## **Biblical Counseling Institute**

Dr. George C. Scipione Director

Dr. George Scipione is a member of the Association of Certified Biblical Counselors (ACBC), for which he also is a Supervising Fellow, a board member, and a member of the Academy. He was hired by RPTS to develop and direct the Biblical Counseling Institute to offer pastoral students more hands-on experience before graduation. In addition to pastoral counseling courses, students have the opportunity to "shadow" Dr. Scipione in counseling sessions.

Dr. Scipione has been a minister in the Orthodox Presbyterian Church since 1974 and is the founder and former director of the Institute for Biblical Counseling and Discipleship in San Diego, a ministry that trains church officers and laymen in the principles and practices of counseling based on the Word of God as a fully sufficient guide.

"I believe counseling is a subset of discipleship. Therefore, counseling is a spiritual duty and for select persons, the exercise of a spiritual gift. The elders are God's main counselors, while gifted laymen will help them, and all exercise this duty. All non-organic problems must be solved Biblically under the oversight of the elders. Organic problems need the best available medical care in conjunction with the pastoral care of the elders."

He has written the following select articles: "The Wonderful Counselor, the Other Counselor, and Christian Counseling," in Westminster Theological Journal; "The Biblical Ethics of Transsexual Operations," in The Journal of Biblical Ethics in Medicine; "Is Porn Norm?" in Evangelium; and the following in the Journal of Pastoral Practice: "How Important is the Biblical Counseling Movement?"; "Eeney, Meeny, Mieny, Mo, Is Biblical Counseling It or No?"; "The Limits of Confidentiality in Counseling"; "Who Owns the Children of Divorce?"; and "Self-Esteem is Sweeping Over America." He also is author of The Pauline Concept of SUNEIDESIS (MTh), Timothy, Titus and You: A Workbook for Church Leaders, and The Sword and the Shovel: The Battle for the Biblical Family. Dr. Scipione has taught abroad in Brazil, the Czech Republic, and Uganda.

George and his wife, Eileen, were married in 1972. They have five children and two grand-children.

## **Pastoral Experience**

Calvary Community Orthodox Presbyterian Church, Harmony, NJ - Pastor, 1974-1982

Bayview Orthodox Presbyterian Church, Chula Vista, CA - Associate Pastor, 1992-2006

Covenant Community Orthodox Presbyterian Church, Taylors, SC - Church Planter, 2006-2008

## **Additional Teaching Experience**

Christian Counseling and Educational Foundation, Glenside, PA
Institute for Biblical Counseling and Discipleship, San Diego, CA
Westminster Seminary California
Ottawa Theological Hall, Ottawa, ON
Greenville Presbyterian Theological Seminary, SC
Puritan Reformed Theological Seminary, Grand Rapids, MI
Lecturer in theology in Africa, Asia, Europe, and Central and South America

## **Education**

AB, Temple University
BD, Westminster Theological Seminary
MA, Temple University
ThM, Westminster Theological Seminary
PhD, Whitefield Theological Seminary
DMin studies, Westminster Theological Seminary (Philadelphia), Westminster

Theological Seminary (California), Reformed Presbyterian Theological Seminary