



Reformed Theological College

BELFAST

Prospectus

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Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth.

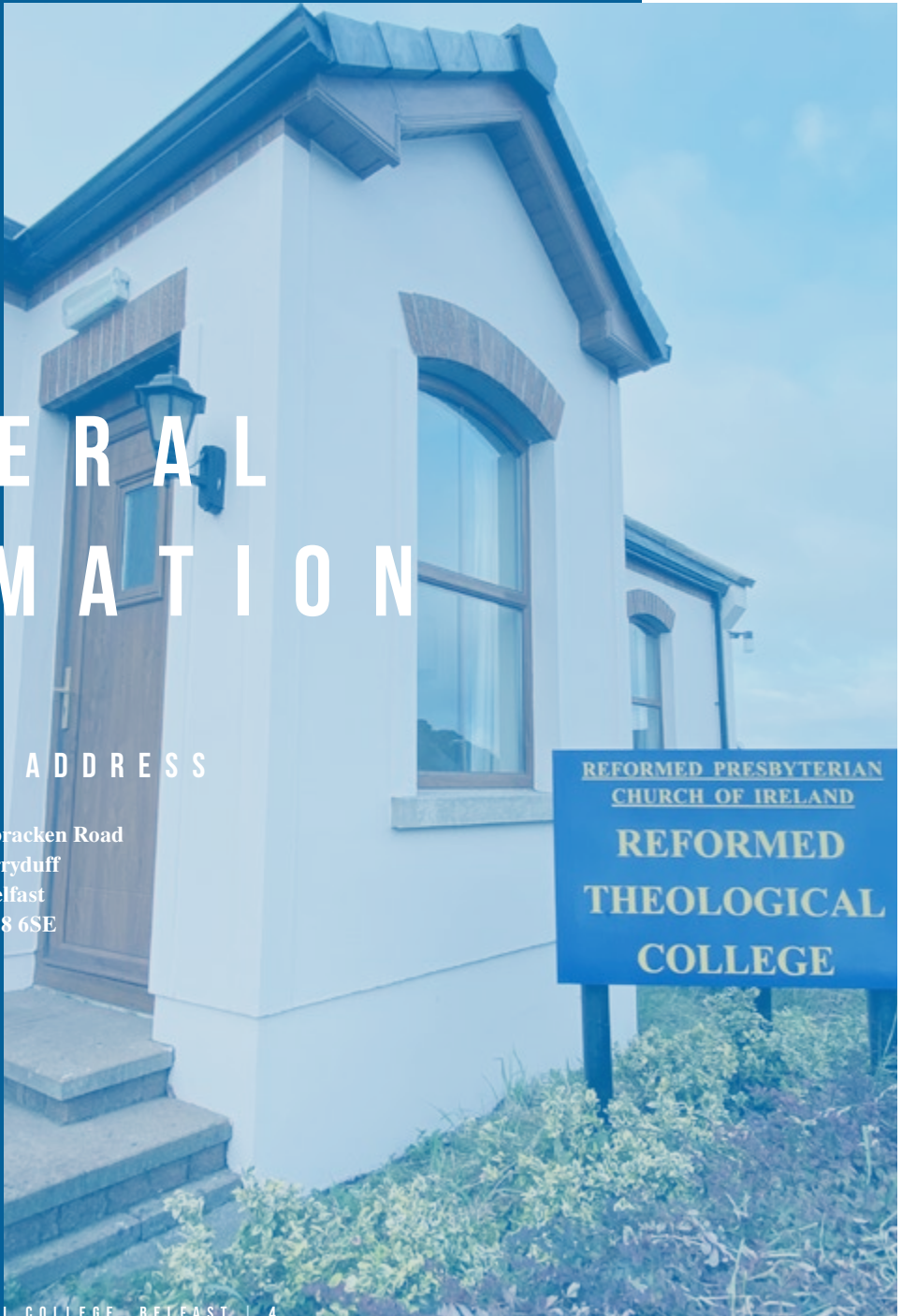
2 TIMOTHY 2:15



GENERAL INFORMATION

COLLEGE ADDRESS

35 Knockbracken Road
Carryduff
Belfast
BT 8 6SE



REFORMED PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH OF IRELAND
REFORMED
THEOLOGICAL
COLLEGE

INTRODUCTION

The Reformed Theological College is dedicated to training men for the ministry of the gospel. It is committed to the historic Reformed faith, particularly as set forth in the Westminster Confession of Faith and Catechisms and expressed in the Testimony of the Reformed Presbyterian Church of Ireland. The faculty, in addition to their lecturing responsibilities, are all involved in pastoral ministry, which results in teaching with a uniquely practical emphasis. Training at the College focuses not only on encouraging a high level of scholarship but on personal godliness and the development of spiritual gifts and ministry skills.

FACULTY AND STAFF

PRINCIPAL

Rev. Robert L W McCollum, BAgr, MTh

PROFESSORS



Pastoral Theology and Homiletics:

Rev. Robert L W McCollum, BAgr, MTh
Rev. David Sutherland, MTh, DMin



Theology, Christian Ethics and Apologetics:

Rev. W David J McKay,
BA, BD, MTh, PhD



Old Testament Language and Literature:

Rev. Stephen Neilly,
MA, MAR, ThM, PGCE



New Testament Language and Literature:

Rev. Warren J Peel, BA, MTh

PROFESSOR EMERITUS



Old Testament Language and Literature:

Rev. W Norris S Wilson, MA, MTh, PhD

LECTURERS



Church History:

Rev. Raymond Blair, BA (Hons)



Old Testament Hebrew:

Rev. John Watterson, MEng, PhD,
GDipTh, MTh

LIBRARIAN

Dr Trevor McCavery

CONVENER OF COMMITTEE OF SUPERINTENDENCE

Rev. David Fallows

TREASURER

Dr David McKelvey

HISTORY

The College, one of the oldest in Ireland, was established in 1854 as the Reformed Presbyterian Theological Hall. In the previous century, students were trained at the Theological Hall of the Reformed Presbyterian Church of Scotland at Paisley. Six students attended the first classes, which for sixteen years were held during the summer months. From 1869 a winter session lasting four months was approved, which increased to six months in 1931.

From 1854 until 1896 there were two Chairs – of Systematic Theology and of Exegetical and Pastoral Theology, with Church History and Hebrew. These have been sub-divided over the years, with four chairs and three lectureships at present.

From 1854 until 1972 the College was accommodated in central Belfast in the premises of College Street South, later Grosvenor Road, congregation. It then transferred to Cameron House, Lisburn Road, where it remained until 2005. In that year the College moved into its present premises, a new purpose-built building at Knockbracken, Belfast.

LIBRARY

The Library dates from 1854 and contains a good selection of books, especially of the Reformation and Puritan periods. It has been considerably enlarged in recent years and now provides a well-balanced working resource.



CONSTITUTION

The College is under the control of the Synod of the Reformed Presbyterian Church of Ireland. A Board of Examiners consisting of six ministers of the Church is appointed annually by the Synod. This board, together with the Faculty and the College Treasurer, forms the Committee of Superintendence.

The theological course consists of eight terms spread over a three-year period. Classes each year begin and end with a public address delivered by a member of the faculty or by a minister or elder nominated by the Committee of Superintendence and approved by Synod.

The Professor of Systematic Theology is responsible for teaching the distinctive principles of the Reformed Presbyterian Church and the Professor of Pastoral Theology a course of lectures on Covenanting History.

Members of the faculty are appointed by Synod from ministers of the Church whose godly character and academic qualifications are considered satisfactory. On appointment, and at the beginning of each Session, members of the faculty sign a declaration to perform faithfully the duties of the Chair, and to teach, maintain and defend the standards and principles of the Covenanting Church.

Each student at the College is required to spend two months, following their first and second years of theological training, in practical training for the Christian ministry in a local congregation alongside a serving minister. Following completion of the theological course after three years, each student is required to spend a further six months training in a local congregation.

ADMISSIONS PROCEDURE

Every student preparing for the ministry of the Reformed Presbyterian Church shall, before being accepted for admission to the College, be a member of a congregation, have placed himself under the care of a Presbytery of the Church and be approved by the Committee of Superintendence. During his training Presbytery shall investigate the student's progress and development at each stage of his course.

No candidate shall be admitted as a regular student until he has obtained a degree or a suitable certificate in higher education. Mature students, or candidates whose circumstances are exceptional, may be admitted by special permission of the Committee and Synod provided they have attained to a suitable level in secondary education.

The courses are open to students of other denominations, provided that their academic standing is acceptable to the College and that they have the approval of their respective Churches. Guest students are not eligible for bursaries or for grants from the Education Fund.

The professors may at their discretion admit auditors to classes. Such auditors receive no formal credit for classes taken.

A Diploma in Theology (DipTh) is awarded to students who complete the full course.

EDUCATION FUND

The object of this Fund is to assist in educating suitable men for the ministry of the Gospel who are under the care of a Presbytery of the Reformed Presbyterian Church.

BURSARIES AND PRIZES

On the results obtained at the examinations in each session, the following bursaries and prizes are awarded to students for the ministry of the Reformed Presbyterian Church:

The Mawhinney Bursary
The Archibald Bursary
The John Kerr Bursary
The James G Thompson Bursary
The Stewart Allen Bursary
The Lyons Memorial Prize
The William Wasson Memorial Bursary
The John Donnelly Memorial Bursary
The Robert Buchanan Bursary
The Dodds Memorial Prize
The Elizabeth Graham Prize
The Margaret Graham Prize
The David Magee Bursary
The Frederick S Leahy Bursary
The Dromore Bursary
Doggart Bursary

REFORMED THEOLOGICAL JOURNAL

This journal is published annually by the college faculty and, together with articles written by faculty members, includes contributions from Reformed scholars throughout the world.





CURRICULUM INFORMATION

OLD TESTAMENT
LANGUAGE &
LITERATURE

NEW TESTAMENT
LANGUAGE &
LITERATURE

SYSTEMATIC
THEOLOGY,
APOLOGETICS
& ETHICS

PASTORAL
THEOLOGY &
HOMILETICS

CHURCH
HISTORY



DEPARTMENT OF
OLD TESTAMENT
LANGUAGE AND
LITERATURE

Professor:

Professor Stephen Neilly
MA, MAR, ThM, PGCE

Lecturer:

Rev. John Watterson
MEng, PhD, GDipTh, MTh

Professor Emeritus:

Professor W Norris S Wilson
MA, MTh, PhD

OLD TESTAMENT INTRODUCTION

OTI Sum. Old Testament English Bible

Over the three years, as required summer work, students will do a detailed reading of the English text of the Old Testament books, following the threefold division into Pentateuch, Prophets and Writings. Familiarisation with introductory notes in the ESV Study Bible is also encouraged.

OTI 1.1, 2 and 3 Matters of General Introduction

Over the three years there will be lectures on such subjects as:

What is the Old Testament, and why study it?;

The Authority of the OT;

The Text of the OT;

Textual Criticism of the OT;

The Canon of the OT;

The Work of the Scribes and Massoretes;

The Septuagint;

Higher Criticism (from the Documentary

Hypothesis to the present day, including canonical and rhetorical criticism);

OT Geography;

OT Archaeology;

The Books of the Apocrypha;

OT Chronology;

Use of the OT in the NT; etc.

OTI 2.1, 2 and 3 Introduction to Specific Books

These lectures focus on such matters as name, theme, purpose, key verses and truths, genre, authorship, date, historical background, literary features, thematic analysis, special characteristics, problems of interpretation, NT fulfilment, application, guide to best commentaries, etc as basic groundwork for preaching this book.

OTI 2.1 Introduction to the Books of the Law (or the Pentateuch)

OTI 2.2 Introduction to the Prophets ('Former' and 'Latter')

A generally chronological approach will be followed). Special Focus on Daniel

OTI 2.3 Introduction to the Writings (Poetical, Wisdom and Post-exilic Historical Books)

Daniel will again be studied, with a focus on Apocalyptic Literature.

OLD TESTAMENT HISTORY

The importance of history from the very first verse of Genesis. A biblical-theological survey of Old Testament history and literature with a focus on the themes of the Old Testament as well as the historical detail, especially the covenantal structure of the kingdom of God. Consideration will also be given to the Near Eastern historical and cultural setting of biblical events. Study of Deuteronomy as a covenant document.

OTH 1.1
From the Beginnings to the Judges

OTH 2.1
From the Monarchy to Impending Exile

OTH 3.1
From the Exile to the Inter-Testamental Period

OLD TESTAMENT BIBLICAL THEOLOGY

What is Biblical Theology?
The Task of Old Testament Theology
A Biblical-Theological Analysis of the Covenant of Grace: tracing the development of its key elements and themes through the different epochs of redemptive history.

The Proper Explication of Jesus Christ in All Parts of Old Testament Revelation: the One written about in 'the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms' (Luke 24:44).

OTB 1.1.1, 2
The Christ to whom all the covenant arrangements from creation on point forward (the LORD as Covenant initiator and man as Covenant recipient).

OTB 2.1.1, 2
The Christ to whom all the prophets, pre-exilic, during exile, and post-exilic point forward (sin, showing the need for the Covenant and salvation as the blessing of the Covenant).

OTB 3.1.1, 2
The Christ to whom all the writings, particularly poetical and wisdom point forward (emphasising the life of the Covenant-keeper and the consummation of the Covenant (OT eschatology)).

OLD TESTAMENT EXEGESIS AND PREACHING

Time will be spent with the biblical text in each of the three years, establishing principles of OT interpretation and application. The grammatical-historical approach will be followed, always asking what a certain passage tells us about the kingdom of God and the coming of Messiah.

OTB 1.2 Preaching the Pentateuch
Passages will be chosen from the first five books which will be studied in parallel parts of the course (particularly Genesis). Practical guidance will be given to help preach different parts of the Pentateuch.

OTB 2.2 Preaching the Prophets
Passages will be chosen particularly from the historical narrative sections of Samuel/Kings and the major prophets. Practical guidance will be given with the particular difficulties of preaching prophecy.

OTB 3.2 Preaching the Writings
Passages will be chosen from the third section of the Old Testament. Practical guidance will be given with the challenges of preaching poetry and Psalms. There will also be some lectures given on key topics of Old Testament Ethics.

OLD TESTAMENT LANGUAGE

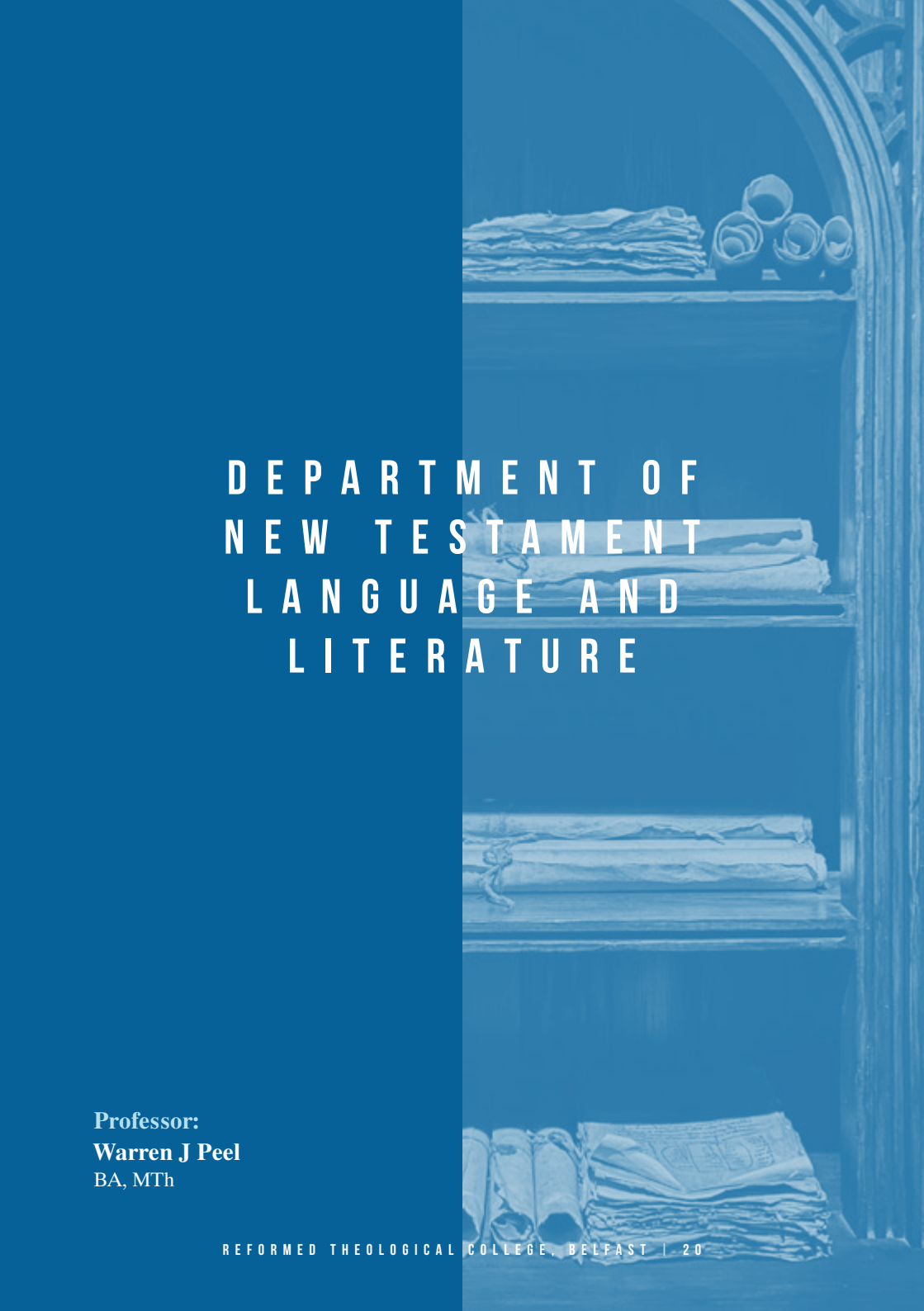
OTLI
Intensive introductory module on the elements of Biblical Hebrew: orthography, phonology, morphology, syntax, and grammar. This course will take place in the September preceding either the first or second year and will run for 4 hours each day, four days each week, for four weeks.

OTB 1
Two hours per week for two terms. Further instruction in the basics of Biblical Hebrew, building on the foundation of the intensive module, dealing with particularly with weak verbal roots and derived verbal stems.

OTB 2
One hour per week for two terms. Consolidation of the material learned in OTLI and OTL 1. A light-touch introduction to the system of cantillation marks. Translation of narrative texts from the Torah and the former Prophets.

OTB 3
One hour per week for two terms. Further consolidation of Hebrew grammar, and development of the students' knowledge of the system of cantillation marks and Hebrew syntax. Translation of Hebrew poetry.

The delivery of the OTL course will be illustrated throughout by examples of how a working knowledge of Biblical Hebrew facilitates exegesis of and preaching from the Hebrew Scriptures.



DEPARTMENT OF NEW TESTAMENT LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE

Professor:
Warren J Peel
BA, MTh

NEW TESTAMENT LANGUAGE

NTLI

Intensive introductory module on the elements of NT Greek grammar, syntax, morphology and vocabulary. This course takes place in the September preceding either the first year or second year and runs for 4 hours each day, four days each week, for four weeks.

NTL 1.1-2

Two hours per week of instruction in the basics of NT Greek, building on the foundation of the intensive module, running throughout terms one and two.

NTL 2.1-2

Translation of easier passages of the NT and the introduction of intermediate grammatical concepts.

NTL 3.1-2

Extensive reading and translation from the Greek New Testament, with focus on word usage studies, commentaries and computer research tools as a foundation for exegesis and preaching.

NEW TESTAMENT INTRODUCTION

NTI 1.1: New Testament Background

An overview of the historical, political, cultural and religious background of the Mediterranean world of the first century AD.

NTI 1.2: Introduction to the Four Gospels

NTI 2.1-2: The Life and Letters of Paul

A study of the life and ministry of the apostle Paul, together with a detailed introduction to the Book of Acts and each of the Pauline epistles.

NTI 2.3: Introduction to Hermeneutics

An introduction to the history, theory and practice of biblical interpretation, with emphasis on the various genres and on the transition from hermeneutics to preaching.

NTI 3.1: The Principles and Practice of NT Exegesis

An exploration of the principles and practice of Greek exegesis, with attention to textual criticism, advanced grammar and syntax and the lexical, literary and theological features of the text.

NTI 3.2: Introduction to the General Epistles and Revelation

NEW TESTAMENT THEOLOGY

NTT 1.1

The Kingdom of God in the New Testament

NTT 2.1

The Cross in the New Testament

NTT 3.1

The person and work of the Holy Spirit, including an evaluation of the modern charismatic movement.

NEW TESTAMENT EXPOSITION

These courses are designed to offer a thorough analysis of the content and theology of each book, to present models of expository sermons and to provide practical examples of varied types of preaching.

NTE 1.1

The Gospel according to Mark

NTE 2.1

The Epistle to the Romans

NTE 3.1

Revelation

DEPARTMENT OF SYSTEMATIC THEOLOGY, ETHICS AND APOLOGETICS

Professor:
W David J McKay
BA, BD, MTh, PhD

SYSTEMATIC THEOLOGY

SYS 1.1 Introduction to Systematic Theology

The nature and sources of theology, general and special revelation, and the nature and place of Scripture.

SYS 1.2 Theology Proper: The Doctrine of God

The existence of God, the Trinity, the attributes of God, the decrees of God, creation and providence.

SYS 1.3 Anthropology: The Doctrine of Man

Man as originally created, the image of God, the Covenant in Eden, the Fall and its consequences.

SYS 2.1 Christology: The Doctrine of the Person and Work of Christ

The Covenants, the person of Christ, the offices of Christ, the atonement, the lordship of Christ and covenanting.

SYS 2.2 Soteriology: The Doctrine of Salvation

The ministry of the Holy Spirit, calling, regeneration, union with Christ, conversion, repentance, faith, justification, sanctification, perseverance.

SYS 3.1 Ecclesiology: The Doctrine of the Church

The nature, government and power of the Church, worship, sacraments, ministry, mission, Church and State.

SYS 3.2 Eschatology: The Doctrine of the Last Things

Death and the intermediate state, the return of Christ, the millennium, the resurrection, the Last Judgment, the final state of saved and lost.

ETHICS

ETH 1.1 Introduction to Ethics

The basic elements of ethics, including salvation and the moral life, the ministry of the Holy Spirit and the role of conscience, with emphasis on the place of Scripture and the nature of ethical decision-making.

ETH 1.2 Old Testament Ethics

A consideration of the general features of the Old Testament ethical material, including the place of the law and moral problems in the Old Testament.

ETH 2.1 New Testament Ethics

A survey of the ethical content of the Gospels, the Pauline Epistles and the other New Testament books.

ETH 2.2 Practical Ethical Issues (1)

A variety of issues will be covered, including the following: marriage, family, divorce and remarriage, homosexuality.

ETH 3.1 History of Christian Ethics

A consideration of the significant figures and movements which have shaped Christian ethics from the first to the twentieth centuries, providing background for an understanding of the contemporary ethical scene.

When appropriate, ETH 3.1 may be replaced by an interactive seminar on ethical issues.

ETH 3.2 Practical Ethical Issues (2)

The focus will be on medical issues such as the nature of medicine, the beginning of life, the nature of persons, abortion, in vitro fertilisation, genetic engineering, euthanasia.

APOLOGETICS

APL 1.1 Introduction to Apologetics

A study of the basic principles of an apologetic method which is faithful to Scripture, together with a consideration of the place of apologetics in preaching and ministry, and an examination of the use of arguments for the existence of God and of approaches to the problem of evil.

APL 1.2 Survey of Western Thought

An examination and critique of the most influential thinkers, from the Greek philosophers through to the Existentialists, who have shaped modern western culture.

APL 2.1 Modern Trends in Theology

A critical evaluation of the main theologians and movements which have influenced twenty-first century theology, including Karl Barth, Liberation Theology, Feminist Theology and Open Theism.

APL 2.2 World Views

A consideration of some of the most influential contemporary world views, including Marxism, the New Age Movement and Postmodernism.

APL 3.1 Contemporary Challenges

A survey of the challenges posed to the Christian faith by developments in psychology, sociology, and science, together with the threat of pluralism.

APL 3.2 Cults and religions

An examination from a Christian perspective of Islam, Hinduism, Buddhism, Mormonism and the Jehovah's Witnesses.



DEPARTMENT OF
PASTORAL
THEOLOGY AND
HOMILETICS

Professors:

Robert L W McCollum
BAgr, MTh

David Sutherland
MTh, DMin

PASTORAL THEOLOGY

PTH 1.1 Biblical and Historical context of Pastoral Ministry

PTH 1.2 The Calling, Character and Ordination to Pastoral Ministry

PTH 1.3 The Personal Dimensions to the Pastoral Office

The pastor's home and family life
The pastor's study and his reading.

PTH 1.4 The Practical Responsibilities of the Pastoral Office

The relationship between preaching and pastoral care
Biblical leadership
Discipleship training
The pastor as a watchman
Promotion of outreach

PTH 2.1 Biblical Eldership

Pastoral Leadership
Shared Leadership
Male Leadership
Qualified Leadership
Servant Leadership

PTH 2.2 Biblical Diaconate

The Biblical warrant for the diaconate
The function of diaconal ministry in the local church
The relationship between the diaconate and the eldership
Church Finances

PTH 2.3 Biblical Worship

The Nature of Worship
The Elements of Worship
Historic Views and Practice of Worship
Leadership of Worship
Church Prayer Meetings
Open Air Preaching
Conventicles

PTH 3.1 Pastoral Visitation

Pastoral care of:

- Church Families
- Elderly
- Sick
- Special Needs
- Bereaved and Dying

PTH 3.2 Conducting Funerals

PTH 3.3 Conducting Weddings

Marriage preparation classes

PTH 3.4 Preparation and Reception of Communicant Members

PTH 3.5 Administering the Sacraments

PTH 3.6 Church Discipline

PTH 3.7 Pastoral Counselling

Evaluation of current approaches to counselling
Counselling those with spiritual physical and emotional problems
Special consideration given to stress and depression

PTH 3.8 Church Polity

The different types of church government presented and evaluated in the light of Scripture. Attention given to the practice of Presbyterianism in relation to:

- Congregation
- Session
- Presbytery
- Synod

The Book of Government and Order of RPCI considered. Time given to consider relationships with local churches and sister denominations.

HOMILETICS

HOM 1.1 Reading of Scripture and Priority

HOM 1.2 The History of Preaching

HOM 1.3 Resources Available in Sermon Preparation

HOM 1.4 Theological Foundations for Preaching

HOM 1.5 Principles of Expository Preaching

HOM 1.6 Preparation of Expository Sermons

HOM 1.7 Principles and Techniques of Effective Public Speaking

HOM 2.1 Sermon Introductions, Conclusions and Transitions

HOM 2.2 Sermon Structure and Flow

HOM 2.3 Delivery of Sermons

HOM 2.4 Sincerity and Earnestness in Preaching

HOM 2.5 Courage and Humility in Preaching

HOM 2.6 Preaching Christ-Centred Messages

HOM 3.1 Applicatory Preaching

HOM 3.2 Pastoral Preaching

HOM 3.3 Powerful Preaching

HOM 3.4 Illustrations in Preaching

HOM 3.5 Sermons for Special Occasions: Weddings, Funerals, Anniversaries, etc.

HOM 3.6 Speech Production

EVANGELISM YEAR 1

This course aims to develop principles and methods of evangelism consistent with the Biblical doctrine of salvation. The place and importance of evangelism within the context of the local congregation are given priority.

EVN 1.1 Principles of Biblical Evangelism

EVN 1.2 Context of Evangelistic Ministry

EVN 1.3 Practice of Evangelism

COVENANTER HISTORY YEAR 2

CVH 2.1 Pre-Reformation Scotland

CVH 2.2 The Impact of the Reformation on Scottish Society

CVH 2.3 Opposition to Reformation and development of Presbyterianism

CVH 2.4 Events leading up to the 2nd Reformation (1638)

CVH 2.5 The National Covenant (1638) and Solemn League & Covenant (1643) considered with respect to the context in which they were signed and the impact they had in the three kingdoms

CVH 2.6 The Restoration (1660) leading to Persecution of Covenanters (1660-1688)

CVH 2.7 The Revolution Settlement

CVH 2.8 The Society People leading to Establishment of Reformed Presbytery (1743)

CVH 2.9 Subsequent Reformed Presbyterian History

CHURCH PLANTING YEAR 3

CPL 3.1 Vision for Church Planting

CPL 3.2 Leadership Qualities of an Organising Pastor

CPL 3.3 Principles, Priorities and Practice of the Organising Pastor

CPL 3.4 Opportunities and pitfalls in a church plant context

CPL 3.5 Evangelistic Methods and Opportunities

CPL 3.6 Essential Elements in Church Planting Goals

CPL 3.7 Relationship of the Church Plant to the Presbytery

MISSIONOLOGY YEAR 3

MIS 3.1 Reformed Perspective on Missions

MIS 3.2 The Great Commission and the Missionary Objective

MIS 3.3 Contextualization

MIS 3.4 Paul's Missionary Principles and Practice

MIS 3.5 The Incarnational Approach to Mission

MIS 3.6 Reaching the World's Cities



DEPARTMENT OF CHURCH HISTORY

Lecturer:
Rev. Raymond Blair
BA (Hons)

CH 1.1. The Early Church

The Expansion of the Church; The Persecution of the Church; Heresies; Councils and Creeds; Rise of Monasticism; The Celtic Church; The Organisation and Ministry of the Church; The Rise of the Papacy; The Church and the State.

CH 1.2. The Church in the Middle Ages

The Rise of Islam; Charlemagne and the Holy Roman Empire; The Investiture Conflict; The Crusades; Scholasticism; Pope Innocent III; The Forerunners of the Reformation; The Conciliar Movement.

CH 2.1 The Reformation

The Background to the Reformation; Luther and the Dawn of the Reformation; Zwingli and the Swiss Reformation; Calvin and the Reformation; The Huguenots; The Reformation in the Netherlands and Eastern Europe; The Reformation in England; The Reformation in Ireland; The Counter-Reformation.

CH 2.2. The Church in the Seventeenth and Eighteenth Centuries

Pietism; The Puritans; The Westminster Assembly; John Owen; Developments within Roman Catholicism; Revival in Britain; John Wesley; Revival in America; The Church and the Enlightenment

CH 3.1 The Modern Period (Part 1)

Christianity and the Abolition of Slavery; The Rise of Atheism and Marxism; The Challenge posed by Darwinism; Biblical Criticism and Modernism; Revivalism; Evangelicalism in 19th century Britain; The Anglo-Catholic Movement; Thomas Chalmers and the Free Church; Revivals in Scotland, Ulster and Wales; The Age of Missions.

CH 3.2 The Modern Period (Part 2)

The Emergence of Mormonism and other Heterodox Movements; The Rise of Pentecostalism; Developments within Roman Catholicism; The Ecumenical Movement; Fundamentalism; Theological Liberalism in the 20th century; The Stand against Liberalism; Billy Graham and the New Evangelicalism; The Charismatic Movement; The Spread of the Gospel in Africa and Asia.



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