

# Annual Seminary Support Dinner

Friday, March 6, 2026, 6:30 PM

Sheraton Station Square

300 West Station Square Drive

Pittsburgh, PA

Join us as our guest for an evening of dinner and fellowship to support the Reformed Presbyterian Theological Seminary in Pittsburgh. If you have not already received a personal invitation and would like to attend, please contact June Whitla ([jwhitla@rpts.edu](mailto:jwhitla@rpts.edu)) by February 14<sup>th</sup>.



*For the nineteenth consecutive year at our Support Dinner, we will honor an alumnus who has labored faithfully in ministry throughout a lifetime of service for Christ and His kingdom. **This year the recipient of the Faithful Servant Award is Rev. Bruce Backensto**, a 1972 graduate of RPTS, along with his wife **Kim Backensto**, who has served on staff at RPTS for over thirty years. Following graduation from RPTS, Rev. Backensto served as pastor of the Sterling RP Church and then moved to Colorado to plant the*

*Springs Reformed Church. During his charge as pastor of the Ridgefield Park, New Jersey, congregation, the Lord brought Kim to Bruce to be his helpmate. Bruce and Kim later moved to the Beaver Falls, Pennsylvania, area where Bruce served as pastor of the Geneva RP Church and then First RP Church until his retirement in 2014. Kim served faithfully alongside Bruce in ministry and has blessed many with her remarkable administrative skills as she has served at the congregational and denominational levels. We have been tremendously blessed by her organization and keen eye for detail at RPTS since 1995. She has a wealth of institutional knowledge as her time at RPTS precedes any other of our current faculty and staff. Bruce and Kim reside in Beaver Falls, Pennsylvania. Bruce remains active, and travels often, supporting the church at the presbytery and denominational levels in a variety of ways. Kim continues to serve faithfully at RPTS. They have eight children, Benjamin (Cathy) Backensto, Danielle DeCesare-Bruno, Joshua (Nikki) Backensto, Carrie Bettner, Cameron Bettner, Cory (Kristin) Wright-Bettner, Clinton Bettner, Keith (Erin) Backensto, and eleven grandchildren.*