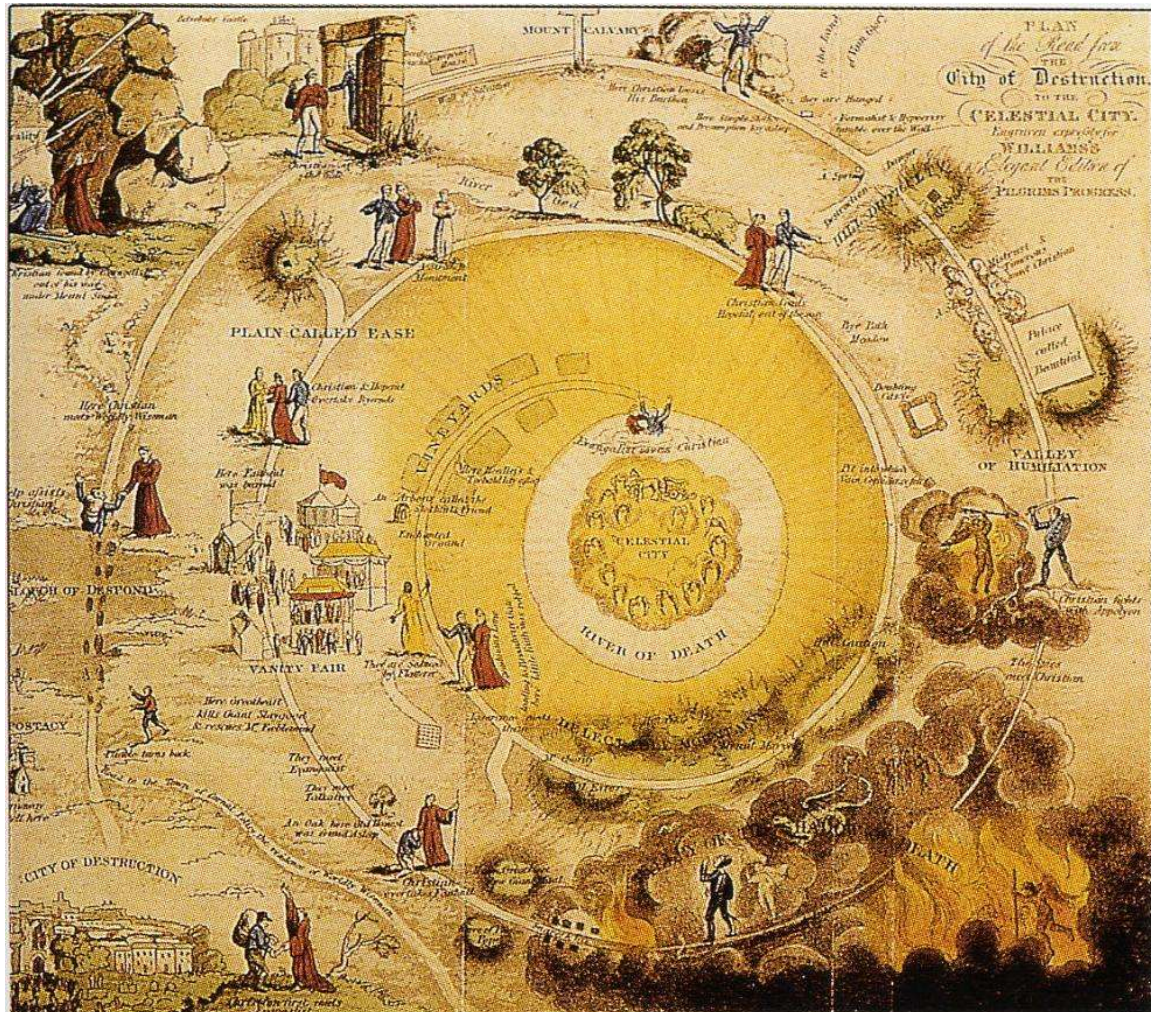


Pastoral Ministry

02PT5250



Reformed Theological Seminary-Orlando

Fall 2026

A detailed schedule of readings and topics will be provided closer to the start of the course.

<u>Wk.</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Topics (subject to change)</u>	<u>Readings¹ & Other Assignments</u>
13	Dec 2	Facing contemporary issues in ministry	<i>Assessment of calling paper due</i> <i>Matthew Henry Log due</i>

Pastoral Ministry (02PT5250)

Course Syllabus – Fall 2026

Instructor: Professor Michael Glodo

Office hours: Tuesdays 9:00am-noon and others time by appointment.

I am on campus much more than these hours and am glad to meet at other times by pre-arrangement or drop-in. It's always best to reach out ahead of time.

During my published office hours, I will be in or near my office or else available in one of the public campus spaces. If the latter, there will be note on my door indicating where I am.

Contact information: mglodo@rts.edu, (407)278-4476 direct

Communication: I prefer communicating in person (and so should you!), but email and Canvas are fine, too. If we are Facebook “friends,” please don’t use the messaging function in place of email. I won’t respond to email between Saturday evenings and Monday mornings.

Class meeting: Wednesdays, 9:00-11:00am

Course Description.

Pastoral Ministry (02PT5250) will lay the foundations of a biblical theology of the pastor in relation to the church and the world. Students will begin to formulate a philosophy of ministry, assess readiness, and attain progress in their calling. A variety of pastoral skills and competencies will be included. 2 hours.

Getting Acquainted.

Each student is required to join me once for breakfast at 7:30 a.m. in my office on a Wednesday with one or two other students. Sign up using the Google doc [linked](#) to the Canvas Home page. Chick-Fil-A is the menu and I will bring the food to campus. Please indicate your Chick-Fil-A choice on the signup.

Course objectives.

Knowing:

- A sense of the scope of God’s purposes for his people, the church, particularly as it pertains to the role of the minister.
- Overview of biblical qualifications and functions of the ministry.
- Historical survey of the office of minister of word and sacrament.
- Recognition and development of a ministry framework out of which to develop and implement a philosophy of ministry.

Being:

- Conviction regarding the church’s identity and purpose.
- Conviction regarding the role of minister of word and sacrament.

- Commitment to character and gift development of a minister of word and sacrament.
- Clarity and commitment about sense of calling in relation to readiness for ministry.
- Commitment to carry out the challenges of applying biblical norms for ministry to contemporary pastoral contexts.

Doing:

- Cultivation of spiritual habits necessary for entry into and flourishing in ministry.
- Formulation of learnings for implementation in actual ministry situation(s).

Course Requirements.Requirements

Class preparation & participation	20%
Review assignments	45
Assessment of calling	10
Primary spiritual formation assignment	15
Secondary spiritual formation assignment	5
Total	<u>100%</u>

Assignment Deadlines.

All assignments are due at the start of class unless otherwise indicated in the schedule above. Late submissions of assignments will incur a grade penalty.

Required Reading.

The following works are to be read in their entirety unless otherwise indicated following the schedule provided. Students should be prepared to discuss the assigned readings by the dates due. An asterisk (*) indicates the item is available on Canvas.

Bonhoeffer, Dietrich. *Psalms: The Prayerbook of the Bible*. Minneapolis: Broadleaf Books, 2022. 98pp. ISBN 978-1506480190.²

Bucer, Martin. *Concerning the True Care of Souls*. Carlisle, PA: Banner of Truth, 2009. 218pp. ISBN 978-0851519845.

*Calvin, John. "Of the Teachers and Ministers of the Church. Their Election and Office," *Institutes of the Christian Religion*, Book IV, Chapter 3. Available on Canvas.

Clowney, Edmund P. *Called to the Ministry*. Phillipsburg, NJ: Presbyterian & Reformed, 1975. 88pp. ISBN 978-0875521442.

*Glodo, Michael J. "Sola Ecclesia: The Lost Reformation Doctrine." *New Horizons* May 2001: 4-7. (Available on Canvas)

*----- "Love the Bride." Viewable by clicking [here](#) or on Canvas.

*----- "Pastoral Formation as Wisdom." *Reformed Faith & Practice* 10.1 (Spring 2026).

*----- "The Body of Christ." Viewable by clicking [here](#) or on Canvas.

²Also available as part of Bonhoeffer's collected works in *Life Together and Prayerbook of the Bible*, Dietrich Bonhoeffer Works, Vol. 5 (Minneapolis: Augsburg-Fortress Press, 1995). ISBN 978-0800683054.

Helopoulos, Jason. *A Neglected Grace: Family Worship in the Christian Home*. Fearn, Ross-shire, UK: Christian Focus, 2013. 128pp. ISBN 978-1781912034.

Sande, Ken. *The Peacemaker*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2004. Pp. 244pp. ISBN 978-0801064852.

Schaeffer, Francis A. *The Lord's Work in the Lord's Way & No Little People, No Little Places*. Crossway Short Classics. Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2023. Also available in *The Complete Works of Francis A. Schaeffer, A Christian Worldview, Volume Three, A Christian View of Spirituality*. Wheaton, IL: Crossway Books, 1982. Pp. 5-14.

*Westminster Directory for Family Worship.

Recommended resources.

Calhoun, David, ed. *Prayers on the Psalms: From the Scottish Psalter of 1595*. Edinburgh, U.K.; Carlisle, PA: Banner of Truth, 2010.

Croft, Brian & Cara. *The Pastor's Family: Shepherding Your Family through the Challenges of Pastoral Ministry*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2013.

Luther, Martin. *A Simple Way to Pray*. Matthew C. Harrison, trans. St. Louis: Concordia Publishing House, 2012. 32pp. ISBN 978-0758640338.

Writing.

Because communication is fundamental to learning as well as ministry, and because good writing is a reliable indicator that assignments have been completed in time to have been reviewed and improved before submission, the evaluation of all written assignments will include assessment of clarity, grammar, and spelling.

Student to Professor Introduction.

By the date indicated in the syllabus please complete the "Student to Professor Introduction" on Canvas.

Class Participation & Contribution.

Assessment will be based on presence, attentiveness, and participation in class, including familiarity with assigned reading. Participation includes contribution to discussion on your own initiative as well your responses to questions I will ask about the assigned reading and previous lectures. Full credit will not be given by default, but must be earned through constructive participation in class. Assessment will be made at mid-semester and at semester's end.

Homework Assignments.

Each week students will receive a set of questions to reflect upon lectures, class discussions, and reading material or prepare for an upcoming class session. All assignments must comply with the "Use of Resources" policy below.

Assessment of Calling.

In a 2,000-3,000 word single-spaced paper, answer the following questions in a way that reflects comprehension of and applies the relevant course content. Specific reference should be made to relevant lectures and readings.

- What is the church's mission?
- What is my current sense of call and how does it relate the church's mission?
- What internal and external testimony have borne witness to my sense of call?
- How does my self-knowledge indicate both readiness and my need for growth both in personal sanctification and ministry abilities?
- If married, your spouse will read and reflect with you upon what you have written and write a brief response to it.
- Unmarried students are to obtain similar reflections from a ministry mentor or close friend.

Spiritual formation project.

There are two separate tracks for the spiritual formation assignment, depending on whether you are married or single. (If you are single, you may choose the married track by doing it with a small group.) For both tracks there are two separate assignments, one primary and the other secondary.

If you are...	<u>Married</u>	<u>Single</u>
<i>Your primary spiritual formation assignment is</i>	• Family worship twice per week for ten weeks.	• Praying the Psalms, twice per week for ten weeks
<i>Your secondary spiritual formation assignment is</i>	• Praying the Psalms, six prayers	• Three family worship plans

Family worship.

This assignment will build your experience and conviction about family worship. Based on the instructions given in the first week's lectures and from the reading in Helopoulos and the Westminster Directory for Family Worship, you will conduct family worship at least twice per week for ten weeks. Keep a detailed record of the following information for each week:

- The specific day and time.
- A description of what you did each time in sufficient detail to indicate whether you included all required elements.

Since the purpose of this assignment is to reinforce a habit, you will not be permitted to count more than two sessions per week. This assignment will be evaluated on meeting frequency requirements and required elements of family worship (scripture, prayer, song). Full credit will not be given without at least one song each time.

Single students need only to submit a proposed order of family worship for their required three.

Praying the Psalms

(Single students are free to do the family worship assignment with a small group. If you choose to do so, please let me know. Otherwise, you will do your primary spiritual formation assignment based on Psalms.)

After reading Bonhoeffer's *Psalms: Prayerbook of the Bible* and Luther's *A Simple Way to Pray*, meditate on a psalm of your choosing and then compose a prayer that prays that psalm. Prayers must be handwritten. (Single students twice per week for ten weeks, married students six prayers total spread over at least three weeks).

Some students may wish to consider using a tool such as the [*ESV Scripture Journal: Psalms*](#). Since the purpose of this assignment is to reinforce a habit, you will not be permitted to count more than two times per week.

Computers, tablets, mobile phones, and Bibles

Smart phones should be silenced and placed out of sight during class unless you need to be available for urgent personal (e.g., you or your spouse is ≥8 months pregnant) or professional (e.g., you are a member of Seal Team 6) reasons. Please notify me ahead of time if this applies to you. All students are required to bring a printed Bible to class each week. Laptops and tablets are not permitted while class is in session. Some printed materials will be provided, but students should bring materials for taking notes.

Class recordings.

Students with a diagnosed learning disability or for whom English is a second language may be given access to lecture audio recordings for the entire semester. Other students who are providentially hindered from attending class may request the recordings on an as-needed basis when providing the reasons for their absence.

Class protocols.

Class will start promptly on the hour and break 5-10 minutes halfway through. Please arrive on time, return from break promptly, and stay seated throughout the class unless for urgent reasons you must leave quietly. You are free to stand in the back during class. If you neglect or forget these protocols, I will gently remind you of them.

Use of Resources

Students are expected to do their own original research and writing unless stipulated otherwise. Assignments must be the student's original composition except when attributed through citation (e.g. footnotes). Students may not use artificial intelligence bots, language generation models, or similar tools (e.g. Chat-GPT) for research, compilation of materials, editing, or completion of assignments.

The reason for this policy is that the ministry of the Word is a calling in which the Lord's servant takes into himself the counsels of God and, through character and wisdom, speaks out of the abundance of his heart. "I have stored up your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you" (Ps. 119.11). Integrity is the integration of the whole person, including one's speech, not the projection of a public persona that is inconsistent with the person's inner life or actual abilities. Artificial intelligence is a powerful capability and very beneficial for many things, but not for the minister's study, preparation, and exposition.

If you have any questions or reservations about specific aspects of this policy, please contact me. Students will be asked at the end of the course to confirm their compliance with this policy. If you are unclear about the application of this policy, please see me.

Course Objectives Related to MDiv* Student Learning Outcomes

Course: 02PT5250
 Professor: Michael Glodo
 Campus: Orlando
 Date: Fall 2026

MDiv* Student Learning Outcomes <i>In order to measure the success of the MDiv curriculum, RTS has defined the following as the intended outcomes of the student learning process. Each course contributes to these overall outcomes. This rubric shows the contribution of this course to the MDiv outcomes.</i> <i>*As the MDiv is the core degree at RTS, the MDiv rubric will be used in this syllabus.</i>		Rubric ➤ Strong ➤ Moderate ➤ Minimal ➤ None	Mini-Justification
Articulation (oral & written)	Broadly understands and articulates knowledge, both oral and written, of essential biblical, theological, historical, and cultural/global information, including details, concepts, and frameworks.	Strong	Weekly homework, final paper
Scripture	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	Weekly homework, praying scripture assignments
Reformed Theology	Significant knowledge of Reformed theology and practice, with emphasis on the Westminster Standards.	Strong	Weekly homework, final paper
Sanctification	Demonstrates a love for the Triune God that aids the student's sanctification.	Strong	Spiritual formation assignments
Desire for Worldview	Burning desire to conform all of life to the Word of God.	Strong	Weekly homework on church's mission
Winsomely Reformed	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	Peacemaking assignments
Preach	Ability to preach and teach the meaning of Scripture to both heart and mind with clarity and enthusiasm.	Moderate	Selected weekly homeworks
Worship	Knowledgeable of historic and modern Christian-worship forms; and ability to construct and skill to lead a worship service.	Moderate	Selected weekly homeworks
Shepherd	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	Weekly homework, spiritual

			formation assignments
Church/World	Ability to interact within a denominational context, within the broader worldwide church, and with significant public issues.	Strong	Weekly homework