

# RPTS Pastoral REFRESHMENT Program

September 3-6, 2019

Let us know; let us press on to know the LORD; his going out is sure as the dawn;  
he will come to us as the showers, as the spring rains that water the earth.

Hosea 6:3

As men labor in pastoral ministry, often they reach times of discouragement, disillusionment, and even depression. Questions about calling, abilities, and the future arise. Often such factors as conflict, burnout, health, and family issues cause men to leave a congregation or even the ministry. Ministers often look vainly for help.

The primary purpose of the Reformed Presbyterian Theological Seminary is to train men to be sent out into pastoral ministry. Yet the faculty and staff of RPTS recognize that ongoing training and encouragement are vital to men out on the field involved in kingdom work. To that end, RPTS, in cooperation with the RPCNA Committee for Vital Churches, is offering a Pastoral Refreshment Program that consists of the following three components.

## **AUDITING THE VITAL CHURCHES COURSE AT RPTS**

September 3-6, 2019

With the theme that “Vital churches need vital leaders,” this course encourages participants to be renewed in their leadership. Taught by President Barry York, Professor of Pastoral Theology, the course is conducted in a workshop format. Participants are encouraged toward such goals as knowing yourself by seeing how God has shaped you as a leader; learning to rely more fully upon the Holy Spirit; responding to discouragement and burnout; clarifying our understanding regarding the role of ordained leadership; putting into clear focus the church’s mission; and defining carefully the plan in fulfilling the mission.

Pastors with their wives may attend, and choose an option between being hosted in a local home or staying at a local hotel offering RPTS special rates. An evening of refreshment will be offered during this week as well.

## **PARTNERING WITH A FACULTY MENTOR**

During your time at the Vital Churches course, you will be paired up with a faculty member for mentoring purposes. During the following year, you will meet with the professor once a month on video conferencing for sharing, accountability, and prayer.

## **PARTICIPATING IN A READING GROUP**

Pastors will be placed in reading groups of four to five men, reading through in a year four books that encourage pastoral renewal. They will meet monthly via video conferencing to discuss their reading and its application to their lives and ministry as well as pray for one another.

## **COST**

The cost for the Pastoral Refreshment Program is \$699 per pastor or couple, which includes the three components of the Vital Churches course with lunch served the four days, faculty mentoring, and the book reading group, as well as all the books needed and the special evening during the course. Hosting by local families is free and would include breakfast and dinner. Those staying at a hotel would be responsible for that additional cost.

## **REGISTRATION**

Contact Ed Blackwood, Director of Admissions (eblackwood@rpts.edu or 412-731-6000), with any questions, to register, or to inquire about two scholarships being offered to RP pastors by the Committee for Vital Churches.