



REFORMED PRESBYTERIAN TIMES

SUMMER EDITION



WE LOVE IT WHEN YOU JOIN US FOR CONFERENCES & SOCIAL EVENTS,
SO INCLUDE THESE DATES ON YOUR CALENDAR NOW!

New Student Orientation – September 3 from 1-5 pm

Kick Off Picnic – September 3 at 5:15 pm

Dr. Barry York Inauguration - September 7

Westminster Conference – September 8

Inauguration of Rev. Keith Evans - November 2



ACADEMIC NEWS

Payment Plan: Anyone not paying in full by the first class of the Fall Quarter must have a written payment plan arranged with the RPTS Office for payment as follows: 1/3 of tuition and fees payable by the first class of the quarter, 1/3 of tuition and fees due on the 4th of the month following the start of the quarter, and 1/3 of tuition and fees due on the 4th of the second month following the start of the quarter. When the payment plan is arranged with the Office, the student must sign a promissory note as documentation of the plan and promise to pay. Please contact [Vicki Smith](#) to set up your payment plan.

Book Orders: Just a reminder that book orders through RPTS are due by Fri, Aug. 10 at noon. The booklist can be found on the RPTS website (rpts.edu) under Students. **Note that the Bibleworks computer program is no longer available. More information will be coming from the faculty about recommended Bible software.*

Registration: Some of you have yet to register for your fall classes. Get started today!

RPTS NEWS

New Student Orientation will be held on Monday, September 3, which is Labor Day. All new MDiv, MTS, Diploma, and Certificate candidates, and their spouses, are expected to meet at 1 pm that afternoon. Auditors are welcome. Distance students will receive Orientation materials electronically, but are welcome to attend if possible. Students who enrolled within the last academic year, but did not attend last year's orientation, are also expected to attend. Bring your laptop or other electronic device that you will use on campus. Presentations on your studies and life at RPTS will be given. A photograph of incoming students will be taken, so dress appropriately. Childcare will be provided throughout the afternoon for young children.

Beginning of the Year Picnic: At 5:15 pm on Labor Day, September 3, all RPTS students and their families are invited to a free picnic supper at the Seminary. This time will enable us all to get acquainted with one another, and concludes with a brief time of worship together.

Beginning of Classes: Classes begin this fall with Elementary Greek, Acts and Pauline Epistles, and the Doctrine of God all beginning at 8:55 am on Tuesday, September 4. Check the [schedule](#) for meeting times and locations.

Lunch meal service will begin on Tuesday, September 4. This is included in Room & Board for Dormitory students. Other students may purchase lunch for \$6, if desired. Make a reservation with the Front Office at least two days in advance of a meal.

Westminster Conference: Saturday, Sept. 8, at Memorial Park Church, 8800 Peebles Road, Allison Park. The theme of the conference is "Soundly Preaching the Word of God". The speakers are Dr. Joel Beeke, Dr. Ligon Duncan III, Dr. Michael LeFebvre, and Dr. Barry York. A special roundtable discussion will be held to answer questions from the audience. Reformation Heritage Books and Crown and Covenant will both have book tables.

- Registration for current RPTS students (and their spouse) who register by August 8 is \$10 each; those who register from August 9 to the conference, the cost is \$15 each. (Regular individual registration is \$30 through August 8, and \$45 from August 9).
- Lunch can be purchased for \$6.50 each, and includes a meatball sandwich, salad, cookie, and drink.
- [Register here](#). Cash or check only, please.

RPTS Journal: Did you see the latest issue of the Journal? Great content can be found [here](#).

FINANCIAL AID NEWS

Important Financial Aid Changes: If you receive financial aid from the Seminary, note the following changes for 2018-2019:

- Scholarships will not apply to courses that are being retaken (such as to replace a failed course or raise a low grade).

- Financial aid will be awarded at the end of the enrollment without a fee period each quarter, although for the fall quarter, aid will be awarded the first week in August. The figures will be checked again after the end of add/drop. Should you require your aid to be on your account prior to these dates, please contact Sharon in the financial aid office. This new schedule is coordinated with the main office, so that aid is awarded before payment plans for the quarter are set up.

Scholarship Opportunity Deadline - July 15! If you are looking for some scholarship funding, check out the [Calihan Academic Grant](#) from the Acton Institute! July 15 is the deadline for fall awards, and October 15 for spring awards.

Student Loan Deferrals: Are you deferring previous student loans while attending RPTS? As you consider your registration for the upcoming quarter, remember that student loan deferrals require at least half-time enrollment, which is 6 credits. That requirement is typically met by taking two courses. Note, however, that two of the language courses, the preaching courses, and the counseling practicums are 2-credit courses. If you take one of these classes along with another 3-credit course, you will not have enough credits to defer your loan for that quarter. RPTS reports student enrollment on a quarterly basis. If you are registered for less than 6 credits, you will receive notification from your loan servicer that the loan is not in deferment. Contact your loan servicer if you have any questions. See Sharon in the Financial Aid Office if you need to have a deferment request signed.

Scholarship Information: If you have some extra time this summer, you may want to research scholarships. Check out www.seminaryscholarships.org!

Scholarship Opportunity: Are you a full-time, MDiv student preparing for pastoral ministry? If so, the Financial Aid Office is aware of a scholarship opportunity available for students willing to write a sermon on TULIP. This scholarship is offered by a friend of the Seminary. Contact [Sharon Sampson](#) at 412-731-3000 for more information.

President's Scholarship: A new scholarship is being unveiled this year. This scholarship, which provides a significant source of tuition assistance, will have a formal application process and detailed pre-requisites which will be detailed later this summer. Stay tuned!

STUDENT NEWS

Happenings:

- We mourn the unexpected death of Gibson McCracken, son of RPTS graduate Sam McCracken. Please keep Sam and his wife, Julia, along with their three other children and the extended family, in your prayers as they live in these hard providences.
- Bryan Schneider has accepted a call to the pastorate at the Sharon Reformed Presbyterian Church in Burlington, IA. He recently passed his final Presbytery examinations.
- Joel Hart will be ordained and installed as the Associate Pastor at the Second Reformed Presbyterian Church in Indianapolis on June 25.
- Parker Hilliard taken under care of the Great Lakes Gulf Presbytery of the RPCNA on June 26.

Student Activities: Each academic year students gather outside of the classroom for fun, food, fitness, and fellowship. Read the RPTIME weekly for details. Here are some activities to expect: FEAST (Friends Eating At Seminary Tables – a pitch-in supper early most quarters, Lunch and Learn – opportunities to hear about other ministries (chaplaincy, campus ministry, hospice...), Seminary Women (monthly discussions on a variety of topics), Ladies' Tea (weekly time of sharing and prayer), Bite Sized Theology (chewing on a theological topic over lunch), Exercise opportunities (aerobics, walking, frisbee, soccer), to name some. Join in if you can. Start up an activity if you'd like.

FACULTY & STAFF NEWS

July 2 – First day as President for Barry York. First day as President-Emeritus for Dr. O'Neill. First day as Professor of Biblical Counseling for Rev. Keith Evans. Keep these men and their families in your prayers.

PCA Gives Thanks: The Presbyterian Church of America (PCA) took time during its recent General Assembly to offer a prayer of thanksgiving for the Seminary and Dr. O'Neill's ministry.

Office Shuffle: When you arrive for your next visit to campus and go to look for certain faculty or staff members, they may not be where you think they are. Somehow a few simple Presidential and Counseling Professor changes have morphed into a major office shuffle. Here is a brief summary of the changes. If you do not see someone noted here, they are where you last left them.

- Dr. York is now in the President’s Office on the first floor.
 - Dr. O’Neill is in the Development Office on the third floor, shared with Kim Backensto.
 - Rev. Keith Evans is in Dr. Scipione’s office in the Willson Center
 - Sharon Sampson moved one office to the right in the Willson Center
 - Ed Blackwood is in Barry York’s former office on the second floor.
 - All professors except for Dr. Gamble, Dr. Williams, and Professor Reid (all still in their same offices) now share an Adjunct Professor office on the second floor (Ed Blackwood’s old office). This is Dr. Scipione’s temporary home as well.
 - Mark Sampson is in Dr. Kinneer’s old office on the first floor.
- Look around, you will likely find us somewhere!

Weddings:



- Jordan Feagley married Elise Henkleman on June 9 in the Poconos. They reside in Squirrel Hill.
- Ed & Nancy Blackwood will celebrate the marriage of their son, Benjamin, to Megumi Takiura on June 30. The couple will reside in Australia.



BEYOND OUR WALLS



Transform the Triangle 2018 (aka Community Cleanup Day): Join Covenant Fellowship RP Church (1300 Swissvale Ave, Wilkinsburg, 15221) on Saturday, August 4, from 9 am-2 pm, to clean up the neighborhood in Wilkinsburg by clearing and boarding up vacant properties. Lunch is provided. Contact [Andrew Battiato](#) for more information.

Ministry Opportunities: The Presbyterian Church of Pitcairn (PCA) is looking for an Assistant to the Pastor. See more details [here](#) of this position and others.

Robinson Township Christian School is looking to hire teachers for the following positions for the 2018-19 school year: Part Time Physical Education Teacher, Part Time Art Teacher. Contact Bryan Campbell, Principal, 412-787-5919 or Kathleen Struble, Education Committee, Chair--412-443-9897 for more information.

2018 Commencement

