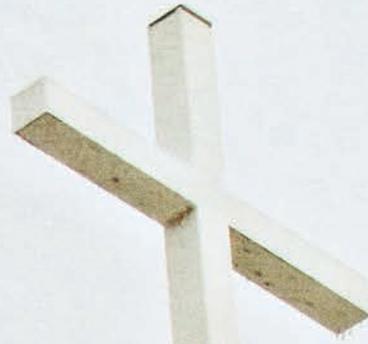


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BEING PRESBYTERIAN
PREPARATION FOR ORDERED MINISTRY

Session 6: The Confessions



Theocademy

A ministry of the
Synod of Mid-America

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Getting started

Before watching the video, consider the following questions.

- Have you ever been disoriented when you've walked in on the middle of a conversation? What does it usually take to get you on the same page with the people you're talking to?
- In what ways would it benefit us as congregational leaders to have at least a passing acquaintance with what's happened over the centuries of the Church's history?

During the video

As you watch the video, fill in the following chart.

Confession	Timeframe	Author(s)	Characteristics
Apostles' Creed			
Nicene Creed			
Scots Confession			

Confession	Timeframe	Author(s)	Characteristics
Second Helvetic Confession			
Heidelberg Catechism			
Westminster Documents			
Confession of 1967			
Barmen Declaration			
Brief Statement of Faith			

Comparing the confessions

Now that we have a general picture of the historical contexts of our confessions, it's time for us to take a look at what they have to say. While each statement is written with a specific aim in mind, most (if not all) of them all include a few central topics. Six are provided as supplemental materials to this session. In groups of 3-4, choose **one** of these topics. As you read what the *Book of Confessions* has to say about it, fill out the following chart. (Note: Try not to double-up on topics unless absolutely necessary.)

TOPIC:	
Similarities between confessions	
Differences between confessions	

In your own words

Stay with your group. In *no more than 50 words*, compose a belief statement about your chosen topic.

Compare your findings with the other groups.

- Why do you think the authors of the various creeds and confessions provide more in-depth exploration of some topics than others?
- Did knowing the historical background of each creed help you to understand them better? Why or why not?

- Did you discover any arguments or ideas you hadn't considered before? If so, what were they?
- Compare your 50-word statements. How easy/difficult was it to describe your beliefs in that amount of space? Why?

Personal reflection

After the session, complete the following statements.

- It's important for me to be able to explain what I believe because:
- When it comes to describing my faith, I'm good at:
- When it comes to describing my faith, I feel like I could use some more help on: