

# CONCLUSION

The hallmark of these exams is the situational nature of the exams. Even the open-book Biblical exegesis assumes some type of community of God's people, lots of research and preparation. Field education is going to be very important on these exams. The exams put you in a situation that is possible, probable and likely to happen in a congregational setting. The more you have been around, talked to people, had experiences in the life of the church the better equipped you are to respond, because it is experiential response --- you can identify with and relate to the situation.

Situational experiences are by definition a "dilemma." "On-the-one-hand-and-then-on-the-other-hand" scenario. The one thing you do not want to do is to deny the "dilemma." Point out the good points in the situation -- point out where there needs to be some correction, that is what being a pastor is all about, and gently direct them. It takes discipline to move God's people in faith. Respond with heart and head --- the hallmark of Presbyterian ministry.

Remember that these exams are not being graded by seminary professors who know you, but by colleagues who do not know you. All they know is the paper to which they are going to react. They are your colleagues --- and they know all too well that you will not get very far in ministry by denying the complexities of life. We work very hard with readers to help them see that they are engaged in ministry as they react to your written comments on these exams.

May God's richest blessings be with you as you approach these ordination examinations.