

COVENANT ELDERSHIP IMPERATIVES

a Seminar by Heidelberg Theological Seminary

Remote Sessions:

**December 2nd and 9th, 2023
January 6th and 13th, 2024**

Face-to-Face Session:

January 18th, 2024

**Heritage Presbyterian Church
New Braunfels, TX**

**For more information
or to register:**




Covenant Eldership Imperatives

A seminar by: Heidelberg Theological Seminary, Sioux Falls, South Dakota

Every church seeks to raise the next generation who understand the importance of fidelity to the Word of God. A generation that is raised through the power and work of the Holy Spirit. Each generation must understand and faithfully obey the call of the Gospel to walk according to the law of the Lord. The Gospel calls all members to walk and live in self-conscious active obedience to Jesus Christ. Jesus calls men and women to recognize their need for the work of the Holy Spirit, even through the faithful services of church officers. Deacons and elders are called to help a congregation in their walk. The office of the elders consists of Ministers and Ruling Elders who work together to nurture the saints; those who have called them as servants of Jesus Christ, men who must lay aside many privileges of life so that they may not be a stumbling block to those whom they serve.

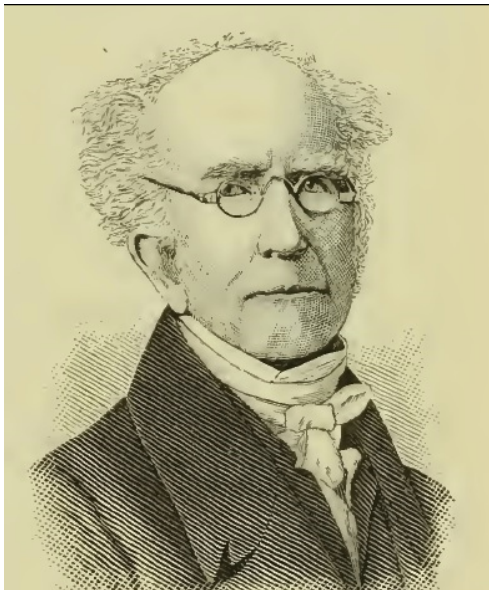
Register to attend this seminar series to explore, to discover, to absorb, and to apply the foundations of growth and governance of the visible church. This seminar will be presented as four (4) two (2) hour remote sessions, with a capstone face to face session.

This seminar series is open for all to attend. A request for voluntary contributions to cover costs will be made at each session. Any funds that are collected in excess of costs will go to support the work of Heidelberg Theological Seminary.

Registration	Resources / Reference Materials
 <p>Use the QR code to the left, or click: Registration Form</p> <p>Please register before November 30, 2023.</p>	<p>All who register to attend this seminar series will be sent:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Book (PDF): The Shepherds' Hands, Dr. Patrick Morgan, 2nd Edition• Book (PDF): The Ruling Elder, Rev. Samuel Miller• Case study notes (PDF)
<p>Participants are encouraged to purchase the book: The Elder, Dr. Cornelis van Dam</p>	

Remote Sessions			
December 2, 2023, 2:00 – 4:00 p.m.	December 9, 2023, 2:00-4:00 p.m.	January 6, 2024, 2:00-4:00 p.m.	January 13, 2024, 2:00-4:00 p.m.
Church and power	Faithful in office	Measuring the times	Leadership Accountability
Mr. Patrick Morgan	Mr. Patrick Morgan	Mr. John Terpstra Mr. Patrick Morgan	Mr. Patrick Morgan Mr. John Terpstra

Capstone Sessions			
Mentoring	Ministering	Maturing	Case Study Workshop
10:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.	12:30 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.	2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.	3:30 – 4:30 p.m.
Mr. Patrick Morgan	Mr. Nicholas Lammé	Mr. Carl Miller	Mr. Patrick Morgan Mr. Nicholas Lammé Mr. Carl Miller Mr. John Terpstra
When: January 18, 2024, 10:30 a.m. thru 5:00 p.m. Where: Heritage Presbyterian Church, New Braunfels, TX			



Samuel Miller (October 31, 1769 - January 7, 1850) taught at Princeton Theological Seminary. He vigorously served the Presbyterian Church and was intimately familiar with the controversies within her pale. Among his writings that we are blessed with today are these: *A Brief Retrospect of the Eighteenth Century* (1803, 1805), *Memoir of the Reverend John Rogers* (1813), *Letters on Unitarianism* (1821), ***An Essay on the Office of the Ruling Elder*** (1831), *The Primitive and Apostolical Order of the Church of Christ Vindicated* (1840), *Letters from a Father to a Son in College* (1843), and *Thoughts on Public Prayer* (1849).

His essay on the office of the Ruling Elder is a helpful resource to church officers today.

Seminar Overview - Remote Sessions

Session Topic	Contents covered	Desired outcome/s
Church and power	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Nature of the church ● Boundaries of rightful authority in and of the church ● Care for the watchmen ● The role and function of the standards of the church 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Understand the unique and essential nature of the church. ● Identify the source, nature, and exercise of church power and authority. ● Define relationships and imperatives for the calling, work and training of church officers.
Faithful in office	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Scriptural boundaries of the offices ● Nurture in the local church ● Member visitation practice and its fruits ● Recognizing interactional and transactional expectations ● Remedies against burnout ● Counsel among officers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Possessing a greater dependence upon prayer. ● Understand the function and responsibilities of the perpetual offices of the church. ● Understand the nature, scope, and competencies involved in the covenantal shepherding ministry of the church. ● Be able to express one's personal conformity to scriptural qualifications in the offices.
Measuring the times	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Awareness of the pressures of the world ● Numbering our days to gain a heart of wisdom ● Finite boundaries of our walk ● Time and duty ● Importance of the division of labor ● Anticipating distractions and interferences ● Keeping ahead of critical demands in office 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Understand the nature of covenantal stewardship in the shepherding ministry of the church. ● Be able to assess the various threats to the membership and ministry of the church. ● Employ and integrate prayer within the framework of covenantal shepherding.
Leadership accountability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Recognition and correction of disconnectedness in the church ● Resolution of friction points within the body ● Peacemaking, its means and rewards ● Avoiding spiritual abuse ● Reigning in wandering souls 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Articulate the responsibilities of the offices. ● Exercise submission to one another in the Lord. ● Function as a team within the biblical precepts confines of peacemaking to promote the peace, harmony and unity of the church ● Improving one another's conduct, competency and commitment and their combined impact on the congregation for the glory of Christ

Seminar Overview - Capstone Sessions

Session Topic	Contents covered	Desired outcome/s
Mentoring	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Preparing the hearts of the next generation ● Helping men to see and follow their calling and vocations ● Goals for tomorrow's officers ● A heart set in wisdom and its fruit ● The fear of the Lord as the pattern for setting expectations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Understand the duration, importance, essentiality, and imperatives of future leader development in the church. ● Develop means and methods to carry out the equipping of new leaders who follow the Great Shepherd of the Sheep.
Ministering	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Reaching and teaching into the heart ● Showing forth the comfort of the Holy Spirit ● Correcting anxieties in members ● Leading people to Christ through every step of daily life 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Articulate the biblical precepts establishing the core competency and the four derivative domains (Knowing, Leading, Feeding and Protecting) of covenantal shepherding. ● Assess, plan and carry out pre-ordination post ordination training and education for officers to competently serve in the local church, regional church and whole church. ● Assess, both individually and jointly, the church's shepherding strengths, weaknesses, needs, and aspirations.
Maturing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Building bridges of trust ● Foundations for daily prayer and dwelling in the Word ● Recruiting members to nurture each other 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Understand how to maintain greater peace amongst the brethren. ● Increased number of men who have potential to hold the office of elder or deacon. ● Increase in the public witness of the church in outreach to the community.
Case Study Workshop	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Several examples of church issues will be examined ● The group will break into small work teams to consider problem situations and how they can be turned around 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Greater awareness of past, current, and future conflicts and issues - before they become a point of fracture in the congregation.

Presenter	Biographical Information
<p data-bbox="277 222 553 254">Mr. Patrick J. Morgan</p> 	<p data-bbox="656 222 1511 302">Associate Professor (Old Testament, Church History and Pastoral Theology) and Director of International Programs, Heidelberg Theological Seminary, Sioux Falls, South Dakota.</p> <p data-bbox="656 306 1398 359">Current call: Teacher of the Word/Associate Pastor (Five Solas OPC in Reedsburg, WI).</p> <p data-bbox="656 390 1446 470">Doctor of Ministry, Heidelberg Theological Seminary, Sioux Falls, SD 2022. Master of Divinity, Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Kansas City, Missouri, 1998</p> <p data-bbox="656 474 1317 527">Bachelor of Science, University of Wisconsin-La Crosse, Earth Science/Computer Sci, 1985</p> <p data-bbox="656 558 1446 611">Pastor 1996-2021 Pastorates in Wisconsin, South Dakota, Minnesota, and Missouri in the OPC, PCA and SBC.</p> <p data-bbox="656 615 1268 636">Chaplain (Colonel) (Retired) US Army Reserve 1985-2018</p>
<p data-bbox="282 695 548 726">Mr. Nicholas Lammé</p> 	<p data-bbox="656 695 1511 814">Nicholas Lammé is a pastor (OPC, PSW) laboring out of bounds in Houston, TX. He has received an STM from Dallas Theological Seminary (2023), an M.Ed. from the Universidad Latinoamericana de Ciencias y Tecnología in San José, Costa Rica (2017), and a M.Div. from Mid-America Reformed Seminary (2007).</p> <p data-bbox="656 852 1511 940">He and his wife, Rosie, served as missionaries with the URCNA from 2008 – 2015. Rev. Lammé also served as an evangelist in Houston for the Presbytery of the Southwest from 2019 – 2021.</p> <p data-bbox="656 978 1479 1035">He is currently doing a practicum in NT textual criticism with the Center for the Study of New Testament Manuscripts (CSNTM) in Plano, TX (2023–24).</p>
<p data-bbox="305 1104 526 1136">Mr. Carl W. Miller</p> 	<p data-bbox="656 1104 1511 1192">Rev. Carl W. Miller is the founding pastor of Heritage Presbyterian Church (OPC) in New Braunfels, TX, since 2019. Rev. Miller graduated from Dallas Theological Seminary in 2001.</p> <p data-bbox="656 1230 1463 1318">He was a lecturer at Reformed Theological Seminary in Pastoral Counseling, and has 15 years of experience as a Licensed Professional Counselor. Carl served as a pastor and church planter in California and Texas.</p> <p data-bbox="656 1356 1511 1444">His passion is to preach Christ, and Him crucified. He is also committed to encouraging and building up the body of Christ, equipping the saints for the work of the ministry.</p>
<p data-bbox="282 1514 548 1545">Mr. John H. Terpstra</p> 	<p data-bbox="656 1514 1495 1654">Mr. John H. Terpstra serves as a ruling elder at South Austin Presbyterian Church (OPC) from its mission planting in 2014. He has served as a ruling elder at other OPC churches. He also serves as an augmenting elder at Heritage Presbyterian Church, New Braunfels - a mission church plant of South Austin Presbyterian Church (2018).</p> <p data-bbox="656 1682 1495 1843">He has served the Presbytery of the Southwest of the OPC as its Stated Clerk for several years, and on other presbytery standing committees. He also serves on the OPC General Assembly committee on Ecumenicity and Inter-church Relations. In 2022 he retired after many years of employment as an engineer in advanced disciplines in applied chemical engineering fields and in the information technology industry.</p>