BRIDGING THE WORD AND THE WORLD

The Reformed Focus is a cooperative enterprise involving Pittsburgh Theological Seminary and the University of Aberdeen. Concentrating on the distinctive contribution and clear trajectory of reformed theology for North American and Scottish pastors taking courses in both locations.

The focus is designed to enhance an understanding of:

• The synthesis of biblical authority and interpretation
• Worship in relation to the issues of theological integrity and identity
• A review of Christianity and culture with concentration on the transforming motif as expressed in Reformed thought
• Reformed heritage within today’s ecumenical context
• Ethical and theological issues of concern and controversy
• The critical and necessary formative role theological reflection and knowledge has in the practice of ministry

The Doctor of Ministry Program at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary also offers:

• Parish Focus
• Eastern Christian Focus
• Reformed Christian Spirituality Focus
• Science and Theology Focus

In Partnership with the University of Aberdeen, Scotland
Reformed Theology provides a systematic analysis of the ways in which different types of theology within the Reformed tradition have dealt with some of the most important doctrines of the Christian faith.

Biblical Authority and Interpretation in the Reformed Tradition is designed to help students synthesize the most important ingredients that must go into a responsible presentation of biblical teaching in the Reformed tradition today.

Worship in the Reformed Churches examines worship from historical, theological, and liturgical perspectives. Special attention is given to the issues of theological integrity and identity, which have been heightened by changes in our cultural context. The course also draws upon recent insights from the liturgical renewal movement and the social sciences to encourage critical reflection upon current worship practices as a prelude to further renewal.

The Social Transforming Character of Reformed Ethics reviews various motifs of Christianity’s relationship with culture and then focuses on the transforming motif as expressed in Reformed thought. The Reformed tradition’s relationship to politics, revolution, economics, technology, and vocation is investigated in western culture.

Reformed Ecumenism is designed to enable the student to appreciate the Reformed heritage within today’s ecumenical context through examining the roots of the Reformed concern for the unity of the Church. It deals with the most troublesome theological issues that emerge in ecumenical discussions (e.g., authority, confessionism, scripture and tradition) and considers what the Reformed stance should be on recent proposals for achieving mutual recognition by the churches in the areas of baptism, eucharist, and ministry.

Theological and Ethical Issues Before the Church studies the positions of churches of the Presbyterian family on ethical and theological issues that caused great controversy in recent decades and continue to be issues on which there is confusion and controversy today. Questions such as abortion – the “right to life” versus the “right to choose”; sexual preferences; capital punishment; nuclear weapons and the threat of nuclear war; environmental ethics; bio-medical ethics; prayer in the public schools; pornography and the problem of censorship; are among those that may be singled out for close study.

Proposal Lab and Elective assists students in designing a doctoral project in a particular area of ministry and an elective in a “practical discipline” related to the candidate’s project. The final phase requires satisfactory completion of a doctoral project and paper. Two electives are to be taken in this phase. One is to be in a discipline contributing to the biblical or theological section of the doctoral paper. The other is usually in an area related to research for the paper. The doctoral project/paper must reflect depth of theological insight and its positive integration with the practice of ministry.

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A Master of Divinity degree from an accredited seminary or divinity school is required for admission. Applicants are also expected to have completed a minimum of three years in ministry following receipt of the M.Div. and to have an endorsement from their church board or agency, of an appropriate ecclesiastical official.

For an application and additional information, send an email to doctorofministry@pts.edu. Financial aid is available for qualified applicants.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

Classes are scheduled in two-week blocks of concentrated study, meeting in January and August, rotating between Pittsburgh Theological Seminary and the University of Aberdeen, Scotland.