

**REFORMATION PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, AUSTRALIAN PRESBYTERY**  
**Moderator: Rev C Tuck Clerk: Pastor N van der Wel**  
**C/O 206 High Street, Berserker, QLD 4701**

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**EXTRACT MINUTE**

Reformation Presbyterian Church, Australian Presbytery, met via Skype video conference, on the Eighteenth of February 2022 and was constituted, was adjourned and then resumed on the Nineteenth of February 2022. Among other things,

It was moved, seconded and agreed THAT:

The Presbytery receive and approve the Course outlines and details on “The Church”, Sections 4A and 4B.

Extracted from the Records of the Presbytery by the Clerk on the Twentieth of March 2024.

Pastor Neil van der Wel  
Clerk of Presbytery

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**THEOLOGICAL COURSE - THE CHURCH SECTION 4.A**

This is the first of six sections on ecclesiology, or the study of the Church. These courses will take the form of guided readings, lecture series, sermons, etc. with some short and some long answer essay questions. Students are encouraged to direct any questions they may have to their advisor(s).

4. The Church.

**4.A. Introduction to the Doctrine of the Church.**

4.B. The Church in the Old and New Testaments.

4.C. The Government of the Church.

4.D. The Public Worship of God.

4.E. The Sacraments.

4.F. The Church and the Great Commission.

**LISTENING:** David Silversides, “WCF - Of the Church” Part 1

Part 1 - <https://www.sermonaudio.com/sermoninfo.asp?SID=127211649177810>

**READING:** James Bannerman, “The Church of Christ”, PART 1 (Available online:

[https://www.monergism.com/thethreshold/sdg/bannerman/The\\_Church\\_of\\_Christ\\_-\\_James\\_Bannerman.pdf](https://www.monergism.com/thethreshold/sdg/bannerman/The_Church_of_Christ_-_James_Bannerman.pdf))

John Brown (Haddington), “Letters on the Constitution, Government, and Discipline of the Christian Church”, Letters I to IV (Available online:

[https://www.google.com/books/edition/Letters\\_on\\_the\\_Constitution\\_Government\\_a/m0NgA-AAAcAAJ?hl=en&gbpv=1](https://www.google.com/books/edition/Letters_on_the_Constitution_Government_a/m0NgA-AAAcAAJ?hl=en&gbpv=1))

**SHORT ANSWER ESSAYS:** These should be answered in around 300 - 500 words. Use of Scripture and documents approved by the RPCAP is encouraged. Attach essays on separate pages.

1. How is the Church both visible and invisible?
2. How is the Church both a spiritual and human society?
3. What are the basic requirements for membership in the Church?
4. What criteria may be used to distinguish between true and false churches?

**LONG ANSWER ESSAYS:** These should be treated in around 1000 - 2000 words. Use of Scripture, course readings, and documents approved by the RPCAP is required. Attach essays on separate pages.

1. Define “liberty of conscience” and “Christian liberty”. How should each of these concepts influence the thinking of the Church, the state, and the individual believer in all their various relations and interactions?

**Upon satisfactory completion of student essays (with revisions, as necessary), this section will be considered finished.**

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## **THEOLOGICAL COURSE - THE CHURCH SECTION 4.B**

This is the second of six sections on ecclesiology, or the study of the Church. These courses will take the form of guided readings, lecture series, sermons, etc. with some short and some long answer essay questions. Students are encouraged to direct any questions they may have to their advisor(s).

4. The Church.
  - 4.A. Introduction to the Doctrine of the Church.
  - 4.B. The Church in the Old and New Testaments.**
  - 4.C. The Government of the Church.
  - 4.D. The Public Worship of God.
  - 4.E. The Sacraments.
  - 4.F. The Church and the Great Commission.

**LISTENING:** David Silversides, “WCF - Of the Church” Parts 2 and 3  
Part 2 - <https://www.sermonaudio.com/sermoninfo.asp?SID=12721172164991>

David Silversides, “When Did the Church Start?”  
<https://www.sermonaudio.com/sermoninfo.asp?SID=820513554&fbclid=IwAR3kIItb2VIjwPFmOHV8FLuU4Zu2p9dlFORRse9bo6EYqZ8oox3TEXWhZk>

**READING:** James Bannerman, “The Church of Christ”, PART 2 (Available online: [https://www.monergism.com/thethreshold/sdg/bannerman/The\\_Church\\_of\\_Christ\\_-\\_James\\_Bannerman.pdf](https://www.monergism.com/thethreshold/sdg/bannerman/The_Church_of_Christ_-_James_Bannerman.pdf))

**SHORT ANSWER ESSAYS:** These should be answered in around 300 - 500 words. Use of Scripture and documents approved by the RPCAP is encouraged. Attach essays on separate pages.

1. When did the church start?
2. Give a concise explanation of the words “not confined to one nation, as before under the law” in regard to the church.
3. How is it that the day of worship was the seventh day in the Old Testament and now the first under the New Testament?

**LONG ANSWER ESSAYS:** These should be treated in around 1000 - 2000 words. Use of Scripture, course readings, and documents approved by the RPCAP is required. Attach essays on separate pages.

1. Give a biblical defense for the membership of the church consisting of “all those throughout the world that profess the true religion; and of their children” in both Old and New Testaments. Answer objections and caricatures of this doctrine.

**Upon satisfactory completion of student essays (with revisions, as necessary), this section will be considered finished.**