

## **Additional Information**

### **Recommendation on Hebrew Language Requirements**

Member Preparation and Call Commission

Candidate Justin Forbes

October 1, 2019

#### **Commission Recommendation**

With regard to Justin Forbes, Candidate for Ministry in good standing in the Presbytery of St. Augustine, the Member Preparation and Call Commission, following consultation with, and guidance from Reverend Timothy B. Cargal, Ph.D., Assistant Stated Clerk, Ministry Preparation and Support Mid Council Ministries of the Office of the General Assembly unanimously recommends that the presbytery approve the following action by a three-quarters (3/4) vote pursuant to G-2.0610 of the Book of Order:

Whereas, Justin Forbes (Candidate for Ministry) did not have the courses in Hebrew language and exegesis required under G-2.0607c, and there are very good reasons at this point for such study not to be undertaken through enrollment in such courses from an Association of Theological Schools (ATS) accredited seminary, we adopt the recommendation of the Member Preparation and Call Commission that the competencies required under G-2.0607c may be demonstrated through successful completion of approved tutorials in Hebrew language and exegesis under the direction of a retired professor (Dr. Buzz Brookman). This retired professor will provide notification to the Member Preparation and Call Commission once both tutorials have been completed including whether the candidate demonstrated the requisite competencies at a satisfactory level, and the Member Preparation and Call Commission will report back to the Presbytery whether or not the tutorials were satisfactorily completed. This process will provide the means for Justin Forbes to be exceptionally well qualified, but through a different route.

#### **About the Hebrew Language Requirement**

Our Book of Order (constitution) provides in G.2.0607 that anyone seeking ordination as a teaching elder (Minister of Word and Sacrament) provide "evidence of readiness" that include many requirements for study and preparation. Section (c) provides that these requirements include:

"a transcript from a theological institution accredited by the Association of Theological Schools acceptable to the presbytery, showing a course of study including Hebrew and Greek, exegesis

of the Old and New Testaments using Hebrew and Greek, satisfactory grades in all areas of study, and graduation or proximity to graduation..."

According to G-2.0610, this requirement (among others) can be waived by a three-quarters vote of the presbytery "for good and sufficient reasons."

Guidance for assessing whether the stated "reasons" are "good and sufficient" has been provided by an authoritative interpretation by the 206th General Assembly (1994) that affirmed that waivers should be granted when "the candidate is exceptionally well qualified, but through a different route than is usually followed."

It is also provided in G-2.0610 that: "A full account of the reasons for any waiver or alternate means to ascertain readiness shall be included in the minutes of the presbytery and communicated to the presbytery to which an inquirer or candidate may be transferred."

The Member Preparation and Call Commission requires that the content, expectations and learning outcomes of the Hebrew Language and Hebrew Exegesis tutorial courses will be consistent with the current Association of Theological Schools standards. Dr. Brookman (retired) lives in the same city as Justin, therefore the in-person tutorial is logistically feasible.

### **About Justin Forbes**

Justin Forbes is a member of the Memorial Presbyterian Church in St. Augustine, Florida, and is also under their care as a Candidate. He graduated from Princeton Theological Seminary in 2015 and is the Director of the Youth Ministries Program Flagler College. Justin is also the Director of the Missing Voices Project, for which he applied and received a one-million dollar grant from the Lilly Foundation in 2019. The grant project is in its start-up and early implementation stage.

He became an Inquirer for Ministry under our presbytery's care in March of 2018. Before that, Justin was in the ministry preparation process with the Covenant Order of Evangelical Presbyterians (ECO) denomination. The church where he was a member when he attended seminary (1<sup>st</sup> Presbyterian Church of North Palm Beach, FL) was dismissed from the Presbyterian Church (USA) to ECO (Evangelical Covenant Order of Presbyterians) and he initially maintained his membership with that congregation where he had grown up and been nurtured.

While Justin took courses to satisfy the Greek language and exegesis requirements, he was not able to satisfy the Hebrew requirements while at Princeton Seminary. His plan was to take the summer Hebrew intensive, and then the exegesis course during the year. However, his fourth

child was born during that summer intensive, and then Justin accepted a teaching position at Flagler College (which started mid-year), preventing him from taking the year-long version of Hebrew. He was able to graduate early, but not access the Hebrew courses required.

After a period of deep discernment, Justin determined that God was not calling him to be ordained as an ECO minister. He requested that our presbytery enroll him as an inquirer for ministry under our care and chose to complete the entirety of this presbytery's ordination requirements. The Member Preparation and Call Commission has been working closely with him to ensure that he completes all of our requirements for ordination, including the PC(USA) ordination examinations. Justin's adherence and enthusiastic commitment to taking the required Hebrew Language courses is clear. There is no reluctance on his part, in fact he welcomes the opportunity and is working with the commission to navigate the logistics and process issues that are present.

However, as will be reported in detail at the 2019 Fall Stated Meeting, there are very good reasons at this point for him to complete the Hebrew language and exegesis requirements by an alternate process. For purposes of the full account to be placed into the minutes of the presbytery, these include:

- Justin is currently enrolled in a PhD in Divinity at the University of Aberdeen, Scotland. This program has a fixed 5 year timeline that requires matriculation by the summer of 2022.
- Justin and his wife Bethany currently have two foster children in addition to their four children.
- Justin is currently the full time Director of the Youth Ministry Program at Flagler College, which includes teaching undergraduate courses in that program.
- Justin is also the Managing Director of the Missing Voices Project, a Lilly Grant funded initiated and housed by the Flagler College Youth Ministry Program.
- The tutorial format and locally based professor would make it possible for Justin to complete the denominational requirement for Hebrew language and Hebrew Exegesis, while tending to the other significant and time-sensitive responsibilities he has currently.

The following course syllabi were provided by Dr. Brookman, and includes course descriptions, goals, learning outcomes, required textbooks, materials and resources for both the Biblical Hebrew I course and the Hebrew Exegesis I courses.

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# **Biblical Hebrew I COURSE SYLLABUS**

Dr. Buzz Brookman

## **COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

This course is designed to introduce the student to the original language of the Old Testament. A study of the basic principles of phonology, morphology, and syntax will be undertaken. With the development of a modest vocabulary, selected passages of the Old Testament text will be read.

## **COURSE GOALS:**

- Enjoy the class.
- Make steady improvement in acquisition of vocabulary.
- Come to an understanding of grammatical concepts covered during the course by seeing them and making application of these concepts in exercises and by reading passages of the O.T.
- Acquire a desire for life-long learning and enjoyment from Hebrew.
- Build a vocabulary appropriate for a first-year student.

## **LEARNING OUTCOMES**

By the end of Introduction to Biblical Hebrew I, students should develop the following abilities:

1. Recall and recognize Hebrew vocabulary (from textbook chapters 1-15), and develop a working knowledge of using the biblical Hebrew lexicon (dictionary);
2. Understand and apply introductory basics of biblical Hebrew grammar for comprehension purposes, in particular certain foundational building blocks (e.g. syllabification; roots; verbal patterns);
3. Analyze parts of a sentence with the help of syntax (sentence word order) for the sake of translation; and
4. Integrate the above in reading and translating selected passages from the Hebrew Bible

## **REQUIRED MATERIALS:**

1. Pratico, Gary and Miles Van Pelt, Basics of Biblical Hebrew (2<sup>nd</sup> ed.).
2. Pratico, Gary and Miles Van Pelt, Basics of Biblical Hebrew Workbook (2<sup>nd</sup> ed.).

## **Hebrew Resources - Grammar**

Gesenius, Wilhelm. Gesenius' Hebrew Grammar. Edited and enlarged by E. Kautzsch. 2d Eng. ed. Translated by A.E. Cowley. New York, N.Y.: Oxford University Press, 1910.

Call #: PJ 4564 .G55 1910

Joüon, Paul and T. Muraoka. A Grammar of Biblical Hebrew. 2d ed. Subsidia Biblica 27. Rome: Pontifical Biblical Institute, 2006.

Van Der Merwe, Christo H. J., Jackie A. Naude, and Jan H. Kroeze. Biblical Hebrew Reference Grammar. Biblical Languages: Hebrew 3. Sheffield: Sheffield Academic Press, 2002.

Walsh, Jerome T. *Style and Structure in Biblical Hebrew Narrative*. Collegeville, Minn.: Michael Glazier Books, 2001.

Waltke, Bruce K. and M. O'Connor. *An Introduction to Biblical Hebrew Syntax*. Winona Lake, Ind.: Eisenbrauns, 1990.

Call #: PJ 4707.W35 1990

#### Lexical-Grammatical Aids

Owens, John Joseph. *Analytical Key to the Old Testament*. 4 vols. Grand Rapids, Mich.: Baker Book House, 1989-92.

Call #: PJ4731.B53 O94 1989

Einspahr, Bruce. *Index to Brown, Driver & Briggs Hebrew Lexicon*. Chicago, Ill.: Moody Press, 1982.

Call #: Ref PJ 4833. B683 E35

First stop if you are completely befuddled by a word. It will direct you to the page of BDB on which it appears.

#### BDB

##### Hebrew and English Lexicon of the Old Testament

Brown, Francis, Samuel R. Driver, and Charles A. Briggs. *The Brown-Driver-Briggs Hebrew and English Lexicon: Coded with Strong's Concordance Numbers*. Peabody, Mass.: Hendrickson Publishers, 1979.

Call #: Ref PJ 4833 B66

Remember, you must know the root to find your word in here. This is the standard lexicon of today, but it is weak in recent research such as Ugaritic citations.

Davidson, Benjamin. *The Analytical Hebrew and Chaldee Lexicon*. Peabody, Mass.: Hendrickson, 2004.

Call #: Ref PJ 4833 .D30 2004

This breaks down every word in the O.T. grammatically. Excellent for very difficult words.

Williams, Ronald J. and John C. Beckman, Jr. *Williams' Hebrew Syntax*. 3d ed. Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2008.

A useful grammatical summary of the syntax of nouns, verbs, and particles. Use the index in the back to find particular verses.

Davidson, Benjamin. *Concordance of the Hebrew and Chaldee Scriptures*. Rev. and cor. London: Bagster, 1876.

Call #: Ref PJ 4833 D32

Wigram, George V. *The Englishman's Greek Concordance of the Old Testament*. Peabody, Mass.: Hendrickson Publishers, 1980.

Call #: Ref BS 1121. E5 1980

Harris, R. Laird, Gleason L. Archer, Jr. and Bruce K. Waltke, eds. *Theological Wordbook of the Old Testament*. 2 vols. Chicago, Ill.: Moody Press, 1980.

Call #: BS 440. T49

Easy to use lexicon written by Evangelicals. Bibliographies for many words.

Gesenius, Wilhelm. Gesenius' Hebrew Grammar. Edited and enlarged by E. Kautzsch. 2d Eng. ed. Translated by A.E. Cowley. Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1910. This is the standard grammar book.

Holladay, William L., ed. A Concise Hebrew and Aramaic Lexicon of the Old Testament: Based on the First, Second and Third Editions of the Koehler-Baumgartner Lexicon in Veteris Testamenti Libros. Grand Rapids, Mich.: Eerdmans, 1988.

Call #: Ref PJ 4833 .H6 1988

Shorter than BDB but more up to date; a good lexicon

Botterweck G. Johannes and Helmer Ringgren eds.; Translator: John T. Willis. Theological dictionary of the Old Testament. Grand Rapids : Eerdmans, [1974-<1980 >] Call #: REFERENCE COLLECTION BS440 .B5713

MAIN COLLECTION BS440 .B5713

Word Lists – Vocabulary Building

Watts, John D. W. Lists of Words Occurring Frequently in the Hebrew Bible. 2d ed. Grand Rapids, Mich.: Eerdmans, 1960.

Call #: PJ 4845 .W3 1960

Pratico, Gary D. and Miles V. Van Pelt. The Vocabulary Guide to Biblical Hebrew. Grand Rapids, Mich.: Zondervan, 2003.

Mitchell, Larry A. A Student's Vocabulary for Biblical Hebrew and Aramaic. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 1984.

The Critical Text

Elliger, Karl and Wilhelm Rudolph, eds. Biblia Hebraica Stuttgartensia (Compact Edition). Peabody, Mass.: Hendrickson, 2006.

Call #: BS 717 .K5 1977 The standard critical text

Würthwein, Ernst. The Text of the Old Testament: an Introduction to the Biblia Hebraica. 2d ed. Translated by Erroll F. Rhodes. Grand Rapids, Mich.: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1995.

Call #: BS 1136 .W813 1979

A nice reference of the primary versions

## **C. Research Tools**

### 1. ATLA Database

This is a must for making a search of the literature for any aspect of Biblical research.

### 2. Old Testament Abstracts

This journal, published quarterly, abstracts hundreds of journal articles which have been recently published.

## **D. Commentary Series**

1. Anchor Bible
2. The Old Testament Library
3. Hermeneia
4. Luther's Commentaries (Please read Luther!)

5. Calvin's Commentaries (These are very good to read)
6. Keil and Delitzsch (a lot of grammatical commentary)
7. International Critical Commentary
8. Word Biblical Commentary (excellent format with good bibliographies)

Exegesis, Exposition, Background

1. The Interpreter's Dictionary of the Bible Call #: Ref BS 440 I63  
Excellent for background material.
1. Childs, Introduction to the O.T. as Scripture Call #: BS1140.2 .C48 1979
2. Stuart, O. T. Exegesis: A Primer for Students & Pastors A nice paperback resource to have.  
Call #: BS476. S83 2009.

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## **Advanced Seminar in Ancient Hebrew Exegesis**

Dr. Buzz Brookman

### **TOPIC: HEBREW PROPHETS (JONAH & MALACHI)**

#### **COURSE OBJECTIVES:**

Enjoy the class.

Make steady improvement in acquisition of vocabulary.

Solidify an understanding of grammatical concepts covered during the course by seeing them and making application of these concepts by reading passages of the O.T.

Acquire a desire for life-long learning and enjoyment from Hebrew.

Gain exposure to a variety of texts.

Improve oral reading skills.

Develop skills in exegesis and biblical interpretation.

#### **REQUIRED MATERIALS:**

1. Mitchel, Larry A. A Student's Vocabulary for Biblical Hebrew and Aramaic. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 1984.
2. Holladay, William L. A Concise Hebrew and Aramaic Lexicon of the Old Testament. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1988.
3. Eddinger, Terry W. Malachi: A Handbook on the Hebrew Text: Baylor Handbook on the Hebrew Bible. Waco, Tex. Baylor University Press, 2012. ISBN 9781602584273.
4. Tucker, Dennis W. Jonah: A Handbook on the Hebrew Text. Waco, Tex. Baylor University Press, 2006. ISBN 9781481308465

**Tentative Schedule of Reading/Assignments:**

- Week 1 Johah 1
- Week 2 Jonah 2
- Week 3 Jonah 3
- Week 4 Jonah 4
- Week 5 Catch up & Review of Jonah
- Week 6 Jonah Exegesis Paper
- Week 7 Malachi 1
- Week 8 Malachi 1
- Week 9 Malachi 2
- Week 10 Malachi 2
- Week 11 Malachi 3
- Week 12 Malachi 4
- Week 14 Malachi 4
- Week 15 Catch up & Review of Malachi
- Week 16 Malachi Exegesis Presentation