

Sierra Leadership Network Curriculum: Month 9, Year 2

Participation in the Sierra Leadership Network (SLN) is a process of adult learning. It is the responsibility of the participant to do their assignments and seek out the necessary accountability. It is the responsibility of the participant to schedule time with their mentor, not the other way around. Here is a checklist of this month's exercises and space for comments. All useful generated materials should be placed in your Sierra Leadership Network binder. The mentor will look over the exercises and be given opportunity to add their own comments. Be sure you take your binder to the meetings at Granite Springs Church to also be available to the SLN directors.

Month 9, Year 2

Date Completed

____/____/____ History of Confessions [Estimated time: _____]

Mentor Comments:

____/____/____ Leading Worship/teaching: [Estimated time: _____]

Mentor Comments

____/____/____ Confidentiality: [Estimated time: _____]

Mentor Comments

Participant Signature

Mentor Signature

I. Confessions:

1. Every office bearer in the Christian Reformed Church must sign the Form of Subscription which is a document attesting to that individual's belief in the doctrine of the CRC. It is important that you have a clear idea of what you are signing. If you have never read through the Belgic Confession, Heidelberg Catechism or the Canons of Dordt you should do so.
2. It is not only important to know what is contained in these three doctrinal statements of the CRC, but it is also important to have some awareness of the background of these documents. Answers to questions are not the only relevant information in a conversation. What questions are being answered is vitally important in order to understand the answers correctly. All three documents were products of theological conflict. The Belgic Confession was written in response to Roman Catholic persecution. The Heidelberg Catechism was written not only as a response to Roman Catholicism but also in response to Lutheranism. The Canons of Dordt were written in response to specific challenges brought to the church by the rise of Arminianism. It is important to do a bit of research to understand the conflicts and how they affect the documents.
3. Do some research on the background of the three documents. Look in Church History texts, Sunday school materials, your church library, etc. Also check out the CRCNA website. Here are also some links you can find on the net or google your own.
 - a. Canons of Dordt/Arminianism
 - i. <http://www.monergism.com/thethreshold/articles/topic/arminianism.html>
 - ii. <http://www.spurgeon.org/~phil/arminian.htm>
 - iii. http://www.crcna.org/whoweare/beliefs/confess_canonsofdort.asp?WhoWeAreMenu
 - b. Heidelberg Catechism:
 - i. http://www.reformed.org/documents/heidelberg_intro.html
 - ii. <http://www.ccel.org/ccel/schaff/creeds1.ix.iv.ii.html>
 - c. Belgic Confession:
 - i. http://www.pcea.asn.au/wpg_belg.html
4. Find specific instances in each of the confessions that a knowledge of historical background is important to properly understand the document and explain why.

II: Preaching:Teaching

Write a sermon or a study based explicitly upon a portion of the Heidelberg Catechism, the Belgic Confession or the Canons of Dordt.

III. Confidentiality

1. Confidentiality is necessary tool in pastoral ministry. It has long been recognized not only in the church but also in the legal statues of many nations. Do some research and reflection on the issue of confidentiality. Try to answer the following questions:
 - a. What are the limits of pastoral privilege especially in cases of abuse or the danger of loss of life?
 - b. What is “executive session” in the context of church assemblies?
 - c. Under what conditions may something given in confidence be shared with a third party?
 - d. In what situations should you chose to inform someone that you will not hold something in confidence even though you are being asked to?

2. Reflect upon an instance in your ministry (if you’ve had one) where you had to hold something in confidence but because of the situation it was unclear whether this was a good thing or not. Discuss this (without breaking confidence if applicable) with your mentor and discuss any wisdom your mentor might have on the subject of confidentiality.