

CHURCH POLITY  
PT520  
REFORMED THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY, WASHINGTON, DC  
OCTOBER 22-23, 2010  
Dr. Rod Mays

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

Students will examine the biblical and historical data relative to church government and the *Book of Church Order*. The organization and functions of church courts, including discipline and appeals will be considered. 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). Lectures will include key aspects of church government that will be helpful for Biblical pastoring.

**CLASS SCHEDULE:**

Friday Oct. 22, 7:30 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.

Saturday Oct. 23, 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

**INSTRUCTOR CONTACT INFORMATION:**

Dr. Rod Mays, National Coordinator  
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Rod Mays has served in the PCA for 34 years. He has pastored three churches and now serves as the national coordinator for Reformed University Fellowship, the campus ministry of the PCA, a position he has held for 11 years. He also teaches pastoral theology and counseling at RTS-Charlotte.

**TEXTBOOKS:**

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

- *Stop Dating the Church:* Joshua Harris, Multnomah, ISBN 1-59052-365-2
- *Life Together:* Dietrich Bonhoeffer, Harper, ISBN 978-0-06-060852-1
- *Things That Cannot Be Shaken,* Rod Mays and Scott Oliphint, Crossway, ISBN 978-1-58134-849-1

#### COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

- Attend all lectures.
- Read all of the textbooks and submit a two page review on any three of the five required books. Include a statement that you have read the book in its entirety.
- Write a five page paper on a case study that will be assigned in class.
- There will be no quizzes or exams.
- All assignments are due according to the seminary policy. **DO NOT** email work to the professor. All assignments must be submitted in hard copy form to the administration.