

August 4, 2015

Dear John, Shepherding and Advisory Committee members and Presbytery of the Mississippi Valley,

Thank you so much for the honor and privilege of serving in PMV with you, by your call and permission, as Chancellor and Professor at Reformed Theological Seminary. I have served PMV in this capacity since January 1, 2014.

We have been blessed by God at RTS, and I want to share with you briefly about both my labors and God's favor to us at RTS.

I continue to serve actively in all aspects of the life of PMV and the PCA. I attend all presbytery and GA meetings, serve on committees (I continue to serve as the chairman of the MJCCW by your appointment), and I have regularly preached in PCA churches this past year. I preach on average about 3 of 4 Sundays in the month, and regularly speak at special services (conferences and the like). Most of my preaching is in the PCA. When I am not preaching somewhere, I am worshiping with my family at First Presbyterian Church, Jackson, MS under the able ministry of my pastor, David Strain.

In MVP, I have preached at 2nd Pres, Yazoo City, Pinehaven, Providence, Redeemer, First Kosciusko, First Jackson, Pear Orchard and more. I have preached at a number of PCA presbytery meetings and have had the joy of being the guest preacher on a number of commissions to receive new PCA churches into our denomination.

I teach a full load of theology courses at RTS, in addition to my other duties as Chancellor. This is by conviction that my calling is primarily to teach and preach the Word. I have taught the last three semesters in Jackson and Orlando, and I taught a summer course in Worship at RTS Charlotte. I teach Doctrine of Scripture, Systematic Theology 1 (God, Man, Sin), Covenant Theology, Introduction to Pastoral and Theological Studies, Worship and more.

I have had the joy of serving as the PCA's fraternal representative to three sister presbyterian denominations and giving reports to their General Assemblies: the OPC here in the US, the Presbyterian Church in Brazil and the conservative Reformed Afrikaans denomination in South Africa. Over the past year, I have attended nine GAs of conservative presbyterian bodies. You have no idea how encouraging that has been.

RTS is entering our 50th year this year. We have more students than ever (we started with 14 and now have about 2500), and in September, we will teach on eight campuses in eight States in the US, plus through our Global program students from every continent, as well as in Sao Paulo, Brazil in our joint program with Mackenzie Presbyterian University. By the way, our Brazil program is operated completely on support derived from members of PMV, and has fueled a reformation in the largest conservative Presbyterian denomination in the Western hemisphere, the IPB (1.2 million members). I could tell you stories!

When I came to RTS, the seminary was facing serious budgetary shortfalls, but by the lavish provision of God and the sacrificial generosity of his people, we ended this fiscal year in the black in our overall budget for the first time in five years.

I would remind the presbytery that all RTS board members and faculty are required to subscribe to inerrancy and the Westminster Standards annually. Indeed, our subscription formula is tighter than the PCA's! By God's grace, RTS has not wavered in our commitment to biblical and reformed orthodoxy.

My wife, Anne, has taught school for seven years and has "retired" from that this year. Our daughter, Sarah Kennedy, has graduated from High School and leaves this week for College. Our son Jennings is a 10th grader at Jackson Prep.

I would humbly request that the presbytery continue my service laboring out of bounds of presbytery at RTS.

Your friend,

Ligon Duncan