

COURSE DESCRIPTION

DS 610 Presbyterian Denominational Studies Worship, Polity, Creeds/Confessions Fall 2009

Instructor: Glen Davis, PCC Director of Denominational Formation

Purpose: To help students prepare for their role as ministers and leaders in the PCC by: (1) exploring ways of leading worship, both in regular Sunday services and in special services; (2) discovering the content, value and wisdom of the polity of the PCC; and (3) examining the place of creeds and confessions in the PCC. In addition there will be opportunities to explore, with guest presenters, resources for stewardship programs and justice ministries.

Format: The class will meet Tuesdays from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. There will be introductory lecture material on most subjects, but most of the class will be spent on discussion based on assigned readings, knowledge that students have gained from other classes, especially liturgy and worship, knowledge gained from our own experience of participating/leading worship and of encountering the polity of our church at different levels. Please note that all students are required to attend a Barriers Workshop on the PCC policy on sexual abuse and harassment. If you have not already taken one, such a workshop will be arranged for you through presbytery.

Content: Class time and assignments will focus (1) on worship resources, including *The Book of Common Worship*, with an emphasis on the various parts of a worship service (order of service, prayers, reading of scripture, preaching, music, sacraments, and funerals, and on a discussion of the “worship wars” and how to implement positive change in worship patterns; (2) on practical examples of how ministers encounter and practice the polity of the PCC, with emphasis on the history and content of *The Book of Forms*; and (3) on an introduction to the confessions of faith that are subordinate standards of the PCC, with focus on the PCC’s *Confessing the Faith Today: the Nature and Function of Subordinate Standards*. (This document will be provided by the instructor.)

Expectations: Regular attendance and class participation, completion of reading assignments, quizzes, class presentations and an essay are required. Integration with learning from other courses and life experience is expected. Familiarity with the *Book of Common Worship*, *Book of Praise* and *Book of Forms* is assumed.

Evaluation will be based on class attendance (minimum of 80%) and participation, and on satisfactory preparation and completion of assignments. These will include one or more class presentations, three take-home quizzes on the *Book of Forms* and the writing of one properly researched paper.

Prerequisite: DS110