

WHAT IS...
TFY

RPTS
REFORMED PRESBYTERIAN
THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
STUDY WITH PASTORS



DATES: JULY 13 - 31, 2026

The Theological Foundations for Youth program is an annual ministry of the Reformed Presbyterian Theological Seminary and Youth Ministries Committee of Synod dedicated to equipping young people for a life of ministry to Christ in the Reformed Presbyterian Church by providing intensive theological instruction, practical ministry experiences, and an increased awareness of opportunities to serve Christ within the RPCNA.

Application deadline: March 2, 2026
Register: tfy.rpts.edu
Questions: TFY@rpts.edu

REFORMED PRESBYTERIAN
THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
Attn: Kim Backensto
7418 Penn Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15208
(412) 731-6000

TFY 2026
Theological
Foundations
for Youth

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WHAT CAN BE EXPECTED FROM THE PROGRAM?

Students can expect two weeks of intensive theological instruction in the history, doctrine, and distinctive principles of the Church from Seminary professors and TFY staff (often up to 8 hours of class per day), as well as a week of practical application in the context of a local RPCNA congregation. You will also spend time at the Reformed Presbyterian institutions (Seminary, Crown & Covenant Publications and Geneva College) and free time for fellowship, reflection, and recreation.

EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

- Become better acquainted with the institutions of our church: Geneva College, RPTS, and Crown and Covenant
- Discuss with church leaders through lots of Q&A the theological and life issues most pressing on your mind
- Discuss important Christian texts with Seminary professors
- Experience vibrant fellowship and times of worship with like-minded Christian peers
- Enjoy a number of recreational activities and outings in the greater Pittsburgh area
- Take time to personally reflect on your walk with the Lord and His calling on your life
- Conduct worldview interviews on the University of Pittsburgh Campus

WHAT WILL BE EXPECTED OF EACH STUDENT?

Students should be prepared for extensive readings in important Christian texts and strenuous spiritual exercise, including deep study, evangelistic encounters with unbelievers, vibrant fellowship with like-minded believers, and critical self-evaluation of their walk with Christ and His specific calling for their lives. Attendance is expected for the entirety of the TFY program. No exceptions will be made for students who request leaves of absence for family, school, vacation, or other reasons.

TEACHING SESSIONS

RP Distinctives - Discuss why we believe what we believe on worship, Sabbath keeping, sacraments, and covenant theology

Church History - Become familiar with the story of Patristic, Medieval, Reformation, Covenant, and Modern Church History

A Reformed View of Missions - Discover how the Reformed Faith informs our understanding and application of the Great Commission

Apologetics and Evangelism - A “hands on” approach to understanding dominant philosophies of our day and to interacting humbly, substantially, clearly and above all, biblically, with unbelievers who hold them

Methods of Interpretation - Learn how to better understand and apply God’s Word to your daily life

Identifying the Call of God - How will you serve Christ in His Kingdom with your gifts? Your practical theology and ministry questions answered

SESSION MEMBERS

Please identify outstanding youth in your congregation to recommend to the program. All young people recommended must be communicant members of the RPCNA in good standing and must be Juniors in High School going into their Senior year in the Fall of 2026. The age range of students is between 16 and 18 years old.

Students and parents must read and agree to the terms of the RPTS Community Standards, RPTS Statement on Human Identify and Christian Behavior, Cell Phone Policy and the TFY Synopsis that accompanies the online form before their application can be processed.

Cost - A registration fee of \$600 due by June 15, 2026. The \$600 fee covers the cost of the program, food, lodging, activities, and books. Many congregations support their youth by assisting them with some or all of this expense. Sessions may inquire into the availability of need-based scholarships, but in such circumstances, most congregations support their youth by assisting them with some or all of this expense. Travel costs are the responsibility of the attendee.



Help us identify highly motivated, spiritually mature young people, who have an obvious passion for Christ and His kingdom! Your time and interest in this program is greatly appreciated!

**APPLICATION
DEADLINE MAR. 2, 2026**

All forms and applications should be downloaded by going to tfy.rpts.edu where they are submitted electronically.