Traces of the Spirit
A Publication of the Classis of Rochester, RCA
March 2019

Classis Highlights

Classis met at Palmyra Reformed Church on February 26. Many thanks to Will Barham for preaching, to Joan Bucknam for providing music, and to Steve Marsille for technical support. We are also grateful to all those who cooked, helped in the kitchen, and provided excellent hospitality in many other ways.

Highlights of the meeting included:

- We heard a report from our Director of New Church Development, Steven Rodriguez, who asked that we wait on the Lord and continue to pray for discernment and direction.
- We gave thanks for the ministry of elders and deacons who have passed away in the last year.
- We approved a provision to support candidates under care who are enrolled in a distance learning program in the amount of $1,800 per year for a maximum of five years.
- We approved a suggested family leave policy for installed pastors.
- We re-certified preaching elders Anita Manuele and John Stratton for a two-year period ending February 2021.
- We heard a report from one of our Camp Fowler Board of Trustees representatives, Jana DiPiazza. She reported that the camp is in good shape, with many projects having been completed and a few still in process. They are pleased that about 100 more campers have signed up as of January 2019 compared to January 2018.
- We approved the filing of final documents to disband the corporation known as The Reformed Church of Williamson effective February 26, 2019.

- We elected the following General Synod 2019 delegates: Will Barham, Terry Geist, Robert Knapp and 1 minister to be identified.
- We elected the following delegates to the 2019 RSA meeting: Brian Maag, Sarah Palsma, Steve Norden, Nicholas Dorland, Larry Scheerens, Gary Wood, Richard Baxter and Daniel Bakker.
- We elected Will Barham to serve a three-year term on the Synod Ministries Board effective May 2019.
We elected Pete Faas to a second three-year term on the Camp Fowler Board of Trustees effective May 2019.

The vote on the proposal RCA constitutional amendments was as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Proposed Amendment</th>
<th>Vote</th>
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<tr>
<td>Provision allowing only classes whose delegates were eligible to be seated at the General Synod at which an amendment was adopted to vote on the recommendation for approval.</td>
<td>Approved</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Provision for protection for classes and consistories in the formation, combination or disbanding of classes by regional synods.</td>
<td>Approved</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Provision for compensation by a consistory to a minister for the required employee contribution for a spouse’s employer-sponsored plan to the limit of the premium costs of the Reformed Benefits Association plan.</td>
<td>Approved</td>
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Lakeview

Ladies’ Upper Room Supper, April 16, 6:30 pm: Following a short worship service in the sanctuary, participants will proceed in silence to a candlelit table set up in the shape of a cross. An empty chair at the head of the table signifies the living spirit of Christ. A seder meal is eaten in silence except for the reading of scripture. The cup and the bread are taken in unison after each scripture reading. During the meal, a short meditation is given followed by the singing of a hymn and a benediction. Finally, all rise, join hands, and sing God Be With You. Everyone leaves silently.

Maundy Thursday, April 18, 7:30 pm: Worship service with communion.

Easter Sunday, April 21: Sunrise Service at Goodwin Park (meet at the church at 7 am); breakfast at the church at 8:45 am; worship in the sanctuary at 10 am.

New Hope

Palm Sunday, April 14: Includes a Children’s Palm Parade throughout the sanctuary and narthex at both 9 am and 11:15 am services.

Maundy Thursday, April 18, 7:30 pm: A Tenebrae Service followed by a prayer vigil. Resources will be available to guide worshippers as they pray for themselves, loved ones, the Church and the world.

Good Friday, April 19, Noon: The Dublin Cross Walk. The walk will begin promptly at noon from the south parking lot of Dublin Coffman High School and end at Dublin Community Church.

Easter, April 21: Sunrise service at the Columbus Zoo Africa Event Center at 7 am; worship in the sanctuary at 9 am and 11:15 am.

Palmyra

Palm Sunday, April 14, 10 am: Worship at the church; the children will pass out palm branches.

Good Friday, April 19, 7 pm:
Tenebrae Service. On this day we remember Christ’s suffering and death on the cross. The Tenebrae Service uses gradually diminishing candlelight to symbolize the approaching darkness of Jesus’ death and of hopelessness in the world without God. Worshipers leave in silence to ponder the impact of Christ’s death and await the coming resurrection.

Easter, April 21: Sunrise service at Friends Quaker Church in Farmington at 6 am; worship at the church at 10 am; Easter Egg Hunt at 11:30 am at the church.

Second Marion

Easter Sunday, April 21: Sunrise service at Marion Town Park at 7 am; coffee in the gym at 7:45 am; breakfast in the gym at 8 am; worship in the sanctuary at 9:30 am.

Trinity

Palm Sunday, April 14, 10 am: Worship service in the sanctuary.

Maundy Thursday, April 18: Soup and bread supper at 6 pm followed by worship with communion.

Easter, April 21: Sunrise service at Marion Town Park at 7 am; coffee in the gym at 7:45 am; breakfast in the gym at 8 am; worship in the sanctuary at 9:30 am.

Easter, April 21: Sunrise service at the Columbus Zoo Africa Event Center at 7 am; worship in the sanctuary at 9 am and 11:15 am.
Lakeview
Boy Scout Troop 18 held their Annual Spaghetti Dinner at Lakeview on March 23.

Palmyra
Lots Going on at Palmyra
There were 13 chilies to taste at Palmyra’s Chili Cook-Off in January. It was hard to pick a winner because they were all good! Emily Smith won the top honors; her name was added to the prized Chili Cook-Off plaque and she received a gift card to Shop and Save.

About 30 people gathered on a Saturday morning in February for a delicious Valentine Family Breakfast of bacon, sausage, pancakes, waffle, scrambled eggs, fruit salad and French toast. It was a joint effort: Both the men and the women helped to cook breakfast. Next year the church is planning to open it up to the community as a free event.

Palmyra held their first Winter Vacation Bible School Day jointly with Western Presbyterian Church on February 18. About 20 children attended the all-day event. Lunch was served and a pot luck dinner was held. Children and adults all enjoyed the day, and Palmyra hopes to be able to continue this next year for more than one day. The children glued popsicle sticks together to form crosses and these were put together into a picture collage. The following Sunday these pictures were presented to the congregation for display.

Palmyra continued a 50-year Soup Luncheon tradition on February 24. It was a windy day thus a great day for hot soup. There was a wide variety of soups; it is amazing how many different types of soup there were.

The morning service on March 17 probably made people really hungry with all the smells of corned beef coming from the kitchen. They might not have paid as much attention to the sermon as they normally do with that distraction and the anticipation of lunch following the service. Yummy!

Pultneyville
What’s your bag? What makes you – you?
What’s Your Bag was a Parish Life event held on February 10 following worship. Participants dined on soup, salad, bread and dessert. Everyone was asked to put an item or items that defined who they were into a bag. After lunch, people went through the bags and tried to guess whose bag was whose. It is amazing how much they learned about one another after all their years together!

Second Marion
Second Marion’s mission trip to Hidalgo was a rewarding experience for the participants. Their theme, Hearts for the Harvest, was taken from Luke 18:35-41 where Jesus heals the blind Bartimaeus. The team of nine assisted in eleven worship and outreach services. Don White and another team member preached (through a translator) twelve times between the two of them. The healing of Bartimaeus skit was given five to six times; VBS with the children was held during the sermon time; and participants visited in homes both evangelizing and bringing consolation to households who’d lost husbands, fathers and brothers in the terrible gas line explosion in Hidalgo. Some of those who were visited had just come to know the Lord and participated in the church in Tlaxcoapan. They prayed with others who were not believers, or at least not Protestant believers, and they were gently urged to trust in the Savior.

They participated in two cornerstone laying ceremonies/services for congregations ready to begin building their own church buildings. They also divided up some $9,500 among congregations to help with the commencement of building or with further completion of (Church News continued on page 6)
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Update from the Fords

An excerpt from the Fords’ January newsletter:

Have you ever wondered about the meaning of Bethlehem, the town where Jesus was born? It derives from the Hebrew bêt lehem meaning House of Bread. Today, it is populated by Muslim and Christian Arabs, who refer to it as bayt lahm, House of Meat.

House can also refer to a building or institution, including an educational center. The ‘Abāssid caliphs of ninth-century Baghdad sponsored bayt al-hikma or The House of Wisdom, where scholars, both Muslim and Christian, could engage in research, translation, and teaching. (Many classical Greek and Latin works would have been lost if not for medieval Arab institutions like this.) There are comparisons in this with NEST and our work here: teaching Middle Eastern Christian students about Islam and Christian-Muslim relations; assisting in the production of a scholarly journal (The Theological Review); helping to maintain and improve one of the largest theological libraries in the Middle East. But a house can also be a home, and in that sense, NEST is as much a dynamic spiritual community as it is an educational center. We join students, faculty, and staff for daily prayers along with periodic educational and social events – such as our annual Cookies and Carols celebration that we sponsor every December, featuring Patty’s delightful homemade treats.

House can also refer to a place of worship, often called a house of prayer. Probably the most famous example of such a usage in Islam is one of the names for the ka’ba, the central shrine in Mecca, known as al-bayt al-harām or the sacred house. Here in Beirut, our own house of worship is All Saints Church, which is part of the Anglican Diocese of Jerusalem. Throughout our six years here, we’ve actively participated in its international congregation made up of folks from numerous denominational and cultural backgrounds. Our involvement increased this year with new responsibilities while we’ve been without a pastor since April. Peter has been responsible for coordinating and leading worship (with guest preachers whenever possible), while Patty continues to direct Young Church, i.e., Sunday School, and help with a behind-the-scenes logistics. The process of selecting and sending a new pastor (which is the responsibility of the Anglican Archbishop in Jerusalem) has been proceeding steadily but much more slowly than we had hoped. We are thankful, though, that others in the congregation are sharing the burden in the meantime.

Perhaps the nicest extended meaning of house is family. Our own much-loved families are far away, and we try to keep in touch via email, Skype, and WhatsApp. But this Christmas, we’ve been delighted to have both David and Andrew visit us here at NEST. David flew in from Ethiopia where he continues to enjoy serving with SIL as their Bible Translation Special Projects Implementer, a long title indicating the breadth of his logistical and linguistic skills. Andrew took three flights from Richmond VA, where he lives in our condominium with Peter’s mother while trying hard to turn his love for digital drawing into a meaningful vocation. While here, they’ve been staying in dormitory guest rooms one floor below our apartment, and have joined us in all the NEST and church Christmas activities and programs. But the best part of being together now has been maintaining our Ford family Christmas traditions: opening presents in orderly fashion; feasting on homemade Ford pizza; playing numerous board games such as Settlers of Catan; and watching The Muppet Christmas Carol and other seasonal favorites.

And we’ve sung numerous times, as perhaps you have, O Little Town of Bethlehem. We’ve never been able to visit Bethlehem, despite its proximity to Beirut (only 150 miles away). But we have Palestinian Christian students and colleagues who help us appreciate that the Bethlehem of today is anything but peaceful. Surrounded by Israeli settlements and cut off from Jerusalem by a 26-foot high wall on the north side of town, both Christian and Muslim residents struggle to maintain a sense of identity and dignity. In many ways, Bethlehem today is a microcosm of much of the Middle East where advocates of differing religious and political convictions, along with regional and international powers, vie for control while ordinary citizens suffer ongoing destruction, injustice, and poverty. Can the message of the gospel of Christ, himself born in a period of foreign occupation and persecution, bring healing to this troubled region? NEST and All Saints Church are but two of many lights in this corner of God’s kingdom which seek to respond affirmatively! We continue to be grateful for the opportunity to make our home here, encouraging fellow Christians here to build bridges of
ongoing building.

Participants also sought to encourage the pastors and church leaders there in the Lord’s work. Usually an altar call was given at the conclusion of the messages, to which many came forward for prayer; some to indicate a profession of faith in our Savior. Even if one does not speak Spanish, pastors and leaders are expected to pray with those who have come forward.

They are grateful to God for safe travel down, back and during the time in Hidalgo. They travelled MANY miles over terrible roads in an old, tired but tough Nissan Kombi. Other than the occasional upset stomach, the Lord kept them healthy and preserved their outreach held in Tlaxcoapan from one man fulfilling his threats to hinder the service. Pastor Don says a hearty ¡Gracias!

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**Trinity**

Trinity’s third Chew ‘n Chat on March 17 was a success. Alexis Van Zalen, Trinity’s organist and choir director, presented a portrait of her studies in France last summer. Alexis is working toward her Ph.D. in Musicology at the Eastman School of Music, and this trip was part of her preparation. She is studying how the style of organ composition in France changed in the 17th century in relationship to broader liturgical and chant reforms in the Catholic church. More specifically, she is looking at the compositions by Guillaume-Gabriel Nivers. A Graduate Music Award from the Presser Foundation supported her trip. She gave us a brief explanation of her studies and was very excited that she actually got to play some 17th century organs in her travels.

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(Church News Continued from page 4)

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**Upcoming Church Events**

**Bible Question and Answer Night**  
**March 26, 6:30-8 pm, Lakeview**  
Join Don Montesano and Steven Rodriguez and bring your questions from the Bible passages that you have been reading. They’ll listen for the spirit with participants and learn together.

**Ham Loaf Dinner**  
**April 8, 4:30 pm until gone, Palmyra**  
You don’t want to miss this annual fund-raising event at Palmyra. The cost for adults and children 14 and up cost is only $10; for children ages 7 to 13 only $6; and children 6 and under free. Eat in or take out available; one-pound loaves with sauce cost only $7; buy a couple and freeze one. Proceeds go to support mission programs.

**Talent Show!!**  
**April 28, 4 pm, Trinity Hall, Pultneyville**  
Pultneyville is happy to announce an upcoming Talent Show. The event is open to all ages and abilities. Talents can include singing, playing instruments, dancing, gymnastics, poetry recitation, circus acts, and other creative talents. There’s a rumor that Liza and Henry Twitterpated may make an appearance!

**Men’s Retreat**  
**May 18, 8 am-5 pm, Lakeview**  
Guest speakers for this retreat will be the Rev. Bill Hoffman and the Rev. Chris Fluit.

**Blood Drive**  
**June 27, 4-8 pm, Lakeview**  
Every 2 seconds someone is in need of blood and only 3% of the eligible population donates. Come make your donation.
Excerpt from her January letter

Dear Friends,

Greetings to all of you from Long Island! As most of you are aware, my family and I took a big leap of faith in January 2014 and began raising funds to move to Italy as RCA Global Missions missionaries to work with migrants, refugees and asylum seekers. The majority of those we worked with arrived in Italy from Africa and the Middle East, either after surviving the horror of crossing the Mediterranean Sea on old fishing boats or rubber dinghies, or through the opening of Humanitarian Corridors which allowed them to arrive safely in Italy by airplane after escaping war (most notably the war in Syria). We moved to Italy in September 2014 and worked with our partners in Italy to provide spiritual, emotional and physical care for some of the most vulnerable people I have met in my lifetime. Reflecting back on my family’s almost 20-year history of serving the RCA, we are blessed in that, for every ministry setting we have accepted, we have felt a strong call to that ministry; and we have felt a strong call to say goodbye and move onto to the next ministry opportunity as well. Every single time.

Our ministry in Italy was no exception, and with somewhat heavy but willing hearts, we said goodbye to those we loved and cared for so deeply in Italy and in July 2018 returned to the United States to begin our next ministry opportunity. For Tim, this meant accepting a call as minister of Word and Sacrament at the Community Reformed Church of Manhasset NY.

For me, this meant accepting a new challenge with RCA Global Missions as Refugee Ministries Coordinator. Yes, I am still a missionary with the RCA, supported by Partner in Ministry (PIM) shares and other financial support given by generous individuals, families, congregations and classes. While I truly miss the work I did in Italy, there are so many beautiful things about my new ministry.

- I am learning more about the ongoing refugee crisis from a global perspective, not just how it pertains to the work I was doing in Italy.
- I am meeting new global ecumenical partners who care deeply about those seeking refuge in our world and who believe that God calls us to care for them.
- I am spending more time listening to, and supporting, RCA churches that are already involved in refugee care.
- I am spending more time with people affiliated with the RCA who want to learn more about caring for refugees, and who want to not only become involved in caring for refugees themselves, but also want to see the RCA as a denomination rise up to provide better care for those seeking refuge all over the world.
- I am spending more time with people affiliated with the RCA who share with me their fears and concerns about Canada and the United States being overwhelmed by too many people seeking refuge, or by doing so in ways they don’t understand or don’t approve of, or by those who might want to enter our country—not out of need for protection—but with the intent to do harm.
- I am meeting more people who are willing to share with me how migrants and refugees have blessed their lives and their communities.
- I am meeting more people who had to flee their homes and were blessed to be invited to resettle in the United States and Canada.

This is, in no way, an exhaustive list of the blessings I have witnessed or experienced personally in the few short months in which I have engaged in this ministry. All of these experiences are an affirmation, however, that way too many people (68.5 million and rising) have been forced from their homes and are seeking refuge, and that God is inviting the RCA to step up and care for them.

(TenClay Continued on page 8)
understanding, service and witness in the name of Christ. And we pray that our house in all its dimensions will contribute to this goal, and that yours will, too, right where you are.

In the name of our Master House-Builder,
Peter and Patty

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Near East School of Theology
P.O. Box 13-5780 Chouran
Beirut 1102 2070 U.S.A.
Lebanon

USA address:
10715 Fernridge Court
North Chesterfield, VA 23236-2966

Email address: drppford@gmail.com. We’re still receiving some emails to our old address, so we haven’t closed it out yet. Please make sure that you are using our new one. Thanks!

is my daily prayer that, day by day, more and more individuals, congregations, classes, regional synods, educational institutions, missionaries, commissions and councils in the RCA will accept this invitation.

If you (or one of the entities you are involved with mentioned above) are currently engaged in caring for those seeking refuge, I would love to hear your stories. Seriously. Please reach out and share your stories with me. If you have questions about the who, what, when, where and how of people being forced from their homes and want to learn more, contact me. If you’d like to begin discerning how God may be calling you (or one of the entities you are involved in mentioned above) and would like me to help, contact me.

To those of you who support my work financially, I thank you from the bottom of my heart. I love the work I am doing—work could not do without your support. To those of you who have financially supported me in the past and would like to start again, or for anyone who may be interested in becoming a supporter for the first time, please go to Refugee Care for more information.

Grace and Peace,
JJ TenClay
Refugee Ministries Coordinator
Global Missions
Reformed Church in America
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(516) 430-0827

SAVE THE DATE!

ONE SUNDAY
Churches helping churches live out the call of Pentecost

WHEN IS IT? June 9, 2019
WHAT IS IT? One Sunday is an intentional opportunity to live out the call of Pentecost: spreading the gospel to unreached places. Church plants often reach people and places that established churches can’t. One Sunday is a way for your church to connect with a church plant so that you can support each other through prayer, partnership, giving, and more. By building up one another, we live out the call of Pentecost.

OUR NEW MISSION: In the past, the goal of One Sunday has been to raise money. This year, we are reinventing what we do. We have a new goal: to help churches and church plants build long-lasting relationships and connections. We will be providing the opportunities and tools to do that.

More information will be coming; just make sure to save June 9 for One Sunday!

DEADLINE FOR THE SUMMER ISSUE IS MAY 30
Safe Church Training Well Attended

This event held at Palmyra Reformed Church on January 12 began with worship in the sanctuary with the Rev. Abby-Norton Levering preaching. Pastors, elders, educators and other people who wanted to learn how to keep children safe from sexual abuse were present—27 in all. There were excellent presentations. Molly Snell-Larch, Community Educator from Bivona Child Advocacy Center, guided us through a workbook on protecting children from sexual abuse. About one in ten children experience child sexual abuse before their 18th birthday; this is a staggering rate.

Stuart Walker and Tim McCarthy from Emery & Webb spoke about the essentials of child protection policies for churches. While there are some ideals that we need to strive for in providing protection for our children, there are practical issues in small churches that make it difficult to meet these ideals. We need to do the best that we can and look for innovative solutions to the difficulties churches have in meeting the ideals.

Many thanks go to Palmyra for hosting this event. They provided coffee and snacks and a delicious lunch, which included Dutch lettuce.

Tell Your Church’s Story

Are you a part of a Reformed or Christian Reformed Church? Is your church or a church you know interested in writing a congregational history? Need some support or encouragement? Do you want to produce a volume that is professionally copyedited and produced for reasonable costs AND have the opportunity to share your story with a wider audience? The Congregational History Series of the Reformed Church in America may be for you! Find out more information at Congregational History or talk to Rev. Matthew van Maastricht.

Grants are Available for You!

Do you have a new ministry that needs a little seed money? Is it focused on discipleship, mission, or revitalization? Apply for a Synod Ministries Grant for up to $1,000. The grant form can be found at SMB grant. Once completed, it will be reviewed by the Synod Ministries Board and you will be notified quickly about your request and if your application was approved. Most projects receive funding within a month of their application. Questions? Contact Reilly at rsa.comscoordinator@gmail.com.

The Regional Synod of Albany is on Instagram

Check us out @inthistogetherforgood and follow us to see photos posted from events all over the Synod. Want to ‘gram your event for the Synod? Contact Reilly at rsa.comscoordinator@gmail.com to guest host our Instagram account!

Not on Instagram but don’t want to miss out on the fun? All of our photos can be found in our Photo Gallery over on our website.
From the January 2019 RCA Today issue

Since the fall of communism, Romania has been putting itself back together. However, there is still significant government corruption, a lack of trust, and skepticism that hard work, courage and perseverance can pay off. Felipe and Janelle deWaard-Silva have been called to work with Roma youth in the Jiu Valley to build trust, perseverance, character, and courage through rock climbing.

From rock climbing to church planting
In a neighborhood of 3,000 people, there isn’t a single church to be found. One of the poorest neighborhoods in the city of Vulcan, Romania, Dallas is also home to many Roma people, a group that has been the target of cultural prejudice. It’s not uncommon for residents of Dallas to be in trouble with the law or even in prison. Alcoholism and violence are on the rise. To make ends meet, one or both parents in a family often work outside of Romania, living apart from their children for much of the time.

But the Dallas neighborhood does have a rock climbing gym, designed to provide children and teenagers an environment where they can experience safety and respect, develop life skills and character, pursue education, and come to know the love of Christ—all while learning how to climb.

Fără Limite Climbing Gym is the brainchild of RCA missionaries Felipe and Janelle deWaard-Silva, who have been investing in the young people in the Dallas neighborhood for three years. As they’ve come to know the community, they’ve seen a need for a
An excerpt from the Horvats’ recent letter

It’s been a little too exciting around here!

If you keep up with us on Facebook (user name: HorvatFam), you will know it has been a very busy and often crazy winter so far. We have had more time with the police than we ever wanted but are thankful for their quick response times. We are especially thankful for your continued prayers for our safety. One of the scariest moments was when our ministry building, which is below our living space, caught fire. Winnie heard what she thought was someone vandalizing the building and alerted Aaron, who ran outside to discover our building on fire. The noise she heard were small explosions of electrical cables inside the wall. We give thanks to God that it was stopped before the entire building caught. To see the photos of the blackened wall and everything they dug up, check out our Facebook page.

The positive news...

- We took 24 young people to the youth conference in December and several dedicated their lives to Christ!
- Winnie’s high school group has grown so much in the past two months that we have run out of chairs!
- Aaron continues to make progress on his Croatian hymnal/song book project. Some hymnals don’t have any notes at all and he has to find a very elderly Croat who remembers the song and can sing it to him, then from there he transcribes it.

Thank you for your continued prayers and support!

Aaron, Winnie, Cameron
Reformed Worship and the Liturgical Revival

*April 11, 10 am-2:30 pm, offered by The Reformed Church Center (RSVP by April 8)*

In the 1950s and ‘60s, both the Reformed Church in America (RCA) and the Christian Reformed Church in North America (CRC) undertook liturgical revisions that represented substantial shifts in how they lived out their liturgical and sacramental lives. How did this come to pass? What are the continuing fruits of this liturgical revival, especially as both the CRC and the RCA became increasingly multicultural? These are questions which the Reformed Church Center hopes to explore at this event.

Emily R. Brink, internationally-known liturgical and hymnological scholar and Senior Research Fellow at the Calvin Institute of Christian Worship in Grand Rapids MI will share findings from her work at the 2018-19 Alvin J. Poppen and John R. Young Fellow in Reformed Worship at NBTS as part of her keynote address. She’ll be looking, in particular, at CRC and RCA parallel influences in liturgical renewal in the 1960s.

Gregg A. Mast is president emeritus of NBTS. In his forty-year ministry he served as a congregational pastor in Johannesburg, South Africa; Irvington NJ; and Albany NY; as Minister of Social Witness and the Director of Ministry Services in the RCA; and as President of the RCA General Synod. A well-known liturgical scholar, he will address the development of what became the 1968 *Liturgy for the Lord’s Supper* in the RCA and its surprising sources.

The suggested donation for the day, which includes lunch, is $10, but seminarians are welcome for free; all are welcome regardless of the ability to pay. RSVP to jbrumm@nbts.edu by April 8.

Call for Proposals Extended through April 22!

The Center will continue to receive proposals for research in Reformed Church history, Reformed worship and Reformed Church women’s studies through April 22. Anyone interested should go to fellowships for information and applications or contact James Brumm, Reformed Church Center director.

All three fellowships are made available by New Brunswick Theological Seminary to people who are working on projects and could benefit from an intense time of research in the New York metropolitan area. Fellowship recipients get access to the resources of the Seminary as well as the Archives of the Reformed Church in America and the use of an apartment in New Brunswick for up to two weeks if needed. In addition to professional scholars, all three fellowships have been won by pastors and others with interests in history, worship, or the role of women in the church. The selection committee looks for applications that show careful planning and a good grasp of the project’s purpose, scope, and significance. Preference will be given to applicants who have already begun research in a project and will thus be able to share preliminary results in their presentation.

“This is a unique opportunity for people with strong interests or a project they have always wanted to undertake to spend some time getting at least a piece of it up and running,” said Brumm. “This is especially true for the Poppen-Young fellowship in Reformed worship, which doesn’t have to be limited to the RCA, and where the Seminary’s resources include the multicultural mosaic of worship in the New York metropolitan area.”

Preaching in a Period of Polarization

*April 25, 10 am-4 pm, offered by The Reformed Church Center (RSVP by April 22)*

The event was snowed out in February and returns to NBTS on April 25! This day-long workshop is open to everyone. The suggested donation for lunch will be $10, but everyone is welcome regardless of ability to pay. Lunch is free for all seminarians. NBTS is also able to offer .5 CEU to anyone who completes this program, at a cost of $25. Register via email to jbrumm@nbts.edu by April 22. Please include your name, postal address and telephone number; those applying for the .5 CEU must indicate the same in the email.