

Updated: November 2024

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

|   |    |
|---|----|
| <b>CALENDAR</b> .....                           | 3  |
| <b>INFORMATION ABOUT THE SEMINARY</b>           |    |
| Basic Instruction.....                          | 4  |
| Curriculum.....                                 | 5  |
| Diploma.....                                    | 6  |
| Governance.....                                 | 6  |
| Facilities.....                                 | 6  |
| Faculty-Student Ratio.....                      | 7  |
| Visitors.....                                   | 7  |
| <b>FACULTY AND SUPPORT STAFF</b> .....          | 8  |
| <b>ADMISSION TO THE THEOLOGICAL SCHOOL</b>      |    |
| Admission Requirements.....                     | 11 |
| Application Procedure.....                      | 12 |
| Personality/Psychological Testing.....          | 12 |
| Classification of Students.....                 | 13 |
| Admission of Foreign Students.....              | 14 |
| Non-discrimination Policy.....                  | 14 |
| <b>ACADEMIC PROGRAMS</b>                        |    |
| Pre-Seminary Requirements.....                  | 14 |
| Special Seminary Entrance Program (SSEP).....   | 15 |
| Description of the Seminary Curriculum.....     | 16 |
| Typical Program (by year).....                  | 16 |
| Internship Program.....                         | 18 |
| <b>ACADEMIC REGULATIONS</b>                     |    |
| System of Grading.....                          | 20 |
| Regular Course Grade-Point Requirement.....     | 20 |
| Practice Preaching Grade-Point Requirement..... | 21 |
| Class Status.....                               | 21 |
| Semester Examinations.....                      | 21 |
| Final Comprehensive Examinations.....           | 22 |
| Academic Records.....                           | 22 |
| Class Schedule.....                             | 22 |
| Class Attendance.....                           | 22 |
| Leave of Absence.....                           | 23 |
| <b>PLACEMENT</b> .....                          | 23 |
| <b>EQUIPMENT</b> .....                          | 23 |

**STUDENT EXPENSES**

Tuition Schedule..... 24  
Tuition Refund Policy ..... 24  
Living Expenses ..... 24  
Books..... 24  
Financial Aid ..... 25

**GRIEVANCE POLICY**.....25

**ABUSE POLICY** .....25

**BACKGROUND CHECK POLICY** ..... 28

**DESCRIPTION OF COURSES** .....29

**CONSTITUTION**.....38

**SEMINARY CALENDAR**

**FIRST SEMESTER**

Orientation..... 1st or 2nd Monday before Labor Day,  
9:00 A.M.

Classes Begin..... 1st or 2nd Tuesday before  
Labor Day

Thanksgiving Vacation ..... Thanksgiving Day  
and the Friday following

First-Semester Examinations ..... Week after  
first semester ends

Christmas Vacation ..... Weeks of Christmas  
and New Year’s Day

**INTERIM**.....First eight days after Christmas/New Year Break

**SECOND SEMESTER**

Classes Begin..... Tuesday after Interim

Spring Vacation.....First full week in April

Second-Semester Examinations..... Week after  
second semester ends

**For further information about the seminary, or if you have  
specific questions about application procedures or program  
requirements, please contact:**

Mr. Charles Terpstra, Registrar  
4949 Ivanrest Avenue SW  
Wyoming, Michigan 49418  
e-mail: prcseminary1925@gmail.com

## THE SEMINARY

The Protestant Reformed Churches have from the very beginning recognized the need for a theological school in which men could be prepared for the ministry of the gospel of Jesus Christ. The establishment of a separate seminary was closely connected with the reasons for the organization of the Protestant Reformed Churches as a separate denomination. This denomination was formed to maintain the truth of Scripture, particularly against the errors of Arminianism, which have for many years vitiated the ministry of the church. The seminary is therefore dedicated to preserve and develop the truth of the Word of God and to provide an education in this truth in all branches of theology. More specifically, the seminary maintains this truth as it has been historically maintained since the time of the great Protestant Reformation, especially the Reformation of John Calvin. These principles and truths of the Calvin Reformation form the heart of all the instruction offered.



## BASIS OF INSTRUCTION

The truths upon which this seminary stands are briefly these:

- 1) The infallible inspiration of the Holy Scriptures and their absolute authority in doctrine and life.
- 2) The Three Forms of Unity (namely, the Heidelberg Catechism, the Belgic Confession, and the Canons of Dordrecht), which have been historically maintained in the Reformed churches.

Accordingly, the instruction in this seminary finds its heart in the five points of Calvinism:

- 1) The sovereign and unconditional election of God.
- 2) The total depravity of man.
- 3) The particular and complete atonement of Christ made only for the elect.
- 4) The irresistible power of the grace of God in the work of salvation.
- 5) The preservation of the saints.

Of central importance in the instruction is the everlasting and unconditional covenant of grace established by God with His elect people and their elect seed in Jesus Christ.

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It is apparent that, while these are the great truths of the Protestant Reformation and of subsequent Reformed theology, they are, at the same time, generally ignored and denied in the church of our day. In this the church has been unfaithful to her Reformation heritage.

It is further apparent that the sturdy defense of these truths is the urgent calling of the church — a calling that becomes ever more compelling in these troubled times.

The seminary of the Protestant Reformed Churches stands firmly committed to these truths of God's Word, seeks diligently to defend them, to develop them further, and to find in them the basis for all of the instruction offered in the school. In this way the seminary can serve the preservation of the truth in the midst of the church and be an instrument, under the blessing of Almighty God, to prepare men for the ministry of the gospel of Jesus Christ.

## **CURRICULUM**

A complete course in all the branches of theology is offered over four years. As is evident in the catalog, the emphasis in the curriculum is on dogmatics and exegesis. This is not without good reason. Dogmatics is important inasmuch as all the life of the church flows out of sound doctrine and a clear and concise understanding of the faith "once delivered to the saints." Sound and effective preaching is preaching of the truth. But exegesis is no less important inasmuch as there can be no true dogmatics except the truth be gleaned from Holy Writ. The strength of the church of Christ is her preaching; and the strength of her preaching is exegesis, since the Word of God alone must form the content of all the preaching of the gospel.

The remainder of the curriculum is not decorated with subjects that can be called "frills"; nor are subjects included that are only indirectly related

to the preparation of men for the ministry. The subjects themselves and the material offered therein are eminently worthy of study and research, composed as they are of solid material able to qualify one intellectually and spiritually for the work of the ministry.

A student graduating from the school and receiving his diploma may be confident that the diploma represents a full seminary training that will equip him to labor with the rich heritage of Calvinistic and Reformed thought.

## **DIPLOMA**

The Protestant Reformed Theological Seminary is not authorized to grant degrees but does issue a diploma that has been recognized by other seminaries as the equivalent of the Master of Divinity degree.

## **GOVERNANCE**

The seminary is a denominational school under the immediate direction of the Theological School Committee, which is, in turn, responsible to the Synod of the Protestant Reformed Churches, which body makes all final decisions of policy.

The day-to-day administration of the school is in the hands of the rector, himself a faculty member and answerable to the Theological School Committee and to Synod.

## **FACILITIES**

The seminary occupies a modern structure located on a beautiful ten-acre suburban campus. This facility affords students a comfortable setting in which to go about their work. Included in the building is a constantly expanding library. Recently (2019), the library went through a



major renovation, including new lighting, decor, and furniture. With the emphasis on works of dogmatics and exegesis, the library is a valuable aid to students in their study and research. In addition, students have convenient access to the extensive libraries of Calvin

Seminary and Puritan Reformed Seminary in nearby Grand Rapids and of Western Seminary in nearby Holland.

## FACULTY-STUDENT RATIO

The seminary is considerably smaller than most seminaries in the country, but this has its own advantages. It makes possible a close relationship between faculty and students; it enables the faculty to deal with the students and their problems on a very personal level; and it adds to the school a warmth and sense of cooperation that are highly conducive to spiritual and intellectual development.

The result is a school thoroughly dedicated to Scripture and committed deeply to the Calvinistic and Reformed heritage. The seminary therefore provides a solid preparation for the ministry of the Word.

## VISITORS

Anyone not enrolled in a particular seminary class who desires to visit must obtain prior permission of the professor, preferably a day or two in advance. If one of the students desires to bring a visitor, he should obtain permission to do so.



## THE FACULTY

### Cory J. Griess

Professor of Practical Theology and New Testament Studies  
corygriess@gmail.com

**Ordained:** 2009

**Education**

B.A., University of Northern Colorado  
M.Div. Diploma, Theological School of the  
Protestant Reformed Churches, 2009  
Th.M., Puritan Reformed Theological Seminary, 2023

**Pastoral Experience**

Calvary Protestant Reformed Church  
—Hull, Iowa, 2009-2018  
First Protestant Reformed Church  
—Grand Rapids, MI, 2018-2021

**Appointed to the Seminary, 2021.**

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### Barrett L. Gritters

Professor of Practical Theology and New Testament Studies  
gritters@prca.org

**Ordained:** 1984

**Education**

A.B., Calvin College, 1984  
M.Div. Diploma, Theological School of the  
Protestant Reformed Churches, 1983  
Th.M., Calvin Theological Seminary, 2008

**Pastoral Experience**

Byron Center Protestant Reformed Church  
—Byron Center, Michigan, 1984-1994  
Hudsonville Protestant Reformed Church  
—Hudsonville, Michigan, 1994-2003

**Appointed to the Seminary, 2003.**

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### Brian L. Huizinga

Professor of Reformed Dogmatics and Old Testament Studies  
b.huizinga@prca.org

**Ordained:** 2011

**Education**

Associate degree, GR Community College, 2001  
BA (Bachelor of Arts), GVSU, 2007  
M.Div. Diploma, Theological School of the  
Protestant Reformed Churches, 2011  
Th.M., Calvin Theological Seminary, 2022

**Pastoral Experience**

Hope Protestant Reformed Church—Redlands, California, 2011-2019

**Appointed to the Seminary, 2019.**

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## **Douglas J. Kuiper, Rector**

Professor of Church History and New Testament Studies  
doug.kuiper@prca.org

**Ordained:** 1995

### **Education**

A.B., Calvin College, 1991  
M.Div. Diploma, Theological School of the  
Protestant Reformed Churches, 1995  
Th.M., Calvin Theological Seminary, 2019

### **Pastoral Experience**

Byron Center Protestant Reformed Church  
—Byron Center, Michigan, 1995-2001  
Randolph Protestant Reformed Church  
—Randolph, Wisconsin, 2001-2012  
Edgerton Protestant Reformed Church  
—Edgerton, Minnesota, 2012-2017

**Appointed to the Seminary, 2017.**



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## **EMERITUS**

**Prof. Ronald L. Cammenga** (Served: 2005-2024)

**Prof. Russell J. Dykstra** (Served: 1996-2022)

**Prof. David J. Engelsma** (Served: 1988-2008)

## **NECROLOGY**

**Robert D. Decker** (Served: 1973-2006)

**Herman Hoeksema** (Served: 1925-1964)

**George M. Ophoff** (Served: 1925-1959)

**Homer C. Hoeksema** (Served: 1959-1989)

**Herman C. Hanko** (Served: 1965-2001)

## SUPPORT STAFF



**Registrar/Librarian/ Archivist:** Mr. Charles Terpstra—Calvin College; M.Div. Diploma, Protestant Reformed Theological Seminary.

**Secretary:** Mrs. Bethany Engelsma

**Library/Archive Assistant:** Mr. Kevin Rau



The *Protestant Reformed Theological Journal* is published by the Protestant Reformed Theological Seminary twice each year, in April and November, and mailed to subscribers free of charge. Those who wish to receive the *Journal* should write the editor, at the seminary address. Those who wish to reprint an article appearing in the *Journal* should secure the permission of the editor. Books for review should be sent to the book review editor, also at the address of the school. ([prcts.org/journal](http://prcts.org/journal))

# ADMISSION TO THE PR THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

## ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

The curriculum is designed for those Protestant Reformed men who aspire to the ministry in the Protestant Reformed Churches. However, students from other churches are encouraged to enroll in this course of study. Permission to enroll in the seminary is granted by the Synod of the Protestant Reformed Churches upon recommendation of the Theological School Committee.

For a student to be considered for admission to the seminary he must demonstrate that the following requirements have been met:

- 1) That he is (as verified by a letter of testimony from his consistory) a member in full communion, sound in faith and upright in walk, and that he exhibits the qualities and personality necessary for a gospel minister. Such recommendation ought to contain the consistory's evaluation of the applicant's spiritual and intellectual gifts, as well as any other areas of concern.
- 2) That he is (as verified by a certificate from a reputable physician) in sound health.
- 3) That he has completed (as verified by official academic records) all the academic requirements for entrance to the seminary, viz.,
  - a) the earning of a bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university.
  - b) the completion of all pre-seminary course requirements.
- 4) That he has obtained (as verified by his academic records) a cumulative grade point average of 2.7 (B-) in his pre-seminary course requirements and a 2.7 cumulative GPA in his college work. The student would do well to pay close attention to his grade-point average as he proceeds through his college work, since admittance to the seminary is affected by his college GPA. A student may be admitted on probation if he fails to meet either of the 2.7 grade point requirements. A student entering seminary on probation shall remain on probation for one year, must maintain at least a C average, and must have no failing grade in any course. His status shall be reviewed at the end of each semester during this year.
- 5) That he has submitted a background check (See page 28).

## **APPLICATION PROCEDURE**

Application for all students is made through the Theological School Committee. For the student who aspires to the ministry in the Protestant Reformed Churches (diploma pre-licentiate) a personal appearance before the Theological School Committee, at their March meeting, is required. After the personal interview and after the examination of the credentials submitted by the applicant, the Theological School Committee will decide if the applicant is admissible as a seminary student. If so, the Theological School Committee will make recommendation to the next Synod that he be admitted. If there are any deficiencies in course work, the student will be so informed and his status will be probationary until such deficiencies are made up.

For those students who do not aspire to the ministry in the Protestant Reformed Churches (diploma non-licentiate) the requirements for admission are the same. These students should mail their application materials, by May 1, directly to the Secretary of the Theological School Committee, 4949 Ivanrest Avenue, Wyoming, Michigan 49418.

Special students need file only a request for admission, together with a rationale for their enrollment in the seminary. This request should be sent to the Secretary of the Theological School Committee at the above address.

## **PERSONALITY AND PSYCHOLOGICAL TESTING**

**(Acts of Synod 2019, Art. 44; 2024, Art. 28)**

After being approved for admission, all students will take both personality and psychological tests. The registrar will arrange for this testing to take place.

A. The goal of the personality test is to help the student become aware of his personality strengths and weaknesses, and enable the faculty to assist the student in adapting to them. The student owns the test results. He should make a copy available to the registrar and to his student mentor.

B. The goal of the psychological test is to identify areas in which the student may need spiritual growth and/or pastoral help, and enable the faculty to help the student develop psychologically and spiritually in his pursuit of the gospel ministry. The student's mentor will keep the report of the psychological test, and at least one other faculty member will be informed of the results, and/or permitted to read the report. On the basis of this report, the seminary faculty may make specific recommendations to a student, and guide him in making progress in any identified areas of weakness. The seminary owns the report, and will destroy it when the student withdraws or graduates. The student may read the report at any

time in his mentor's presence, but may not make a copy of the report.

## CLASSIFICATION OF STUDENTS

Students who enter the seminary are classified as diploma pre-licentiate, diploma non-licentiate, or special non-diploma students.

- 1) *Diploma pre-licentiate students* are those students who intend to enter the ministry in the Protestant Reformed Churches or in her sister churches and who will eventually be licensed to speak a word of edification in the Protestant Reformed Churches.
- 2) *Diploma non-licentiate students* are those students from other denominations who are attending the seminary but who do not intend to enter the ministry in the Protestant Reformed Churches and who therefore will not be licensed to speak a word of edification in the Protestant Reformed Churches.
- 3) *Special students*, or unclassified non-diploma students, are:
  - a) those students enrolled in the seminary on a non-credit (audit) basis either as full-time or part-time students whose purpose is not to enter the ministry in any denomination, but to attend the seminary for their own personal growth and development; or
  - b) those students enrolled in the seminary as guest matriculants with the intention of transferring their credits to another seminary.

Changes in classification are allowed and can be made by forwarding to the Theological School Committee a request for such a change of classification along with any other documents necessary for the classification desired.

## ADMISSION OF FOREIGN STUDENTS



The Protestant Reformed Theological Seminary is authorized under Federal law to enroll non-immigrant alien students. Application procedure and requirements for admission for foreign students are the same as above. In addition, students are to apply for an I-20 with the U.S. government (DHS-SEVIS) through the registrar's office or transfer their I-20 from their college/university to the seminary, which includes applying for a student visa in one's own country.

## **NON-DISCRIMINATION POLICY**

The Protestant Reformed Theological Seminary admits students of any race, color, and national or ethnic origin. Because the PRCA (and the Theological School Committee and the faculty who serve her) are committed to the biblical and confessional teaching on male leadership in the church, only men are admitted to the full ministry programs (MDiv equivalent, diploma pre-licentiate and diploma non-licentiate). Women are allowed to enroll as special students or simply to attend classes as auditors.

## **ACADEMIC PROGRAMS**

### **PRE-SEMINARY REQUIREMENTS**

A complete high school education and a bachelor level degree (B.A. or B.S.) from an accredited college or university are required for entrance into the seminary department. Moreover, each entrant into this department must produce evidence that he has credit for the following college courses:

- Latin—4 semesters, intermediate-level proficiency
- Greek — 4 semesters, intermediate-level proficiency
- English Composition— 2 semesters, one of which must be beyond the freshman composition level
- Philosophy — the *history* of philosophy: must include ancient, medieval, and modern
- History — a minimum of 2 semesters of history of western civilization
- Psychology— 1 semester: Introductory Psychology
- Speech — 1 semester: public speaking
- Logic — 1 semester

In working toward a Bachelor's degree, the student is strongly advised to place emphasis on courses in the fields of history, literature, philosophy, and education. The student is encouraged to consult the Registrar for advice concerning course selection. It should be noted that the student ought to complete his Latin grammar requirement before he takes Greek grammar.

Note also that Greek grammar and reading are taught at the seminary. Pre-seminary students are urged to take advantage of this offering. Students unable to do so will be required to pass a competency test in Greek before they are allowed to begin work in the seminary.

## **SPECIAL SEMINARY ENTRANCE PROGRAM (SSEP)**

Synod 2023 approved permitting the Theological School Committee (TSC), in consultation with the faculty, to admit *provisionally* into the seminary older students who lack all or some of the pre-seminary requirements. A special program of study will be designed to make up for this lack and will be somewhat less than the normal education for a minister (a four-year undergraduate degree plus four-year seminary program). The specifics of such a program will be determined on a case-by-case basis, and will depend on the student's age, experience, educational background, gifts, etc. *Formal* admission to the seminary and approval of the specific program must be sought at the following synod.

### **Practical Implementation of SSEP**

If an older man applies for entrance into the seminary:

1. With the faculty, the TSC will assess the applicant as to his gifts, his educational background, and all his other circumstances.
2. With the faculty, the TSC will propose a study program of 4-6 years that would cover all the essential undergraduate courses and the essential seminary courses. The undergraduate and seminary courses would be taken concurrently.
3. The applicant will be permitted to begin taking classes and receive student aid prior to being formally admitted by synod.
4. The formal program for each applicant will be considered case by case and be submitted to synod for approval.

### **Student Aid for SSEP**

The Student Aid Committee (SAC) is authorized to provide financial aid to those SSEP students who have been provisionally admitted to seminary and who apply for aid. The SAC will follow all the normal guidelines for determining the amount of aid. (See *PRC Acts of Synod 2023*, pp. 348-49).

## DESCRIPTION OF THE SEMINARY CURRICULUM

The curriculum is designed specifically to be a course of theological study for those preparing to enter the ministry. Although the emphasis in the curriculum is upon dogmatics and exegesis, all courses necessary for the adequate preparation of a minister are taught.

### TYPICAL PROGRAM (130 TOTAL HOURS)

#### YEAR ONE

##### FIRST SEMESTER

|                              |          |
|------------------------------|----------|
| Church History .....         | 3        |
| Hebrew Grammar 101 .....     | 3        |
| Reformed Dogmatics.....      | 3        |
| Hermeneutics 115.....        | 2        |
| Homiletics 411.....          | 2        |
| Liturgics 412.....           | 2        |
| Research Methodology 101 ... | <u>1</u> |
| Total hours.....             | 16       |

##### SECOND SEMESTER

|                               |          |
|-------------------------------|----------|
| Church History .....          | 3        |
| Hebrew Grammar 102 .....      | 3        |
| Reformed Dogmatics.....       | 3        |
| Hermeneutics 116 .....        | 2        |
| Catechetics 431 .....         | 2        |
| NT Greek 114 .....            | 2        |
| Intro. to Dogmatics 211 ..... | <u>1</u> |
| Total hours .....             | 16       |

Between-semester's Interim — 1 hour

#### YEAR TWO

##### FIRST SEMESTER

|                                |          |
|--------------------------------|----------|
| Church History .....           | 3        |
| NT Exegesis 125 .....          | 3        |
| Reformed Dogmatics .....       | 3        |
| Ch. Polity 413/Missions 421 .. | 2        |
| Hebrew Reading 111 .....       | 2        |
| NT History 137/138.....        | 2        |
| Practice Preaching .....       | <u>1</u> |
| Total hours.....               | 16       |

##### SECOND SEMESTER

|                                  |          |
|----------------------------------|----------|
| Church History.....              | 3        |
| NT Exegesis 126/133/134.....     | 3        |
| Reformed Dogmatics .....         | 3        |
| Ch. Polity 414/Missions 424..... | 2        |
| Hebrew Reading 112 .....         | 2        |
| OT Exegesis 124.....             | 2        |
| Practice Preaching .....         | <u>1</u> |
| Total hours .....                | 16       |

Between-semester's Interim — 1 hour



## YEAR THREE

### FIRST SEMESTER

|                                |    |
|--------------------------------|----|
| OT. Exegesis 131 .....         | 3  |
| Reformed Dogmatics.....        | 3  |
| Ch. Polity 413/Missions 421 .. | 2  |
| History of Dogma 331 .....     | 2  |
| NT History 137/138.....        | 2  |
| OT Isagogics 117.....          | 2  |
| Practice Preaching .....       | 1  |
| Total hours.....               | 15 |

### SECOND SEMESTER

|                                   |    |
|-----------------------------------|----|
| NT Exegesis 126/133/134 .....     | 3  |
| OT History 128/129.....           | 3  |
| Ch. Polity 414/Missions 424 ..... | 2  |
| Reformed Dogmatics.....           | 3  |
| Poimenics 434/435 .....           | 2  |
| Reformed Symbols 221/222 .....    | 2  |
| Practice Preaching .....          | 1  |
| Total hours .....                 | 16 |

Between-semesters' Interim — 1 hour

## YEAR FOUR

### FIRST SEMESTER

|                  |    |
|------------------|----|
| Internship.....  | 16 |
| Total hours..... | 16 |

### SECOND SEMESTER

|                                |    |
|--------------------------------|----|
| NT Exegesis 126/133/134 .....  | 3  |
| OT Exegesis 132 .....          | 3  |
| OT History 128/129.....        | 3  |
| Adv. Heb/Homiletics .....      | 2  |
| NT Isagogics 127.....          | 2  |
| Poimenics 434/435 .....        | 2  |
| Reformed Symbols 221/222 ..... | 2  |
| Practice Preaching .....       | 1  |
| Total hours .....              | 18 |



## **INTERNSHIP PROGRAM**

### **OBJECTIVE**

To give the student practical experience in all aspects of the work of a minister of the Word: preaching, catechism, pastoral care, leading Bible studies, evangelism, consistory meetings, and observer at Classis.

### **IMPLEMENTATION**

1) Diploma pre-licentiate students must participate in the internship program. For other students, the internship is optional.

2) The duration of the internship will be one semester plus one summer, with provision made for vacation time in the summer months (3 or 4 weeks as is provided for most of our ministers).

3) This is to be the second semester of the third year or the first semester of the fourth year of a four-year program. The second semester of the fourth year is to be spent at the seminary (prepare for synodical examinations, etc.).

4) The student must meet all required grade-point averages in order to be considered for the internship. No student will be assigned an internship who has not been licensed to speak a word of edification by the end of year three, semester one.

### **REQUIREMENTS FOR THE STUDENT INTERN**

1) The student must preach a *minimum* of nine sermons during the internship. At least three of these sermons must be on the Heidelberg Catechism, and two must be for special occasions (e.g., Thanksgiving and Advent). The other sermons must be on texts of the student's choice. All sermons must be new sermons for the student. Complete exegesis and sermon outline must be submitted to the supervising pastor for critique and approval at least two weeks prior to the student's preaching each sermon. The student must send a copy of the sermon outline to the faculty in care of the Rector immediately after the sermon has been preached.

2) The student must teach a minimum of two catechism classes per week. One of these must be in Bible History, the other a doctrinal class.

3) The student must lead a minimum of two Bible Study Societies (weekly or bi-weekly).

4) The student must attend some consistory meetings during the course of the internship.

5) The student must, either in company with the pastor or on his own, do pastoral work (e.g., family visitation, sick visiting, comforting the bereaved, counseling sessions). The student's pastoral experience ought to be both as broad and as intensive as possible.

6) During the internship, the student must read and briefly review a minimum of twelve books taken from all areas of the theological curriculum, but with emphasis on Practical-Theological studies. Specific titles will be assigned by the faculty. These reviews must be submitted to the faculty.

7) After the internship, the student must submit a paper (five page, single spaced) in which he reflects on the various aspects of the internship experience, telling how he participated in the life and work of the church, and how he profited from it. This paper is due before the beginning of the January Interim.

8) No criticism, by the student, of the supervising pastor, consistory, or congregation will be tolerated.

### **RESPONSIBILITIES OF SUPERVISING PASTOR AND CONSISTORY**

1) The pastor must meet with the student following the Sundays on which the student preaches in order to discuss the sermon and his conducting of the worship service. In addition the pastor must meet with the student twice per month to discuss the student's work and progress.

2) The pastor, in consultation with the consistory, must submit an overall evaluation of the student's work, together with recommendations, etc., at the conclusion of the student's internship. An evaluation form will be provided.

3) The consistory should consider providing at least part of the financial support of the student intern if necessary.

### **RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE STUDENTS' FACULTY MENTOR**

1) A faculty mentor will be appointed for each intern.

2) The faculty mentor must monitor the student's work and progress. He must do this at least once per month through consultation with the pastor and directly with the student intern. The professor will if possible attend some of the services when the student preaches.

3) The faculty mentor must report to the faculty on the student intern's work and progress.

### **GRADING OF THE INTERN'S WORK**

1) The student will be graded by the faculty on his internship on a Pass/Fail basis. In determining the grade, the faculty shall take into account the student's paper on all aspects of the internship, the student's twelve book reviews, the report of the supervising pastor, and the report of the student's faculty mentor.

2) Students who pass the internship will be granted 16 hours of credit.

3) Students who fail the internship will not be allowed to finish the seminary course of study.

# ACADEMIC REGULATIONS

## SYSTEM OF GRADING

Each student receives a grade in his courses at the close of the semester. The following system of grades is used:

| Percent Grade | Significance | Honor Points           |     |
|---------------|--------------|------------------------|-----|
| 100 .....     | A .....      | Superior .....         | 4.0 |
| 97-99 .....   | A- .....     | Superior .....         | 3.7 |
| 94-96 .....   | B+ .....     | Good .....             | 3.3 |
| 91-93 .....   | B .....      | Good .....             | 3.0 |
| 88-90 .....   | B- .....     | Good .....             | 2.7 |
| 85-87 .....   | C+ .....     | Average .....          | 2.3 |
| 82-84 .....   | C .....      | Average .....          | 2.0 |
| 79-81 .....   | C- .....     | Average .....          | 1.7 |
| 76-78 .....   | D+ .....     | Weak but passing ..... | 1.3 |
| 73-75 .....   | D .....      | Weak but passing ..... | 1.0 |
| 70-72 .....   | D- .....     | Weak but passing ..... | 0.7 |
| below 70 ...  | F .....      | Failure .....          | 0.0 |
|               | I .....      | Incomplete             |     |
|               | P .....      | Passing                |     |

Honor points per subject are determined by multiplying the honor points assigned to the letter-grade earned times the number of credit hours assigned to the course. A student's semester and cumulative grade-point average are computed by dividing the total honor points earned by the number of attempted hours. A 2.5 cumulative GPA is required for graduation.

## REGULAR COURSE GRADE-POINT AVERAGE

A cumulative grade-point average of 2.5 is required of every student in each of the four major divisions, namely, Biblical-Exegetical Studies, Dogmatical Studies, Church-Historical Studies, and Practical-Theological Studies. The diploma pre-licentiate student will not be allowed to enter the internship program unless he has a minimum GPA of 2.5 in Practice Preaching for the year previous to the internship (four sermons, ordinarily during the third year).

Further, the diploma pre-licentiate student will not be allowed to sit for his final examination before Synod unless he has attained an overall 2.5 average, and the diploma non-licentiate will not be allowed to take his final, written examinations until the 2.5 average is obtained.

The following schedule will serve as an indicator to students of satisfactory progress toward this objective:

| Hours completed | Minimum GPA required |
|-----------------|----------------------|
| 15 .....        | 1.9                  |
| 30 .....        | 2.0                  |
| 45 .....        | 2.2                  |
| 60 .....        | 2.3                  |
| 75 .....        | 2.4                  |
| 90+ .....       | 2.5                  |

Students who fall below the minimum grade-point average listed above will be sent a letter of academic warning, thus placing them on academic probation. Students who experience academic difficulty for three successive semesters may be asked to leave the seminary program. Students who are dismissed for academic reasons may apply for readmission after a year of absence from the seminary.

### **PRACTICE PREACHING GRADE-POINT AVERAGE**

In a typical program, students will take five semesters of practice preaching. A minimum cumulative GPA of 2.0 for the five semesters is required. In addition, a minimum GPA of 2.5 for the last three semesters is required.

### **CLASS STATUS**

Full-time diploma students are classified, depending on their progress, as freshmen (first-year), sophomores (second-year), juniors (third-year), or seniors (fourth-year). Promotion from one class status to another is determined by the faculty.

### **SEMESTER EXAMINATIONS**

Final examinations in each course at the end of each semester are required of every student. Should a diploma pre-licentiate student or a diploma non-licentiate student fail any such examination, arrangements can be made with the professor for re-examination. Such re-examination will be allowed once; and should a student fail the same examination twice, another examination will not be given until the student has repeated the failed course in its entirety.

## **FINAL COMPREHENSIVE EXAMINATIONS**

The diploma pre-licentiate student will sit for his final comprehensive examinations before the synod. These exams will be oral, except for New Testament and Old Testament Exegesis, which will be written. The student will be examined in Dogmatics, Old Testament History, New Testament History, Church History, Church Polity, and Practica. In addition, the student must preach a sermon before the Synod.

The diploma pre-licentiate student will be allowed to sit for this examination only if he has met all the requirements of the seminary curriculum, has maintained a cumulative grade-point average of 2.5, and has passed all branches of study.

Final comprehensive examinations for the diploma non-licentiate student will be written in their entirety. Similarly, a 2.5 cumulative grade-point average and passing grades in all branches also apply.

## **ACADEMIC RECORDS**

Student permanent records, which record all work done in the seminary, as well as courses allowed in transfer, are kept by the Registrar. (Determination of which courses will be allowed for transfer must be made in consultation with the Registrar.) Grade reports are issued to each student at the conclusion of each semester.

(When a military veteran student is allowed transfer credit, and his training period is shortened proportionately, both the student and the Department of Veteran Affairs will be notified of such transfer.)

## **CLASS SCHEDULE**

Students are scheduled for classes four days per week, four hours per day, for a total of 16 hours per week.

Monday mornings are reserved for practice preaching.

The school offices and library hours are from 7:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M., Monday through Friday.

## **CLASS ATTENDANCE**

Regular class attendance is required of all students. Excessive unexcused absences will result in the following action:

- 1) The student will be given a warning that his attendance must be regular if he is to remain a student at the seminary.
- 2) Excessive absence after the warning will result in dismissal from the seminary.



Any work missed by a student during an unexcused absence may or may not be accepted, subject to the judgment of the professor. The professor's decision is determinative in these instances.

Students are expected to be present for their classes at the time indicated on the class schedule. Excessive tardiness may result in a student's being placed on probation.

A student with more than three unexcused absences will be dismissed from school. Further, a student with three unexcused tardies will be issued a written warning and placed under probation for one week. If at the end of one week the student has not been removed from probation, he will be dismissed from school.

No recording device is permitted in any class without the permission of the professor.

## **LEAVE OF ABSENCE**

Students who for personal or medical reasons find it necessary to request a leave of absence from the seminary may do so in writing to the Theological School Committee. Request for readmission must be made to the Theological School Committee.

## **PLACEMENT**

The seminary offers no placement assistance to its students or graduates. Part-time work assignments and preaching assignments are sometimes arranged by the faculty with the churches of the PRCA.

## **EQUIPMENT**

Computers with Internet access are available for student use in the library, as is also a copier/scanner/printer. Wifi is available throughout the seminary building. Staff is available to assist with any other needs students may have.

## STUDENT EXPENSES

### TUITION SCHEDULE

Tuition is charged at the rate of \$100 per semester hour, or \$1,200 per full-time semester, whichever is less. A full-time semester is a load of 12 semester hours or more. Payment should be made at the time of registration. (Student expenses are limited to tuition and books. There are no fees, deposits, or other charges of any kind.) Tuition charges are waived for students who intend to enter the ministry of the Word in the Protestant Reformed Churches and may be waived for students in other churches with whom the PRCA has an official relationship.

Individuals who wish to audit courses may do so with the approval of the instructor. A fee of \$100 per course will be charged. Members of the PRCA are exempt from this charge.

### TUITION REFUND POLICY

For those students who withdraw or are dismissed during the course of the semester, reimbursement of tuition and fees will be based on the ratio of remaining days of instruction to total days of instruction in a term. The formula that will be used is as follows: Number of days of instruction remaining in the course, divided by number of instructional days in the course, multiplied by the tuition charged, equals the amount of the student refund. Tuition that is recoverable according to said formula will be refunded within 30 days, or, if requested, within three business days.

In case of a student's prolonged illness or accident, or in case of a death in the family or some other circumstance that makes it impractical to complete the course, the school will make a settlement that is reasonable and fair to both.

(Note: If an applicant is rejected by the school before enrollment, all tuition paid by the applicant will be repaid in full within 30 days, or, if requested, within 3 business days after such a request.)

### LIVING EXPENSES

There is no housing provided by the seminary. A student is expected to provide for his own living quarters, though the seminary may be of some assistance in securing adequate housing.

### BOOKS

The seminary operates a bookstore, and all books necessary for course work may be obtained there.





## **FINANCIAL AID**

Financial aid is available, through the Student Aid Committee of the Protestant Reformed Churches, to students studying to enter the ministry in the Protestant Reformed Churches. Further information may be obtained by contacting the Registrar of the seminary.

## **GRIEVANCE POLICY**

The Protestant Reformed Theological Seminary is licensed as a propriety school in the State of Michigan and is therefore subject to 1943 P.A. 148, entitled “An act to provide for the regulation and licensing of propriety schools in the state; to require surety; to provide for collection and disposition of fees; and to prescribe penalties for the violation of this act.”

Students enrolled at the seminary have the right, under this legislation, to file complaints about the seminary for any violation of this act or for violation of any rules promulgated under this act. Complaints may be sent to the Michigan Department of Energy, Labor & Economic Growth in Lansing, MI. (or filed with the State of Michigan at [www.michiganps.net](http://www.michiganps.net))

## **ABUSE POLICY**

The Protestant Reformed Theological Seminary (PRTS) is an institution for ecclesiastical training that is founded on God's Word, which serves as the ultimate standard to which all faculty, staff, board members, and students are held accountable. This accountability includes the right use of all gifts given by God, including the gifts of office and authority. Because all human authority is subservient to the lordship of Jesus Christ (Matt. 28:18), it must be used exclusively in His service and for the good of His church. Any abuse of authority is therefore strictly forbidden by God and worthy of censure in an institution established on His Word.

PRTS is committed to providing an environment free of abuse in all its forms, to protecting the vulnerable, and to holding accountable any who abuse their authority or power. Our commitment to these principles comes from God, who is a refuge for the oppressed and never ignores the cry of those who have been unjustly abused (Ps. 9:9,12). The policy below outlines the definition of abuse, situations or examples where abuse can occur, and the procedures for reporting, investigating, and disciplining sins of abuse when they have been committed. Our goal is to prevent and respond appropriately to abuse by maintaining a seminary that is educated on its various forms and common dynamics, by clarifying appropriate boundaries, and by doing the hard work of holding each other accountable.

## DEFINITION AND EXAMPLES OF ABUSE

In its broadest senses, the sin of abuse can refer to the misuse of any good gift given by God for one's own selfish purposes. One especially grievous form of abuse involves the misuse of God-ordained authority or power in order to take advantage of someone who is unable to resist and is powerless to stop it (i.e. "oppression"). *References to abuse in this document indicate situations where a person in a position of power and/or trust uses that position to exploit or violate someone who is more vulnerable* (e.g., a child, someone who is sick, elderly, or disabled, student, etc.). That exploitation or violation can take many different forms that are variously categorized as verbal, emotional, physical, sexual, or spiritual abuse.

All forms of abuse are sin against God's law. Because abuse flows out of selfish motivations, it represents a sin against the first commandment since loving oneself and one's own desires more than God is a form of idolatry (2 Tim. 3:2). Abuse is also a violation of the sixth commandment prohibiting murder because sins of abuse against the victim -- including dishonor, hating, or wounding of an innocent person -- are seen as murder in God's sight (Heidelberg Catechism, LD40). Sexual abuse is furthermore a clear violation of the seventh commandment, which prohibits sexual activity outside of marriage (Lev. 18:27) and comes with the command for all believers to live chastely (1 Thess. 4:3-4).

The magnitude of damage done is especially severe in the case of child sexual abuse due to the traumatic effect on the bodies and souls of young victims. For this cause Jesus, in Matthew 18:6, said it was better that one were drowned than to offend one of His little ones. As with all forms of abuse, the words of Psalm 11:5 apply, "But the wicked and him that loveth violence his soul hateth." We all must take responsibility to become educated about abuse and take responsibility to uphold our policy.

In addition to more overt forms of abuse, the following behaviors are unacceptable for any faculty member, staff, board member, or volunteers involved in work at PRTS:

Verbal or physical intimidation intended to coerce a desired behavior from another individual.

Use of words that belittle, intimidate, or threaten, including those that are rendered verbally, electronically, or in any other form of writing.

Sexual advances or harassment of any kind, including unwanted sexual attention, comments, or unwanted physical touch.

Behavior or words that discriminate against anyone based on age, race, sex, ethnicity, national origin, language, disability, health conditions, marital status, or parental status.

## **RESPONSIBILITIES**

It is always the responsibility of the person in the position of greater authority or power to maintain appropriate boundaries with others. Because sins of abuse often occur in private situations, it is the policy of PRTS that all persons covered in the scope of this policy adhere to the following:

1. No private counseling or meetings may occur in a one-on-one situation with either a minor or a person of the opposite sex. Private counseling or meetings are those which take place behind closed doors or in an unobserved environment where accountability cannot be maintained.

2. Faculty and staff, when meeting with a person of the opposite sex or a minor other than a family member, must meet with another adult present or within clear view of the interaction.

3. Regular teaching is not considered counseling as long as it occurs in the classroom environment with the class in attendance.

4. When a female employee is present in the facility with only one other faculty member or male staff member, provisions for an additional person to be present must be made or any interactions must be within view of on-site video monitoring/recording equipment.

5. When serving at a church or other institution outside of the seminary facility, faculty, students, and staff will abide by the rules of that institution and are accountable to the oversight of their consistory.

## **REPORTING AND DISCIPLINARY ACTION**

When abuse is either suspected or disclosed (by the victim or others), the following steps will be taken:

1. All reports of suspected abuse by faculty, staff, or students shall be presented to the Theological School Committee (TSC), who shall appoint a subcommittee of the TSC to investigate the report/claim.

2. If the initial investigation produces reasonable suspicion of abuse, the employee or student shall be suspended from all duties pertaining to the seminary. At this point the information will be shared with his/her consistory for further action.

3. If, after a thorough investigation, the TSC and consistory find that abuse did occur, students will be expelled from seminary while staff members will be immediately released from employment.

4. Confirmed charges of abuse by ordained faculty members (professors) will be treated in accordance with Art. 79 of the Church Order, which states “Whether these shall be entirely deposed from office shall be subject to the judgment of the classis, with the advice of the delegates of the synod mentioned in Article 11.”

5. All forms of abuse that can properly be classified as criminal acts shall be reported to the appropriate civil authorities (local/state police, sher-

iff's office, etc.) with jurisdiction in the location where the crime occurred.

6. Faculty members are considered mandated reporters as defined by the State of Michigan. In the case of suspected child abuse, they are required to follow **Michigan Act 238 section 722.623, "Persons required to report child abuse or neglect."**

7. Any public notifications regarding cases of misconduct shall be from the TSC, the consistory involved in the investigation, or both parties.

8. The nature and extent of ecclesiastical discipline will be determined by the consistory of the member found guilty of abuse.

## **BACKGROUND CHECK POLICY**

In October 2023 the Theological School Committee (TSC) adopted the following policy and procedure concerning background checks for the PR Theological Seminary (using BGI Associates in Zeeland, MI):

1. All current students and employees and volunteers of the PRTS shall be required to fill out and submit the "Background Release Form" and "Questionnaire" to the registrar. Prospective students, employees, and volunteers shall submit the "Background Release Form" and "Questionnaire" as part of the seminary application/hiring process.

2. Results of all background checks will be filed by the registrar and reviewed by the AAC [Academic Affairs Committee] (or no fewer than 2 TSC members), which shall report to the TSC with recommendations, if applicable.





## DESCRIPTION OF COURSES

### PRE-SEMINARY COURSES OFFERED

(Clock-hours indicated in brackets)

### Greek

- 101     *New Testament Greek*  
 Introduction to the elements of New Testament Greek Grammar.  
 Four hours, First Semester. [64]                             Prof. Griess
- 102     *New Testament Greek*  
 Continuation of Greek 101.  
 Four hours, Second Semester. [64]                             Prof. Griess
- 201     *New Testament Greek*  
 Readings from the New Testament, with emphasis on grammatical and syntactical detail.  
 Prerequisite: Greek 102.  
 Two hours, First Semester. [48]                             Prof. Kuiper
- 202     *New Testament Greek*  
 Continuation of Greek 201.  
 Two hours, Second Semester. [48]                             Prof. Kuiper

## SEMINARY COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

(Clock-hours indicated in brackets)

### Biblical-Exegetical Studies

101 *Old Testament Hebrew*

A study of the elements of biblical Hebrew that aims at providing the student with a basic knowledge of Hebrew grammar and syntax, as well as a working vocabulary. Text, exercises, class lectures, and select readings in the Hebrew Old Testament.

Three hours, First Semester. [48] Prof. Huizinga

102 *Old Testament Hebrew*

A continuation of Hebrew 101.

Three hours, Second Semester. [48] Prof. Huizinga

111 *Old Testament Hebrew*

A course in advanced grammar and syntax emphasizing the identification of forms, accuracy of translation, and exegetical points in selections from the Hebrew Old Testament. Included also is an introduction to Old Testament textual criticism.

Prerequisite: Hebrew 102.

Two hours, First Semester. [32] Prof. Huizinga

112 *Old Testament Hebrew*

Continuation of Hebrew 111, but with a basic introduction to biblical Aramaic.

Two hours, Second Semester. [32] Prof. Huizinga

121 *Advanced Hebrew*

A course in advanced grammar and syntax emphasizing sight translation and recognition of distinctive verbal markers.

One hour, Second Semester. [16] Prof. Huizinga

114 *New Testament Greek*

A study of New Testament Greek grammar and syntax, with emphasis on syntactical-exegetical points. Readings from the New Testament.

Two hours, First Semester. [32] Prof. Kuiper

## **Biblical-Exegetical Studies (continued)**

### 115 *Biblical Hermeneutics*

A study of the principles and correct method of biblical interpretation, with emphasis on the grammatical-historical-spiritual method. Included are segments devoted to typology and symbolism.

Two hours, Second Semester. [32] Prof. Kuiper

### 116 *Biblical Hermeneutics*

Continuation of Hermeneutics 115. The focus is on an overview of wrong hermeneutical methods and on applying the principles learned in Hermeneutics 115 to exegeting passages of Scripture. The course will conclude with an introduction to the principles and methods of New Testament textual criticism.

Two hours, Second Semester. [32] Prof. Kuiper

### 124 *Old Testament Exegesis*

A course in the exposition of selected passages of the Hebrew Old Testament, focusing on the three main genres of Old Testament literature: historical narrative, prophecy, and poetry. The emphasis in the course is on the student's actual practice of interpreting the Old Testament with a view to preaching.

Two hours, Second Semester. [32] Prof. Huizinga

### 131 *Old Testament Exegesis*

A continuation of Old Testament Exegesis 124, focusing on the Old Testament law and on the wisdom and apocalyptic literature of the Hebrew Old Testament.

Three hours, First Semester. [48] Prof. Huizinga

### 132 *Old Testament Exegesis*

A continuation of Old Testament Exegesis 131 with particular emphasis on Old Testament typology.

Three hours, Second Semester. [48] Prof. Griess

### 125 *New Testament Exegesis*

Practice in the rules of Hermeneutics in actual exegetical work. Passages are assigned from the Pauline Epistles and Revelation. Student work is critically examined in class, and emphasis is placed on exegesis that will serve as the basis for preaching.

Prerequisite: Hermeneutics.

Three hours, First Semester. [48] Prof. Kuiper

## Biblical-Exegetical Studies (continued)

- 126      *New Testament Exegesis*  
Continuation of the preceding course.  
Two hours, Second Semester. [32]      Prof. Kuiper
- 133      *New Testament Exegesis*  
Practice in exegeting assigned passages from the Gospels, Acts, and General Epistles, criticized and corrected by the instructor.  
Three hours, Second Semester. [48]      Prof. Gritters
- 134      *New Testament Exegesis*  
Continuation of the preceding course, including exegesis of selected passages from the Gospels, Acts, and General Epistles given by the instructor.  
Three hours, Second Semester. [48]      Prof. Gritters
- 117      *Old Testament Isagogics*  
An introduction to the Old Testament, treating the content and canonical significance of each of the Old Testament books. Text, lectures.  
Two hours, Second Semester. [32]      Prof. Gritters
- 127      *New Testament Isagogics*  
An introduction to the New Testament, treating the content and canonical significance of each of the New Testament books. Text, lectures.  
Two hours, Second Semester. [32]      Prof. Kuiper
- 128      *Old Testament History*  
A study of the history of the old dispensation from creation through the conquest of Canaan. Text, lectures, collateral reading.  
Three hours, First Semester. [48]      Prof. Huizinga
- 129      *Old Testament History*  
A study of the history of the old dispensation from the era of the Judges through the exile and return from captivity. Text, lectures, collateral reading.  
Three hours, Second Semester. [48]      Prof. Huizinga



## **Biblical-Exegetical Studies (continued)**

### 137 *New Testament History*

A study of the history of the Jewish nation during the Intertestamental Period and the life of Christ recorded in the gospel narratives up to the Passion Week.

Two hours, Second Semester. [32]

Prof. Griess

### 138 *New Testament History*

Continuation of the preceding course, beginning with the Passion Week and proceeding to the history of the apostolic church recorded in the book of Acts and alluded to in the Epistles.

Two hours, Second Semester. [32]

Prof. Griess

## **Dogmatical Studies**

### 221 *Reformed Symbols: Heidelberg Catechism and Belgic Confession*

A study of the concept of confessions as well as their importance for the church. The history and content of the Heidelberg Catechism and the Belgic Confession are also treated.

Two hours, Second Semester. [32]

Prof. Kuiper

### 222 *Reformed Symbols: Canons of Dordt*

A study of the history and content of the Canons of Dordrecht.

Two hours, Second Semester. [32]

Prof. Kuiper

### 211 *Reformed Dogmatics — Introduction*

A study of the name, definition, principles, and methods of Dogmatics, including treatment of the doctrine of Scripture and the relation of Dogmatics to the other subjects in the theological curriculum. Text, lectures, collateral reading.

One hour, First Semester. [16]

Prof. Huizinga

### 213 *Reformed Dogmatics — Theology*

A study of the doctrine of God, including the knowability of God, the being of God, the names and attributes of God, the Trinity, and the divine decrees. Text, lectures, collateral reading, research paper.

Three hours, First Semester. [48]

Prof. Huizinga

## Dogmatical Studies (continued)

### 214 *Reformed Dogmatics — Anthropology*

A study of the doctrine of man, including creation, providence, the original state of man, and the fall of man into sin. Text, lectures, collateral reading, research paper.

Three hours, Second Semester. [48] Prof. Huizinga

### 223 *Reformed Dogmatics — Christology*

A study of the doctrine of Christ, including treatment of the doctrine of the covenant, the counsel of peace (*pactum salutis*), and the names, natures, offices, and states of Christ. Text, lectures, collateral reading, research paper.

Three hours, First Semester. [48] Prof. Huizinga

### 224 *Reformed Dogmatics — Soteriology*

A study of the doctrine of salvation, including the idea of the *ordo salutis* and the various steps in the *ordo salutis*: Regeneration, calling, faith and conversion, justification, sanctification, preservation/perseverance, and glorification. Text, lectures, collateral reading, research paper.

Three hours, Second Semester. [48] Prof. Huizinga

### 231 *Reformed Dogmatics — Ecclesiology*

A study of the doctrine of the church, including the idea of the church, the attributes of the church, the marks of the church, and the means of grace. Text, lectures, collateral reading, research paper.

Three hours, First Semester. [48] Prof. Huizinga

### 232 *Reformed Dogmatics — Eschatology*

A study of the last things, including treatment of the idea of the end of all things, the intermediate state, the signs of the second coming, the return of Christ, the resurrection, the final judgment, and the new creation. Text, lectures, collateral reading, research paper.

Three hours, Second Semester. [48] Prof. Huizinga

## Church-Historical Studies

### 311 *Church History — Ancient*

A study of the ancient period of the history of the Christian church between the years A.D. 100 and A.D. 590. Assigned readings and writings.

Three hours, First Semester. [48] Prof. Kuiper

## Church-Historical Studies (continued)

### 312 *Church History — Medieval*

A study of the history of the Christian church from A.D. 590 to the time of the Protestant Reformation. Assigned readings and writings.

Three hours, Second Semester. [48]

Prof. Kuiper

### 321 *Church History — Modern*

A study of the history of the Protestant churches from the beginning of the Reformation to 1648. Assigned readings and writings.

Three hours, First Semester. [48]

Prof. Kuiper

### 322 *Church History — Recent*

A study of the history of the Protestant churches from 1648 to the present with particular emphasis on the history of the Reformed churches in Europe and America. Assigned readings and writings.

Three hours, Second Semester. [48]

Prof. Kuiper

### 331 *History of Dogma*

The course begins with an introduction on the nature of the development of dogma. Then the course traces the history of the development of specific doctrines, with particular focus on the doctrines of the atonement and the covenant, using primary source readings.

Two hours, First Semester. [32]

Prof. Kuiper

## Practical-Theological Studies

### 410 *Advanced Homiletics*

The student who has three years of experience in making seminary sermons, including almost ten sermons in the internship, has opportunity in this course to reinforce and reflect on the basic principles and practices of sound homiletics learned as a freshman. Includes a study of some 'seasoned' preachers' sermons.

One hour, Second Semester. [16]

Prof. Gritters

### 411 *Homiletics*

A study of the history, principles, and methods of sermon preparation. One sermon delivered to professor and fellow students.

Two hours, First Semester. [32]

Prof. Griess

## Practical-Theological Studies (continued)

### 412 *Liturgics*

A study of the history, principles, and elements of Reformed worship. Included is a study of the liturgical forms used in the PRCA.

Two hours, Second Semester. [32]

Prof. Griess

### 413 *Church Polity*

A study of the biblical principles of Reformed church government relating to the institutional life of the church upon earth, and of the Church Order adopted by the Synod of Dordrecht and used in the Protestant Reformed Churches in America.

Two hours, First Semester. [32]

Prof. Gritters

### 414 *Church Polity*

Continuation of Church Polity 413.

Two hours, Second Semester. [32]

Prof. Gritters

### 421 *Domestic Missions*

A study of the biblical principles upon which the mission work of the church is based. The course presents a definition of missions, as well as the biblical basis, character, purpose, and calling for this work in the present day. Emphasis is given to the practice of “Domestic Missions” and the evangelism of the local church.

Two hours, Second Semester. [32]

Prof. Gritters

### 424 *Foreign Missions/World Religions*

A study of the principles and practice of missions in foreign lands. The course incorporates a study of the major world religions, including a critique of each religion from a Reformed/biblical perspective. Prerequisite: Domestic Missions.

Two hours, Second Semester. [32]

Prof. Griess

### 431 *Catechetics*

A study of the principles of catechetical instruction and pedagogical methods employed in the training of catechumens. Emphasis is on the fact that catechetical instruction constitutes a part of the means of grace for the children of God’s covenant. Observation of seasoned teachers; practice teaching in area churches.

Two hours, First Semester. [32]

Prof. Griess

## Practical-Theological Studies (continued)

### 434 *Poimenics*

A study of the principles and methods of pastoral care, designed to prepare the student for pastoral labors.

Two hours, First Semester. [32]

Prof. Gritters

### 435 *Poimenics*

Continuation of Poimenics 434

Two hours, Second Semester. [32]

Prof. Griess

### 401 to 405 *Practice Preaching*

The preparation and delivery of student sermons on assigned texts from various biblical genre and the Heidelberg Catechism, with criticism by faculty and students. A minimum of two student sermons is required for one hour's credit.

One hour each semester, for five semesters. [80]

Faculty

### 499 *Internship*

One semester, ordinarily in the first semester of the fourth year. (See pages 17-18 for description.)

Sixteen hours. [256]

Faculty



## OTHER COURSES OFFERED (SEMESTER OR INTERIM)

A minimum of three hours (48 contact hours) is required from the list of “Other Courses Offered.” The following courses are 16 clock hours each and the cost of tuition is \$100.00 per credit hour. The Interim courses will usually be one credit hour, but may be increased under special circumstances with the approval of the faculty, registrar, and TSC. Tuition costs may also change accordingly.

### SEMESTER

#### Research Methodology 101

A study of the principles and methods of research and writing. The student will be taught how to evaluate, interpret, and eliminate sources; how to formulate a thesis; how to let the thesis control the research and writing; and other practical aspects of writing a research paper. The student must apply these principles to all major papers that he writes during his seminary training.

One hour, First Semester.....Prof. Kuiper

**Independent Studies, all curriculum areas** .....Faculty

### INTERIM

**The Theology of John Calvin**—The course is designed to give the student an overview of the teaching of John Calvin and to indicate his influence on the development of the Reformed tradition. In order to accomplish this, students will be assigned select readings in the *Institutes of the Christian Religion*, Calvin’s Old and New Testament commentaries, his sermons, his catechisms, his many tracts and treatises, as well as his voluminous correspondence (letters to and from ordinary folk, distinguished leaders of the Reformation, and rulers throughout Europe). Besides readings in Calvin’s own writing, students will be assigned readings in secondary sources.....Prof. Cammenga

**Heidelberg Catechism Preaching**—The course includes: a historical defense of the practice of catechism preaching; the history of Heidelberg Catechism preaching; an emphasis on the proper manner of preaching the Heidelberg Catechism over against the “Scripture-text method”; and practical guidelines for preparing catechism sermons .....Prof. Gritters

**Reformed Covenantal Ethics**—Designed to help those who aspire to the gospel ministry to understand, from a distinctly Reformed perspective, the prescriptive will of God for Christian conduct, with emphasis on how to preach commands. The course does not teach academic moral theology, but emphasizes the Reformed principles of Christian conduct as well as the application of those principles to Christian behavior.....Prof. Gritters

# CONSTITUTION OF THE PROTESTANT REFORMED THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

## ARTICLE 1

The Theological School of the Protestant Reformed Churches has for its purpose the training of future ministers of the Word for the aforesaid churches. The Theological School will also train others for the ministry who intend to serve in other churches. These latter shall, however, meet the academic requirements of Article 10. Special or unclassified (non-diploma) students intending to enter the ministry in other churches may be admitted by the Theological School Committee with the approval of synod.

## ARTICLE 2

The supervision and administration of the institution belongs to the synod itself. However, synod shall appoint a committee consisting of no fewer than ten members to do the work of synod in the interim between synodical meetings.

## ARTICLE 3

At this institution, the following branches of study shall be taught: the basic scriptural languages, Hebrew and Greek, and such other languages as synod may decide upon; Hermeneutics, Exegesis, Isagogics, Sacred History, Typology, Church History, Church Polity, History of Dogma, Dogmatics, Concepts, Homiletics, Catechetics, Poimenics, and other subjects which may be agreed upon by faculty and synod.

## ARTICLE 4

The professors are appointed on salaries determined by the synod and for definite departments. The rule shall be to appoint only such men who have especially prepared themselves for the particular branch or branches they are to teach. With a view to orderly transition in the seminary, a new professor shall be appointed when any of the active professors reaches the age of 65.

## **ARTICLE 5**

Whenever a professor is to be appointed, the Theological School Committee shall propose names at the meeting of the synod. The aggregate shall be discussed at this meeting, and in this discussion the advice of the theological faculty shall be sought. After this discussion and consultation, the synod shall proceed to make a nomination from the aggregate. From this nomination synod elects a professor. In electing professors, synod shall give preference to one already a minister of the gospel.

## **ARTICLE 6**

The installation of professors of theology shall take place according to the form, after they shall have signed the Formula of Subscription in the presence of the Theological School Committee.

## **ARTICLE 7**

A professor shall serve four years, and after that three years if reappointed. If after this he be reappointed, such appointment shall be permanent. Thereafter his services at school can be terminated only through the synod formally retiring, expelling, or deposing him and for reason urgent, cogent, and legitimate. When a professor reaches the age of 65, and on a yearly basis thereafter, the professor shall be consulted by the Theological School Committee about his capability to continue teaching or possible emeritation. Whether a professor shall continue to teach all or some of his subjects after the age of 65 shall be decided by the synod on a yearly basis, upon the recommendation of the Theological School Committee. A professor shall retire when he reaches 70 years of age and shall be declared emeritus.

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The following criteria shall be used to judge the competence and development of a professor when he is up for reappointment:

1. He shall demonstrate in all his work a continuing commitment to the truth of Scripture, as summarized in the Reformed creeds and as taught in our churches.
2. He shall give evidence of the ability to teach, being fresh and lively.



3. He shall show the ability to do theological research and scholarly study in his department.
4. He shall be a godly example to the students and denomination.
5. He shall exhibit a willingness to contribute to the well-being of the denomination in the areas of preaching, writing, lecturing, serving on standing or special committees of synod.
6. He shall, before his first reappointment, have completed and received approval of his Master's Thesis.

The process: The TSC shall present to synod a recommendation concerning reappointment.

1. The TSC must exercise careful oversight of the professor's instruction and of his work in light of the criteria given above.
2. The judgment of the faculty concerning the man's work should be given to the TSC and become a part of their recommendation.

## **ARTICLE 8**

Professors emeriti who are honorably retired and who had received an appointment are qualified to receive support from the churches, since they, just as the ministers, devoted all their gifts and talents entirely and exclusively to the service of the churches.

Arrangements for retirement shall be in charge of the Theological School Committee, subject to final determination by synod. All support of emeriti professors shall be directly from the Emeritus Fund.

If retirement proves necessary by reason of sickness or other disability during the school year, the Theological School Committee shall temporarily determine the amount of support to be given and shall notify the Emeritus Committee. The latter shall then authorize payment of the support determined upon from the Emeritus Fund.

## **ARTICLE 9**

The instruction shall be given by the professors and, if need be, by assistants appointed by the faculty in conjunction with the Theological School Committee with the approval of synod. In case of emergency the approval of synod shall be sought at its next meeting.

## ARTICLE 10

Permission to pursue the theological course in the seminary shall be granted by the synod, upon recommendation of the Theological School Committee, to such an aspirant only who comes supplied with a letter of recommendation from his consistory explaining that he is a member in full communion, sound in faith, upright in walk, and exhibits the qualities and personality necessary for a gospel minister. Such recommendation ought to contain the consistory's evaluation of the applicant's spiritual and intellectual gifts, as well as any other areas of concern. The applicant shall also provide a certificate from a reputable physician showing him to be in good health.

A complete high school education and a bachelor level degree (B.A. or B.S.) from an accredited college or university are required for entrance into the seminary department. Moreover, each entrant into this department must produce evidence that he has credit for the following college courses:

- Latin — 4 semesters, intermediate-level proficiency
- Greek — 4 semesters, intermediate-level proficiency
- English Composition — 2 semesters, one of which must be beyond the freshman composition level
- Philosophy—the *history* of philosophy: must include ancient, medieval, and modern
- History — a minimum of 2 semesters of history of western civilization
- Psychology — 1 semester: Introductory Psychology
- Speech — 1 semester: public speaking
- Logic — 1 semester

A B- cumulative average shall be required for entrance into the seminary department. If such average is not maintained, a student may be received on probation by consent of the Theological School Committee in conjunction with the faculty.

The student shall furnish the faculty with a transcript of credits earned at other colleges, and these shall be included in the academic record of the student and in the annual report of the grades to synod.

## **ARTICLE 11**

Promotion to a higher grade shall take place after the student has successfully passed his courses.

Moreover, it is required of every seminary student that he maintain at least a 2.5 cumulative average in each of the four major divisions, viz., Biblical-Exegetical Studies, Dogmatical Studies, Church-Historical Studies, and Practical-Theological Studies. In addition, a minimum GPA of 2.0 for the two and a half years of Practice Preaching (ten sermons) and a minimum of 2.5 for the last year and a half of Practice Preaching (six sermons) are required. The diploma pre-licentiate student will not be allowed to enter the internship program unless he has a minimum GPA of 2.5 in Practice Preaching for the year previous to the internship (four sermons, ordinarily during the third year). A student shall be forbidden to take a final examination before synod having less than a 2.5 cumulative average. The final examination before synod of the student having a failing grade in any branch shall be forbidden. Arrangements, however, may be made for a re-examination of any student having a failing grade in any branch; but in case a student shall fail in such reexamination, he shall be forbidden to proceed to the next subject until he shall take the course anew in which he has failed and shall show a passing grade therein.

## **ARTICLE 12**

The examination at the end of each semester shall be written. The final examinations of those students graduating in theology and intending to enter the ministry in the churches shall be oral. The only exception shall be a written examination in translation and exegesis on passages from the Hebrew Old Testament and the Greek New Testament assigned by the Theological School Committee, said examinations to be submitted to synod for approval. There shall be oral examinations in: Dogmatics, Old Testament History, New Testament History, Church History, Church Polity, and Practica. In addition, each student shall preach a sermon before synod on an assigned text.

Written examinations for those students intending to enter the ministry in other churches shall be administered by the faculty and must be successfully passed before a diploma is granted.

### **ARTICLE 13**

The faculty shall license a student to speak a word of edification in the meetings for public worship when they deem him ready.

### **ARTICLE 14**

The school year shall be divided into two semesters, with the months of June, July, and August set apart for summer vacation. There shall be a two-week Christmas vacation and a one-week spring vacation.

### **ARTICLE 15**

The student shall conduct himself in and out of school as a Christian. Failing in this, he shall be admonished by the faculty in conjunction with the Theological School Committee. If after these repeated admonitions the student remains obstinate, he shall be expelled from school. In case a gross sin has been committed, he shall, with the approval of the Theological School Committee, be expelled immediately.

### **ARTICLE 16**

The student shall pursue the course of study at the school with diligence. He shall regularly attend the classes and conduct himself in accordance with the rules of this institution.

### **ARTICLE 17**

This constitution, drafted upon the instruction of the Classis of the Protestant Reformed Churches, accepted by that of June 1 and 2, 1938, and amended by the Synods of 1941, 1960, 1973, 1985, 1999, and 2003, remains in force until another synod shall have amended it.

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References: Acts of Synod 1941, Art. 68; Acts of Synod 1960, Art. 78; Acts of Synod 1973, Arts. 68-87; Acts of Synod 1983, Art. 41, B, 4; Acts of Synod 1985, Art. 40, B, 5; Acts of Synod 1989, Art. 26, B, 6; Acts of Synod 1990, Art. 30, B, 1, 3, 4; Acts of Synod 1991, Art. 38, B, 3, 4, 5; Acts of Synod 1999, Art. 72, B, 4; Acts of Synod 2003, Art. 50, B, 4, 13.

Location of the  
 Protestant Reformed Theological Seminary  
 at 4949 Ivanrest Avenue  
 Wyoming, Michigan 49418  
 (Driveway off Scenic River Drive)

