

Oakbrook Community Church (PCA)

Officer Nominee Examination

Instructions: This is an 'open book' exam. Feel free to use your Bible, Confession of Faith, Shorter & Longer Catechisms, and Book of Church Order. Please write legibly. Turn in your completed exam before your meeting with the Session.

Part One: (answer from 1 Timothy 3:1-13)

1. What do these verses say about officers and anger, the losing of one's temper, etc.?
2. What does this passage say about officers and alcohol?
3. What do any of these verses say about an officer's ability to get along with other people?
4. What is the chief danger to the church of having an officer that cannot manage his own family?
5. From the list of qualifications given, please identify your 2 strengths and your 2 areas that you feel you are weakest. Explain.

Part Two: Answer using Confession of Faith or Catechisms

1. What is man's primary purpose and where can he go to find out how to effectively fulfill it? (See WSC #1-3).
2. Why do we accept the Bible as true and authoritative?
3. What do the Scriptures principally teach? (WSC #3)
3. What is the infallible standard for interpretation of the Bible?
4. What is God? (WSC #4)
5. What does it mean for God to be completely sovereign?
6. In God's mind is the number of people to be given eternal life fixed and unchangeable or is it fluid and negotiable? (WCF 3:4)

7. Those to receive eternal life were specifically chosen by God before the world began on what basis? [WCF 3:5 careful, this is almost a trick question!]
8. How should the doctrine of Predestination be treated? [WCF 3:8]
9. What scripture passages would you use to defend the doctrine of Predestination?
10. How many days did it take God to create everything in the world?
11. Is evolution true?
12. Because Adam and Eve were “the root of all mankind” you and I were born with _____ guilt.
13. How might you explain Total Depravity? [WCF 6:2,4,5]
14. What are the two covenants that God has made with man? Briefly explain.
A) covenant of _____ B) covenant of _____
15. What is the Gospel? [relate to covenants, WCF 8]
16. Does any person today have the natural power to do good, to please God or to prepare himself for salvation? [WCF 9]
17. What is effectual calling? [WSC 31]
18. What is Justification? [WSC 33]
19. Is a person ‘saved’ at the moment he is chosen by God to receive salvation [WCF 11:4 - careful here!]
20. What is sanctification? Describe how it has/is working in your life. [WSC 35]

21. What are three ways that saving faith is increased and strengthened? [WCF 14:1]

22. Where do believers get the ability to do good works? [WCF 16:3]

23. The reason a true believer can never lose his salvation is because: [use your own words WCF 17:2]

24. What are some things that can cause even a true believer to doubt his own salvation and the assurance of God's love for him personally? [WCF 18:4]

25. How are we to know how to properly worship God? How may God not be worshipped? [WCF 21]

26. Can believers serve in public office, if so how should they? What is a believer's duty towards civil authorities? [WCF 23]

27. Summarize a biblical view of marriage and divorce? [WCF 24]

28. Does your marital state fit the Biblical model for officers? Explain.
29. What is meant by the visible and invisible church? [WCF 25]

30. What is a sacrament? [WCF 27; WSC 92]

31. What are the only two sacraments ordained by Christ in the Gospel?

32. What does baptism symbolize? [WSC 94]

33. How is baptism rightly administered? How many times should it be administered to a person?

34. To whom is baptism to be administered? [WSC 95]

34. Have you been baptized? When? If applicable, have each of your children been baptized, why or why not?

35. What does the Lord's Supper symbolize? [WSC 96]

36. What happens when a Christian dies? [WCF 32] Is there a literal hell for those who refuse to repent and place their faith in Jesus Christ?

Part Three: Book of Church Order

1. Who is the King and the Head of the Church? [BCO:preface]

How is the ascended Christ present with His Church?

2. Who alone can "bind" the conscience of man?

3. What three duties has Christ appointed to officers?

4. What comprises the PCA constitution? What is it subject to and subordinate to?

5. What kind of church government does the PCA have? [BCO:1]

6. Who are the members of the visible Church catholic?

7. Who are the officers of a church?

8. What are the sole functions of the Church? The power of the Church is? [BCO:3]

9. What are the 2 types of church members? Explain. [BCO:6]

10. What is required for a child of believing members to be a non-communing member?

11. What is required for a baptized child to be admitted to the Lord's Supper?
12. Who is entitled to all the rights and privileges of the church?
13. The office of Elder is one of [BCO:8]
14. What responsibilities belong to the office of Elder?
15. Do the Ruling Elders possess the same authority and eligibility to office in the courts of the Church as Teaching Elders? How should that motivate them?
16. The office of Deacon is one of [BCO:9]
17. What are the responsibilities of the office of Deacon?
18. Who has supervision and authority over the Deacons?
19. Why can women not serve as elders or deacons in the church? How can women serve?
20. What are the three courts of the Church? Describe their jurisdiction. [BCO:10,11]
21. Of whom does the Session consist? Who is the moderator of the Session? [BCO:12]
22. With what is a church Session charged with?
23. Of whom does the Presbytery consist? [BCO:13] How often must the Presbytery meet?
24. Where does a pastor hold his membership?
25. What is the highest Court of the church and what does it represent? [BCO:14]

26. What is the difference between a Commission and a Committee? [BCO:15]
27. What are the 3 ways that God confirms a man's call to an office? [BCO:16]
28. Can a man be ordained to an office without a call to a definite work? [BCO:17]
29. A candidate for ministry must put himself under the care of which Church court?
30. What is the purpose of licensure? [BCO:19]
31. How is a pastor elected to a congregation? [BCO:20]
32. Who must give its permission before a pastor can receive a call from a church? [BCO:21]
33. State and briefly describe the 3 pastoral relations. [BCO:22]
34. In what 4 areas is a prospective officer to be examined? [BCO:24]
35. Of whom does a Congregation consist? [BCO:25]
35. What is the only business that may be transacted in a Congregational meeting? [BCO:25]
36. When shall a Congregational Meeting be held? What shall be a quorum?
37. Who is the Moderator of Congregational meetings?
38. What are the 4 functions of Trustees? Who owns the property of a particular church?
39. How does a church leave the PCA if it so desires?
40. What is the purpose of Church discipline? [BCO:27] Who is subject to discipline?

Part Four: THE CONSTITUTIONAL QUESTIONS

Can you in good conscience and with full sincerity of heart respond affirmatively to the following six (6) constitutional questions from *The Book of Church Order of the Presbyterian Church in America*:

1. Do you believe the Scriptures of the Old and New Testament, as originally given, to be the inerrant Word of God, the only infallible rule of faith and practice?

2. Do you sincerely receive and adopt the *Confession of Faith* and the *Catechisms* of this Church, as containing the system of doctrine taught in the Holy Scriptures; and do you further promise that if at any time you find yourself out of accord with any of the fundamentals of this system of doctrine, you will, on your own initiative, make known to your Session the change which has taken place in your views since the assumption of this ordination vow?

[*** If there are areas of the *Westminster Confession of Faith* & Catechisms about which you wish to declare exception or reservation, please note the chapter(s) or number(s) in this space and then attach any written explanations to this exam. Remember that it is the responsibility of the Session, not the officer candidate, to determine whether exceptions are of major or minor significance. *****]**

3. Do you approve of the form of government and discipline of the Presbyterian Church in America, in conformity with the general principles of Biblical polity?

4. Will you accept the office of Ruling Elder (or Deacon, as the case may be) in Oakbrook PCA, and promise faithfully to perform all the duties thereof, and to endeavor by the grace of God to adorn the profession of the Gospel in your life, and to set a worthy example before the church of which God has made you an officer?

5. Do you promise subjection to your brethren in the Lord?

6. Do you promise to strive for the purity, peace, unity and edification of the church?

I _____ do in good conscience
(Your Printed Name)
affirm each of the constitutional questions.

(Date)

(Your Signature)

Part Five: PERSONAL WALK QUESTIONS

As Shepherds and leaders we must be modeling our lives (imperfectly) after the Chief Shepherd as we lead our lives and families. Please briefly discuss or answer the following:

- What is your approach to giving or tithing? How are you trying to grow in this area? Discuss your giving pattern and plan.
- Discuss your family life as it relates to working with your wife & kids. Describe your family worship or how you lead your family in biblical truth. Discuss how you lead your family in prayer.
- Discuss your personal devotional/study approach. When do you study/read? What approach do you use? Is there a format you use?
- Discuss your personal prayer life. When, where, how often? What is your understanding of prayer? What is hard or easy for you in prayer?
- Discuss your TV/movie viewing habits and attitude towards entertainment. How do you work with your family or how do you set boundaries?
- Discuss your internet usage and safe guards, struggles, etc. How do you set standards in your home and teach/protect your children?