

OFFICIAL SYLLABUS

Classes begin the week of
January 26, 2026.

Audience: Lay Reader candidates, vestry-appointed assistants, or those preparing for licensed ministry in the REC

Primary Texts:

- 1928 Book of Common Prayer
- REC Canons
- Holy Bible

Recommended: Pearson's Book of Common Praise (optional)

Course Goals:

By the end of this course, students will be able to:

- Understand the history, doctrine, and structure of the Reformed Episcopal Church
- Properly read Scripture aloud in public worship
- Lead Morning or Evening Prayer according to the Book of Common Prayer
- Demonstrate pastoral conduct and reverence in ministry
- Serve clergy faithfully and within canonical limits

Assessment Components:

- Weekly quizzes (multiple choice/short answer)
- Participation in prayer and Scripture reading
- Final practicum (leading Morning or Evening Prayer)
- Instructor evaluation

WEEKLY OUTLINE

✚ WEEK 1

History & Identity of the REC

Learning Objectives:

1. Describe how and why the REC was formed
2. Explain the purpose of Common Prayer
3. Identify the proper responsibilities and limitations of a Lay Reader

Topics:

- Founding of the Reformed Episcopal Church
- Anglican Heritage and the Book of Common Prayer
- What a Lay Reader is (and is not): Responsibilities and limitations of Lay Readers
- An Explanation of Robes and Vestments

Assignments:

- Read Articles 6, 20, and 34
- Short quiz



✚ WEEK 2

Holy Scripture & Public Reading

Learning Objectives:

1. Explain the inspiration of Scripture
2. Use the lectionary to locate assigned readings
3. Read aloud clearly, reverently, and confidently

Topics:

- Inspiration and authority of Scripture (2 Timothy 3:14–17; Nehemiah 8:1–8)

- The lectionary and Daily Office readings: An overview
- Public reading of Scripture: Voice, posture, and reverence in public reading

Assignments:

- Practice a psalm aloud
- Quiz on Scripture and lectionary use



✚ WEEK 3

The Book of Common Prayer

Learning Objectives:

1. Navigate the 1928 Book of Common Prayer
2. Lead the Daily Office according to rubrics
3. Understand the purpose of liturgical order

Topics:

- Structure of Morning and Evening Prayer
- Psalms, Canticles, Collects, Lessons
- Rubrics and conducting worship

Assignments:

- Lead a portion of Morning/Evening Prayer in class
- Quiz on BCP structure



✚ WEEK 4

Creeds, Salvation, and Sacraments

Learning Objectives:

1. Recite and explain the creeds
2. Articulate salvation in biblical and Anglican terms
3. Define a sacrament and its elements

4. Assisting at Holy Communion (rubrics and reverence)



WEEK 6

Practicum & Final Review

Learning Objectives:

1. Conduct the Daily Office Competently
2. Demonstrate Scripture Reading and Prayer Leadership

Topics:

- Leading Morning or Evening Prayer
- Reading lessons and leading the Creed
- Review of all core doctrine and duties
- Show understanding of REC doctrine and practice

Assessments:

- Final quiz
- Worship practicum
- Instructor evaluation

The cost is \$150 per person.

Two or more persons from the same congregation will be \$125 each.

For more information, contact Martha P. Dixon at mdixon@cumminstheoseminary.org or call 843-873-3451.



Topics:

- Apostles' Creed & Nicene Creed
- "Justified by grace through faith"
- Dominical sacraments: Baptism and Holy Communion

Assignments:

- Creed memorization
- Week 3 quiz



WEEK 5

Pastoral Conduct & Church Service

Learning Objectives:

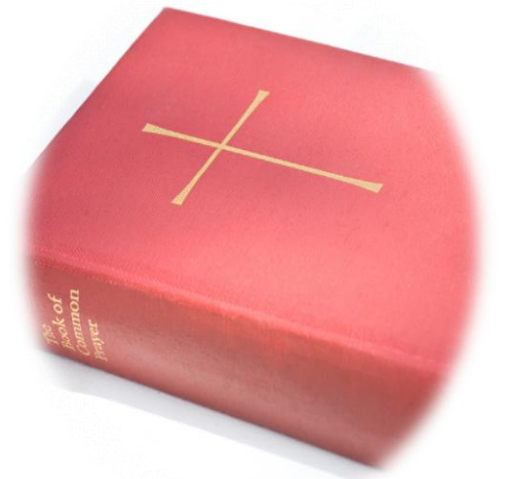
1. Practice reverent liturgical leadership
2. Write simple pastoral prayers
3. Recognize pastoral boundaries and dangers
4. Understand gestures, posture, and voice in worship leadership

Topics:

- Serving under clergy authority
- Proper voice and posture in worship
- Ministry to the sick and grieving
- What Lay Readers must avoid (teaching without permission, personal advice)

Assignments:

- Compose a short-written prayer
- Quiz on pastoral conduct



LAY READER TRAINING COURSE Reformed Episcopal Church Six-Week Program

**Cummins Memorial
Theological Seminary
705 South Main Street
Summerville, SC 29483**

**The Right Reverend
Willie J. Hill, Jr., President**

**Dr. Glenvil Gregory
Seminary Dean**