The following bibliographies are for the study of Reformed theology by the seminars of the Foundation for Reformed Theology. We ask that they not be used for other purposes without written permission from the Foundation and that credit be given to the Foundation.

Dr. and Mrs. John H. Leith established the Fund for the Explication and Application of Reformed Theology in 1982. Through it, Dr. Leith initiated the ministerial study seminar program for his former students in the early 1990s. The Foundation became the successor to the Fund in 1998. Dr. Leith had the bibliographies for topics 1–25 in place by 2002.

Bibliographies for topics 26 and following were added after Dr. Leith’s death, and selections from his writings were added to some earlier topics. “Introduction to John Haddon Leith” was added as required first reading for new seminars. After that, any of these topics may be chosen. All of the “Seminar Readings” in each bibliography are to be read for a seminar.

These are the only bibliographies approved for our seminars. While other topics may be good and useful in and of themselves, only those groups which study these will be considered seminars of the Foundation, and only those seminars will have their expenses reimbursed.

This is a work in progress. Some of the information is not bibliographically complete. Attempts are being made to correct that, and we would welcome any input you may have. Internet links are being added, both for electronic versions of texts and for sources from which to obtain texts. Efforts are being made to review these selections and to update information as needed.

In the Appendix at the end of this document, links have been added for seminary libraries, on-line resources, and bookstores. We have no control over these sites. These links have been added for your convenience. If you encounter a problem, let us know so we can remove the link.

The content of these bibliographies, the selection and support of seminar leaders, and the approval of seminar locations fall under the purview of the Program Committee.

Foundation for Reformed Theology
www.foundationrt.org

Revised December 4, 2020
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INTRODUCTION TO JOHN HADDON LEITH

Seminar Readings


This book helps set forth the Reformed tradition as understood by the Foundation and as the Foundation seeks to promote it.


This book intends to articulate the unique message of the Christian faith.


This book is an excellent statement of the nature and practice of the Christian pastoral ministry. By saying what the church is to be and to do, it also says what the minister is to be and to do. In many ways, this sets forth the program of the Foundation.


This book intends to set forth the basic doctrine of the Christian faith in clear and understandable language.

Supplementary Readings


This introduction was written for young people in a communicant’s class. It was later used in the denomination’s Sunday School curriculum. It has also been used for adult classes and officer training.


This book mounts a sharp critique of the church and its seminaries; to date, the charges have gone unanswered.


These writings, including sermons, articles, addresses, and essays, span six decades. They are not readily available otherwise.


Revised April 6, 2019
1. THE CHRISTIAN HOPE IN ETHERNAL LIFE

Seminar Readings


Alternative Seminar Readings


Supplementary Readings


Revised January 30, 2016
2. THE REFORMED DOCTRINE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Seminar Readings


Alternate Seminar Readings


Supplementary Readings


Revised May 19, 2014
3. REFORMED THEOLOGY IN PLURALISTIC, SECULAR SOCIETY

Seminar Readings

John Calvin on Nicodemism:


Supplementary Readings


Revised January 28, 2016

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4. HOW REFORMED THEOLOGY SHAPES LITURGY

Seminar Readings


**Supplementary Readings**


Revised April 6, 2019
5. REFORMED PIETY

Seminar Readings


Your seminar may choose to read this from Elsie Anne McKee’s translation of the 1541 French edition of the Institutes, listed in the Supplementary Readings below.


Note: This final part volume of Barth’s Dogmatics, on baptism, constitutes the second of five sections in the later and larger though still fragmentary publication of Barth’s other lectures on the Christian life listed immediately below. See note there for a suggested order of reading.


Note: This later publication of fragments of Barth’s lectures on the Christian life surrounds the earlier publication of one section of his work on baptism listed immediately above. You may wish to read from these lectures first, pp. i–xv and 1–46, then the part volume on baptism, pp. v–xii and 1–213, and finally from these lectures, pp. 49–292.


This is available on the Foundation website at the following link:

Supplementary Readings


Dedication: “To John Leith, instrument of God’s gracious providence but for whose timely pastoral intervention both this book and the life of its author would not be.”


See especially Part Five: “Piety in the Christian Live, Ethics, and Pastoral Care,” pp. 247–332 (and, within that, especially pp. 291 ff.).


This is a CD of Psalms.


Revised April 1, 2019
6. PRAYER

Seminar Readings


Also Calvin’s prayers—suggested prayers for Christians and prayers he used at conclusion of lectures.


Supplementary Readings


Revised May 5, 2017
7. PROVIDENCE

Seminar Readings


Newbigin, Lesslie. *Foolishness to the Greeks: The Gospel and Western Culture*.

Supplementary Readings


Revised April 1, 2019
8. THE APOSTLES’ AND NICENE CREEDS

Seminar Readings


Supplementary Readings


Note: Some seminars have found it helpful to structure discussion of this topic not so much book by book as doctrine by doctrine, including by each person of the Trinity.

Revised May 21, 2014
9. KARL BARTH FOR PREACHERS

Seminar Readings


Supplementary Readings


This is a good introduction.


This is a more advanced text.


Revised May 2, 2015
10. PREACHING JESUS CHRIST: KARL BARTH AND THE CHRISTIAN STORY

Seminar Readings by Barth


Supplementary Readings about Preaching Christ and the Christian Narrative


This is a critique of Thiemann, *Revelation and Theology*.


Supplementary Readings about Barth


This is a good introduction.

This is a more advanced text.


Revised May 19, 2014
11. The Doctrine of Humanity

Seminar Readings


———. *Sermons on Job*.

http://edwards.yale.edu/archive?path=aHR0cDovL2Vkd2Vkd2FyZHMueWFsZS5iZHUvY2dpLWJpbi9uZXdwGlslby9zZWxIY3QuGw/d2plby4x


Supplementary Readings


Revised April 1, 2019
12. BASIC CHRISTIAN DOCTRINE: THE QUESTION OF HERESY

Seminar Readings


**Supplementary Readings**


Revised February 9, 2016
13. READING THE BIBLE

Seminar Readings

This topic provides an opportunity to read through the Bible. If the entire Bible cannot be read, the group may concentrate on a section of the Old Testament such as Genesis, Exodus, Deuteronomy, Joshua, Judges, Ruth, 1–2 Samuel, and 1–2 Kings, and on the New Testament.

Supplementary Readings

Reading in addition to standard reference books and commentaries:


A great account of how the Bible was put into English and of a great theologian who is now receiving due recognition from Catholics and Protestants alike.
14. JONATHAN EDWARDS: THE RELIGIOUS AFFECTIONS

Seminar Readings

http://edwards.yale.edu/archive?path=aHR0cDovL2Vkd2FyZHMu5lZHUvY2dpLWJpbi9uZXdwGlswy9zZWx1Y3QucGw/d2plby4x


Revised April 1, 2019
15. The Living God Who Works Personally in the Created Orders of Nature and History

Seminar Readings


———. Belief in God in an Age of Science.


Revised May 19, 2014
16. REFORMED DOCTRINE OF MISSION

Seminar Readings


Supplementary Reading


   General survey of P.C.(U.S.A.) missions.


   Comparison with other theologies.


   See chapters 8, 12, and 13.


Revised April 6, 2019
17. THE PILGRIM’S PROGRESS

Seminar Readings


Revised December 1, 2015
18. THE CHRISTIAN LIFE

Seminar Readings


Revised May 19, 2014
19. AUGUSTINE’S INTERPRETIVE FRAME OF REFERENCE

Seminar Readings


While many English translations and editions of Augustine’s City of God are available and might usefully be consulted, this one has been recommended as a good one, and it would be helpful for all seminar participants use it for ease of page references in discussion. See “Arrangement and Contents of the City of God,” pp. lxi–lxiii, for an overview of the whole. Read Part I, Book 1, Preface, pp. 5–6, for a reference to James 4:6, “God resists the proud, but he gives grace to the humble,” which provides Augustine’s own key to the basis of the distinction he makes throughout between the two cities.


Seminars which have read this topic have suggested reading this biography first in order to establish a framework within which to read and discuss the other works. It is also suggested that all seminar participants use this new edition and read the “Epilogue,” pp. 439–520, first, before reading the main body of the work.


It may be helpful to understanding the whole to seek and note first several articulations of the meaning of saeculum, as on pp. xxii, 71, 102, 133, and 154.

Revised April 6, 2019
20. ELECTION

Seminar Readings


“This book has been more helpful to me than any other in preaching election.” John H. Leith.


Revised May 19, 2014
21. PURITAN STATEMENTS OF REFORMED THEOLOGY

Seminar Readings

On preaching.

Cotton, John. *Christ the Fountain of Life.*
On conversion.

On salvation.

Systematic theology.

The classic allegory of Christian Life.

The epic poem on the Fall.

The Bunyan and Milton are readily available. The Perkins and Cotton are perhaps the best pieces. They are readable and available in reprints or in anthologies. The Ames and Preston are also reprinted but not as available. (Ames is dry and scholastic.)

Supplementary Readings

A very sound overall history of early English Puritanism and its theology.

Hambrick-Stowe, Charles E. *The Practice of Piety.*
Excellent study of Puritan devotional practices.

Hall, David D. *The Faithful Shepherd.*
On the Puritan idea of ministry and preaching.

Revised May 19, 2014
22. REFORMED THEOLOGY OF THE FAMILY

Seminar Readings


Supplementary Readings


Revised April 1, 2019
23. FORGIVENESS

Seminar Readings


Calhoun, Robert Lowry. Lectures on the History of Christian Doctrine. See this especially.

Revised April 1, 2019
24. REVELATION

Seminar Readings

Augustine. *Soliloquies, Confessions, and the Utility of Believing*.


Abraham, William J. *Divine Revelation and the Limits of Historical Criticism*.


Fackre, Gabriel. *The Doctrine of Revelation: A Narrative Interpretation*.


Thiemann, Ronald F. *Revelation and Theology: The Gospel as Narrated Promise*.


Revised May 19, 2014
25. ISLAM

Seminar Readings


Supplementary Reading


Revised November 6, 2014
26. THE THEOLOGICAL LEGACY OF REINHOLD NIEBUHR

Seminar Readings


Supplementary Readings


Revised November 13, 2014
27. AFFIRMING REFORMED THEOLOGY IN OUR OWN DAY

Seminar Readings


and/or


and/or


and/or


and/or


and/or


Revised November 14, 2014
28. THE CHRISTIAN RESPONSE TO THE PROBLEM OF EVIL

Seminar Readings


Revised March 7, 2019
29. THE READING AND PREACHING OF THE SCRIPTURES IN THE WORSHIP OF THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Seminar Readings


See this first for an overview of the whole.


Chapter 3, “A ‘New Breed’ of Presbyterians,” pp. 87–172, articulates well the kind of expository preaching the Foundation would like to promote.

Note: This may be too much to read for one week. We would suggest reading the overview and volumes 1, 2, and 4 in their entirety and volume 7, pp. 87–172, as main texts, supplementing that with selections from the other volumes.

Revised August 31, 2013
31. **John Calvin: Selected Readings**

**Seminar Readings**


**Supplementary Readings**


Dedication: “To John Leith, instrument of God’s gracious providence but for whose timely pastoral intervention both this book and the life of its author would not be.”

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Revised May 19, 2014
32. ESCHATOLOGY

Seminar Readings


Revised August 16, 2018
33. REFORMED ETHICS

Seminar Readings


Barth, Karl. The Epistle to the Romans. Read section on Romans 12–13.


———. An interpretation of Christian Ethics.


Supplementary Readings

Graham, W. Fred. The Constructive Revolutionary: John Calvin & His Socio-Economic Impact.


Webster, J[ohn] B. Barth’s Ethics of Reconciliation.
———. *Barth’s Moral Theology: Human Action in Barth’s Thought.*

West, Charles C. *Communism and The Theologians: Study of an Encounter.* From Cold War era; see chapters on Barth, Brunner, Reinhold Niebuhr.

**Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)**

*Book of Catechisms.* “Study Catechism: Full Version” (especially Q. 89–119)

*Book of Confessions.* “Heidelberg Catechism” (especially QQ. 92–115); “Westminster Larger Catechism” (QQ. 91–151); “Westminster Shorter Catechism” (QQ. 42–82); “Barmen Declaration”; and “Confession of 1967”.


Revised February 23, 2017
34. THE UNITY AND PURITY OF THE CHURCH

Seminar Readings


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Supplementary Readings


35. CALVIN’S INSTITUTES, 1541 EDITION

Seminar Reading


Supplementary Reading


Revised February 9, 2016
36. THE NATURE AND PRACTICE OF THE CHRISTIAN PASTORAL MINISTRY

Seminar Readings


In that the Christian ministry is a ministry of the Word, see first this classic text on reading, learning, studying, interpreting, preaching, and teaching the Bible.


This book is an excellent statement of the nature and practice of the Christian pastoral ministry. By saying what the church is to be and to do, it also says what the minister is to be and to do. In many ways, this sets forth the program of the Foundation.


In that the Christian pastor leads worship, see this contemporary statement of the nature and practice of Reformed worship.

Supplementary Readings


This book mounts a sharp critique of the church and its seminaries; to date, the charges have gone unanswered.


Anecdotal.


This book is intentionally ecumenical, so that some of its understanding of ministry lies beyond a Reformed understanding of ministry.


This book reworks some of the ground covered in Purves’s *Reconstructing Pastoral Theology*, though in a nontechnical manner (p. 10). This is a companion volume to *The Resurrection of Ministry*.


As the title indicates, a review of the history of theology about the nature and practice of the Christian pastoral ministry.


This is a companion volume to *The Crucifixion of Ministry*.

Revised April 1, 2019
37. AN ORIENTATION TO KARL BARTH

Seminar Readings


Supplementary Readings

Barth, Karl. The Church and the War. Translated by Antonia Froendt. Eugene, OR: Wipf & Stock, 1944.


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Revised November 13, 2014
38. Influential Twentieth Century Theologians

Seminar Readings

   Chapters 1–3 and chapters 6 on Karl Barth, 7 on Reinhold Niebuhr, and 8 on Paul Tillich are especially helpful for this bibliography. [133 pp.]

Karl Barth (1886–1968) was perhaps the most influential and important theologian for the Reformed and Presbyterian family of churches in the twentieth century.

   This is a biography of Karl Barth.

   This is a first volume of brief sermons and prayers that he delivered at the request of Martin Schwarz, the chaplain in the Prison of Basel in the Swiss university town where Barth was professor from 1935 until his death.
   “Saved by Grace,” Ephesians 2:5, 14 August 1955, pp. 35–42. [8 pp.]
   Compare Tillich’s sermon, “You Are Accepted,” listed below.

   This is a second volume of sermons and prayers that he delivered at the Prison of Basel.

Reinhold Niebuhr (1892–1971) was a North American theologian, ethicist, and professor at Union Theological Seminary in New York. He was a leading public thinker in the United States, who had wide influence in North American church and society as well as on foreign policy. He won the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 1964.

   This is a biography of Reinhold Niebuhr.


**Paul Tillich** (1886–1965) was a German-American philosophical theologian and a Lutheran pastor, who came to this country in 1934 and taught at Union Theological Seminary in New York until 1955. He is perhaps best known for his “method of correlation” in which he seeks to show how the Christian symbols of revelation provide answers to human problems of existence, interpreted by European existentialist philosophy.

This is a biography of Paul Tillich.

In addition to his technical academic works, he wrote this for a general audience.

In addition to his technical academic works, he wrote this for a general audience.

He preached these sermons in the chapel of Union Theological Seminary.
Compare Barth’s sermon, “Saved by Grace,” listed above.


**John Leith** was a pastor in Southern Presbyterian Churches in Georgia, Tennessee, and Auburn, Alabama. In 1959 he became Pemberton Professor of Historical Theology at Union Theological
Seminary in Richmond, Virginia, and established the Foundation for Reformed Theology to encourage groups of Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) ministers to gather yearly in friendship and to read Reformed and historical theologians helpful for pastors to become more effective in preaching, teaching, and pastoral care. The following are some of the writings that form the basis of the Foundation and that articulate the Reformed tradition that he entrusted to us to promote and to help perpetuate.

An important brief section of a history chapter that will offer a guide to the selections from his writings below. [16 pp.]

This includes a brief biography of John H. Leith.
“Christ and Human Differences,” pp. 20–25. [6 pp.]
“The Church as the People of God,” pp. 81–88. [8 pp.]
“Remembering the Protestant Reformation,” pp. 97–102. [6 pp.]
“Theological Perspectives on Economics,” pp. 240–244. [5 pp.]

**Supplementary Readings**

Examines topics in theology to 1960 as it addresses (1) authority and the Bible, (2) the basis of Christian ethics, (3) the meaning of Jesus Christ, and (4) the church.

An encyclopedia in one volume with articles by experts on theologians.

Key writings from the major theologians in the previous volume.

Revised September 26, 2018

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APPENDIX: LINKS TO SEMINARY LIBRARIES, ON-LINE RESOURCES, AND BOOKSTORES

These links to seminary libraries, on-line resources, and bookstores have been added for your convenience. We have no control over these sites. If you encounter a problem, let us know so we can remove the link.

Union Theological Seminary in Virginia Library  [http://library.upsem.edu/](http://library.upsem.edu/)
Princeton Theological Seminary Library  [http://libweb.ptsem.edu/](http://libweb.ptsem.edu/)
Princeton Theological Seminary, Theological Commons  [http://commons.ptsem.edu/](http://commons.ptsem.edu/)
Columbia Theological Seminary Library  [http://www.ctsnet.edu/library-resources](http://www.ctsnet.edu/library-resources)
Pittsburgh Theological Seminary Library  [http://www.pts.edu/Library_1](http://www.pts.edu/Library_1)
The John Calvin Center  [http://www.johncalvin.com/](http://www.johncalvin.com/)
Center for Barth Studies  [http://libweb.ptsem.edu/collections/barth](http://libweb.ptsem.edu/collections/barth)
Jonathan Edwards Center at Yale University  [http://edwards.yale.edu/](http://edwards.yale.edu/)
Reformed On-line  [http://www.reformiert-online.net/index_eng.php](http://www.reformiert-online.net/index_eng.php)
Amazon  [http://amazon.com](http://amazon.com)

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Alibris  http://www.alibris.com/home.cfm

Christianbook  http://www.christianbook.com/

Cokesbury  http://www.cokesbury.com/


Revised January 30, 2016