



# HSRM Renewal School of Ministry

**Term Offered:** Spring 2022 (March-April)

**Course: “Church History and Polity”**

**Course Times/Dates:** 1.5 hour Zoom meetings for six weeks, beginning Sunday March 20 for 6 consecutive Sundays ending, April 24.

Classes will meet live on Zoom at 8 pm ET/7:00pm CT/6:00pm MT/ 5:00 pm PT.

**Course Content:** The study of history gives us much needed perspective. The study of church history can help us understand the development of important ideas in Christianity. It can also warn us of the dangers of certain heresies and excesses that have harmed the movement of God. Ultimately, we will see God’s hand leading, protecting, and reviving his people. We will conclude our study with a look at the various expressions of church leadership (polity) that have developed in the churches over the ages. The course material and structure will be based on Bruce Shelley’s book Church History in Plain Language, 5th Edition.

**The six topics in the term include:**

1. The Age of Catholic Christianity (70 - 312 AD)
2. The Age of the Christian Roman Empire (312 - 590 AD) and The Christian Middle Ages (590-1517 AD)
3. The Age of Reformation (1517 - 1648 AD)
4. The Age of Reason and Revival (1648 - 1789 AD) and The Age of Progress (1789 - 1914 AD)
5. The Age of Ideologies (1914 - 1989) and The Age of Technology and the Spirit (1990 - )
6. Understanding of the blessing of wealth

**Recommended reading:** I highly recommend the purchase of Church History in Plain Language, 5th Edition. Since we will not have time to delve into every topic in our short survey, you will find it helpful to read the book to fill in your knowledge of the great movements and ideas that developed through church history.

**Instructor:** This course will be taught by Rev. Ed Owens. He graduated from The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary with a Master of Divinity. He served as the long-term pastor of the Olivet Baptist Church in Lansing, Michigan. He is the national chair of the Holy Spirit Renewal Ministries. He recently retired as a consultant for transition ministry with the American Baptist Churches of Michigan. [edgarowens@sbcglobal.net](mailto:edgarowens@sbcglobal.net) .

**Costs:** There is a \$10 fee to cover costs for taking courses in the Renewal School of Ministry. Please enroll for the course/s on our website: [www.hsrn.org](http://www.hsrn.org) . Thank you!

**Requirements for Credit:** To receive credit for the course students will need to:

- Attend every live Zoom session
- Participate in the class discussions
- Submit a 3 page report (single spaced) on one of the reformers or one of the revival movements.
- One absence is permitted as long as the student makes arrangements to watch the Zoom replay.