

Oakbrook Community Church (PCA) Officer Training Manual



SELF-STUDY GUIDE

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*“If anyone aspires to the office of overseer,
he desires a noble task.”*

1 Timothy 3:1

*“For those who serve well as deacons gain a good standing for themselves
and also great confidence in the faith that is in Christ Jesus.”*

1 Timothy 3:13

All men are encouraged and challenged to be growing in grace and in their knowledge of God’s Word. Men should also be seeking to use their God-given giftedness for leadership and service within the body of Christ. Leadership training is our way of equipping and encouraging men to become involved in the life of the church.

**PREPARATION OF MEN TO BE OFFICERS
IN CHRIST'S CHURCH**

	Dates
Officer Training	
SESSION # 1	Introduction & Testimonies Review of Qualifications pgs. 4-6 Come prepared to discuss pgs 4-6 Evaluate yourself in light of Officer Qualifications H: Prepare Written Testimony pg 3. H: Read Westminster Confession of Faith
SESSIONS #2&3	Review of Westminster Confession of Faith Come prepared to discuss Study Question pgs 7-11
SESSIONS #4&5	Review of the Book of Church Order Come prepared to discuss Study Guide pgs 12-16
SESSION # 6	Review of Biblical Survey Come prepared to discuss pgs 17-21
SESSION # 7	Review of Church History & PCA knowledge Come prepared to discuss pgs 22-24
Upon Completion	Officer Nominee Exam – open book

Supplemental Materials: Many are available electronically at www.oakbrookpca.org
Westminster Confession of Faith

Westminster Shorter Catechism

Suggested Memory: Q1, 2, 3, 7, 11, 14, 21, 31, 33, 35, 86, 87, 89

Oakbrook Community Church (PCA) Officer Nominee Exam

Oakbrook Community Church Officer Qualification Flyer

Biblical Eldership, Alexander Strauch, ISBN: 0936083115

The Shepherd Leader, Timothy Z. Witmer, ISBN: 1596381310

With A Shepherd's Heart, John R. Sittema, ISBN: 0965398102

The New Testament Deacon, Alexander Strauch, ISBN: 0936083077

Resources for Deacons, Timothy J. Keller, ISBN: 0970354169

PREPARING A TESTIMONY

TELL YOUR PERSONAL STORY

A testimony is simply a firsthand account. When you tell someone your testimony, you open your life to them in a non-threatening way-you explain who Jesus Christ is and the personal difference He has made in your life. When you give evidence as to how the power of God has transformed your life, you illustrate one instance of the miracle of salvation. Even if your testimony isn't filled with fireworks and tragedy, it's a miracle. People are looking for evidence that God exists and that He is personally involved in individual lives. Your story proves that God wants to know you . . . and them. More than a formula or technique, evangelism is a way of living-of being available to God in the opportunities He gives us.

PREPARING YOUR STORY

When the time comes to share your personal testimony with your friend, you can be certain that the Holy Spirit will be working in your mind and heart, giving you discernment in what to say. However, long before that conversation begins, you need to organize your thoughts. Just as a lawyer would not walk into a courtroom unprepared, you shouldn't approach your testimony on a "wing and a prayer." Plan your story with these three points in mind:

Remember your purpose. You want to let others know what Christ has done in your life. Edit out personal details that nudge your audience in ways you think they need to change or that offer pat answers to life's critical questions. Focus on how God changed you and what He's done.

Build common bridges. Explain your story so that the person can identify with your past and present experiences. Give examples of how God has fulfilled His promise that "If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old is gone, the new has come!" (2 Corinthians 5:1 NIV) Admit openly that God is still working in your life, still changing your life for good.

Keep it simple. You might tell your story by sharing about three life moments-before Christ, the birth of Christ in your life, and after Christ. The last thing you'd want to do is make a simple message unclear or difficult-a person's attention span usually lasts about three minutes. So, keep it short and focused.

LESSONS FROM YOUR STORY

Even if an opportunity to share your testimony doesn't present itself soon, the practice of reflecting on how God has been at work in your life will yield wonderful benefits. It's easy to forget how faithful God has been, isn't it? Too often we forget that God's story is continuing to unfold in our lives. When you remember His goodness in directing your life path, you'll be moved to a lifestyle of gratitude, worship, greater intimacy with God, and greater trust in God. People are bound to notice how different you are, and they'll be drawn to ask you, "What's your secret?"

The New Testament describes the ministry of evangelism in a number of ways. When you share your faith with others, you are "telling [them] the way to be saved" (Acts 16:17 NIV), and that you've come "to preach good news" (Luke 4:18 NIV), "to give the reason for the hope that you have" (1 Peter 3:15 NIV), and to "do the work of an evangelist" (2 Timothy 4:5 NIV).

QUALIFICATIONS

Oakbrook Community Church Officer Nomination Guide

Our church regularly elects Elders and Deacons from the Biblically qualified men of the church. Periodically we hold elections for Elder and Deacon at a congregational meeting. Members of Oakbrook should biblically and prayerfully consider candidates for nomination to serve in our body and submit nominations, keeping in mind that each prospective officer should be an active male member who meets the qualifications set forth in 1 Timothy 3 and Titus 1.

Each candidate must be able to and willing to affirm the following questions: (BCO 24-5)

1. Do you believe the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments, as originally given, to be the inerrant Word of God, the only infallible rule of faith and practice?
2. Do you sincerely receive and adopt the Confession of Faith and the Catechisms of this Church, as containing the system of doctrine taught in the Holy Scriptures; and do you further promise that if at any time you find yourself out of accord with any of the fundamentals of this system of doctrine, you will, on your own initiative, make known to your Session the change which has taken place in your views since the assumption of this ordination vow?
3. Do you approve of the form of government and discipline of the Presbyterian Church in America, in conformity with the general principles of biblical polity?
4. Do you accept the office of ruling elder (or deacon, as the case may be) in this church, and promise faithfully to perform all the duties thereof, and to endeavor by the grace of God to adorn the profession of the Gospel in your life, and to set a worthy example before the Church of which God has made you an officer?
5. Do you promise subjection to your brethren in the Lord?
6. Do you promise to strive for the purity, peace, unity and edification of the Church?

THE OFFICE OF ELDER

This office is one of dignity and usefulness. The man who fills it has in Scripture different titles expressive of his various duties. As he has the oversight of the flock of Christ, he is termed *bishop* or *pastor*. As it is his duty to be grave and prudent, and example to the flock, and to govern well in the house and Kingdom of Christ, he is termed *presbyter* or *elder*. As he expounds the Word and by sound doctrine both exhorts and convinces the gainsayer, he is termed *teacher*. These titles do not indicate different grades of office, but all describe one and the same office. PCA BCO 8-1.

THE OFFICE OF DEACON

The office of deacon is one of sympathy and service after the example of the Lord Jesus. It is the duty of the deacons to minister to those who are in need, to the sick, to the friendless, and to any who may be in distress. It is their duty also to develop the grace of liberality in the members of the church, to devise effective methods of collecting the gifts of the people and to distribute these gifts among the objects to which they are contributed. They shall have care of the property of the congregation, both real and personal, and shall keep in proper repair the church edifice and other buildings belonging to the congregation. PCA BCO 9-1,2.

A Note on Qualifications:

Obviously no sinful man can measure up to these qualifications – so the goal in selecting men is to look for men who are **striving towards** these Godly standards and demonstrate a **consistent bent towards** these characteristics of a Godly man.

QUALIFICATIONS OF ELDERS (1 Tim. 3:1-7; Tit. 1:4-9)

Above Reproach (1 Tim 3:2). To be blameless or above reproach has the idea of not being a stumbling block to others. He doesn't have anything in his life which would cause disgrace to the lord or cause people to gossip about him. This does not mean perfection, but there should be no glaring issues that are not being worked on.

Husband of but one wife (1 Tim 3:2). This is a difficult phrase to interpret, and it means one wife at a time, forbidding any type of polygamy. The Greek literally means "a one kind of a woman man," indicating faithfulness to one woman.

Temperate (sober-minded 1 Tim 3:2). An elder is to be moderate in ALL things, not given to excesses of any kind.

Self-controlled (1 Tim 3:2). An elder is to show self-control in attitude and demeanor, using good common sense about life.

Respectable (1 Tim 3:2). An elder is to have an orderly life including neatness, promptness, and financial orderliness.

Not a drunkard (1 Tim 3:3). An elder may drink wine but he is not to be addicted to wine or to linger over the cup as the Greek literally says.

Not Violent (1 Tim 3:3). An elder is not to be a constant fighter who always seems to carry a chip on his shoulder. Note the clarification: an elder should be gentle.

Not Quarrelsome (1 Tim 3:3). An elder is not contentious or a troublemaker. Elders must learn to agree to disagree among themselves and with the congregation. They must do this with love and not be divisive or come across with a cocky attitude.

Not a lover of Money (1 Tim 3:3). An elder is not to love money for himself and must be content with the blessings of Christ (Heb 13:5). A greediness for bigger and better personal or church funds is contrary to this qualification. This does not say that an elder can't be wealthy, but it does say that he can't love money. A man who loves money will spend all his time thinking about it and does not have time to do the ministry of elder.

Not arrogant (Titus 1:7). The NAS captures this well - 'not self-willed'. An elder must never desire to please only himself and gain his own ends and desires. He should always have the interests of the flock in view. He is not to be stubborn, opinionated and always believing he is right. Instead, he must operate his life with humility realizing that the Holy Spirit also works in others and works through the plurality of elders. An elder must not want his own way all the time and should be worried if he gets his own way all the time.

A lover of Good (Titus 1:8). An elder must have a positive Christ-like life, centered in doing good, wholesome things.

Upright (Titus 1:8). An elder must have a holy walk with the Lord Jesus Christ, separated unto Christ and desiring to conduct his life and the life of the church according to the Word of God.

DUTIES OF ELDERS

- A. Admonish the flock (1 Thes. 5:12).
- B. Work hard among the flock (1 Thes. 5:12).
- C. Rule by guiding (1 Thes. 5:12).
- D. Teach the flock (1 Tim. 3:2).
- E. Direct the affairs of the flock (1 Tim. 5:17).
- F. Protect the flock (Tit. 1:5,6).
- G. Lead the flock (Heb. 13:7).
- H. Shepherd the flock (1 Pt 5:2; Acts 20:25).

Holy (Titus 1:8). An elder must demonstrate a disciplined life over his time, job, money, attitudes, his family, his wife, his ministry, or whatever. Does divine shine through?

Hospitable (1 Tim 3:2). An elder is to open his life and home to others. An elder must be a 'people-person' or 'people-oriented.' This means that people must be more important than the tasks at hand. He must be willing to open his home to strangers.

Manage his own Family Well (1 Tim 3:4). An elder must be the governmental and spiritual leader of his home. His wife and children should respect and honor him as God's gracious servant. 1 Tim 3:5 states the reason why this is so important: for if someone does not know how to manage his own household, how will he care for God's church?

His children obey him with proper respect (1 Tim 3:4). An elder's children must respect and honor him because he has done it Christ's way. The NAS sheds much light: 'keeping his children under control with all dignity.'

Not a recent convert (1 Tim 3:6). Christian experience is a must for an elder. A 28 year old could qualify if he was a believer since being a teenager. Beware of the 50 year old who has much leadership or worldly experience who comes to faith and is thrust into office. His eldership will likely be worldly minded rather than biblically minded.

Children are believers not open to debauchery or insubordination (Titus 1:6). This is a tough sentence to understand. The word 'believers' may be translated 'faithful'. Some have taken this to mean children with faithful behavior patterns but necessarily saved children. The difficulty is that would mean children would need to be 'grown' to see the outcome of the parenting. Seems best to understand as children being faithful and demonstrating the right bent and not open to charges of unfaithfulness.

Able to Teach (1 Tim 3:2). An elder must be ready, willing and able to teach and be skilled in discipling/teaching others in the basics of the Christian faith. This is one mark that distinguishes an elder from a deacon in that the deacon does not have to teach, but the elder is able and must teach. This does not exclusively mean preaching/teaching but an elder must be able to teach others the basics of the faith.

Must hold firmly to the Word (Titus 1:9). An elder must hold firmly to the trustworthy Word so he can encourage others from Scripture, not man's ideas. An elder must be familiar and well versed with Scripture such that he can exhort and guide the flock using Scripture as the final authority.

Must be able to rebuke (Titus 1:9). An elder must be able to refute those who contradict Scripture. A familiarity with apologetics is important for an elder so that he can engage those who contradict the truths of Scripture.

- I. Example to the flock (1 Pet. 5:3).
- J. Oversee the flock (Acts 20:28).
- K. Responsible for finances (Acts 11:29,30).

QUALIFICATIONS FOR DEACON

Acts 6:1-6

They have to be men (2 - anar). The Greek word means males.

They have to be Christians (2 - "among You"). No unsaved men are to have part in the government of the local church.

They have to have a good testimony (2 - "honest report"). They are to be honest and trustworthy in their personal and business practices.

They have to be spiritual men (2 - "full of the Holy Spirit"). They are to be controlled by the Holy Spirit and manifesting the fruit of the Spirit in their lives.

They have to be wise (2 - "full of wisdom"). They must have practical wisdom. This was probably wisdom that was needed in handling people: practical "know-how" and administration.

They were to have faith (5 - "full of faith"). This in context refers only to Stephen, but must also have reference to the other six men. Deacons are to have a practical faith that knows how to trust God in practical matters, especially in finances.

1 Tim. 3:8-13

They are to be grave (8 - dignified). This word speaks of gravity and dignity, which involves seriousness of purpose and self-respect in conduct. Some think this refers to good business practices and ethics in the secular world.

They are to have a controlled tongue (8 - "Not double tongued"). They are not to be two-faced or to speak loosely about others. Being leaders in a local church, the deacons will know a great deal about the lives of other Christians and they should keep quiet about what they know.

They are not to drink much wine (8 - "not given to much wine"). Deacons are not to be addicted to

wine or attached to it so that they are thinking about it all the time. If wine is used, it is to be done moderately.

They are not to love money (8 - "not greedy of filthy lucre"). The deacons administer the assemblies' monies to the destitute, under the authority of the Elders, and the temptation would be great to steal from the treasury.

They are to stand strong in the fundamentals of the Christian Faith (9 - "Holding the mystery of the faith in pure conscience"). They are to live out the faith, not just give intellectual assent to its teachings.

They are to be proved (tested): Potential candidates for the office of deacon should be observed for a good while before given an office in the local church.

They are to be blameless (10 - "being found blameless"). They are to be unaccused in that they are to have a reputable testimony among all in the assembly. They should not be a stumbling block to any other brother in Christ.

They are to have reputable wives (11 - "even so must their wives be grave, not slanderers, sober, faithful in all things"). The wrong kind of wife would be a great hindrance to a deacon. She must be one who would not prattle and slander concerning the way distribution was made, the attitudes of the recipients, and other things she would discover through her husband's office.

They are to have only one wife (12 - "husbands of one wife"). This probably means one wife after having accepted Christ.

They are to rule their homes well (12 - "ruling their children and their own houses well"). They are to be the spiritual leaders of their families, and their children are to be in subjection and obedient.

THE DUTIES OF A DEACON

A. He serves in a temporal sphere so as to alleviate those in the teaching and preaching ministry, who serve in the spiritual sphere (Acts 6:1-3).

B. It appears that he was one who cared for the sick, afflicted and destitute in the assembly (Act 6:1-3 cf. 1 Tm. 5:9-16).

C. CONCLUSION: The deacon has a temporal (physical) rather than a spiritual work. The duties of a deacon today would probably fall into the following categories:

1. They would be in charge of all temporal (physical) aspects of the church such as the care and upkeep of the building, grounds, getting new buildings built, preparation for the Lord's Table and assisting in the administration of church monies under the direction and supervision of the elders. POINT: Finances are both a spiritual and physical matter; therefore they should be under the control of the elders completely or should be the responsibility of the deacons under the direction and supervision of the elders.

2. They would, when possible, visit the sick and afflicted.

DUTIES OF A DEACON AS COMPARED TO THAT OF AN ELDER

A. The elders have a spiritual responsibility and the deacons have a physical or temporal responsibility.

B. Deacons have no teaching duties but the elders must teach. The deacons do not have to teach, but they have to be spiritual men. POINT: However, if the Philip in Acts 6:5 is the same as the Philip in Acts 8:26, then it may be seen that a person can be both an evangelist and a deacon. Therefore, we conclude that a deacon is to use other gifts, even teaching, if he has them, but teaching and evangelistic gifts are not mandatory for the office of deacon.

C. Deacons do not have any ruling capacity in the assembly but the elders must rule. NOTE: Nowhere in the New Testament does it ever indicate that deacons in the local church are a decision-making body. They are servers of the Lord, of the elders and of the congregation.

D. The deacons are always the helpers of the elders. POINT: The office of deacon, while vitally important for the functioning of the local assembly, does not carry the same responsibility as that of the office of elder. Elders can't operate effectively in their sphere of ministry unless there are faithful deacons operating in their sphere of ministry.

SELF STUDY GUIDE

The Constitution of the Presbyterian Church in America, which is subject to and subordinate to the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments, the inerrant Word Of God, consists of its doctrinal standards set forth in the *Westminster Confession of Faith*, together with the *Larger and Shorter Catechisms*, and the *Book of Church Order*, comprising the Form of Government, the Rules of Discipline and the Directory for Worship; all as adopted by the Church.

THE WESTMINSTER CONFESSION OF FAITH

How many chapters are there in the Westminster Confession of Faith? _____

CHAPTER 1

How many books are in the Old Testament? _____ New Testament? _____ Total _____ [1:2]

The authority of the holy scriptures depends on? _____ [1:4]

CHAPTER # 2

In the unity of the godhead there are how many persons _____ name the three persons _____, _____, _____ [2:3]

CHAPTER # 3

God from all eternity, did, ordain what? _____ [3:1]

CHAPTER # 4

It pleased God in the beginning to create the world in a space of how many days? _____ [4:1]

CHAPTER # 5

God, in his ordinary providence, maketh use of means, yet is free to work? _____ [5:3]

CHAPTER # 6

By this sin, they fell from their original righteousness and communion with God and so became _____ [6:2]

CHAPTER # 7

The first covenant made with man was? _____ [7:2]

The lord was pleased to make a second covenant called? _____ [7:3]

CHAPTER # 8

Who did god chose to be the mediator between himself and man? _____ [8:1]

CHAPTER # 9

Man in his fallen state of sin hath wholly lost what? _____ [9:3]

CHAPTER # 10

This effectual call is of God's free and special grace alone and not from? _____ [10:2]

Is there any other way to be saved other than by the name of Jesus Christ? _____ [10:4]

CHAPTER # 11

God did, from all eternity, decree to justify all the elect, and Christ did, _____ [11:4]

CHAPTER # 12

When we are adopted into the family of God we are sealed to the _____ [12:1]

CHAPTER # 13

They, who were once effectually called, and regenerated, have a new _____ [13:1]

CHAPTER # 14

The grace of faith, whereby the elect are enabled to believe to the saving of their souls, is the _____ [14:1]

CHAPTER # 15

Although repentance be not to be rested in, as any satisfaction for sin, or any cause of the pardon thereof, which is the act of god's free grace in Christ, _____ [15:3]

CHAPTER # 16

Good works are only such as God hath commanded in his holy word, and not such as, without the warrant thereof, _____, out of blind zeal, or upon any pretence of good intention. [16:1]

CHAPTER # 17

This perseverance of the saints depends not upon _____ but upon the immutability of the decrees of election....[17:2]

CHAPTER # 18

This certainty is not a bare conjectural and probable persuasion grounded upon a fallible hope; _____
_____ promises of salvation,... [18:2]

CHAPTER # 19

Although true believers be not under the law, as a covenant of works, to be thereby justified, or condemned; yet is it of great use to them, as well as to others; in that, as a rule of life informing them of the will of god, and their duty, _____
_____ ; discovering ... [19:6]

CHAPTER # 20

But, under the new testament, the liberty of Christians is further enlarged, _____
_____ ceremonial law... [20:1]

CHAPTER # 21

He hath particularly appointed one day in seven, for a Sabbath, _____

_____ the first day of the week... [21:7]

CHAPTER # 22

A lawful oath is part of religious worship, wherein, upon just occasion, the person swearing solemnly calleth God _____, or promiseth. [22:1]

CHAPTER # 23

God, the supreme Lord and King of all the world, hath ordained _____ [23:1]

CHAPTER # 24

Marriage is to be between one man and one woman: neither is it lawful for any man to have more than one wife, _____
_____ [24:1]

Yet it is the duty of Christians to marry only in the _____ [24:3]

CHAPTER # 25

The catholic or _____ Church, which is invisible, consists of the whole number of the elect, that have been, are or shall be gathered into one, under Christ. [25:1]

CHAPTER # 26

and being united to one another in love, they have _____ in each other's _____ and _____. [26:1]

CHAPTER # 27

Sacraments are holy _____ and _____ of the covenant of grace... [27:1]

The grace which is exhibited in or by the sacrament rightly used, is not _____ by any power in them, neither doth the efficacy of a sacrament depend upon _____ that doth administer it...[27:3]

There be only _____ sacraments ordained by Christ our Lord in the Gospel. [27:4]

The sacraments of the Old Testament in regard of the spiritual things thereby signified and exhibited were, for substance, _____ the new. [27:5]

CHAPTER # 28

Baptism is a sacrament of the New Testament , ordained by _____. [28:1]

Dipping of the person into the water is not necessary; but Baptism is rightly administered by _____, or _____ water upon the person. [28:3]

Not only those that do actually profess faith in and obedience unto Christ, but also the _____ of one, or both, believing parents, are to be baptized...[28:4]

Although, it be a great sin to condemn or neglect this ordinance, yet grace and salvation are _____ annexed unto it. [28:5]

The efficacy of Baptism _____ to that moment of time wherein it is administered. [28:6]

The sacrament of Baptism is but _____ unto any person. [28:7]

CHAPTER # 29

In this sacrament, Christ is _____ offered up to His Father; nor any real sacrifice made at all, for remission of sins of the quick or dead; but only a _____ of that one offering up of Himself. [29:2]

Private masses, or receiving this sacrament by a priest, or any other alone; as likewise, the _____ to the people, worshipping the elements, or carrying them about for _____ are all contrary to the nature of this sacrament. [29:4]

...albeit, in substance and nature, they still _____ as they were before. 29:5]

Although ignorant and wicked men receive the outward elements in this sacrament; yet they receive _____ the thing signified thereby, _____ are guilty of the body and blood of the Lord, to their own damnation. [29:8]

CHAPTER # 30

To these officers the keys of the kingdom of heaven are committed; by virtue whereof, they have power respectively, to retain, and remit sins; to _____ both by the Word, and censures... [30:2]

CHAPTER # 31

All synods or councils, since the Apostles' times, whether general or particular, may _____; and many have _____. [31:4]

CHAPTER # 32

The bodies of men, after death, return to dust, and see corruption: but their souls, which neither die nor sleep, having an immortal substance, _____ the souls of the righteous... [32:1]

CHAPTER # 33

but, likewise all persons that have lived upon earth shall appear before the _____, to give an account of their thoughts, words, and deeds; [33:1]

but the wicked, who know not God, and obey not the Gospel of Jesus Christ, shall be _____ and punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of His power. [33:2]

THE BOOK OF CHURCH ORDER

THE TABLE OF CONTENTS

What are the three sections of the Book of Church Order _____
_____, _____

THE PREFACE

Who is the head of the church? _____

CHAPTER 1

The scriptural form of church government is what? _____

The members of this visible church catholic are all those persons _____

CHAPTER 2

What two things are necessary for a church to be recognized as a true branch of the church of Jesus Christ?
_____, _____

CHAPTER 3

The sole functions of the church, as a kingdom and government distinct from the civil commonwealth, are to
_____, _____, _____

CHAPTER 4

The officers of a particular church are _____
_____, _____

CHAPTER 5

A mission church requires a temporary system of government and presbytery may provide for this in three different ways? _____
_____, _____

CHAPTER 6

What are communing and non-communing members? _____

CHAPTER 7

What are the two orders of elders? _____, _____

CHAPTER 8

It belongs to the office of elder, both severally and jointly, to do what? _____

CHAPTER 9

The office of deacon is one of? _____

CHAPTER 10

What are the three courts of the church? _____

CHAPTER 11

The jurisdiction of Church courts is only _____ and _____,

CHAPTER 12

The church session consists of the pastor, _____ pastor(s), if there be any, and the ruling elders of a church....

CHAPTER 13

The Presbytery consists of all the _____ elders and _____ within its bounds that have been accepted by the Presbytery.

CHAPTER 14

The General Assembly is the _____ court of this church, and represents in one body all the churches thereof.

CHAPTER 15

A commission differs from an ordinary _____ in that while a committee is appointed to examine, consider and report, a commission is authorized to deliberate upon and conclude the business referred to it, except in the case of judicial commissions of a Presbytery appointed under BCO 15-

CHAPTER 16

Ordinary vocation to office in the Church is _____ of God by the Spirit, through the _____ testimony of a good conscience, the manifest approbation of _____, and the concurring judgment of a lawful _____ of the Church.

CHAPTER 17

Ordination is the _____ of one duly called to an office in the Church of God, accompanied with prayer and the laying on of hands, to which it is proper to add the giving of the right hand of fellowship.

CHAPTER 18

A candidate for the ministry is a member of a Church in _____ who, believing himself to be called to preach the Gospel, submits himself to the care and guidance of the Presbytery.....

CHAPTER 19

To _____ of the preaching of the Gospel, no man is permitted to preach in the pulpits of the Presbyterian Church in America on a regular basis without proper licensure from the Presbytery having jurisdiction where he will preach.

CHAPTER 20

The session shall call a congregational meeting to elect a pulpit committee which may be composed of _____ or _____, as designated by the congregation.

CHAPTER 21

No minister, licentiate or candidate shall receive a call from a church but by permission of his _____.

CHAPTER 22

The various pastoral relations are _____, _____ and _____.

CHAPTER 23

When any minister shall tender the resignation of his _____ to his Presbytery, the Presbytery shall cite the church to appear by its commissioners, to show cause why the Presbytery should or should not accept the resignation.

CHAPTER 24

After the close of the nomination period nominees for the office of ruling elder and/or deacon shall receive _____ in the qualification and work of the office.

CHAPTER 25

The congregation consists of all the _____ of a particular church, and they only are entitled to vote.

CHAPTER 26

The Constitution of the Presbyterian Church in America, which is subject to and subordinate to the _____, _____ Consists of its doctrinal standards set forth in the _____, together with the _____, and the _____.

CHAPTERS 27

Discipline is the exercise of authority given the Church by the Lord Jesus Christ to _____ and _____ its members and to promote its purity and welfare.

All baptized persons being members. Of the Church are _____ to its discipline and entitled to the _____ thereof.

The exercise of discipline is highly important and necessary. In its proper usage discipline maintains: a) the _____ of God, b) the _____ of His Church, c) the keeping and _____ of disobedient sinners.

Proper disciplinary procedures are set forth in Scriptures and must be followed. They are: a) Instruction in the _____; b) Individual's responsibility to _____ one another; c) if admonition is rejected then the calling of one or more _____; d) If rejection persists, then the Church must _____ through her _____ unto admonition, suspension, excommunication and deposition.

CHAPTER 28

The spiritual nurture, instruction, and training of the children of the church are committed by God primarily to their _____.

CHAPTER 29

Nothing, ought to be considered by any court as an offense, or admitted as a matter of accusation, which cannot be proved to be such from _____.

CHAPTER 30

The censures which may be inflicted by the church courts are: _____, _____ from the sacraments, _____, suspension from _____, and _____ from office.

CHAPTER 33

If the Session refuses to act in doctrinal cases or in instances of public scandal... the _____ shall do so.

(Please review Chapters 34-46 so you are familiar with the Rules of Discipline)
Note the order with which discipline and censures are laid out.

CHAPTERS 47-63 (The Directory for the Worship of God)

The _____ is an approved guide and should be taken seriously as the mind of the Church agreeable to the Standards. You are responsible for all the material, so it is helpful to list out the chapter titles of chapters 47-63:

- | | |
|-----------|-----------|
| 47: _____ | 56: _____ |
| 48: _____ | 57: _____ |
| 49: _____ | 58: _____ |
| 50: _____ | 59: _____ |
| 51: _____ | 60: _____ |
| 52: _____ | 61: _____ |
| 53: _____ | 62: _____ |
| 54: _____ | 63: _____ |
| 55: _____ | |

APPENDIX A-I:

List out the Titles of Appendices A-I so that you are familiar with the available forms to be used in different services:

- | | |
|----------|----------|
| A. _____ | F. _____ |
| B. _____ | G. _____ |
| C. _____ | H. _____ |
| D. _____ | I. _____ |
| E. _____ | |

APPENDIX I

The Biblical Steps of Discipline as they relate to Biblical Peacemaking:

The first step – Instruction in the _____.

The second step – And individual’s responsibility to _____.

The third step – If private admonition is _____, then calling witnesses.

SURVEY OF THE OLD TESTAMENT

What major event do you find in the “**The Law**” (the Pentateuch, the Book of Moses, and the Torah):

- Genesis 1 _____
- Genesis 2 _____
- Genesis 3 _____
- Genesis 4 _____
- Genesis 6-9 _____
- Genesis 11 _____
- Genesis 12 _____
- Genesis 17 _____
- Genesis 37-50 _____
- Exodus 3 _____
- Exodus 20 _____
- Leviticus 16 _____
- Numbers 11 _____
- Deuteronomy 5 _____
- Deuteronomy 33 _____

Among the “**Historical Books**” (Joshua-Esther) in which book of the Bible would you find the following people or events?

- A. The Israelites enter the Promised Land, Jericho falls _____
 - B. Gideon, Samson _____
 - C. Introduction of Naomi and her two sons? _____
 - D. Saul becomes king of Israel _____
 - E. David becomes king _____
 - F. David commits adultery _____
 - G. Solomon becomes king _____
 - H. Elijah _____
 - I. Elisha _____
 - J. David & people give offerings for building of the temple _____
 - K. Solomon’s prayer of dedication _____
 - L. Cyrus declared God commanded him to build a house in Jerusalem _____
 - M. The wall is completed _____
 - N. Reported by the nations and Geshem that a rebellion is planned _____
3. Among the books called “**The Wisdom Literature**” (Job, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes) in which book of the Bible would you find the following people or events?
- A. I have heard of You by the hearing of the ear, but now my eye sees you _____

- B. A wise son makes a glad father, but a foolish son is the grief of his mother _____
- C. In everything there is a season, a time for every purpose under heaven: _____
4. Among the books called “**The Hebrew Poetry**” (Psalms, Song of Solomon, Lamentations) where would you find these people or events recorded?
- A. Where is the first reference to the Messiah in the psalms? _____
- B. Your teeth are like a flock of sheep which have come up from the washing _____
- C. Her adversaries have become the master, Her enemies prosper; for the Lord has afflicted her _____
5. Among the “**Major Prophets**” (Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel) where would you find the following?
- A. A suffering servant _____
- B. Therefore thus says the Lord concerning the men of Anathoth who seek your life, saying, do not prophesy in the name of the Lord, lest you die by our hand _____
- C. O dry bones, hear the word of the Lord! Thus says the Lord of these bones: Surely I will cause breath to enter into you and you shall live. _____
6. In the book of “**Daniel**” there is both history and prophesy. Where can you find the following?:
- A. he was driven from me and ate grass like oxen; his body was wet with the dew of heaven till his hair had grown like eagles feathers and his nails like bird’s claws. _____
7. Among the “**Minor Prophets**” (the last 12 books of the O.T.)
- A. Prophecy to Israel using a metaphor involving Gomer _____
- B. That I will pour out My Spirit on all flesh: _____

- C. Prophecy to Israel that God formed locust swarms at the beginning of the late crop _____
- D. A prophecy against the nation of Edom _____
- E. A prophecy against Nineveh _____
- F. A prophecy against Israel saying, He does not retain His\anger forever, because He delights in mercy. _____
- G. A prophecy against Nineveh saying, all your strongholds are fig trees with ripened figs: _____
- H. A prophet's prayer: You marched through the land in indignation; You trampled the nations in anger. _____
- I. The prophet says, Be silent in the presence of the Lord God; for the day of the Lord is at hand, _____
- J. The prophet says to the governor of Judea, who is left among you who saw this temple in its former glory? _____
- K. The prophet said, behold your king is coming to you; He is just and having salvation, lowly and riding on a donkey _____
- L. The prophet says, will a man rob God? Yet you have robbed Me! _____

8. Locate the date on the time line for the following events (All dates are BC)
(to be completed in class)

_____ 971 _____ 722 _____ 586 _____ 539 _____ 331 _____ 0 _____

- A. Birth of Jesus
- B. Fall of the Northern Kingdom to the Assyrians
- C. Solomon becomes king
- D. Cyrus the Persian king decrees that the Jews may return to their homeland
- E. Fall of the Southern kingdom to the Babylonians
- F. Alexander the Great conquers the Persian Empire

SURVEY OF THE NEW TESTAMENT

1. In the Synoptic (1st 3 gospels, Matthew, Mark, Luke, which tell the life of Jesus in chronological order from birth to ascension) Gospels where can you find the following stories and events in the life of Jesus:
 - a. The visit of the wise men at the birth of Jesus _____
 - b. The Sermon on the Mount _____
 - c. The Lord's Prayer _____
 - d. The Paralytic lowered through the roof to Jesus _____
 - e. The Transfiguration _____
 - f. The Prodigal Son _____
 - g. Zaccheus is converted _____

2. The fourth Gospel is John, which is devoted to telling people that Jesus is the Son of God, the promised Messiah. Where in the Gospel of John can you find the following?
 - a. Jesus and Nicodemus _____
 - b. The Death and Resurrection of _____
 - c. Jesus institutes the Lord's Supper _____
 - d. Thomas wants proof _____

3. What significant teaching do we find in the following verses in Acts (the history book)
 - a. Acts 1:8 _____
 - b. Acts 2:23 _____
 - c. Acts 6:1-7 _____
 - d. Acts 16:33 _____
 - e. Acts 20:28 -30 _____

4. The first of Paul's Epistles (letters) to appear in the New Testament is Romans. Paul walks us systematically through God's plan of salvation in Romans. What concept does he convey in the following verses:
 - a. Romans 1:18 _____
 - b. Romans 3:12, 23 _____
 - c. Romans 3:24-25 _____
 - d. Romans 5:1 _____
 - e. Romans 6:1-2 _____
 - f. Romans 8:1 _____
 - g. Romans 8:28 _____
 - h. Romans 8:38-39 _____

5. Where do you find the following verses (Book & Chapter)
- a. Love is patient and kind; love is not jealous...Love never ends _____
 - b. On the first day of the week each of you is to put something aside as he prospers so that contributions need not be made _____
 - c. We must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ _____
 - d. The fruit of the Spirit _____
 - e. For by grace we have been saved, not because of works _____
 - f. Christ has given gifts to equip the saints for the work of ministry _____
 - g. The armor of God _____
 - h. Have no anxiety about anything, but in everything by prayer...let your requests be known to God and the peace of _____
 - i. Pray without ceasing _____
 - j. Qualifications for the office of elder and deacon _____
 - k. Husbands love your wives _____
 - l. The chapter on faith _____
 - m. Be doers of the word, not hearers only _____
 - n. If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just to forgive us _____
 - o. The new heavens and new earth where God will wipe away every tear and death shall be no more _____

SURVEY OF CHURCH HISTORY

The New Testament church began when the apostles, by the grace of God and under the influence of the Holy Spirit, accepted Jesus the Christ as their personal Lord and Savior and began to function as a group.

The organized church began as Peter and the other apostles began to work with those called by God to be His flock. The apostle Paul established churches as he made three missionary journeys north from Jerusalem to Macedonia and west into Greece.

There was one Christian church, denomination, from the first convert in the days of Jesus until 1054 AD. During this period of time five major Christian centers developed, (Rome, Constantinople, Antioch, Jerusalem and Alexandria) across the Christian world. In the early three hundreds the persecution of the Christian church waned and the church was gradually accepted. Then in 1054 the Christian world was shattered as a division took place over the date of Easter. The result was the division of the church into two churches: The Roman Catholic Church in the west and the Eastern Orthodox Church in the east. The Roman Catholic Church looked to the Bishop of Rome to be their spiritual leader. The Eastern Orthodox Church looked to Bishops in each region or nation (Romanian Orthodox, Greek Orthodox, Russian Orthodox, etc.) to be their spiritual leader. History suggests the Roman Catholic Church was more evangelical than the Eastern Orthodox Church. During the colonial period in North and South America the Roman Catholic denomination sent priests with the invading armies. In the 1500 a small group of Roman Catholics sought to reform the Roman Catholic Church by bring her teachings and practices in greater conformity with the teaching of scripture. The Pope and much of the church at large resisted this attempt at reformation. This was the beginning of the Protestant Reformation. In time the many of the Protestant Reformers like the Pilgrims fled religious oppression in Europe and came to North America. The Presbyterians came from England, Scotland and Ireland and settled in colonial America. Over the years the Presbyterian movement has experienced unions and divisions. The first significant division occurred when the frontiersmen in Tennessee withdrew from the Presbyterian Church in the United States and formed the Cumberland Presbyterian denomination. Prior to the beginning of the Civil War most American Presbyterians were in one denomination that spread across the union. There were smaller groups of Presbyterians like the Associate Reformed Synod Presbyterians in North Carolina. When the Civil War began the larger Presbyterian denomination divided along the Mason Dixon Line, as did many other denominations. The Northern church was known as the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America (PCUSA). The Southern church was known as the Presbyterian Church in the United States (PCUS). When hostilities ended there were several attempts to reunite the divided church, but each failed.

Then in the 1930's and again in the 1950's the PCUSA (northern church) experienced divisions by groups seeking a more biblical denomination. Then in 1973 the Presbyterian Church in the United States (southern church) experienced a division as the National Presbyterian Church our denomination was formed by 260 congregations and 41,000 communicant members.. The next year our denomination changed her name to the Presbyterian Church in America (PCA). In 1984 the Reformed Presbyterian Church, Evangelic Synod, joined and was received by the PCA. Since 1973 the PCA has grown numerically while the PCUSA has declined.

Our denominational headquarters are located north of Atlanta, Georgia in Lawrenceville. Our denomination is divided administratively into the following committees: Mission to the World (MTW), Mission to North America (MNA), Christian Education and Publication (CE&P), Administration (stated clerk), and Retirement and Benefits (R&B). Our denomination owns and operates Covenant College, which is a liberal arts college located on Lookout Mountain Tennessee. Our denomination also owns and operates Covenant Theological Seminary, which is located in St. Louis, Missouri. Our denominational conference and retreat center is called Ridgehaven and is located near Rosman, North Carolina.

Check out the Church History Timeline posted at: www.churchtimeline.com

CHURCH HISTORY REVIEW QUESTIONS

- 1. What two things were present with the New Testament church came into existence? _____**
- 2. How many missionary journeys did the Apostle Paul make?
_____**
- 3. How many Christian denominations were there prior to 1054AD?
_____**
- 4. What are the names of the two denominations that were created by the split in the church in 1054AD? _____
_____**
- 5. What was the cause of the Reformation? _____

_____**
- 6. What two Presbyterian denominations emerged from the split caused by the Civil War? _____
_____**
- 7. In what year did our denomination come into existence?
_____**
- 8. What was her initial name and what is her name today? _____
_____**
- 9. Where is our denominational headquarters located? _____
_____**
- 10. What are the names of our denominational committees?
MTW _____ MNA _____
CE & P _____
ADM _____ R & B _____**
- 11. What are the names of the two institutions the PCA owns and operates? _____**