



# THE REFORMED EPISCOPAL SEMINARY

A MINISTRY OF THE DIOCESE OF THE NORTHEAST & MID-ATLANTIC

August 13, 2024

Re: Fall Term 2024

Dear Seminary Students:

Welcome to Fall Term 2024. I am delighted that you will be part of the Reformed Episcopal Seminary community this year. I look forward to meeting each of you and am confident that you will find this year to be both academically rewarding and personally satisfying. Our goal is to ensure that you are able to develop both your professional competence, your spiritual life, and your pastoral skills in such a way as to ensure that you will be able to become a valuable servant to the wider church.

As you know, we have made a number of changes over the past few months with respect to faculty, administration, and operating procedures. Among the most important of these are the arrival of several new members of our community and the move to our new home in Oreland, PA. We are confident that you

## Registration

Attached to this letter is the seminary calendar for the coming year. We have made a few adjustments in order to allow for a later start to the term, and provide a bit more time for holiday breaks.

Information about registration procedures also accompanies this letter along with the course timetable. In that regard, I should like to point out a few important details:

- 1. Term Dates.** The Fall Term will begin on Wednesday, September 4. Classes will start at the normal hour and continue through the day.
- 2. Seminary Orientation for All Students.** The seminary picnic and orientation will be held on Tuesday, September 3 from noon until 2.00 pm. We encourage all students to be present. This is an opportunity to meet new students and faculty and renew old acquaintances. We will also be providing more detailed information on seminary activities and policies at that time.

**3. Registration.** Course registration opens on August 14, and closes on August 26. Students who do not register by the registration date will be charge a late fee.

**4. Online Courses.** Full-time M.Div. students are expected to attend all classes in person and will not be permitted to register for online sessions without special permission. All other students are strongly encouraged to register for in-person courses. It is important to note, however, that all students taking courses online should be present at each session and have their camera on throughout.

**5. Holy Communion.** All students are expected to attend the weekly Holy Communion service, which will be held on Wednesdays at noon followed by a community lunch. This is regardless of whether one has classes on that day.

**6. Dress Code.** The seminary dress code is set forth in the Student Handbook. All students should dress appropriately, whether online or in person. This means that t-shirts, shorts, hats, or other casual clothing are not permitted to be worn in class. Specific details about proper dress are in the handbook.

**7. Attendance.** All students should attend every class and be present on time. Students who miss more than two sessions of a class will not be permitted to take the final exam, regardless of the circumstances or the excuse. This is not meant to be punitive; it is simply a recognition that the course work cannot be successfully completed if students are not present when it is being given. Faculty have no discretion in this matter. They also have no authority to assign alternate work or “extra credit” projects to make up for missed classes.

**8. Punctuality.** All students will be expected to be on time for every class. Students who arrive late will be marked “absent”.

## **Community**

Finally, I should like to say a word about community. As you know, the past several years have caused a great deal of disruption to RES and the wider academic community. We have learned how to develop and deliver courses remotely and we have instituted a number of new programmes. At the same time, the partially remote nature of our enterprise has produced a sense of dislocation. Many students feel somewhat at sea or isolated when so many members of our community spend so little time on campus.

In addition, we must not forget that corporate worship is very much an integral part of our community life as Anglicans. We gather repeatedly throughout the day and the week to praise God in unity and unison. As a result, the daily office and the weekly Communion service are essential parts of our common life. Moreover, participating in them as servers, lectors, or members of the congregation are enhance our own personal spiritual development. Thus, every member of the community must make a concerted effort to join in corporate worship. All students and faculty

should, therefore, be present at morning and evening prayer, in addition to the weekly Communion. It's what we do as a community and it is who we are as Anglicans.

In addition to these events, the seminary will also be organising a number of activities over the course of the term. These include:

- Re-instituting the seminary choir
- Holding a monthly choral evensong
- Hosting a monthly dinner for faculty, students, and spouses/children
- Organising a service of Advent Lessons & Carols

Consequently, as we prepare for the start of a new academic year, I want to encourage each and every one of you to make a deliberate effort to commit to the RES community. Being an active participant in person at classes and seminary events and programmes will pay massive dividends for your own education and spiritual development, and will ultimately help to make us all better pastors, preachers, and servants.

For the moment let me welcome again to the new year. I hope that if you have any questions at all you will not hesitate to contact me.

Faithfully,



(The Reverend) M.P. Harrington  
President and Dean