

**For all Pastors, Ruling Elders, Deacons, CRE/CPs and other PCUSA Members
2025 – 2026 Classes**



***Reformed History and Theology**
Thinking Theologically About What We Believe

Rev. Gregory Love, PhD *Princeton Theological Seminary*

The Rev. Dr. Gregory Love is Associate Professor of Systematic Theology at the University of Redlands, Graduate School of Theology. A native of Portland, Oregon, Dr. Love gained his M.Div. and Ph.D. from Princeton Lutheran University, Gustavus Adolphus College, and St. Olaf College. Dr. Love is interested in understanding how God acts in the world and in our lives. He is currently working on a constructive theology of divine providence which tries to explain how God can act in a world which science believes works according to natural laws, chance and human free will, and in which horrific events of suffering happen.

When: *Thursday and Friday, February 6 and 7: 7:00 to 9:00 pm*
Saturday, February 8: 8:30 to 11:30 am; 1:00 to 4:00 pm

Where: *Thursday and Friday: On Zoom Only*
Saturday In-person at the Presbytery Offices: 545 Ashbury Avenue, El Cerrito, CA 94530 or by Zoom if you can't make it in-person

To Register: <https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/TqOGYXlQTSiHi-v3zKhdqw>

Cost: *\$100 for credit* for Commissioned Ruling Elder Candidates
\$40 to audit and open to all

Class Description: For our upcoming weekend on Reformed History and Theology, Greg is going to lead us through the broad movements of the Reformed (Presbyterian) view of the Christian faith, from 1517 on to today; and especially through the current Presbyterian view of the faith. You are familiar with the Christian faith through your own walk with Christ through the years and decades, and through what you have been taught by your own Sunday School, church, and pastors, and through what you have read in Christian books. Our course will focus on the specifically Reformed understanding of the faith. This will give you the chance not only to understand this particular tradition of the faith, but also to understand your own views of faith, and areas where you agree with this tradition, and areas where you may diverge.

Pre-class Readings:

Required: Daniel Migliore, *Faith Seeking Understanding*, 4th Edition
Recommended: Chris Elwood, *Calvin for Armchair Theologians*

Questions: Contact Phil Arzino, CRE/CP Coordinator, pkarzino@comcast.net, 510-828-5596

*** This is one of the four core (required) classes for all CP candidates**

Reformed History and Theology

Thinking Theologically About What We Believe

February 6- 8, 2025

Further information for CRE/CP Students

Required Reading:

Daniel Migliore, *Faith Seeking Understanding*, 4th Edition. Read chapters 1-7 (pages 1-167).
The rest of the book will be required for the Soteriology course (AKA Reformed Theology, Part 2) in March, 2025.

Recommended Reading:

Chris Elwood, *Calvin for Armchair Theologians*

Pre-course Assignment:

Along with reading the 167 pages of Migliore, please do the following written assignment, and e-mail it to me and to Phil Arzino by the start of the class on February 6. Write 1-2 pages, in which you answer the following two questions:

- ~ What are three things you learned in these seven chapters that *surprised* you?
- ~ What are *three questions* that came to your mind as you read these chapters?

Put your name and your email address in the top right corner of your two pages you turn in.

Though not requiring you to read this text, I am recommending Chris Elwood's book because, even though it is 173 pages, it is extremely easy to read. The pages are short, and it comes with illustrations. It was written for lay people who know nothing about Calvin. But it gives a very good overview not only of Calvin's life and theology, but of the Reformed tradition as a whole.

Come ready to talk about how you understand God; what it means to you to say "the bible is God's word"; what it means to say "God created the world"; how God works in our lives and in this world; and what has gone wrong with human beings, which has led society and the world to go wrong, too. We will have great discussions of all these things!

Feel free to email me if you have any questions. I look forward to being with you!

Prof. Gregory Love

The Rev. Gregory Love, Ph.D.
Minister of Word and Sacrament (PCUSA)
Associate Professor of Systematic Theology
San Francisco Theological Seminary
The Graduate Theological Union
gregory_love@redlands.edu