

**OPTION XXXVI: THE NATURE AND PRACTICE
OF THE CHRISTIAN PASTORAL MINISTRY**

Main Texts

Augustine. *On Christian Teaching*. Translated with an Introduction and Notes by R. P. H. Green. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1997. xxvi + 168 pp.

Calvin, John. "The Doctors and Ministers of the Church, Their Election and Office." In *Calvin: Institutes of the Christian Religion*, Book IV, Chapter 3 (vol. 2, pp. 1053–1068). Library of Christian Classics, ed. John T. McNeill, vols. 1–2. Philadelphia: Westminster, 1960.

"The Second Helvetic Confession," Chapter 18, "Of the Ministers of the Church, Their Institution and Duties." In *The Book of Confessions*. Louisville, Kentucky: Office of the General Assembly, 2002. 5.142–168.

Baxter, Richard. *The Reformed Pastor*. 1656. Edited by William Brown, 1829. Reprint, Edinburgh, Scotland and Carlisle, Pennsylvania: The Banner of Truth Trust, 1974. 256 pp.

Niebuhr, H. Richard, in collaboration with Daniel Day Williams and James M. Gustafson. *The Purpose of the Church and Its Ministry: Reflections on the Aims of Theological Education*. New York: Harper & Row, 1956. xvi + 134 pp.

Niebuhr, Reinhold. *Leaves from the Notebook of a Tamed Cynic*. Forward by Martin E. Marty. Louisville, Kentucky: Westminster John Knox, 1990. 152 pp.

Oden, Thomas C. *Pastoral Theology: Essentials of Ministry*. San Francisco: Harper & Row, 1983. xii + 372 pp.

Leith, John H. *From Generation to Generation: The Renewal of the Church According to Its Own Faith and Practice*. Louisville, Kentucky: Westminster/John Knox Press, 1990. 223 pp.

This book is an excellent introduction to 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.

Old, Hughes Oliphant. *Worship Reformed According to Scripture*, revised and expanded edition. Louisville, Kentucky: Westminster John Knox, 2002. xii + 195 pp.

Peterson, Eugene H. *Working the Angles: The Shape of Pastoral Integrity*. Grand Rapids, Michigan: Eerdmans, 1987. 137 pp.

- . *Five Smooth Stones for Pastoral Work*. Grand Rapids, Michigan: Eerdmans, 1992. 251 pp.
- . *Under the Unpredictable Plant: An Exploration in Vocational Holiness*. Grand Rapids, Michigan: Eerdmans, 1994. 206 pp.
- Purves, Andrew. *Reconstructing Pastoral Theology*. Louisville, Kentucky: Westminster John Knox, 2004. 272 pp.
- . *The Crucifixion of Ministry: Surrendering Our Ambitions to the Service of Christ*. Downers Grove, Illinois: InterVarsity Press, VP Books, 2007. 152 pp.
- Barnes, M. Craig. *The Pastor as Minor Poet: Texts and Subtexts in the Ministerial Life*. In Calvin Institute of Christian Worship Liturgical Studies Series. Grand Rapids, Michigan: Eerdmans, 2008. 138 pp.

Background Reading

- Barth, Karl. “The Mission of the Church.” In *Church Dogmatics*, edited by G. W. Bromiley and T. F. Torrance, Vol. I, *The Doctrine of the Word of God*, Part 2, § 22, pp. 743–796. Edinburgh: T. & T. Clark, 1956.
- . “The Holy Spirit and the Upbuilding of the Christian Community.” In *Church Dogmatics*, edited by G. W. Bromiley and T. F. Torrance, Vol. IV, *The Doctrine of Reconciliation*, Part 2, § 67, pp. 614–726. Edinburgh: T. & T. Clark, 1958.
- . “The Holy Spirit and the Sending of the Christian Community.” In *Church Dogmatics*, edited by G. W. Bromiley and T. F. Torrance, Vol. IV, *The Doctrine of Reconciliation*, Part 3, second half, § 72, pp. 681–901. Edinburgh: T. & T. Clark, 1962.
- . *Homiletics*. Translated by Geoffrey W. Bromiley and Donald E. Daniels. Louisville, Kentucky: Westminster John Knox, 1991. Translation of *Homiletik*. 136 pp.
- Old, Hughes Oliphant. *Leading in Prayer: A Workbook for Ministers*. Grand Rapids, Michigan and Cambridge, U.K.: Eerdmans, 1995. xi + 370 pp.
Thus reads the title in the official information; the cover reads “*Leading in Prayer: A Workbook for Worship*.” This includes essays and prayers.
- Leith, John H. *Crisis in the Church: The Plight of Theological Education*. Louisville, Kentucky: Westminster John Knox, 1997. xiii + 125 pp.
This book mounts a sharp critique of the church and its seminaries; to date, the charges have gone unanswered.

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