

Biblical Interpretation: A course for Certified Christian Educators and Elders

The Rev. Dr. Allen D. Timm

Outcomes:

To be able to apply basic principles of Biblical interpretation within the Reformed tradition;
To utilize principles of Biblical interpretation in the study of an ethical issue and in the study of Scripture; and to be able to exegete the meaning of a text for teaching and preaching.

Course requirements:

Attend each class or submit a summary of the class material for the evening

Read the texts

Read and keep a journal on the daily lectionary texts

Complete and submit a Biblical exegesis

Assist in the design and presentation of “the Biblical position” on a current ethical issue

Submit a course outline for teaching a book of the Bible, a devotional study of a series of texts, or for an introduction to Biblical interpretation. Present that to the group.

Criteria for evaluation:

Demonstrate competency in the use of the accepted methods of Biblical interpretation.

Integrate the major methods of studying the Biblical text into one’s own methodology.

Show the ability to teach a course to lay people on how to study the Bible in their own life.

Demonstrate the ability to work with a group on a project for the church.

Participation in the group and attendance at class

Times:

Eight Mondays, from 6:00 – 9:00 PM, beginning February 5, plus a group project planning meeting.

Assigned texts:

Daily lectionary readings (can be found on the PCUSA website)

Gordon D. Fee, Douglas Stuart, How to Read the Bible for All Its Worth (Grand Rapids: Zondervan Pub. Co., 2003)

John H Hayes, Carl R. Holliday, Biblical Exegesis, third ed. (Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 2007);

“Presbyterian Understanding and Use of Holy Scripture,” OGA;

“Biblical Authority and Interpretation,” OGA;

Jennifer Grace Bird, Permission Granted: Take the Bible into your Own Hands (Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 2015;

The Book of Confessions (PCUSA); and

John Barton, “Biblical Criticism and the Harmonization's of Texts,” The Princeton Seminary Bulletin, Vol. XXVI, No. 2, NEW SERIES 2005, pp. 144-156

Instructor:

Allen D. Timm has served as Executive Presbyter of the Presbytery of Detroit since 2004, and before that, in congregations. He holds a BS from Springfield College (MA) in YMCA Management, a M. Div. from Andover Newton Theological School, a MATS from Moravian Theological Seminary (thesis: “The Doctrine of Providence in the Reformed Confessions of Faith”), and a D. Min. from McCormick Theological Seminary in Urban Ministry (thesis: “Collaborative Models in Cross Cultural Ministry”).