

# Presbyterian Polity, Program, and Mission Course

## Course Description

The courses in Presbyterian polity, program, and mission will integrate the study of the Presbyterian Constitution (Book of Confessions and Book of Order) and Program and Mission of the PCUSA into the context of the educator. Scripture, polity, and the structure, mission and program of the PCUSA, as it is described and resourced by presbyteries, synods, and the General Assembly, usually provides the content for this certification course. Critical examination, guided exploration, and careful integration of those key resources provides educators an opportunity to draw upon the richness of the Presbyterian tradition as they take leadership roles in their congregations and ministries. The course will provide opportunities for educators to explore how the polity, program, and mission of the PCUSA will impact, guide, and influence their educational programs and events.

## Course Standards

<b>Competencies</b> <b>Dimensions</b>	<b>Theoretical</b> <b>Perspective</b>	<b>Skills</b>	<b>Contextual</b> <b>Awareness</b>	<b>Self-Critical</b> <b>Awareness</b>
<b>Historical</b> <b>Dimension</b>	Articulate overall history of PCUSA: its mission and purpose	Take key practices of polity and identify its historical origins	Compare and contrast with other Protestant bodies	What does the Reformed Faith mean to you? Give three highlights
<b>Theological</b> <b>Dimension</b>	Summarize each Historical Principle in one sentence per principle	Illustrate a practical application for each Historical Principle	Show examples of how Historical Principles interface in your ministry	How does your theological convictions impact your practice of polity and mission?
<b>Integrative</b> <b>Dimension</b>	Define the interrelatedness of Presbyterian Polity and Mission	Be able to use the PCUSA Constitution as a resource for addressing a particular issue in ministry	Assess how polity informs and supports ministry in your setting	In what ways does the PCUSA polity and mission impact your leadership?
<b>Contemporary</b> <b>Mission and</b> <b>Program</b> <b>Dimension</b>	Identify the six program agencies of the PCUSA and their purpose	Articulate how polity supports mission and program in the church	Explore how PCUSA councils enable the PCUSA mission and program to occur in particular settings	How does PCUSA program and mission affect your involvement in the denomination?
<b>Educational</b> <b>Dimension</b>	Determine an educational theory congruent with polity and mission	Teach members and leaders the basic principles of Presbyterian polity	Assist leaders in accessing resources for the program and mission of the PCUSA	What leadership skills in polity and mission do you bring to the PCUSA?

## **Suggested Resources**

*The Book of Order, current edition*

May be downloaded from <http://www.pcusa.org/oga/boo/boo-online.htm>

*Historic Principles, Conscience, and Church Government*, adopted by 195<sup>th</sup> General Assembly (1983) of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

<http://www.pcusa.org/resource/historic-principles-conscience-and-church-governme/>

*Principles of Presbyterian Polity*, Carlos Wilton, 2016, Geneva Press

*Presbyterian Church (USA) Planning Calendar, current edition*