Iona School for Ministry

**The Continental Reformation**

**Second Year**

**December 3, 2022**

**The Rev. Mark T. Crawford**

**Study Guide**

**Session Objectives:** The students will become familiar with the major events, personalities and theologies of the Reformation on the Continent of Western Europe in the 16th century. They will also learn the important consequences of the Reformation period to the contemporary church. These objectives will align with the TEAC goals for ordinands to be knowledgeable about the history and traditions of the church.

**Assigned reading:** The Story of Christianity, Volume II. Part I – The Reformation

Justo L. Gonzalez, pp. 1-166.

**Chapter I – the Call to Reformation**

Why was the Church ripe for reformation at the beginning of the 16th century?

What forces were at work in the world and the church at this time?

What contributions did Erasmus make to the reformation of the church?

**Chapter II – Martin Luther: Pilgrimage**

Why was Luther an unlikely person to initiate the reformation in Germany?

What invention propelled his call to reformation into high gear?

What political factors influenced the movement for reform?

**Chapter III – An Uncertain Decade**

Why does Gonzalez call this chapter, “The Uncertain Decade”?

What was significant about the Diets? (See “The Diets of the Empire” pp. 44-46).

**Chapter IV – Luther’s Theology**

How would you summarize Luther’s theology in a few short sentences?

What do you think was his most important contribution to theology and biblical studies?

**Chapter V – Ulrich Zwingli and the Swiss Reformation**

What was the major difference between the reformation in Switzerland and Germany?

How did the break with Rome occur?

What characterized Zwingli’s theology?

How did the reformers who gathered in Marburg differ on the meaning and efficacy of communion?

**Chapter VI – the Radical Reformation**

What is the meaning of “Anabaptists?”

How did they differ in their understanding of church and society than the other reformers?

Who were the revolutionary Anabaptists and why did they fail?

Who are the descendants of the later Anabaptists today?

**Chapter VII – John Calvin**

Many scholars regard Calvin as the best educated and most articulate of all the reformers. Why?

Did Calvin’s model of reform in the city of Geneva fail? What factors were at work?

Why is there a distinction between Calvin and Calvinism?

What place does his work, *the Institutes*, have in theology today?

**Chapter VIII – the Reformation in Great Britain** (read this chapter, however we’ll cover this important subject in another session).

**Chapter IX – Further Developments within Lutheranism**

What was the outcome of the War of Schmalkalden?

What is meant by the term, “Interim” and how was Charles V instrumental in its adoption?

What characterized Scandinavian Lutheranism?

**Chapter X—the Reformation in the Low Countries**

What are the Low Countries?

What were their contributions to the Reformation?

**Chapter XI—Protestantism in France**

Who were the Huguenots?

What happened at the massacre on St. Bartholomew’s Day? What were the repercussions for the reformation in France?

What was the war of the three Henrys?

**Chapter XII – the Catholic Reformation**

What was the reformation Spanish Catholicism?

Describe the polemics against “Protestantism.”

What gave rise to new orders in Roman Catholicism?

How did the papacy reform itself?

What were the major outcomes of the Council of Trent?

**Chapter XIII – Protestantism at the Edges** (read this chapter, but we probably will not have time to cover this during class).

**Chapter XIV – A Convulsed Age** (read this summary of the 16th century – why is it called a “pivotal period in the entire history of Christianity?)