Required Reading

Long, Thomas G. *Accompany Them with Singing: The Christian Funeral*. Louisville: Westminster/John Knox Press, 2012.

PCC, Board of Congregational Life, **The Book of Common Worship** (Toronto, PCC, 1991)

PCC, **Confessing the Faith Today: The Nature and Function of Subordinate Standards**: A study document for The Presbyterian Church in Canada, (PCC, Committee on Church Doctrine, 2003)

PCC, **Declaration of Faith Concerning Church and Nation, PCC Website**

PCC, **Living Faith: A Statement of Christian Belief**, Wood Lake Books, Winfield, BC, 1984

PCC, **Westminster Confession**, <http://presbyterian.ca/resources-od/>

PC-USA – **Book of Common Worship**. Louisville: Westminster/John Knox Press, 2007.

White, James. *Introduction to Christian Worship*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, Third Edition, 2000.

## Select Bibliography

Bosch, David Jacobus **Transforming Mission: Paradigm shifts in the theology of mission**, (Maryknoll, N.Y.: Orbis Books, c1991)

Bush, Peter, and O'Reilly, Christine **Where 20 or 30 Are Gathered: Leading Worship in the Small Church**, (Alban Institute, Herndon, Virginia, 2006)

Byars, Ronald P. **The Future of Protestant Worship: Beyond the Worship Wars**, (Westminster John Knox, Louisville, 2002)

- Chapman, Dean W. **How to Worship as a Presbyterian**, (Geneva Press, Louisville, 2001)
- Clifford, N. Keith **The Resistance to Church Union in Canada: 1904-1939**, (UBC Press, Vancouver, 1985)
- Congram, John **This Presbyterian Church of Ours**, (Wood Lake Books, Winfield, B.C., 1995)
- Daniels, Harold M. **To God Alone Be Glory**, (Geneva Press, Louisville, 2003)
- Dawn, Marva J. **Reaching Out Without Dumbing Down**, (Eerdmans, Grand Rapids, 1995)
- Grant, John Webster **The Church in the Canadian Era**, (McGraw-Hill Ryerson, Toronto, 1972)
- Hart, D.G. **Recovering Mother Kirk: The Case for Liturgy in the Reformed Tradition**, (Baker, Grand Rapids, 2003)
- Hayes, Stephen "Presbyterian history holds some surprises" (**Presbyterian Record**, October, 2004, p. 23)
- Hendry, George S. **The Westminster Confession for Today: A Contemporary Interpretation of the Confession of Faith**, (John Knox Press, Richmond, 1960)
- Klempa, William ed. **The Burning Bush and a Few Acres of Snow: The Presbyterian Contribution to Canadian Life and Culture**, Carleton University Press, Ottawa, 1994.
- Lapthrop, Gordon W. **Holy Ground: A Liturgical Cosmology**, (Fortress Press, Minneapolis, 2003)
- Leith, John **The Reformed Imperative: What the Church Has to Say that No One Else Can Say**, (Westminster, Philadelphia, 1988)
- Long, Thomas G. **Beyond the Worship Wars: Building Vital and Faithful Worship**, (The Alban Institute, 2001)
- Milloy, John S. **A National Crime: The Canadian Government and the Residential School System, 1879-1986**, (University of Manitoba Press, Winnipeg, 1999)
- Moir, John S. **Enduring Witness, A History of The Presbyterian Church**

**in Canada** (PCC, Toronto, 1987)

Nichols, James Hastings **Corporate Worship in the Reformed Tradition**,  
(Westminster, Philadelphia, 1968)

Old, Hughes Oliphant **Worship: Reformed According to Scripture**,  
(Westminster John Knox Press, Louisville, 1986, pub. 2002)

The Presbyterian Church in Canada, **Church and Nation: A Study for  
Congregations**, (Don Mills, Ontario, 1982)

PCC, **Enkindled by the Word: Essays on Presbyterianism in Canada**,  
Presbyterian Publications, Toronto, 1966 (Chapter VI)

PCC, **A Short History of the Presbyterian Church in Canada**, Smith,  
Neil G. Presbyterian Publications, Toronto, 1967 (Selections)

United Presbyterian Church in the United States of America, **The Book of  
Confessions**, (Philadelphia, 1967)

Vischer, Lukas, ed. **Christian Worship in Reformed Churches Past and  
Present**, (Eerdmans, Grand Rapids, 2003) See especially "A Common  
Reflection on Worship in Reformed Churches Today", pp 281-307

Wendel, Francois (Trans. By Philip Mairet) **Calvin: Origin and  
Development of His Religious Thought** (Baker Books, Grand  
Rapids, 1963)

Westminster Standards, **The Directory for the Public Worship of God**,  
especially the Preface, 1645

White, James F. **Protestant Worship: Traditions in Transition**,  
(Westminster John Knox Press, Louisville, 1989)

World Council of Churches: Faith and Order **Baptism, Eucharist and  
Ministry**, (WCC, Geneva, 1982)