

## Spring 2020 Theology Exam

### Section I: Reformed Confessional Heritage

You are a pastor leading a presbytery preaching seminar for ruling elders who are training for commissioned ministry. At the beginning of a session on the role of the Holy Spirit in the inspiration of Scripture, the following conversation occurs:

Liliana:	I assume that when we talk about the Holy Spirit inspiring Scripture, we're talking about the Spirit inspiring the writers of the biblical texts, right?
Alberto:	No, no, no. That's not right at all. The pastor prays a prayer for illumination every Sunday. Clearly the Holy Spirit is at work in the reading and preaching of Scripture.
Gabrielle:	Well, that's great for the pastor, but what about the congregation's inspiration?

**REQUIRED RESPONSES:** (*Total responses in this Section not to exceed 1,200 words.*)

1. Write an essay discussing a Reformed understanding of **the role of the Holy Spirit in the inspiration of Scripture**. In the essay, identify and discuss at least one (1) citation (e.g., 0.000) from each of three (3) different documents in *The Book of Confessions*.
2. Building on the essay in Required Response 1, respond theologically to each person's understanding of the Spirit's role in the inspiration of Scripture.

## Section II: Constructive Statement of Christian Doctrine

You are pastor of John Knox Presbyterian Church, teaching an adult Sunday School class on basic Christian doctrine. The topic of the next class is “Christ as Mediator.”

**REQUIRED RESPONSES:** *(Total responses in this Section not to exceed 1,200 words.)*

1. Write an essay discussing a Reformed understanding of **Christ as Mediator**. In the essay, use all three (3) of the following resources: the Scriptures, classical theology, contemporary theology.
2. Building on the essay in Required Response 1, create an annotated outline for a 45-minute adult Sunday School class on Christ as Mediator. (For this exam, an annotated outline is an outline with explanatory notes.)

### Section III: Application to Ministry

You are the chaplain of an active retirement community. Two residents have come to you to discuss getting married:

Liddy: When my husband died, I thought I would never find true love again, but I have with Hiram. I want to make a serious commitment to him, but I don't want to bother with a big church wedding at this point in my life. We could just go down to the courthouse and take care of it.

Hiram: Liddy, we're Christians, and I want God to be a part of this marriage. I think we need to have a Christian wedding.

Liddy: But Hiram, we don't even have a church home!

Hiram: Oh, I'm not saying we need a church home. All we need is you, me, and the chaplain.

**REQUIRED RESPONSES:** (*Total responses in this Section not to exceed 1,200 words.*)

1. Write an essay discussing a Reformed understanding of **marriage as covenant commitment**. In the essay, use at least two (2) of these sources: the Scriptures, classical theology, contemporary theology. For this exam, the Directory for Worship does not count as one of the required sources.
2. Building on the essay in Required Response 1, describe what you would say to Liddy and Hiram. Be sure to address at least three (3) theological issues regarding marriage as covenant commitment that you see in their conversation.