

SERMON NOTES

1 Timothy 2:12 & 1 Corinthians 14:33b-35 (NRSV) | Rev. Dr. Alf Halvorson

This is the second in our summer series on what it means to be “The church reformed and always being reformed according to God’s Word.” What distinctives of the Reformed Tradition are worth lifting, celebrating, and resting in together? Last week, I focused on what the words *evangelical* and *reformed* mean to us. And next week, we will begin making our way through the *essential tenets* of our ECO Denomination, using Scripture as our guide.

Today, though, I want to address what *egalitarian* means for us as a church. We affirm in our tradition that God calls men and women to all the ministries of the church, including elder, deacon, and pulpit. How do we explain that position biblically, when the two texts above seem to suggest the opposite?

1. If you have attended churches in the past, did those bodies have men and women in all leadership positions or just men in some offices? How did that make you feel? How did the churches function with roles in different configurations? What were the positives and negatives of the egalitarian or complementarian approaches in practice?
2. In my message, I used the presbyterian/reformed approach of “Scripture interpreting Scripture” to attempt to explain the egalitarian position with texts that talked about creation, the fall, examples in the Old Testament, the New Testament witness, Jesus’ words and actions, and Paul’s ministry. Here were the texts in case you wanted to do a deeper dive:

Gen. 1:26-27	Neh. 6:14	Luke 8:1-3	Acts 18:24-28
Gen. 2:18-24	Judges, 4:4-10	Luke 10:38-42	Rom. 16:1-16
Ps. 121:1-2	2 Kings 22:8-22	John 4:7-42	Col. 4:15
Gen. 3:16-19	Joel 2:28-32	Matt. 28:1-10	Phil. 4:1-3
Ex. 15:1-2 & 20-21 plus Micah 6:4	Acts 1:12-2:47	Luke 24:5-10	Gal. 3:27-29
	Acts 1:14	John 20:15-18	
	Acts 21:8-9	Acts 16:1-15	

Which helped you the most? Were any confusing?

3. Then I talked in summary about what some key, top-notch, faithful scholars have said about 1 Tim. 2:12 & 1 Cor. 14:33b-35. Did those arguments ring true or come off as hollow?
4. How does the whole counsel of Scripture lead you to view women in spiritual leadership? Do you agree or disagree with our conclusion? Why?
5. If you would like to explore this topic with greater breadth and depth, Rev. Dr. Jim Singleton’ gave a seminal talk on this subject at the 2017 ECO National Convention, and Fuller Theological Seminary has an exhaustive discussion on women’s ordination - scan the QR codes below for these resources. Both should help fill in your picture and answer many of your questions. Also, don’t be shy to reach out to one of our pastors or ministry leaders to have a meaningful conversation about questions or concerns or hopes.



Rev. Dr. Singleton at the 2017
ECO National Convention



Fuller Theological Seminary:
Women in Ministry

Financial Update as of May 31, 2026

2026 Annual Budget	\$ 14,728,728
Actual Income to Date	5,824,469
Needed to Meet 2026 Budget	8,904,259

MDPC 11612 Memorial Drive, 77024 | mdpc.org | 713.782.1710

Sun, June 7, 2026



Stephen Ministry Sunday

Join us today in welcoming eight new Stephen Ministers to MDPC’s Stephen Ministry team. They have completed extensive training for the skills to provide distinctively Christian, confidential, one-to-one care to those experiencing stressful life circumstances. Whatever the need is, large or small, a Stephen Minister is ready to offer support and encouragement.

Youth Alumni Still Connected

Sun, Jun 7-Aug 2 | 11:15am | The Youth Garage
Summer group for MDPC graduating seniors and current away college students (MDPC Youth Alumni). We’ll be talking about real-life topics like identity, anxiety, relationships, and more. Details and RSVP: youthevents.mdpc.org

Youth Alumni Summer Bible Study

Tue, Jun 9-Jul 28 | 7pm | MDPC
MDPC Youth Alumni (AKA all of our current away college students and friends), this is a space for you to reconnect, build community, and grow in your faith while you’re home for the summer. Whether every week or just when you can, you are always welcome youthevents.mdpc.org

Wednesday Night Summer Bible Study

Wed, Jun 10-Jul 1 | 6:30-7:30pm | Summit Room
Open to everyone! We’ll spend two weeks in Jude with Dr. Laurien Hook and two weeks in Jonah with Dr. Clay Brown. Our study of these powerful and often-overlooked books will be a rich opportunity for learning, discussion, and fellowship. Details under Events at discipleship.mdpc.org.

Summer Film Series

Wed, June 17 | 3pm | Amphitheater
Join us in for popcorn and a movie - all free, and all are welcome! Sponsored by MDPC Prime Timers. *Heaven Is for Real* (PG). See the full schedule of movies at movies.mdpc.org.

ECO Theology Conference

Mon-Wed, Sep 21-23 | MDPC
Join ECO pastors, elders, deacons, and covenant partners from across the nation at *Light in the Darkness: Faithful Responses to Heresy*. Presentations on contemporary expressions of ancient heresies, their impact today, and our faithful responses to them. For schedule and to register, visit theologyconf.mdpc.org.

H-Town Fellows at MDPC

Sep 2026-May 2027 | Wednesdays at 6pm
Are you a professional ready to seek God’s purpose for your career? H-Town Fellows trains Christians to live the gospel coherently across vocation, community, and culture. With questions or for scholarship information, reach out to Joshua Smith at jsmith@mdpc.org. Find more details and apply at fellows.mdpc.org.

Officer Nominations

Open Now at nominations.mdpc.org
We need your help in identifying members whose gifts may be calling them into leadership at MDPC. As you pray, who comes to mind as a future Elder or Deacon? Submit nominations online, or use a paper form available around campus. Thank you for taking part in this meaningful season in the life of MDPC.



STEPHEN
MINISTRY

Christ caring for people through people.

Are you going through a difficult time? A Stephen Minister can help. Stephen Ministers are members of our congregation who listen, care, encourage, and provide emotional and spiritual support. To learn how you can receive this confidential care, contact Beverly Fluke: bfluke@mdpc.org, 713.490.9542



Scan the QR code to learn more about Stephen Ministry at MDPC.



Online Giving give.mdpc.org



All Events events.mdpc.org

As you enter worship, we kindly ask that you silence your cell phones.



8:30 BLENDED SERVICE

GATHERING

Call to Worship Beth Case
*Songs of Praise Blessed Be Your Name | Fairest Lord Jesus
Confession & Assurance Stephen Minister
Worship Songs Nothing But the Blood of Jesus
O Praise the Name (Anastasis)

HEARING THE WORD

Message R & R: Reformed & Reforming Alf Halvorson
1 Timothy 2:12 & 1 Corinthians 14:33b-35 (NRSV)

RESPONDING

Communion Alf Halvorson
All who confess their faith in Christ are welcome to The Lord's Table.
Communion Meditation Center

SENDING

*Benediction Alf Halvorson

9:45 CONTEMPORARY SERVICE

GATHERING

Call to Worship Michael Middleton
*Songs of Praise Lead On Good Shepherd | How Great Is Your Love
Confession & Assurance Stephen Minister
Songs of Response Nothing But the Blood of Jesus
Welcome Beth Case
Worship Song O Praise the Name (Anastasis)

HEARING THE WORD

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Communion Meditation Center

SENDING

*Benediction Alf Halvorson

Blended and Contemporary Worship Leaders
MDPC Worship Team: Uvaldo Callejas, David Cavazos, Asher Pudlo, Will Story
Michael Middleton, Generational Worship Director | Meliza Gómez, Contemporary Worship Director

* Please stand, if comfortable.

11:15 TRADITIONAL SERVICE

GATHERING

Preludes Andante Religioso Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847)
Prelude in F Fanny Mendelssohn (1805-1847)
Call to Worship Beth Case
Choral Introit All the Earth Will Worship Tom Fettke (b. 1941)
*Hymn of Praise Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah Vs. 1, 3 | #281 | CWM RHONDDA

*Confession & Assurance of Pardon Stephen Minister

*Affirmation of Faith from 1 Corinthians 15-1-6 & Colossians 1:15-20

*Congregational Response Just as I Am, Without One Plea Vs. 1, 4 | #370 | WOODWORTH

HEARING THE WORD

Anthem of Preparation One Faith, One Hope, One Lord Craig Courtney (b. 1954)
Message R & R: Reformed & Reforming Alf Halvorson
1 Timothy 2:12 & 1 Corinthians 14:33b-35 (NRSV)

RESPONDING

*Hymn of Response In Christ There Is No East or West Vs. 1, 4 | #439 | ST. PETER

Communion Alf Halvorson
All who confess their faith in Christ are welcome to The Lord's Table.

Choral Anthem Soul of Christ, Sanctify Me Philip Stopford (b.1977)

Organ Solo Adagio Flor Peeters (1903-1986)

SENDING

*Benediction Alf Halvorson

Postlude Highland Cathedral Roever/Korb

Traditional Worship Leaders
MDPC Sanctuary Choir | Kathryn White, organist |
Charles Hausmann, Traditional Worship Director

* Please stand, if comfortable.

You're Invited to ALL-CHURCH LUNCH
Join your church family after services for lunch on the first Sunday of each month!
Pricing and menu: ACL.mdpc.org
Today! 11am-1pm Fellowship Hall
MDPC CAFE



Remember Our Frontline Mission Partners

MDPC partners in local and global ministry truly covet your prayers! Find out this week's prayer recipients by picking up the prayer booklet available around campus or visit partners.mdpc.org.