

THE BOSTON SEMINAR AND THE DIRECTED STUDY ON CONGREGATIONAL HISTORY AND POLITY HANDBOOK

CONGREGATIONAL FOUNDATION FOR THEOLOGICAL STUDIES
A MINISTRY OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF CONGREGATIONAL CHRISTIAN CHURCHES
REV. DR. CHARLES PACKER, DIRECTOR

YOUR DIRECTED STUDY

There are two main components of your directed study: (1) the directed study in which you complete readings from a provided book list, complete Levels I and II of the Online Congregational History and Polity Course, and submit required papers; (2) attendance at the Boston Seminar for Congregational History and Polity. The goal of each is to provide you with a strong background in the tradition in which you will practice your ministries. *Note: many seminaries have a denominational requirement. The Boston Seminar and Directed Study on Congregational History and Polity may serve to fulfill that requirement and be eligible for credit with the seminary as an independent study. The information in this handbook will help your seminary advisor or academic Director decide if the seminary will grant you credit. You may be able to arrange an academic course load that includes this course as an independent study. If so, consider requesting that the CFTS Director or your assigned CFTS faculty advisor to serve as an instructor for the course.*

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

The broad learning objectives of the Directed Study are to help students:

1. gain a working knowledge of the history of Congregationalism.
2. understand the Separatist and Puritan theology and influences on Congregationalism.
3. translate the knowledge of Congregational history and polity into praxis.
4. demonstrate scholarship when engaging Congregational tradition.

BEGINNING YOUR STUDY

In November of each year, those eligible to being the program will be contacted by the Director with electronic enrollment information for the online Congregational History and Polity Course. You will also be assigned a faculty person whom you may contact with content questions as you engage your readings and work through the online courses. This person also will be responsible for giving you feedback on your submitted papers. You will also receive by mail two books, *A Past with a Future* and *Yet More Light and Truth*. All other books and articles are available online or may be ordered (CFTS will reimburse you for their cost upon submission of your receipt.)

In conjunction with working through the online course, you are required to read or view the following:

Video (required)

- Watch Congregationalism 101 online: <http://www.naccc.org/Resources/Publications.aspx>

Books (required) Note: the two Peay books will be sent directly to you. You should have gotten the von Rohr book at the time of acceptance to CFTS. You may order the Bremer and Ryken books from any source you like and then submit the bill to the Director for reimbursement.

- Bremer, Francis J. Puritanism: A Very Short Introduction. Oxford Press, 2009
- Peay, Steven A. editor. A Past With a Future: Continuing Congregationalism Into the Next Millennium. Oak Creek: Congregational Press, 1998. (145 pages)
- Peay, Steven A. editor. Yet More Light and Truth: Congregationalism, Covenant and Community. Oak Creek: Congregational Press, 2003. (171 pages)
- Ryken, Leland. Worldly Saints: The Puritans as They Really Were. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Publishing, 1986. (221 pages)
- Von Rohr, John. The Shaping of American Congregationalism: 1620-1957. Cleveland, OH: The Pilgrim Press, 1992. (451 pages)

Articles (required) Note: The articles will be posted for you on line or emailed directly to you in .pdf format.

- Steven Peay, “Fellowship: The Neglected Focus of the Congregational Ellipse”
- Rick Hartley “Freedom: The Ill-Defined Expression of Congregationalism”
- Lloyd Hall, “Ordained”
- Lloyd Hall, “From Call to Settlement”
- Casey vanderBent, “Breaking Covenant”
- Steven Peay “We Covenant with the Lord and with One another”
- Rick Hartley, “Rediscovering Intentional Use of the Church Covenant”
- Barbara Brown Zikmund, “Women’s Ministries Within Congregational Christian History.”
- Jonathan Edwards, “Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God.” (1741)
- William Ellery Channing, “The Moral Argument Against Calvinism.” (1820)
- Lyman Abbott, “The New Puritanism.” (1897)
- Bolton-Hunt, Lisa, “Social Gospel Praxis: Women and Reform from the Antebellum period to Mid 1900’s.” 2009

- Rhinesmith, Debbie, “The League to Uphold Congregational Principles” (2009)
- Johnson Staples, Julie, “Pilgrim ‘Others’: Reclaiming the Agency and Identity of Women, Negroes and Indians in Puritan Massachusetts (2012)
- Robu, Karen, “Women of the NACCC” (2013)
- The Art and Practice of the Congregational Way (2014, online)
- The NACCC Member Church Handbook (2014, online)
- Misconduct in Ministry: A Handbook for Congregational Churches

DOCUMENTS (review)

- Peay, Steven A., and Lloyd M. Hall, Jr. editors. Congregationalism: The Church Local and Universal – the 1954 Polity and Unity Report. Oak Creek, WI: Congregational Press, 2001. (99 pages) This will be mailed to you from the NACCC office.
- Williston Walker. The Creeds and Platforms of Congregationalism. Cleveland: United Church Press, 1991 (615 pages). You may download this digitally from google books at http://books.google.com/books?id=Vv4QAAAAIAAJ&printsec=frontcover&dq=Creeds+and+Platforms+of+Congregationalism&hl=en&ei=SWoPTavFH4ylnweX2LDVDO&sa=X&oi=book_result&ct=result&resnum=1&ved=0CCMQ6AEwAA#v=onepage&q&f=false

Deadline: The online course, (Levels I and II), as well as all required readings must be complete no later than June 30th of the year you begin your Directed Study. This serves as the prerequisite to attendance at the Boston Seminar. Extensions may be granted at the discretion of the Director. Note: Use the readings in your directed study to help you identify a research area of interest. By the close of the Boston Seminar (see below) an outline of your research topic should be ready for approval of the Director.

AUXILIARY BIBLIOGRAPHY The following books are ones with which every Congregational pastor should be acquainted:

- Bradshaw, Marion. Free Churches and Christian Unity. Boston, MA: The Beacon Press. 1954. (Out of Print)
- Burton, Malcolm K. Disorders in the Kingdom. New York: Vantage Press. 1980.
- Butman, Harry R. The Lord's Free People. Milwaukee, WI: The Congregational Press (NACCC). 1968.
- Gray, Henry David. The Mediators. Ventura, CA: The American Congregational Center. 1984.
- Kohl, Waldemar Manfred. Congregationalism in America. Milwaukee, WI: The Congregational Press (NACCC) 1977.
- Rouner, Jr., Arthur A. The Congregational Way of Life. New York: Prentice-Hall. 1960.

CONGREGATIONAL HISTORY AND POLITY INTENSIVE IN BOSTON

Students gather once in their CFTS experience in Boston, Massachusetts, for an intensive seminar on Congregational History and Polity. All expenses for attendance by CFTS students at the Boston Seminar will be borne by CFTS. In addition to the time spent completing the online Congregational History and Polity Course, you will have fourteen hours of on-site instruction, plus 16 hours of directed research while in Boston and Plymouth. The course is completed when a student has submitted a graduate-level research paper on a topic related to Congregationalism.

Topics you will cover in the online course and in the Seminar.

- ✓ English roots:
 - Browne & Barrow
 - Puritanism
 - Continental connections
- ✓ Intro to Covenant Theology
- ✓ Separatist & Puritan Westminster Confession
 - Timeline
- ✓ Congregational Ecclesiology
- ✓ New World Accommodations
 - Half-Way Covenant
- ✓ Great Awakening
- ✓ Unitarian departure
- ✓ Second Awakening
- ✓ Missions & Social Action
 - Eliot
 - Haystack
 - Asia & the Pacific Missionary Society
- ✓ Congregational Spirituality
- ✓ Abolition
- ✓ Ordained Women
- ✓ Progressive Era
- ✓ 20th Century Conflict
- ✓ Sacraments in Congregational Tradition
- ✓ Ecumenism
 - Robinson
 - New England
 - Plan of Union
 - Burial Hill
 - 20th Century
- ✓ Mergers and not,
 - Unitarian departure
 - Failed attempts
 - 1931 Christians
 - CCCC
 - UCC
 - NACCC
- ✓ Worship in the Congregational Tradition
- ✓ Foundations of Fellowship
- ✓ Connectionalism
 - Cambridge Platform
 - Albany
 - Boston Platform
 - Oberlin
- ✓ Shape of the National and General Councils
- ✓ Connectional life among NACCC Churches
- ✓ Praxis and Ethics in Congregationalism

Highly Recommended Reading:

Philbrick, Nathaniel. *Mayflower: A Story of Courage, Community, and War*. New York: Penguin Group, 2006. (358 highly readable pages.)

In the month of July, after you turn in your papers but before you arrive in Boston, it is *highly recommended* that you read the Philbrick book. This will enrich your time in Boston immeasurably.

YOUR RESEARCH PAPER

The Director and your assigned faculty person will be available during the course of your study to help you identify a research topic of interest in Congregationalism. The Director will be available to provide guidance about possible research topics during the seminar. **The subject of your research paper, with an outline, must be approved by the Director before the end of the time in Boston.** BEFORE traveling to Boston, please acquaint yourself with the resources of the Congregational Library and Archives (<http://www.congregationallibrary.org/>) You may browse their on-line catalogue to discover resources related to your interest. The Congregational Library and Archives is located at 14 Beacon Street in the heart of downtown Boston.

FORMAT FOR YOUR PAPERS

Your graduate-level research paper on some aspect of Congregationalism must be submitted electronically to the Director of the Center for Congregational Leadership on or before January 31st that immediately follows your attendance at the seminar. Papers must be term-paper length (25 to 40 pages long, exclusive of footnotes and bibliography). Complete footnotes and bibliography must be included and the subject is to be treated in a scholarly manner.

Paper margins must be one inch all the way around and the font must be 12 point, Arial or New Times Roman. Each paper must include a cover page that contains a Title, your name, the date, to whom it is submitted and that it is submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirements of CFTS. For research citations, follow the Chicago Manual of Style.

Deadline: *Your research paper must be electronically submitted to the Director no later than January 31st following your participation at the Boston History and Polity Seminar. The Director, in consultation with the faculty, has the right to return for editing and rewriting any papers not of sufficient academic quality. Guiding comments will be provided to the student. Based on the comments, the student will edit and submit a final copy of the paper to the Director by June 15th. Extensions may be granted at the discretion of the Director. Similar to an academic thesis, all CFTS research papers written to fulfill requirements of the Directed Study may be placed in an NACCC digital library and made available for public reading.*

Students failing to meet requirements and deadlines, including the quality of the paper, are subject to having their financial assistance suspended and may be terminated from the CFTS program. Students may appeal dismissals to the board of directors of the Congregational Foundation for Theological Studies.

Grading Scale. Paper feedback will be given to each student by the Director, using the scale High Pass, Pass, Low Pass or Rewrite. Any grade may be appealed directly to the CFTS Board. If your seminary requires a letter grade from the Director, arrangements can be made to obtain one.

Selected Bibliography
Covenant, Church, Spirituality, and History of the Congregational Tradition
Prepared for the CFTS 'Boston Seminar'

History

- Buckham, John Wright. Progressive Religious Thought in America: A Survey of the Enlarging Pilgrim Faith. Houghton Mifflin. 1919. Reprint edition with a new introduction: Regina Press. 1975.
- Davies, Horton. The Worship of the American Puritans. Soli Deo Gloria Publications. 1999
- Daniels, Bruce C. *Puritans at Play: Leisure and Recreation in Colonial New England*. New York: St. Martin's Griffin, 1995.
- Demos, John. Entertaining Satan: Witchcraft and Culture of Early New England. New York: Oxford University Press, 1982.
- Gaustad, Edwin S. The Great Awakening in New England. Harper. 1957.
- Hall, David D. Worlds of Wonder, Days of Judgment. New York: Alfred A. Knopf. 1989.
- Hill, Frances. A Delusion of Satan: The Full Story of the Salem Witch Trials. Da Capo Press. 1995
- LaPlante, Eve. American Jezebel: The Uncommon Life of Anne Hutchinson, The Woman Who Defied the Puritans. HarperSanFrancisco. 2004
- Lepore, Jill. The Name of War: King Philip's War and the Origins of American Identity. New York: Vintage. 1998.
- McKenna, George. The Puritan Origins of American Patriotism. Yale Press. 2007.
- McLoughlin, William G. The Meaning of Henry Ward Beecher. Knopf. 1970.
- Miller, Perry. Errand into the Wilderness. Cambridge, Massachusetts: Harvard University Press. 1956.
- Morgan, Edmund S. The Puritan Dilemma: The Story of John Winthrop. New York: Longman. 1999
- Morgan, Edmund S. Visible Saints: The History of a Puritan Idea. Cornell University. 1963
- Schneider, Herbert W. The Puritan Mind. University of Michigan Press. 1958
- Stout, Harry S. The New England Soul: Preaching and Religious Culture in Colonial New England. New York: Oxford University Press. 1986.
- Vowell, Sarah. Unfamiliar Fishes. New York: Riverhead Books. 2012.
- Wright, Conrad. The Beginnings of Unitarianism in America. Beacon Press. 1955

The Covenant and Covenant Theology

- Baker, J. Wayne. Heinrich Bullinger and the Covenant: The Other Reformed Tradition. Athens, Ohio: Ohio University Press. 1980.
- Borowitz, Eugene. Renewing the Covenant. Philadelphia: Jewish Publication Society. 1991.
- Brueggemann, Walter The Covenanted Self: Explorations in Law and Covenant. Minneapolis: Fortress Press. 1999.
- . Theology of the Old Testament: Testimony, Dispute, Advocacy. Minneapolis: Fortress Press. 1997.
- Buchanan, George Wesley. The Consequences of the Covenant. Leiden: E.J. Brill. 1970.
- Dorff, Elliott N. and Louis E. Newman, eds. Contemporary Jewish Theology: A Reader. New York: Oxford University Press. 1999.
- Elazar, Daniel J. Covenant and Commonwealth: From Christian Separation through the Protestant Reformation. Vol. 2 Covenant Tradition in Politics. New Brunswick and London: Transaction Publishers. 1996.
- . Covenant and Polity in Biblical Israel: Biblical Foundations and Jewish Expressions. Vol. 1 Covenant Tradition in Politics. New Brunswick and London: Transaction Publishers. 1995.
- Elazar, Daniel J. and John Kincaid, eds. The Covenant Connection: From Federal Theology to Modern Federalism. Lanham, Maryland: Lexington Books. 2000.
- Grant, Jamie A. and Alistair E. Wilson, eds. The God of Covenant: Biblical, Theological and Contemporary Perspectives. Leicester: APOLLOS/IVP. 2005.
- Hillers, Delbert R. Covenant: The History of A Biblical Idea. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press. 1969.
- Holifield, E. Brooks The Covenant Sealed: The Development of Puritan Sacramental Theology in Old and New England 1570-1720. New Haven: Yale University Press. 1974.
- Horton, Michael S. Covenant and Eschatology: The Divine Drama. Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press. 2002.
- . Covenant and Salvation: Union with Christ. Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press. 2007.
- . God of Promise: Introducing Covenant Theology. Grand Rapids: Baker Books. 2006.
- . Lord and Servant: A Covenant Christology. Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press. 2005.
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- McCoy, Charles S. and J. Wayne Baker. Fountainhead of Federalism: Heinrich Bullinger and the Covenantal Tradition. Louisville: John Knox Press. 1991.

Mendenhall, George. Law and Covenant in Ancient Israel and the Ancient Near East. Pittsburgh: The Biblical Colloquium. 1955.

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The Church

Abercrombie, A. Vaughan. The Congregational Christian Way of Inter-Church Fellowship. Oak Creek: NACCC. 1988.

Briggs, D. Roy. A Covenant Church: Studies in the Polity of the United Congregational Church of Southern Africa in Terms of Its Covenant. Lesotho: Pula Press. 1996.

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Hall, Lloyd M., Jr. and Karl D. Schimpf. Principles and Practices: The Congregational Way of the Churches of the National Association. Oak Creek: Congregational Press. 1995.

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Peay, Steven A. and Lloyd M. Hall, Jr. eds. Congregationalism The Church, Local and Universal: The 1954 Polity and Unity Report. Oak Creek: Congregational Press. 2001.

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Spirituality

Bremer, Francis J. Congregational Communion: Clerical Friendship in Anglo-American Puritan Community 1610 1692. Boston: Northeastern University Press. 1994.

Beeke, Joel R. Puritan Reformed Spirituality: A practical theological study from our Reformed and Puritan Heritage. Webster, NY: Evangelical Press. 2006.

Bozeman, Theodore Dwight. To Live Ancient Lives: The Primitivist Dimension in Puritanism. Chapel Hill, NC: UNCP for the Inst. of Early American History and Culture, Williamsburg, VA. 1988.

Hambrick-Stowe, Charles E. The Practice of Piety: Puritan Devotional Disciplines in Seventeenth-Century New England. Chapel Hill: UNC Press. 1982.

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Yuille, J. Stephen. The Inner Sanctum of Puritan Piety: John Flavel's Doctrine of Mystical Union with Christ. Grand Rapids: Reformation Heritage Books. 2007.

A helpful book for researching the Puritans:

Beeke, Joel R. and Randall Pederson Meet the Puritans. Grand Rapids: Reformation Heritage Books. 2006. [includes current reprints, etc.]

A helpful source for obtaining material on Covenant Theology and reprints of classics:

www.monergismbooks.com