

CHRIST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

*School of*  
discipleship

*Catalogue* 2016-17

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## MESSAGE FROM PASTOR

We believe that Christian discipleship is a holistic endeavor, as our faith impacts every aspect of our lives. At the very center of any "school of discipleship" is Christ in the gospel, the power that gives the life of God to all who believe in him. The gospel is the free gift of God's grace possessed by faith in Christ alone. It is the discovery of being set free from the fear of divine and human condemnation, while transforming our relationships, our work, and our worship. The gospel is nothing less than the "power of God unto salvation!"

Sincerely,

Sr. Pastor Rev. Dr. Preston Graham Jr.

## DISCIPLESHIP DIPLOMA PROGRAMS

In the Great Commission (Matthew 28:18-20), Jesus calls the church to more than evangelism; He commissions her to make disciples. CPC's School of Discipleship provides a full curriculum of classes and seminars for every disciple of Christ.

The diploma program is intended to encourage our call to ongoing discipleship and to keep track of our training. We offer three types of diplomas: **the School of Discipleship Diploma, the Teacher/Leader Diploma, and the Shepherd Leader Diploma.**

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## **School of Discipleship Diploma**

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This diploma program is designed for every Christian. It offers a balanced spiritual diet of courses over a four or five year period. The goal of this degree is not to complete your discipleship, but rather to guide your discipleship over the course of several years.

*Requirements:*

Level I:	Two Classes
Level II:	History I
Level III:	History II or History III Total Christ Spirituality Confessional Theology Missionary Encounters or other Apologetics course
Level IV:	Bible Interpretation
Electives:	Two Classes

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## **Teacher/Leader Diploma**

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We believe the call to lead and teach is a high calling and one that requires significant training. The teacher/leader diploma is required for any team leader, SLB member, community group leader, and Sunday school teacher. The requirements also include an examination of views by the session. *Requirements:*

Level III:	Confessional Theology Introduction to Spiritual Leadership
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## **Shepherd Leader Diploma**

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This is an in-depth program for those aspiring to the role of elder or WLB member. It also requires an examination of views by the session. *Requirements:*

Level III:	Confessional Theology Introduction to Spiritual Leadership
Level IV:	All Classes in This Level

## 2016-2017 COURSES

### **Missionary Encounters with Other Faiths**

**Pastoral Staff**

**Sunday Studies Fall**

A practical and relevant study that addresses how to enter into a dialogue with friends and neighbors of other faiths. This series seeks to encourage us and strengthen us in our trust in the gospel, while learning about, and even learning from, those different from us.

### **History III: The Reformation**

**Pastoral Staff**

**Sunday Studies Spring**

The Protestant Reformation was a spiritual revival and call to reform. It is a period that offers valuable lessons for the modern church. Like History II, History III will use biographies to guide us through this time period.

### **Christianity Explored**

**Elder Lead**

**Sunday Studies Spring**

One life, what's it all about? Using material from *Christianity Explored*

*Ministries*, these videos and studies introduce us to Christianity through the Gospel of Mark.

### **Confessional Theology**

**Video Course**

**Various Times/Locations**

Rather than doing theology from scratch, we utilize the rich tradition of interpretation found throughout church history and expressed in the Westminster Confession of Faith. This class is a core requirement for teachers/leaders but open to all.

### **Introduction to Spiritual Leadership**

**Video Course**

**Various Times/Locations**

An important part of leadership training at CPC, this class takes you through the dynamics of spiritual leadership and the skills of a spiritual leader. This is for anyone who would like to learn about leadership, be a leader, or who is a leader.

# FULL CATALOGUE

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*Many of the following classes may also be read independently online at [cpcnewhaven.org](http://cpcnewhaven.org) and are a great resource for personal study.*

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## Level I: Christian Basics

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### **Gospel Christianity I**

This is an introduction to the heart of Christian belief. Who is Jesus? Why did he die? How do we change?

### **Christianity Explored**

One life, what's it all about? Using material from *Christianity Explored Ministries*, these videos and studies introduce us to Christianity through the Gospel of Mark.

### **The Apostle's Creed**

This is a discussion course on the "essentials" of the Christian faith by way of explicating the Apostles' Creed.

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## Level II: Christian Foundations

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### **History I: Turning Points**

This course highlights the decisive moments in the

history of Christianity. The broad-brush approach allows us a unique perspective on God's work through history.

### **Total Christ Spirituality**

The term "Total Christ" originates from the 5th century pastor-theologian St. Augustine, who described the relationship of Christ's incarnational ministry (past) to his ongoing ascension ministry (present) as "the Word was made flesh, and dwelled among us; to that flesh is joined the church, and there is made total Christ, both head and body." This study walks through the ways this concept frames our faith and practice.

### **Gospel in Life**

How is the gospel lived out in your heart, in your community, and in your world? This study, designed by *Redeemer City to City*, contains elements of video, Bible study, and discussion questions.

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## **Level III: Christian Witness and Service**

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### **Confessional Theology**

A rich tradition of interpretation found throughout church history and expressed in the Westminster Confession of Faith, this class is a great introduction to what we believe the Bible teaches.

### **Introduction to Spiritual Leadership**

An important part of leadership training at CPC, this class takes you through the dynamics of spiritual leadership and the skills of a spiritual leader. This is for anyone who would like to learn about leadership, who would like to be a leader, or who is a leader and would like to think about leadership further. Seminars are a great way to get to know others in the congregation and learn communally.

### **History II: The Early Church**

More than a dry record of dates and places, History II will focus on biographies of key figures in the formational period of Christianity. The

course is designed to emphasize how relevant this period is to our needs today.

### **History III: The Reformation**

The Protestant Reformation was a spiritual revival and call to reform. It is a period that offers valuable lessons for the modern church. Like History II, History III will use biographies to guide us through this time period.

### **Apologetics and Evangelism**

How do we give a reason for the hope that is within us? These classes teach us both the theology and practice of sharing our faith.

### **Missionary Encounters of Other Faiths**

A study like this is practical and relevant in addressing how to enter into a dialogue with friends and neighbors of other faiths. This series seeks to encourage us and strengthen us in our trust in the gospel, while learning about, and even learning from, those different from us.

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## **Level IV: Christian Leadership**

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## **Shepherd Leader Training I: Total Christ Ecclesiology**

In depth training for those aspiring to the role of Elder or WLB.

## **Shepherd Leader Training II: Total Christ Life-on-Life Discipleship**

In depth training for those aspiring to the role of Elder or WLB.

## **History IV: American Religious History**

Tracing the development of Christianity in America will expose us to important beliefs and practices that have shaped our own religious experience.

## **Lay Counseling**

The gospel has the power to transform every aspect of our lives. We believe that every counseling issue is spiritual as well as biological and social. This class is part of a holistic approach to helping hurting people.

## **Bible Interpretation**

An introduction to reading, understanding, and applying scripture.

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## **Electives**

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### **Heresies**

Church history is filled with subtle, well-intentioned errors in theology that if applied will wreak havoc in a believer's life. The value of such a class isn't to point fingers at others, but to examine how heresy creeps into our own lives and why it is so dangerous.

### **Great Books of Christian Discipleship I**

More than a book review, these are studies of theological topics guided by exceptional books on the subject.

### **Great Books of Christian Discipleship II**

More than a book review, these are studies of practical topics guided by exceptional books on the subject.

### **Christian Spirituality**

Christians can hear a lot of conflicting messages about how to grow and maintain a healthy Christian life. We will seek to speak into this chaos with open discussions on the topics such as Sabbath, Fasting



and Prayer, Family Worship, and Calling.

### **Prayer**

Topics on prayer from a few great resources.

### **Study of Jonathan Edwards' *Charity and Its Fruits***

These studies engage Edwards' classic book that explores faithful living, or as Edwards puts it, "All true grace tends to practice."

### **Study of D. Martyn Lloyd-Jones' *Spiritual Depression***

Guides to studying these

helpful sermons by one of the great preachers of the twentieth century.

### **Covenantal Parenting**

Apply the gospel to your parenting, while instilling a covenantal framework to raising your children.

**When Life Is a Work of Art** Work, by its very nature, is "Art" as it relates to God's callings.

### **Missional Ecclesiology**

Reformed understanding of church and mission.

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## **REGISTRATION**

Course registration is open before the fall 2016 and spring 2017 semesters by visiting us online at [cpcnewhaven.org](http://cpcnewhaven.org) or submitting this form to [admin@cpcnewhaven.org](mailto:admin@cpcnewhaven.org):

**name**

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**email**

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**phone**

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- Missionary Encounters with Other Faiths
- History III: The Reformation
- Confessional Theology
- Introduction to Spiritual Leadership

**I am interested in the following Diploma Programs:**

- School of Discipleship
- Teacher/Leader
- Shepherd Leader



