

Biography – Rev. Dr. Mike Branscombe

Mike Branscombe studies theology in Durham (England) from 1992-1995, and was ordained Deacon and Priest in the Church of England Diocese of Lichfield. He served as assistant Curate at St. James Ogle Hay with Brownhills for three years. Whilst at St. James he planted a new congregation at Holy Trinity Clayhanger, he served as Holy Trinity's first Priest-in-Charge on part time basis combining this with a position on the Bishop's staff as Diocesan Vocations Officer for the Diocese of Lichfield. In 2001 Mike moved to Florida and served as Assistant Rector at St. Alfred's Palm Harbor. Whilst at St. Alfred's he began studies for a Doctor of Ministry degree at Trinity Episcopal School for Ministry in Ambridge, PA. In 2003 Mike was called to his current position as Associate Rector and Youth Minister at Church of The Ascension in Clearwater. In May 2008 he was awarded a Doctor of Ministry Degree, his research specialized in how Christian Stewardship can be communicated to postmodern thinkers. Mike has chaired the Diocese of Southwest Florida Commission on Ministry since October 2006. Mike is married to Margaret and they await the adoption of their first child. Mike enjoys nothing more than riding his Triumph Daytona in the cooler Florida months.

'Middle Ages' Church History

c.1050 – c.1500

SCHOOL FOR MINISTRY DEVELOPMENT

Diocese of Southwest Florida

PURPOSE AND SCOPE

We will explore the shift of concentrated Christian thinking from the great patristic Mediterranean centers to Western Europe. As the fall of Rome in 410 leads to the Dark Ages, we will explore the three major power groupings that emerge to take the place of the Roman Empire: Byzantium, Western Europe, and The Caliphate. We will examine the schools of thought that find expression in Scholasticism and Humanism, and consider their enduring theological legacy.

REQUIRED READING

How to Read Church History Volume 1: From the Beginnings to the Fifteenth Century (The Crossroad Adult Christian Formation) (Paperback), Jean Comby.
(Chapters 7 to 10, pages 116 – 189)

BEFORE YOU COME TO CLASS

Complete the required reading and come to class with two short (1-2 paragraphs) research papers, based on any two of the following theologians: Anselm (c.1033-1109); Thomas Aquinas (c.1225-74); Duns Scotus (c.1265-1308); William of Ockham (c.1285-1347); Erasmus of Rotterdam (c.1469-1536). These papers will be used to aid our in-class discussion. This research must use sources other than the required reading, please acknowledge sources used for papers.

COURSE CREDIT

Full credit will be granted to participants who complete the required reading assignment, come to class prepared to discuss their papers, and complete the final project to be determined on the day of class.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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