"We need preachers more than ever. Our world is in confusion. It's in turmoil. It's looking for answers. And what it really needs right now are strong pulpits, men preaching and proclaiming and taking the Kingdom of God to others even at their own risk". [Click here](#) to hear more from President York in his recent update about fall classes! Join us in praying for God to raise up more preachers of the Gospel for His Kingdom and glory.

**Church Planting Program - September 1 - 4, 2020**

We can plant and water but only God can give the growth.

The Church Planting Program at RPTS will lay the crucial foundation necessary to plant a church. The course is taught by President Barry York, an experienced church planter, in cooperation with
In light of the uncertainties around the country, the class is designed for both online and physically present students who can audit or participate for credit. Four different options are available.

More information is available at: [http://www.rpts.edu/pdf/RPTS_Pastoral_Chip Church Planting Program.pdf](http://www.rpts.edu/pdf/RPTS_Pastoral_Chip Church Planting Program.pdf)

Whether you are interested in church planting, already involved in church planting, or wish to support those involved in church planting, this class is for you.

**Policy Changes in the Academic Catalog.**

- Please read the **Incomplete Policy** in the Academic Catalog (p. 53). Note especially the list of valid reasons for an incomplete, that incompletes are not to be taken in the spring quarter of a student's final year, and the shorter time to complete (3 weeks). We believe this will actually be a help to students as they will not be trying to finish an incomplete and take new classes at the same time for very long!
- Please read the **Academic Progress Policy** in the Academic Catalog (p. 51). Note especially that cumulative academic progress will be calculated each time a student passes a threshold of 12 academic credits.
- Please read the **Policy regarding summer courses** in the Academic Catalog (p. 50). Note especially that all summer coursework is to be completed in the summers prior to commencement.

**RPTS 2020-2021 Policy Regarding Covid**

As the RPTS staff prepares to welcome you back this fall, we have stated our guidelines of how we will meet safely on campus. To view our policy, enter Moodle, go to the "Site Home" page, and you will find a link to the document at the bottom under the "COVID-19 Policy" section.

**FINANCIAL INFORMATION**
**Tuition Freeze:** In the coming months, many students may be facing difficult financial decisions as a result of the pandemic. In freezing tuition rates (at the 2019-2020 level) for the upcoming academic year, the Seminary is doing what it can to ensure students can continue to take classes in preparation for ministry in Christ's kingdom.

**Financial Aid Information:** Please note that if you receive financial aid, it will be added to your account for the fall quarter on the Monday of Week 2, which is after the add/drop deadline. If you have extenuating circumstances and need this done prior to that time, please contact Sharon Sampson.

**Summer Payment Plan Due Date Reminder:** August 4, 2020

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**LIBRARY NEWS**

**Library Staff**

- Librarian - Jordan Feagley ([email](mailto:jordan.feagley@seminary.edu))
- Library Office Administrator - Stephen Mulder ([email](mailto:stephen.mulder@seminary.edu))

**Library Policy Changes**

**Circulation**

The Library Staff is seeking to provide students, faculty, and staff with a customer service centered library experience. One of the ways that we are trying to facilitate this experience is by moving away from a self-service checkout system during regular business hours.

To check out a book during regular business hours, go to the Circulation Desk, and an attendant will assist you. A self-checkout system will be available to check out books during non-business hours or when staff is unavailable. Instructions for the self-checkout system are posted next to the circulation computer.

**Course Reserve Books**

The Library is bringing back course reserve books! To check out a reserve book, go to the Circulation Desk Monday through Friday between 8 a.m. - 1:30 p.m., and an attendant will assist you. Reserve books may be checked out for a maximum of three hours.

Reserve books will not be loaned out after 1:30 p.m. The fine for an overdue reserve book is $1.00.
Fines
The fine for most overdue items is twenty cents ($0.20) per day; however, the fine for reserve books is $1.00 per hour.

Food and Drink
Food and drink is now permitted in the Library; however, they may not be consumed in the stacks

Library Book Sale
The Book Sale shelves have been moved from the basement to the first floor of the Library. They are directly to the left as you walk into the first floor of the Library wing. Payment for these items should be given to the Circulation Desk attendant.

Library Storage
Students are no longer permitted to access the Library Storage facility in the Willson Center. If you need to consult a book marked "Storage" in the catalog, please make that request by contacting the Library Staff by email at library@rpts.edu.

Overdue Items
Patrons automatically receive three emails reminding them when an item is overdue. After patrons receive the third and final notice, they have 30 days to return the overdue item(s). After 30 days have passed, Library Staff will automatically mark the item "lost," charge the patron for the cost of the replacement item(s), a $25.00 processing fee, and any associated fines.

Reference and Index Collections
The Reference and Index collections have been moved from the former Reference Room. These collections are now located on the first floor of the Library wing, just as you walk through the door.

Study Carrels
Twelve study carrels are provided for the use of patrons, who may use a carrel for study. The carrels are first come, first serve, and may not be reserved for short-term or long-term use. Personal items must be removed from carrels when patrons leave the Library. Items left unattended for long periods will be placed in the lost and found. Library items left unattended on a carrel will be checked in and re-shelved.

RPTS ACTIVITIES

The RPTS Kickoff Picnic will be on September 7, 2020, at 5:15 p.m. at Rutherford Hall. This is a special catered picnic for all students, faculty, adjuncts, staff, and their families. Not only will we welcome new students to campus but we will have a special time to remember Dr. Scipione. The picnic is sponsored by P&R Publishing, as they wanted RPTS to have a special event in Dr. Scipione's honor. New students will be doing RPTS Orientation online this year, but there is a Meet and Greet for new students at 4:00 p.m.

- Sign up for the Meet and Greet and Picnic here: [http://s.rpts.edu/OrientNic](http://s.rpts.edu/OrientNic).

The Westminster Conference will be held on Friday and Saturday, September 11-12, at Providence
Presbyterian Church, 77 Phillips Lane, McKees Rocks, PA 15136. The change of location allows for better social distancing during the conference. The theme of the conference is "Further Sanctified - Really and Personally". The speakers are Prof. Keith Evans, Drs. Rick Gamble, Jeff Stivason, David Whitla, C. J. Williams, and Barry York. Crown and Covenant will have a book table available.

- Registration for current RPTS students (and their spouses) is free. However, you do need to complete the registration form available here.

Tea Time and Prayer for Women: All women in the RPTS community are invited to Friday Tea Time for Women, beginning on September 11. We will meet weekly in the Willson Center for a time of tea, conversation, and prayer on Fridays 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).
Congratulations to the following students who have recently passed presbytery exams:

- **Edgar Ibarra** - Exegesis Paper (eligible to receive a call)
- **Samuel** - Systematic Theology & Distinctives I Exam
- **Rom Prakashpalan** - passed ordination exams

Pastoral Calls:

- **Caleb Allen** has been called to the RP church in Denison, KS.
- **Trace Turner** has accepted a call to Grace Reformed Presbyterian Church in State College, PA.

Please be in prayer for all of these men and their families as they serve Christ and share the Gospel.

**Ed Blackwood**, Director of Admissions and DMin student, welcomed 2 more grandchildren (#13 and 14) this month! Charlotte Amara Blackwood, born 7/7; and Ralph Eddwin Noell, born 7/22.

**Caption This!**
Email your entries to Taylor Dymond by August 12. Winner will receive a prize from Edmissions!
Please let us know if you have news to share with the RPTS Family! Send your updates and photos to Taylor Dymond. Items to share include weddings, births, ministry updates, items for prayer, or even a photo for "Caption This!".

BEYOND OUR WALLS

Rural King Church Week

Your favorite farm and home store has revived a fundraising program aimed at supporting Christian organizations whose "values are the center of our communities." 10% of your purchases at Rural King from August 2 to August 15, 2020, will be passed along to RPTS. Upload your receipts to https://www.ruralking.com/churchweek by September 1, 2020, and RPTS will get a check from Rural King for 10% of your purchases. Look for the Seminary to be listed as the Trustees of the Synod of the Reformed Presbyterian Church of North America. Rural King has over 100 stores in thirteen states including many in PA, WV, IN, OH, MI, KY. If you have any questions, please contact Mark Sampson via email or at 412-731-6000.

Blackburn Study Center in Pittsburgh's North Hills, is looking for a part-time High school Algebra 2 tutor and a part-time history tutor, grades 3 to 7. If interested, please contact Mrs. Porter at porterdj@consolidated.net. Some RPTS students have tutored at Blackburn in the past.

Trinity Christian School, located in Pittsburgh, PA, is seeking a part-time Latin teacher to begin in the fall of 2020. This role is responsible for teaching middle school and high school Latin. Click here for more information.

Have you "Liked" RPTS on Facebook? If not, please consider doing so. It is a great way to keep up with the latest happenings at the Seminary. Also, your friends may see information about the Seminary on your page which helps us get the word out!
Do you follow RPTS on Instagram, Twitter or Facebook? These are great ways to keep track of professor quotes, conferences, and news at the Seminary.