

Session 3: The Theology of ECO

1. What is contained in the Essentials Tenets of ECO?

- a. The essentials of the Christian faith
- b. The essentials of the Reformed faith
- c. Ten Commandments – living our lives in conformity with the desires of God.

2. How are the Essential Tenets applied to officers?

- a. 2.0101 – “Ordaining bodies must ensure that all officers adhere to the Essential Tenets of ECO”
- b. 2.0103c – Ordination vow states, “Will you receive, adopt, and be bound by the Essential Tenets of ECO as a reliable exposition of what Scripture teaches us to do and to believe, and will you be guided by them in your ministry?”

3. How are the Essential Tenets and Confessions related?

- a. Paragraph 2 of the Essentials says, “Essential Tenets are tied to the teaching of the Confessions as reliable expositions of Scripture.”
- b. 2.0103d – Ordination vow states, “Relying on the Holy Spirit, do you humbly submit to God’s call on your life, committing yourself to God’s mission, and fulfilling your ministry in obedience to Jesus Christ, under the authority of Scripture and guided by our confessions?”

Reflection Questions:

1. As you read the Essential Tenets, what phrases or words do you find particularly meaningful?
2. Are there any parts of the Essential Tenets that raise questions or that you would push back against?
3. How would you express in your own words the confessional nature of ECO?