

REFORMED THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY  
PT6100 – Educational Ministry in the Church  
Winter, 2026

**Instructor: John C. Kwasny, Ph.D. (601-519-8423) jkwasny@pearorchard.org**

**Course Description:**

A study of the pastor's role as teacher and administrator in the educational ministries of the local church. Attention is given to the Biblical foundations of Christian education, as well as its basic goals, content, methods and contexts. Practical help for organization, curriculum planning, teaching and training will also be considered, as well as the various educational needs and characteristics of the church population.

**Required Reading (to be completed by Final Exam):**

Anthony, M.J., editor (2001). *Introducing Christian Education: Foundations for the Twenty-first Century*.

**\*\* Chapters 1-7, 11-18, 21-24, 27, 30**

Dunahoo, C.H. (2005). *Making Kingdom Disciples*.

**\*\* Chapters 1-3, 7-9**

Parrett, G.A. & Kang, S.S. (2009). *Teaching the Faith, Forming the Faithful*

**\*\* Chapters 1-7, 10-14**

**Recommended Reading:**

Harper, N. E. (1981). *Making Disciples*.

Hunt, S. (1998). *Heirs of the Covenant*.

**Assignments:**

**Reading**

Reading is required and the student will be graded through an honor system method. You will be asked to submit a statement of percentage of reading with your FINAL EXAM. *Only the selected chapters are required (see above).*

**Philosophy of Ministry Paper**

Write a paper presenting your philosophy of ministry in one of the following areas:

1. Christian Education in the Local Church
2. Christian Education with Adults
3. Children's Ministry
4. Youth Ministry
5. Men's Ministry
6. Women's Ministry
7. Single Adult's Ministry
8. College Ministry
9. Recreational/Camping/Retreat Ministries

*Requirements:* 7-8 pages, double-spaced 12 point typeset with standard margins. Cite at least five sources, listed at the end of the paper. **ELECTRONIC COPIES ONLY.**

*Due: February 13*

## **Christian Education Project**

Choose one of the following projects:

1. Create a policy for the church nursery.
2. Do a study of church liability: Describe the need of church liability and write a basic church policy covering liability in all areas of church ministry.
3. Debate the question of a church's involvement with a Christian school. Discuss the issues involved and potential benefits/problems.
4. Home School, Christian School, Private School, Public School debate: Explain the issues and how you (as pastor) would create an environment of acceptance for all positions in your church.
5. Create a one-year curriculum for a single's ministry.
6. Create a one-year program and curriculum for youth ministry.
7. Study the developmental stages of the individual and explain how these stages impact and affect learning—from children through senior adults.
8. OTHER: With permission of the professor, choose a project in an area of interest in Educational Ministries in the Church.

*Requirement: At least 6 pages, maximum 10. ELECTRONIC COPIES ONLY.*

*Due: February 20*

## **Final Exam**

The final exam will be a comprehensive, written exam which will cover content from all the lectures and general themes from required reading.

## **Grading:**

- 10% - Class Attendance/Participation
- 10% - Percentage of reading completed
- 25% - Philosophy of Ministry Paper
- 25% - Christian Education Project
- 30% - Final Exam

## **Class Schedule:**

Class will meet Monday-Friday from 9:00 a.m. - 2:55 p.m. for one week.

### **Day 1 (01/12)**

Introduction and Basic Principles; Pastor's Role  
Theology of Christian Education (Old Testament)  
Theology of Christian Education (New Testament) part one

### **Day 2 (01/13)**

Theology of Christian Education (New Testament) part two  
Models of Christian Education  
Goals of Christian Education

**Day 3 (01/14)**

Content of Christian Education

Teaching Methods

Contexts of Christian Education

**Day 4 (01/15)**

Organizing a Christian Education Ministry

Children's Ministry and Christian Education

Youth Ministry and Christian Education

**Day 5 (01/16)**

Adult Ministry and Christian Education

Special Issues in Christian Education

Women's Ministry and Christian Education

Men's Ministry and Christian Education

**FINAL EXAM**

***TBA***

**Course Objectives Related to MDiv Student Learning Outcomes  
With Mini-Justification**

Course: Education Ministry in the Church

Professor: John C. Kwasny

Campus: Jackson

Date: 10/13/2021

<b><u>MDiv Student Learning Outcomes</u></b>		<b><u>Rubric</u></b> ➤ Strong ➤ Moderate ➤ Minimal ➤ None	<b><u>Mini-Justification</u></b>
<b>Articulation (oral &amp; written)</b>	Broadly understands and articulates knowledge, both oral and written, of essential biblical, theological, historical, and cultural/global information, including details, concepts, and frameworks.	Strong	The pastor is the lead teacher of the church. He is to be able to articulate a Biblical philosophy of Christian Education.
<b>Scripture</b>	Significant knowledge of the original meaning of Scripture. Also, the concepts for and skill to research further into the original meaning of Scripture and to apply Scripture to a variety of modern circumstances. (Includes appropriate use of original languages and hermeneutics; and integrates theological, historical, and cultural/global perspectives.)	Strong	Scripture is the foundation to all Christian Education in the church. We must glean our educational goals, content, context, and process from Scripture.
<b>Reformed Theology</b>	Significant knowledge of Reformed theology and practice, with emphasis on the Westminster Standards.	Moderate	A reformed view of Christian Education is discussed.
<b>Sanctification</b>	Demonstrates a love for the Triune God that aids the student's sanctification.	Moderate	Christian Education is connected to the sanctification of the believer.
<b>Desire for Worldview</b>	Burning desire to conform all of life to the Word of God.	Strong	Christian Education in the church seeks to conform to the Word of God.
<b>Winsomely Reformed/ Evangelistic</b>	Embraces a winsomely Reformed ethos. (Includes an appropriate ecumenical spirit with other Christians, especially Evangelicals; a concern to present the Gospel in a God-honoring manner to non-Christians; and a truth-in-love attitude in disagreements.)	Strong	Christian Education in the church is for building and equipping believers as well as reaching the lost.
<b>Preach</b>	Ability to preach and teach the meaning of Scripture to both heart and mind with clarity and enthusiasm.	Strong	Students learn methods for teaching Scripture.
<b>Worship</b>	Knowledgeable of historic and modern Christian-worship forms; and ability to construct and skill to lead a worship service.	None	
<b>Shepherd</b>	Ability to shepherd the local congregation: aiding in spiritual maturity; promoting use of gifts and callings; and encouraging a concern for non-Christians, both in America and worldwide.	Strong	Christian Education is one aspect of properly shepherding a congregation.

<b>Church/World</b>	Ability to interact within a denominational context, within the broader worldwide church, and with significant public issues.	Moderate	Students discuss broad issues in Christian Education.
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