

Officer Formation/Training  
**Saturday, October 23, 2021**

11:30am – 1:30pm

**Session 1      Who Are We?**

Ordination Question a:

- a. Do you trust in Jesus Christ your Savior, acknowledge him Lord of all and Head of the Church, and through him believe in one God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit?

Christian Practice:

Weekly worship on the Lord's Day

1. Introductions – the group introduces themselves to one another.
2. This first ordination question is about identity as a disciple of Jesus Christ. What does it mean to confess Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior?
3. Why is it essential to worship every week with the Body of Christ?
4. Faith Stories
  - a. Introduction to telling one's faith story
  - b. Faith Story #1 & #2

**Session 2      What Do We Believe? Part 1**

Ordination Questions b & c:

- b. Do you accept the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments to be, by the Holy Spirit, the unique and authoritative witness to Jesus Christ in the Church universal, and God's Word to you?
- c. Do you sincerely receive and adopt the essential tenets of the Reformed faith as expressed in the confessions of our church as authentic and reliable expositions of what Scripture leads us to believe and do, and will you be instructed and led by those confessions as you lead the people of God?

Christian Practice:

Study which engages the mind as well as the heart

1. Faith Story #3
2. The Book of Confessions - overview
3. The essential tenets of the Reformed tradition – Reformed theology

**Shared with the church catholic**

- a. The mystery of the Trinity: one God, three persons.
- b. The incarnation of the eternal Word of God - Jesus Christ

**Affirmed by the Protestant Reformation**

- c. We are justified by grace through faith.
- d. Holy Scripture is the final authority for salvation and the life of faith.
- e. *Ecclesia reformata, semper reformanda*

The church reformed and always being reformed

**Express the faith of the Reformed Tradition**

- f. Sovereignty of God
- g. We are elected for salvation as well as for service.

- h. The covenant life of the church orders itself after the Word of God.
- i. Faithful stewardship of all creation
- j. Sin of idolatry
- k. Obedience to the Word of God
- 4. Why is it important to study the faith and engage faith with the life of the mind?
- 5. Faith Story #4

### **Session 3      What Do We Believe? Part 2**

Ordination Question d:

- d. Will you fulfill your ministry in obedience to Jesus Christ, under the authority of Scripture, and be continually guided by our confessions?
- 1. Faith Story #5
- 2. The Book of Confessions
  - a. The Ancient Confessions
    - i. Nicene Creed
    - ii. Apostles' Creed
  - b. The Reformation Creeds
    - i. The Scots Confession
    - ii. The Heidelberg Catechism
    - iii. The Second Helvetic Confession
    - iv. The Westminster Confession of Faith
      - 1. The Shorter Catechism
      - 2. The Longer Catechism
  - c. The Modern Creeds
    - i. The Theological Declaration of Barmen
    - ii. The Confession of 1967
    - iii. The Confession of Belhar
    - iv. A Brief Statement of Faith – Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

**Saturdays, October 30 & November 6, 2021**

9:00am – 11:00am

### **Session 4      Being Presbyterian**

Ordination Question e:

- e. Will you be governed by our church's polity, and will you abide by its discipline? Will you be a friend among your colleagues in ministry, working with them, subject to the ordering of God's Word and Spirit?

Christian Practice:

The nature of Christian discipline – saying yes to some things means saying no to other things. How Christian practices form us in Christian Faith.

- 1. Faith Story #6
- 2. Explore the Book of Order
  - a. Foundations of Presbyterian Polity – F-1.01 – F-3.04
  - b. The Form of Government

- c. Directory for Worship
- d. The Rules of Discipline
- 3. Faith Story #7

### **Session 5      Commitment and Service**

Ordination Questions f, g, h:

- f. Will you in your own life seek to follow the Lord Jesus Christ, love your neighbors, and work for the reconciliation of the world?
- g. Do you promise to further the peace, unity, and purity of the church?
- h. Will you pray for and seek to serve the people with energy, intelligence, imagination, and love?

### **Session 6      Commitment and Service Part 2**

Ordination Question i:

- i. (For ruling elder) Will you be a faithful ruling elder, watching over the people, providing for their worship, nurture, and service? Will you share in government and discipline, serving in councils of the church, and in your ministry will you try to show the love and justice of Jesus Christ?  
(For deacon) Will you be a faithful deacon, teaching charity, urging concern, and directing the people's help to the friendless and those in need, and in your ministry will you try to show the love and justice of Jesus Christ?

Christian Practices:

- personal prayer and study of Scripture
  - service of others, responding to God's activity in the world
  - following Jesus Christ into the world, bearing witness in all we say and do to the good news of God in Jesus Christ.
  - faithful stewardship of resources (financial, personal gifts and skills) in the church and in the community
1. Faith Story #8
  2. The nature of spiritual leadership
  3. The three offices – purposes/responsibilities
  4. Faith Story #9 & #10
  5. Safe Church Training with Chris McAuliffe

**Monday, November 15, 2021**

7:00pm – 8:00pm

### **Session 7      Logistics**

1. Meetings
  - a. Session meetings third Monday of the month, Susan Haynes, Clerk
  - b. Chair or serve on at least one church committee
  - c. Board of Deacons meetings/either serve on Fellowship or Cong. Care Committee, Heather Davies, Moderator
  - d. Committee meetings second Monday of the month

2. Lay Leader for the month including Sunday morning duty & counter
3. Fellowship Host for the month
4. Serving Communion & Home Communion
5. Joint Retreat – date TBD
6. Ordination/Installation
  - a. Sunday, January 9, 2022 at 11:00am

Any lingering questions/concerns?

Examination by sharing statements of faith with Session