



SC5 School of Theology
South Carolina Presbyteries
Fall Session
October 18 & 19, 2024
Presbyterian College
Clinton, South Carolina

SC5 School of Theology Planning Team

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Robin Morris (Foothills Presbytery), Registrar

SC5 School of Theology

Presbyterian College; October 18 & 19, 2024

Sponsored by the Five Presbyteries of South Carolina

What is the SC5 School of Theology? Theological training for Ruling Elders and church leaders. There are two tracks:

- **Enrichment Track** – for Ruling Elders who have received a diploma from the SC5 School of Theology *and* for those who want personal enrichment for teaching or leading in their congregations.
- **Commissioned Ruling Elder (CRE)/Commissioned Pastor (CP) Track** – for Ruling Elders who want to become CREs/CPs.

For Whom? Classes are for:

- Church Leaders interested in learning more.
- Ruling Elders interested in learning more.
- Ruling Elders interested in being commissioned to serve and lead congregations.
- Faith Formation Leaders interested in better equipping themselves to teach.

Class Fees:

Enrichment Track is \$75 per class.

Commissioned Ruling Elder/Commissioned Pastor Track is \$95 per class.

The class fee includes dinner on Friday and lunch on Saturday.

Hotel: Students may make arrangements as they choose. However, we negotiated with the Hampton Inn (located at Exit 54 off I-26) in Clinton for a discounted rate of \$104. The rate includes breakfast. When you make your hotel reservation, you may select one or two nights. Reservations must be made by September 25th using this link: [SC5 School of Theology](#)

COURSES OFFERED

A. New Testament Survey (Core Course)

This class is an overview of the New Testament and its origins, with attention given to its historical, literary, and theological dimensions. Class limit: 20

Leader: The Rev. Bob Bryant, Ph.D. is the Emma Bailey Cornelson Chair of Religion at Presbyterian College and a minister member of Trinity Presbytery. In addition to managing Presbyterian camps in North Carolina and Louisiana, he has pastored churches in the Synods of the Mid-Atlantic and South Atlantic, taught for lay schools throughout the southeast, and is the author of numerous books and articles in the area of biblical studies. He and his wife live in Clinton, SC, and have two adult children.

Textbook information:

Required Text:

- Coogan, Michael, et al, eds. *The New Oxford Annotated Bible with Apocrypha: New Revised Standard Version*, 5th ed. New York: Oxford University Press, 2018.

Suggested Resource:

- Powell, Mark Allan. *Introducing the New Testament: A Historical, Literary, and Theological Survey*, 2d. ed. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2018.

B. Preaching (Core Course) This course will explore the book, *A Lay Preacher's Guide: How to Craft a Faithful Sermon*, by Karoline M. Lewis, to provide lay preachers with an essential and accessible guide to the basics of preaching. This course will give preachers the foundations

of biblical preaching and lay out in a concise and clear format the steps to preaching a faithful sermon.

CRE/CP students, please note: A written sermon highlighting the steps discussed will be your assignment for credit. (Prerequisites: New Testament, Old Testament, and Reformed Theology)
Class limit: 12

Leader: The Rev. Dr. Ella F. Busby is a retired Presbyterian minister. She joyfully serves the Second Presbyterian Church, Sumter, and the Presbytery of New Harmony as the Associate for Pastoral Concerns and Fellowship. She graduated from Johnson C. Smith Theological Seminary, Atlanta, and Columbia Theological Seminary, Decatur. She taught Preaching at Morris College, Sumter. She has pastored churches in Georgia and South Carolina and has preached locally, nationally, and internationally.

Textbook Information:

Required Texts:

- Karoline M. Lewis' *A Lay Preacher's Guide: How to Craft a Faithful Sermon*. (Amazon)

Helpful Resources:

- H.B. Charles, Jr.'s *On Preaching: Personal & Pastoral Insights for the Preparation & Practice of Preaching*. (Amazon)

C. Reformed Theology (Core Course) The purpose of this course is to gain a basic understanding of Reformed Theology by reading selections of John Calvin's *Institutes of the Christian Religion*, which is widely regarded as the most erudite, elegant, and intellectually compelling theological work of the Protestant Reformation and one of the most remarkable theological treatises of all time. It remains today the "gold standard" of the Reformed theological tradition. Major themes and concepts in Reformed Theology will be examined in light of contemporary critiques and the demands of pastoral ministry in the 21st century. Class limit: 20

Leader: The Rev. Richard Burnett, Ph.D. is a graduate of King College, Yale University Divinity School, and Princeton Theological Seminary. He is the author of *Karl Barth's Theological Exegesis* (Eerdmans 2004), *Machen's Hope* (Eerdmans 2024) and editor of *The Westminster Handbook to Karl Barth* (2013). He served as Professor of Systematic Theology at Erskine Theological Seminary from 2002-2016 and has been the executive director and managing editor of *Theology Matters* since 2016. He became the E.J. Rice Professor of Reformed Theology for the Institute for Theological Education and the Co-Director of the Master of Arts in Reformed Theology Program at the University of Dubuque Theological Seminary in 2023.

Textbook information:

Required Texts:

- John Calvin's *Institutes of the Christian Religion* (Edited by J.T McNeil, Translated by F.L. Battles) Westminster/John Knox Press.
- *Book of Confessions, The Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A) Part 1*; Office of the General Assembly Presbyterian Distribution Services.

D. Pastoral Care (Core Course) This course will explore the role of pastor in aiding congregants to relate the resources of the gospel to the problems and decisions they face. Class time will be spent learning how to listen, understand, and respond to those in crises. CRE/CP candidates will have a follow-up assignment to receive credit. Class limit: 20

Leader: The Rev. Loyd Melton, Ph.D. retired from teaching New Testament and Greek at Erskine Theological Seminary in December 2023 after 41 years. He continues to teach there as Distinguished Professor of New Testament and Greek. He is a graduate of Presbyterian College, Erskine Theological Seminary, and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. He has done

additional work at Hebrew Union College in Cincinnati and Union Theological Seminary in New York. He has been a pastor for over 50 years.

Textbook information:

Required Texts:

- James E. Hightower, Jr, ed., *Caring for People From Birth to Death* (Routledge Press, 1999) ISBN 978-0789005724
- John Patton, *Pastoral Care: An Essential Guide* (Abingdon Press, 2005) ISBN 978-0687053223

E. Deuteronomy (Elective Course)

At the end of the book of Numbers, Israel is camped in the plains of Moab, prepared to attack Canaan from the east. The book of Deuteronomy is Moses' farewell address to the people in which he rehearses the mighty acts of God in their past, warns them of the temptations of the new ways of Canaan, and pleads for them to continue to love God and remain loyal to their God. The teachings of the book encourage exclusive loyalty to God and advocate concern for the poor and disadvantaged. This course will focus on how those teachings are still very relevant for the church and for God's people today. We will seek to focus on specific ways to bring those teachings to reality through lesson plans and sermon ideas.

Leader: The Rev. Dr. Tom Malone retired after 52 years as a pastor and educator in the PCUSA, having served at all levels of the church. Tom has taught workshops all over the USA and in Puerto Rico and Canada. He is the author of numerous curriculum pieces for both elementary children and adults and for church camping. In retirement, he continues to serve the church as a preacher, teacher, educational consultant, and retreat leader. Tom began work July 1, 2024, as Parish Associate for Christian Education at First Presbyterian Church in Laurens.

Textbook information:

Required Text: No required textbooks. However, check your church library, your minister's library, your presbytery resource center and other sources for a good commentary on Deuteronomy. Bring at least one with you.

F. Disaster Preparedness from a Theological Lens (Elective)

This is a series of *four* workshops designed to expose the participants to the importance of awareness in disaster preparedness from a theological viewpoint as we prepare ourselves through this specialized ministry of Presbytery and congregational service. The ten-hour program is divided into four workshops focusing on disaster preparedness, church safety and security, human caused disaster, as well as emotional care and building resilience.

SC5 School of Theology students will take *all four* workshops to equal one elective.

Others in our community may take 2 or 4 workshops.

Leaders: Elder Mark H. McCain, the Rev. Dr. Jim Kirk, Carolyn Thalman, and Elder Gertrude McFadden Washington

Textbook information: No textbooks are required. Materials will be provided.

Workshop 1: "Protecting Our Flock through Church Safety & Security"

The need for active shooter training for churches and houses of worship has sadly become a point of ministry in today's world. The reality of today is that places of worship are just as vulnerable to active shooter events as schools and businesses. A program overview will afford participants the opportunity to learn of events which have taken place to impact houses of worship. Understanding the benefits of a site review to learn of the awareness of your surroundings. Understand the characteristics of human behavior and perform associated assessments of potential persons wishing to harm others. Generate awareness of how the power of HELLO can serve your Ushers / Greeters well. Secure a basic knowledge of the

principles of Alert, Lockdown, Inform, Counter and Evacuate. Visit with the principles of “Stop the Bleed” and basic first aid as part of an event response.

Leader: Elder Mark H. McCain, who is a retired Professional Civil Engineer has served as a volunteer member of the PDA National Response Team since 2017. Mark’s previous experience within the area of Critical Infrastructure Security and Resiliency provides the foundation for his working as a certified instructor for Church Safety and Security to presbyteries and congregations. In addition, Mark is a member and certified instructor for Critical Incident Stress Management (CISM).

Workshop 2: “Offering Disaster Emotional & Spiritual Care After Human Caused Disasters”

"Nothing can separate us from the love of God." Although faith community leaders and others are trained to provide quality emotional and spiritual care, the disaster environment presents distinct challenges. Violence changes everything, and it requires different skills to respond to natural disasters. Participants will learn definitions and guidelines for human-caused disasters, clergy care, congregational care, worship and liturgy, and long-term emotional and spiritual care.

Leader: Rev. Dr. Jim Kirk is an ordained minister in the Presbyterian Church (USA) and in August of 2016 accepted the position of Associate for Disaster Response (U.S.) for Presbyterian Disaster Assistance. This position is responsible for coordinating the denominations domestic response to the many disasters that impact our congregations, Presbyteries, and communities. The mission of PDA is to bring, “Out of Chaos, Hope”. Jim is a Certified Compassion Fatigue Professional (CCFP) through the International Association of Trauma Professionals and a member of the International Critical Stress Foundation (ICSF). Jim was a volunteer with Presbyterian Disaster Assistance for over 20 years. In that role Jim has responded to a variety of disasters including natural and public violence.

Workshop 3: “Hurricanes! Tornadoes! Fires! OH MY!”

The purpose of this session is to provide training and materials to be used to support congregations and mid councils to create disaster preparedness plans. The materials presented are resources to be used when working with congregations and mid councils that want to create their own preparedness plans and teams. The presentation will summarize the work of PDA and the steps needed to create a plan. There will be sample plans from PCUSA churches and mid councils and a template for creating a plan. There are checklists for family, church and mid councils and additional resources that the team has found to be helpful.

Leaders: Carolyn Thalman and Elder Gertrude Washington

Carolyn Thalman is a retired teacher, who has been a member of the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance National Response Team since 2006. She led the creation of the materials for the PDA - Presbyterian Women’s Partnership to train Presbyterian Women to support Disaster Preparedness in their presbyteries and congregations. Carolyn is the National Response Team Lead for the PDA Preparedness Team.

Gertrude McFadden Washington is a resident of Sumter, SC. She is an elder in the Westminster Presbyterian Church, USA in Alcolu, SC. Gertrude is a retired teacher of 35+ years. She has been a member of the National Response Team since 2017, Care Team, Emotional Spiritual Care Team, a member of South Carolina PDAT and New Harmony Disaster Commission.

Workshop 4: “Building Resilience for Stressful Times When Times Are Stressful”

"Do not grow weary in doing what is good." Faith leader resilience has been tested in ways thought unimaginable. With the stress of living through a pandemic as the norm, faith leaders

who invest spiritual and physical energy in following the teachings of Jesus to serve face a world of need and diminishing resources. This practical workshop will equip participants to strengthen their resilience to stress and trauma in the midst of stress and trauma. Mitigating one's reaction to stress and trauma is an effective way to help others mitigate their stress reactions. Learn why we suffer symptoms of compassion fatigue and learn the five practices that can refuel us and restore our joy and energy in ministry.

Leader: Rev. Dr. Jim Kirk is an ordained minister in the Presbyterian Church (USA) and in August of 2016 accepted the position of Associate for Disaster Response (U.S.) for Presbyterian Disaster Assistance. This position is responsible for coordinating the denominations domestic response to the many disasters that impact our congregations, Presbyteries, and communities. The mission of PDA is to bring, "Out of Chaos, Hope". Jim is a Certified Compassion Fatigue Professional (CCFP) through the International Association of Trauma Professionals and a member of the International Critical Stress Foundation (ICSF). Jim was a volunteer with Presbyterian Disaster Assistance for over 20 years. In that role Jim has responded to a variety of disasters including natural and public violence.

SC5 School of Theology Fall Semester Notes:

1. The deadline for registration is Thursday, October 3, 2024.
2. The last day to withdraw with a full refund is October 8, 2024.
3. Students may reserve a hotel room at Hampton Inn, Clinton via this link ([SC5 School of Theology](#)) or make other arrangements as desired.



**SC5 School of Theology
Fall 2024 Schedule
October 18 and 19, 2024**

Friday, October 18

2:30 – 3:00	Registration (check-in) in Harrington-Peachtree Center
3:00 – 5:00	1 st Class Session (2 hours)
5:15 – 6:00	Dinner at Presbyterian College Dining Hall
6:15 – 8:15	2 nd Class Session (2 hours)
8:20 – 8:45	Welcome, Announcements, Evening Vespers

Saturday, October 19

8:30 – 8:45	Morning Worship in Harrington-Peachtree Center
9:00 – 12:00	3 rd Class Session (3 hours)
12:15 – 1:10	Lunch in Dining Hall
1:20 – 2:20	Worship with Presentation and Communion
2:30 – 5:30	4 th Class Session (3 hours)
5:30	Depart (Optional 2 nd night at hotel. Dinner on your own.)