CHURCH ORGANIZATION AND ADMINISTRATION
—Course Requirements—
Spring 2015

Description:  The study of the biblical basis of the church; its government and discipline; the offices, qualifications, and duties of church leaders; effective church management.

READINGS

WEEK
II —Palmer, B.M.  The Family
    Pp. 195-214 (The family as the germ of the Church)
—Bannerman, Douglas  The Scripture Doctrine of the Church (on Reserve; otherwise, electronic copy in books.google.com)
    Pp. 88-96 (OT names for the Church)
    Pp. 97-103 (OT gov’t)

III —Bannerman, Douglas.  Pp. 122-162 (Synagogue System)
—Miller, Samuel.  The Ruling Elder  (available at http://www.reformed.org/books/ruling_elder/)
    Pp. 20-48 (OT/Synagogue system)

IV —Bannerman, James.  The Church of Christ, vol. I.  (on Reserve; otherwise, electronic copy in books.google.com)
    Pp. 421-435 (office of the minister)
—Murray, John.  Collected Writings, vol. II
    Pp. 357-365 (Offices in the Church)

V —Clowney, Ed.  Called to the Ministry, pp. 26-90
—Spurgeon, Chs.  Lectures to My Students (electronic copy in books.google.com)
    Pp. 22-41  (Call to the Ministry)
—Bridges, Chs.  Christian Ministry (electronic copy in books.google.com)
    Pp. 1-5; 24-31)

VI —Miller.  Pp. 49-72 (NT Church evidence)
—Adams, J.  Shepherd God’s Flock: The Pastoral Life (I)
    Chapters I-X, pp. 1-70

—Murray.  Vol. II.  Pp. 336-44 (Govt of the Church)
—Murray.  Vol. II.  Pp. 345-350 (Form of Govt)

VIII —Bannerman, James  Vol. II.  Pp. 260-95 (Prelacy)
—Bannerman, James  Vol. II.  Pp. 296-331 (Congregationalism)
—(Recommended: Witherow, Thomas.  The Apostolic Church: Which Is It?)

IX —Knight, George.  “Two Offices and Two Orders of Elders” in Pressing toward the Mark..., pp. 23-32

    Read Any Three of the Following Essays in Order in the Offices:
—Miller, Steven.  “The NT Warrant for the Minister”
—Clowney, Edmund.  “A Brief for Church Governors”
—Eckardt, Robert.  “Two Offices within the Eldership”
—Kinneer, Jack. “Priesthood and Ministry”
—Coppes, Leonard. “Three NT Offices”
—Rayburn, Robert S. “Ministers, Elders and Deacons”
—(Extra: Hodge, Chs. “Warrant and Theory of Ruling Eldership”

X —Constitution of the BP Church. Pp. 127-60 (Form of Govt) or an alternate form of government
—Miller, Samuel. “Selections from The Ruling Elder” [=reserve booklet or online at http://www.swrb.com/newslett/actualNLs/RulElder.htm]

XI —Bannerman, James Vol. II. Pp. 186-200 (Discipline)

XII —BP Book of Discipline (or alternate book of church discipline)
—Adams, Jay. Handbook of Church Discipline
OR Wray, D. “Biblical Church Discipline”

XIII —Sande, Ken. The Peace Maker (you may skip chpts 3 & 5 if you like)

XIV —Adams, J. Shepherding God’s Flock: Leadership (III)

WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS (first two due by midterm; the last due before final)

1) Write a biblically based, theological essay (two pages typed or three pages by hand) on “The uniqueness of the office of the minister.” Is this calling on a par with other vocations (viz., are all callings as “one” before God), or does it involve a special equipping and unique commissioning in contradistinction to secular employment? Support with biblical references; start by looking at I Cor. 9:16, Gal. 1, Eph. 3, I Tim. 1, Heb. 5, and pre-read the assignments pertaining to “the call.”

2) Read at least two commentaries on I Timothy 3:1-13 and Titus 1:5-9 and then catalog in an alphabetical glossary the qualifications of deacons and elders. Define and explain/illustrate these qualifications in your glossary and include the text reference for each term.

OR you may skip assignments 1 and 2 and write a five page paper on an approved subject like “Biblical teaching on women holding church office.”

OR, you may skip assignments 1 and 2 in order to read a book like Management: A Biblical Approach by Rush, or Management for Christian Leaders by Hendrix. Submit a synopsis of your book, one paragraph per chapter.

3) Do Adam’s student project on pages 501-503 of the “Leadership” section. The program planner as found in Appendix C may be applied to your present church or one you have recently and regularly attended. Don’t name the church.

GRADING

2 Exams = 50%  Readings = 25%  Assignments = 20%  Attendance = 5%