

## COMMITTEE ON MINISTERIAL CARE

# JOHN M. FIKKERT, NEW DIRECTOR OF MINISTERIAL CARE



John Fikkert is an ordained OP pastor and licensed counselor

As the new Director of Ministerial Care, John Fikkert hopes to contribute to the projects already begun by the Committee on Ministerial Care and to develop new initiatives that reflect the committee's mandate to support the OPC's active and retired ministers.

Fikkert grew up a covenant child, attending with his family New Hope Presbyterian in Green Bay, Wisconsin, throughout his childhood and Apple Valley Presbyterian in Neenah, Wisconsin, during his high school years. He attended Dordt College and graduated with a degree in engineering. After working for several years as an engineer at a paint factory, he began to feel a call to the ministry. During his time at Reformed Theological Seminary in Jackson, Mississippi, he discovered a strong interest in counseling studies and, as he was testing out ministry gifts, found he had an interest in both one-on-one and public ministry. He received both a master of divinity and master of counseling degrees. He met his wife, Lindsay, at seminary.

After graduating from seminary in 2005, John completed a one-year internship with Pastor Lendall Smith at Bethel Presbyterian in Wheaton, Illinois. Following the internship, he remained at Bethel to serve as a pastoral assistant. He was ordained as associate pastor in 2009, serving alongside Pastor Craig Troxel. While in Wheaton, John and Lindsay were blessed with two children, Karis and Caleb. Also in Wheaton, while John was serving at Bethel, Lindsay completed her doctoral studies in clinical psychology at Wheaton College.

In 2015, the family moved to Pella, Iowa, where John and Lindsay both began full-time counseling positions. After moving to Iowa, John continued in ministry by serving as an associate pastor and clerk for both Grace Reformed in Des Moines, Iowa, and Hope Reformed in Pella, Iowa. At the presbytery level, he has served on three committees: Christian Education, Overtures and Papers, and Leaves of Absence

and Sessional Records. John became a member of the OPC's Committee on Ministerial Care in the summer of 2019.

## Live Webinar on April 16 David Murray on *Reset*

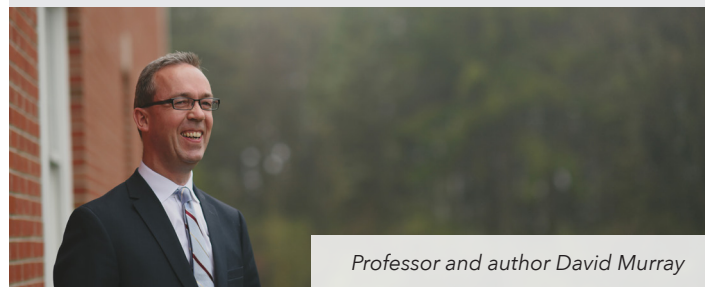
The Committee on Ministerial Care is delighted to announce its upcoming live video webinar with Dr. David Murray at 2:00 p.m. EST on April 16.

The webinar will center on pastoral burnout, the subject of Murray's 2017 book *Reset* (see review on page 20). All ministers or ministers' wives who watch the webinar on April 16 will receive a free copy of the book.

Murray is professor of Old Testament and Practical Theology at Puritan Reformed Theological Seminary in Grand Rapids, Michigan. He pastored three churches in the UK and the US over the past twenty-three years and has been teaching at the seminary since 2007. Murray, together with his wife, Shona, is the author of *Refresh*, a companion to *Reset* that was also published in 2017.

CMC's new director, John Fikkert, will interview David Murray. The committee is grateful that Murray generously agreed to share his time and godly wisdom with us on this live webinar.

Please mark your calendars and plan to join the discussion on April 16. Watch your email for a link to join.



Professor and author David Murray