

Site Report: West Point Academy

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Introduction: The Academy is located at West Point, New York about 50 miles north of New York City. It has approximately 4,000 undergraduates. It trains more U.S. Army officers than any other single institution and a high proportion of distinguished American generals have been West Point graduates. Some of those include Dwight D. Eisenhower, Robert E. Lee, John J. Pershing, Omar Bradley and Douglas McArthur.

Need: West Point Academy needs a Presbyterian and Reformed witness. A reformed minister would be charged with reaching out to these highly motivated students from all across our nation and some from foreign countries with the Gospel of our Lord. He would have a unique opportunity to help these students, who will go on to serve their nation, embrace a truly Christian World and Life View. This would also have an impact on all those who serve along with him and under his command.

Project Description: A campus minister in the Presbyterian and Reformed tradition is needed to establish such a witness on the campus of West Point.

It is essential that a man called to this work to have a very good understanding of the military culture. A former Army officer would be a good match.

Military bearing and appearance would be helpful in building a rapport with the cadets.

He should be sharp theologically and a faithful expositor of the Word of God.

He should also be given to hospitality which will be important in this type of ministry.

Funding would come from a variety of sources. The local presbytery and churches outside of the geographical bounds could partner to support such an effort to expand the Kingdom of God. The campus minister would raise a portion of his support. Other interested believers could contribute to the effort.

Conclusion: The West Point community could benefit greatly from a doctrine of grace ministry. Currently there are several para church groups meeting on campus. They include the Baptist Student Union and Officer Christian Fellowship. It is important that the Presbyterian and Reformed community get in the mix and not neglect this institution of higher learning. These are some of our best and brightest citizens who understand duty, honor, and country. Christian military officers will impact generations for the cause of Christ.