

Church Polity (PCA)  
4PT520, 1 hr. credit  
Reformed Theological Seminary, Atlanta, GA  
January 11-13, 2011  
Dr. L. Roy Taylor, Adjunct Professor<sup>1</sup>

Course Description:

Students examine the biblical and historical data relative to church government and the *Book of Church Order*. The organization and functions of church judicatories, including discipline and appeals are considered. A purpose of the course is for students to acquire and understanding of the polity and procedures of the Presbyterian Church in America sufficient for ordination and ministry in the PCA. Non-PCA students may study the polity of their respective denominations (for example, the *Book of Church Order* of the OPC, EPC, PCUSA, or Constitution and Canons of the Anglican Church in North America).

Class Meetings:

- Tuesday – 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
- Wednesday – 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
- Thursday – 10:00 a.m. -4:00 p.m.

Professor Contact Information:

1700 N. Brown Road, Suite 105  
Lawrenceville, GA 30043  
Phone 678 825-1000  
[rtaylor@pcanet.org](mailto:rtaylor@pcanet.org)

Office Hours – Professor does not have an on-campus office. He will be available for conferences after class hours upon request.

Text Books:

- *Book of Church Order of the PCA*, Atlanta, Office of the Stated Clerk, 2006.
  - Students from other denominations may substitute the *Book of Church Order* of their particular denomination (ex. OPC, ARPC, EPC, RCUS, KAPC, PCUSA, ACNA, and AMiA).
  - Students from denominations or independent churches that do not have a *Book of Church* order may read equivalent documents with the permission of the professor.
- *Who Runs the Church: Four Views on Church Polity*  
Paul Engle, Series Editor, Steven B. Cowan, Editor  
Peter Toon, Anglican Contributor  
L. Roy Taylor, Presbyterian Contributor  
Samuel Waldron, Plural-Elder Congregationalism  
Paige Patterson, Single-Elder Congregationalism

---

<sup>1</sup> Served 10 years on faculty of RTS-J (Professor of Practical Theology, Department Chairman, D.Min. Program Director), 16 years as a PCA pastor, Stated Clerk of the General Assembly of the PCA since 1998.

Zondervan Publishing Co. ISBN 0-310-24607-5. 312 pp.

Course Requirements for Atlanta Students, 4PT520, 1hr. credit:

- Attend Lectures (Tuesday-Thursday 1/11-1/13, 10:00-4:00 p.m.)
- Read both textbooks before taking exam, 20% of grade.
- Take examination, 80% of grade.

Examination: The exam will be a take-home exam. It is *not* an open-book exam.

Deadline: Exams are to be submitted to the RTS-A Director of Student Services Jonathan Stuckert by 4:00 p.m., Friday February 11, 2011 (HARD COPIES ONLY. So do not send me electronic copies).