Welcome to the 2018 Fall Quarter at RPTS!
The Student Handbook can be accessed as a link in the Web Portal (rpts.empower-xl.com) under RPTS Links. Please read this handbook in order to become familiar with RPTS policies and practices.

Tuition Payments: Tuition payments are due on or before the first day of the quarter: Mon., Sept. 3. Your Estimated Tuition Worksheet is available on the web portal under the Financials tab. This worksheet lists all charges for tuition and fees, any financial aid you will receive, and the balance due. This web screen is your invoice from RPTS.

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. When the payment plan is arranged, the student must sign a promissory note as documentation of the plan and promise to pay. Contact Vicki Smith to set up your payment plan.

Booklist: Have you ordered all of your books? See the booklist posted here.

Student ID/Library Card: If you are a returning on-campus student, your student ID is in your mailbox. This card is also your Library card. If you do not receive one, visit the RPTS Office. If you are a distance student and would like an ID, contact Vicki Smith.

RPTS email address: All students are given an email address consisting of the first letter of your given name and your family name, and ending in @rpts.edu. (Longer names or duplicated names may not follow this exact rule.) All important information will be emailed to your RPTS address only, so be sure to check it regularly.

“From” email address: Emails that are sent to you from faculty and staff through the web portal will come from empower@rpts.edu. Replies will go directly to the sender of the message. Ensure that these messages do not go to your Spam folder.

IMPORTANT - Spouses Auditing Courses: If your spouse wants to audit a class, he/she MUST apply as an audit student. Once accepted, he/she can register for the course. See Ed Blackwood for details.
REMINDER: When you complete your advising sheet, you agree to the following statements:

• I promise to adhere to the Community Standards as stated in the Academic Catalog.
• I promise to attend chapel when I am on campus during the time of chapel and/or on any day when I have class either 2nd or 3rd period. (Any exceptions must be arranged with the President.)
• I promise to submit all typed work via Moodle according to professor submission requirements, and I give my permission for my work to be used in the RPTS institutional assessment process.
• I understand that RPTS may use still images and/or audio and video of me for marketing or in the process of recording classes for distance education.

Seminary Office hours: Do you have questions about your bill, schedule, transcript, etc.? The Seminary Office is open from 8 am-4 pm each day. Vicki Smith is available to answer your questions. You can also contact Vicki at vsmith@rpts.edu.

Need to Add/Drop a class? Log into the web portal by Sept. 14 to add/drop without a penalty. Inform the professor of your intent to drop or add his course to make him aware of the change.

Tab in the Web Portal brings all your links to one place: Visit the RPTS Links tab to access the RPTS website, Moodle, your RPTS email, the Library catalog, RPTS on YouTube, the Student Handbook, the Library Handbook, and the Safety Information brochure. A link is also provided for the Incomplete Request Form.

Academic Catalog: A digital version of the Academic Catalog can be accessed on the RPTS homepage – rpts.edu.

NT21&22: Adequate Bible software is required for NT Exegesis 1&2. Logos 7 is highly recommended if you do not already own adequate software. Logos offers its Logos 7 Academic Basic (https://www.logos.com/academic-basic) free to students. It includes all required texts for the courses.

RPTS ACTIVITIES

Kick-off Picnic: Meet our new students and say hello to your classmates at the Kick-Off Picnic on Monday, Sept. 3, beginning at 5:30 pm at RPTS. Click here to register if you can join us so that we know how much food to prepare.

Emergency Contact Information: RPTS maintains emergency contact information to use should the Seminary need to contact someone in instances such as illness while on campus. If your contact has changed, notify the Office.

Join faculty, students, and staff for a time of prayer every Tuesday at 1 pm in the 2nd floor classroom. All are welcome.

For Sale in the Office:
RPTS polo shirts and coffee mugs. Support your school with style!

Inauguration of Dr. Barry York: Join us for Dr. York’s inauguration as President of the Reformed Presbyterian Theological Seminary on Friday evening September 7, 2018 at Memorial Park Church, 8800 Peebles Road, Allison Park. Dr. Ligon Duncan will deliver a special message.

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) is $15 each. (Regular individual registration is $45).
• Lunch can be purchased for $6.50 each, and includes a meatball sandwich, salad, cookie, and drink.
• Register here. Cash or check only, please.

Seminary Women will meet on the second Monday of each month, beginning Sept. 10, at 6:30 pm, in the basement classroom. All female students and students’ wives are encouraged to attend. Kelly Hughes, founder of the Foster Love Project, will speak to us about the history and mission of her organization which provides support for foster children and the families that provide for them. Just one of the many ministry opportunities available to us! Bring food to share, if you are able. Childcare is provided. Call Sherri Williams at 412-996-4667 with any questions.

Terms and Conditions
We love having your children visit you at the Seminary, but remember that children must be under your control at all times. Help us honor our Lord with our facility. Do not give the door code to your children. Also, remember that all borrowed toys are to be returned to the toy bins in the basement. Thank you for your attention to your children!

Audio/Visual consoles in the chapel classroom: The outlets next to the audio/visual cabinets are not for laptop use and are labeled accordingly. Use one of the available outlets elsewhere in the classroom, and not the power system reserved for the recording equipment. Failure to observe this may result in damage to the equipment.

Computer Lab Reminders:
1. No food or drink is permitted in the Lab.
2. Do not save files on the Lab computers. Use a jump drive.
3. Log out when you are finished.
4. Report all issues with computers in the computer lab or library to the RPTS Help Desk.

ATLA Reciprocal Library Program: Your RPTS ID card will allow you to borrow books from around 100 theological libraries in North America through the ATLA Reciprocal Borrowing Program. Click on this link to discover a complete list of all participating libraries.

Vending Machines: Snacks, drinks, and coffee can be purchased from the machines near the elevator. The coffee is via a Keurig system with pods available in the snack machine. The machines all take cash, debit, and credit cards.

Bite-Sized Theology: Join us for lunch every other Friday this quarter. Bring your lunch or order a lunch (let Vicki know by Wednesday morning). While we eat, we will consider a theological topic with a short talk by faculty, staff, or students. Then we will “chew” on the topic around the lunch tables.

News from Students

Want to connect with your fellow students? Try the searchable Directory/Data book in the web portal under Settings & Tools. The student version displays a photo, RPTS email, and phone number. If you prefer not to make this information public, read the FERPA policy on page 12 of the Student Handbook.

Student Activities: Each academic year students gather outside of the classroom for fun, food, fitness, and fellowship. Read the RPTimes 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.

Basketball, Anyone? You will notice a new basketball hoop for your use this fall. Do not park in the area near the shed on the main entrance side so that your fellow students can shoot hoops when they need a quick break from studies.

Presbytery News: Yusuke Hirata (MDiv ’18) was sustained in his Presbytery exams and certified as eligible to receive a call.

Death in the RPTS Family: On Tuesday, Aug. 7, we accepted for admission, Mr. Ravi Kumar Yadav. Ravi, age 49, passed into glory on Saturday, Aug. 11. Ravi had served as a pastor in northern India for many years and was hoping to deepen his understanding of the things of God while studying with us. The plan was for him to begin part time by distance, then hopefully come to Pittsburgh next year. Keep in prayer his widow, Olga, and their two children, Anandita and Christina, as they face this hard providence.
Tea Time and Prayer for Women: All women in the RPTS community are invited to Tuesday Tea Time for Women, beginning on September 4. We will meet weekly for a time of tea, conversation, and prayer on Tuesdays from 12:30-1:30pm. This time is selected so that husbands who need to watch children are home from class before we begin. Feel free to bring your lunch or just come and enjoy the tea and snack provided. Contact Sharon Sampson if you have any questions (412-731-3000 or ssampson@rpts.edu).

Panera Blessings: Many of us have enjoyed a bread from our weekly Panera bread donation. Eleven volunteers are needed to assist with this ministry one Wednesday morning each quarter (6:15 at RPTS). Contact Ed Blackwood at 412-731-6000, 412-407-3317 (cell), or in person with questions. If you enjoy it, sign-up to help pick it up and arrange it each week. Sign up at this link.

Chapel Schedule

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<th>September 5</th>
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<td>September 6</td>
<td>Rick Gamble</td>
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<td>September 7</td>
<td>C.J. Williams</td>
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<td>September 8</td>
<td>Keith Evans</td>
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Beyond Our Walls

Crown & Covenant Publications: A 20% discount is offered by our neighbors at C&C to both RPTS students & staff on personal purchases. C&C also has a scratch ’n dent shelf where slightly damaged, but still shelf-worthy, items are sold at a 50% discount. Stop by Mon. – Fri., between 9 am - 5 pm to browse the products including, but not limited to, psalters, CDs, and books.

Internship: New Life Presbyterian Church (PCA) seeks a student intern which provides tuition assistance. Email Matthew Fisher (matthewfisher@newlifepresbyterian.org), an RPTS alum, for more details or see the flier on the bulletin board.

Position: St. John Host Church, located in Host, PA, is a non-denominational church and part of the Evangelical Association. The congregation is searching for a pastor. Part time salary and benefits will be initially offered with the intention of growing the placement into a full-time position. Interested applicants should email questions, cover letters, and resumes to RogerY@kountrykraft.com. Website: http://www.hostchurch.org.

PTS Library Re-Opening: The library at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary is holding an open house after completion of an extensive renovation. A free picnic dinner and tours will be held on Sept. 21 from 4 to 7 pm. RSVP by Sept. 14 to kyates@pts.edu.

Paideia Center Launched at RPTS: One of the great movements in Reformed theological education today is a growing connection between academia and the local church. Paideia Centers provide a base for such interactions where local pastors and lay people engage in reading classical theological literature and then discussing them on a monthly basis. Beginning Sept. 6, join Dr. Jeff Stivason at RPTS as he leads a discussion of Gregory of Nazianzus’ Five Theological Orations. Cost for the fall program is $20. Go to http://paideiacenter.com/ for more information or to register.

Free Lecture: Dr. Jarvis Williams will speak on Sept 22-23 at Three Rivers Grace Church in Pittsburgh. Consider attending the lecture and Q&A time on Saturday evening, 7-9pm on the topic, "For Whom Did Christ Die? The Extent of the Atonement In Paul’s Theology and Its Connection with Racial Conciliation and Ethnic Reconciliation.” For more information, email Pastor Ben Reaoch at breaoch@yahoo.com.

Position: Korean United Presbyterian Church of Pittsburgh (KUPCP), has two open positions. Part time youth leader: seeking a candidate who can preach, teach, serve, and interact with youth kids (mostly 7 - 12th grade, currently 15 kids attend) on Sunday. (Compensation - $600/month). Part time childrens ministry director who can preach, teach, and serve kids (K-6th grade, currently 15 kids attend, and compensation would be same as youth
director's). Candidates don't need to speak Korean because all kids' first language is English, but candidates need to understand and be open to Korean culture. For more information or to apply for the position, contact Rev. Dong Shin at djs0314@hotmail.com.

**BREAKING BREAD TOGETHER**

Join fellow students and faculty during lunch in the basement dining area each week of classes from Tuesday through Friday. Bring your own lunch or purchase the catered meal. The meal is included in Room & Board for Dormitory students. Other students may purchase lunch for $6, if desired. Make a reservation with the Office at least two days in advance of a meal.

*Also, clean up after yourself when using the kitchen in order to assist in preparation for meal service each day.*