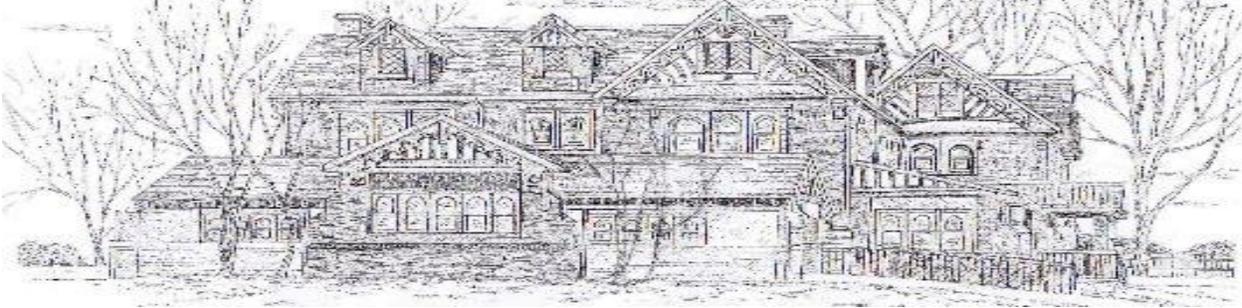


The President's Memorandum



April 2022

Dear Friend of RPTS,

Greetings in our Lord Jesus Christ! When the Scriptures use the imagery of water to describe our life in Christ, the picture is of a river rather than a lake. Though sometimes we wish we could hold on to people and situations to keep them as they are, the God who sent His Son from heaven to save the world likewise sends us to do the work of His kingdom. As Psalm 46:4 says, "There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy habitation of the Most High."

At RPTS, we see the work of the Spirit of God moving to bring joy to the people of God. Please read of some of those ways that follow.

Graduating Students

Though we have not had many graduates in the past two years to fill empty pulpits and meet the needs of domestic and foreign laborers in the ministry of our sponsoring denomination, graduation 2022 looks brighter. Seniors Johnathan Kruis and Joe Smith have indicated they will accept calls to Fresno and Westminster (Denver), respectively. Allen Blackwood, Robert Kelbe, Aaron Murray, Joshua Smith, and David Witmer are candidating and, Lord of the church willing, will secure calls in the not-so-distant future. Colin Doyle is working on plans to do a year-long internship following graduation. Please pray for these men as they pursue new ministry opportunities.

Along with these RPCNA graduates, we have such men as Pastor Richard Truss, a beloved senior citizen Baptist minister in the Pittsburgh area, who will receive his Master of Divinity. Sylvester Konteh, a village pastor in the Gambia under the care of the Reformed Presbyterian Church of Scotland, will be granted a Master of Theological Studies degree. How wonderful to see the Lord use RPTS to reach across the city, into different races, and even to the ends of the earth!

Staff Transitions

Recently, Mark Sampson met with me for a very significant reason. He asked to step down from the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) portion of his job and work only in his Director of Institutional Advancement role half-time beginning July 1. He would like to devote himself singularly to the development work at RPTS, including more freedom to travel to meet with friends of the Seminary. Mark would also like to spend more time with his wife, Sharon, in these early retirement years and be more available to serve his church and the Presbytery.

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Clearly, this decision represents a significant change here at RPTS. Mark has rendered excellent service to us in these dual roles he has carried for so long. For a dozen years, he has served and represented the Seminary publicly so faithfully and so well. Personally, when I stepped into the presidency, Mark's presence, knowledge, and support ministered to me and helped me tremendously through my transition. I have often leaned on him for counsel, direction, and strength these years. Though I am supportive of his desire for this change, I will miss him in this CAO role, yet those of you who know Mark through his development role will continue to enjoy his presence there.

In recent weeks since this news, I have worked with Mark, my Executive Team, and a consultant to develop a transition plan. In God's good providence, I did not have to look far for the right person for a position we will call Director of Operations. I have asked Josh Nye to consider it, and he has accepted. Josh is a tremendous asset to RPTS in his current Director of Support Services role and will do well in his new position. I thank the Lord that as He moves His people, He also continues to supply all we need!

Faculty Opportunities

The Spirit of God is actively using our faculty well beyond the four walls of Rutherford Hall. Dr. C.J. Williams has taught Old Testament courses online in a live format for our friends down at Reformation Bible College. Dr. Rick Gamble recently spoke to around 45 men at a Saturday morning Bible study at Memorial Park Church. This summer, Dr. David Whitla will travel to Taipei, Taiwan, to teach at China Reformed Theological Seminary on "Scottish Reformation and Post-Reformation Pastoral Theology and Spirituality." Several of our professors have the joy of speaking at family conferences around the Reformed Presbyterian Church this summer. Dr. Jeff Stivason will be the main speaker for White Lake Camp in New York, their 100th anniversary. Professor Keith Evans will serve as the speaker at the Midwest Presbytery Family Conference on "Walking in Communion with Jesus," and I will speak at the Covfamikoi Family Conference in July on "The Beauty of the Church." In March, it was a delight to be in Colorado teaching an "Introduction to Preaching" class, and I look forward to teaching this course online in May to a burgeoning new seminary in East Asia.

Gospel Partnering

As you can see, through our small Seminary, God's Spirit is doing wonderful works. Yet He graciously uses friends like you to help make all these things possible. If you would like to continue to partner with us, 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.

As you trust the Lord and entrust yourself to His service, may you experience His promise: "Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, 'Out of his heart will flow rivers of living water'" (John 7:37).

In Christ's Service,



Barry J. York
President