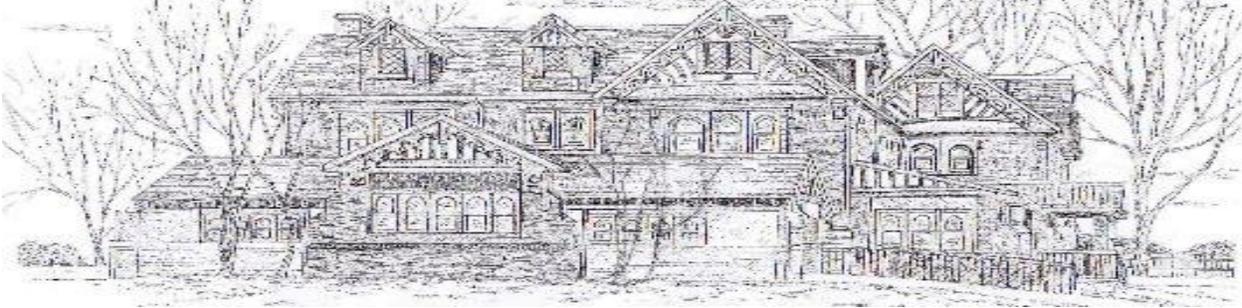


# The President's Memorandum



September 2022

Dear Friend of RPTS,

Greeting in our Lord Jesus Christ! I am often asked if things calm down at RPTS during the summer. Though the summer's schedule differs from the regular academic school year, things are far from quiet around here! I'm reminded of a phrase from the prophet Zechariah as he foresaw the living waters of the gospel flowing forth: "it will be in summer as well as in winter" (Zech. 14:6). Let me share how the Lord is working in summer as well as in winter through the ministry of RPTS!

## **Graduates Responding to Calls and Assignments**

As I reported in my spring memorandum, there have only been a few graduates in the past two years to supply the many empty pulpits of our sponsoring denomination. However, this year's graduation saw many more laborers sent into our Lord's harvest fields. Please pray for these men who have accepted calls or assignments, and are at different stages of preparation, examination, and settling in as they begin their pastoral labors.

- Allen Blackwood to the Laramie (WY) RPC
- Colin Doyle to the Fulton (NY) RPC, Internship
- Robert Kelbe to the Manhattan (KS) RPC
- Johnathan Kruis to the Fresno (CA) RPC
- Aaron Murray to the Marion (IN) RPC
- Joe Smith to the Westminster (Denver, CO) RPC
- Joshua Smith to the Westminster (Chicago, IL) RPC

One other graduate, David Witmer, has received a call and is currently processing it at the time of this letter. We praise the Lord for providing these gifts to His church. Please join us in asking the Lord to raise up many more laborers!

## **Intensive Classes**

Not all of the coursework at RPTS takes place between September and May. Our professors work with individual students in a number of independent study courses over the summer months and RPTS offered five intensive one-week classes as well. Geneva College President Dr. Calvin Troup taught his "Dynamics in Public Speaking" in June. Three Doctor of Ministry courses on the subjects of revitalization, Biblical languages, and counseling happened in August. The week before our regular school year begins this fall, Dr. Mike Stewart from the Presbyterian and Reformed Commission on Chaplains will be joined by several Reformed Presbyterian men with chaplaincy experience to teach our first "Introduction to Chaplaincy" course. A number of these courses not only

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benefitted our regular students, but also pastors and lay people who audited them in order to continue in their education.

### **Theological Foundations for Youth**

Under the primary supervision of Rut & Evelyn Etheridge and David & June Whitla, we once again housed over thirty students along with their counselors at Rutherford Hall. I like to refer to this three-week youth program for high school seniors as our “holy hurricane,” as the students live and study in the building the first and last week while we experience a “calm” as they go out to serve local churches during the middle week. This summer’s group of young people were exceptionally eager and attentive leaving us all excited about the blessing they are and will continue to be to the church. When TFY is in the building, rest assured things are not quiet! Yet what a joy this program continues to be.

### **Traveling Staff and Active Faculty**

The summertime is busy in other ways as many of us at RPTS hit the road during these months. Our admissions team attended several church conferences and meetings doing recruiting work. Likewise, the development team arranged local meetings or traveled to interact with friends of RPTS in various locations. As shared in an earlier communication, our professors were out in the greater church speaking at RPCNA presbytery conferences, teaching for other seminaries, and working on writing projects. All of the professors are preparing their messages for this year’s Westminster Conference, which is on the theme “The Westminster Standards and the Means of Grace: The Sacraments as Holy Signs and Seals of the Covenant.” The conference will be held September 9-10 and we hope many of you can come! Go to our website to find out more information and to register.

### **Ongoing Renovations**

Even with all this activity, we continue to give attention to needed upgrades to our facilities. We are working on some units in our student housing, and we continue to work out plans for a completely renovated kitchen. The main classroom in Rutherford Hall, now known as the Melville Classroom, is having its wooden floors restored after Board member Brad Stewart volunteered time and hard labor to remove their old coverings.

### **Giving and Strike the Match**

God’s Word encourages us to labor hard like the ant that “prepares its food in the summer” (Prov. 6:8). As you can see, the RPTS crew is doing just that as we work diligently year-round for Christ’s kingdom. If you would like to continue to partner with us in our work here, please consider sending a gift by check, calling us at (412) 731-6000 to use a credit card, or using our website at [rpts.edu/give](http://rpts.edu/give).

Also, our largest fundraising campaign of the year, which we call Strike the Match, takes place from October 10-15. Any donation given to us will receive a 50% match because of generous friends. This matching donation means every \$100 given to us becomes \$150! Our financial goal this year is \$250,000 and our participant goal is 425 people.

Thank you for your ongoing interest, prayers, and co-labors with us at RPTS!

In Christ’s Service,



Barry J. York  
President