



Rotary

Club of Jackson,
Mississippi



Rotagram

April 14, 2025

The Rotary Club of Jackson welcomed **Dr. Ligon Duncan, Chancellor and CEO of Reformed Theological Seminary.**

His presentation was **“Reformed Theological Seminary: By God’s Grace, 1800% Growth Since 1966.”**



L to R: Richard Wilbourn – Rotary President-Elect, Attorney Richard Wilbourn; Dr. Ligon Duncan, Chancellor and CEO, Reformed Theological Seminary; Rotary President; Owner, Carpenter Properties; and William (Bill) G. Cook, III, Sales and Leasing Agent, Cook Commercial Properties

President Phillip Carpenter welcomed Rotarians and guests.

He also led the Club in the Four Way Test.

Rob Salley delivered the Invocation.

Ted Jackson led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Scott Waller introduced our visitors:

Visitors:

Guests from Reformed Theological Seminary

- George Fair, RTS Trustee
- Dr. Tony Doggett, RTS Chancellor's Chief of Staff
- Mr. Ricky Rayborn, RTS Chief Operations Officer

Neddie Winters' guest, Dr. Ric Cannada, Jr., RTS Chancellor Emeritus

Richard Wilbourn's guest, Dennis Watts, Lynk Health CAO

Assma Ali's guest, Diana Wox, Law Office of Alex Galvez

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Rotary Social - May 12 at TopGolf from 4:00 – 6:00. More information will be provided closer to the date.

BIRTHDAYS:

Gerard Gibert	April 17
Haden Hughes	April 18

Monday, April 21, 2025: NO MEETING IN OBSERVANCE OF EASTER

Richard Wilbourn introduced Dr. Ligon Duncan, Chancellor and CEO of Reformed Theological Seminary.

Dr. Duncan was born in Greenville, SC, and reared in the home of an eighth-generation Presbyterian ruling elder. A 1983 graduate of Furman University (B.A. History), he received the MDiv and MA (Historical Theology) from Covenant Theological Seminary. Dr. Duncan earned the Ph.D. from the University of Edinburgh,

New College, Scotland, in 1995 (under the supervision of renowned Reformation and Patristics scholar David F. Wright). While in Scotland, he also studied Systematic Theology at the Free Church of Scotland College (now Edinburgh Theological Seminary) with Professor Donald Macleod.

Dr. Duncan's pastoral experience began in his twenties while in seminary. At 24, he was licensed to preach by Calvary Presbytery (PCA). Since then, he has preached in Presbyterian, Dutch Reformed, Baptist, Congregational, Anglican, Methodist, and Independent churches (including PCA, ARP, EPC, OPC, RPCNA, PC(USA), CRC, RCA, URCNA congregations, churches affiliated with the Southern Baptist Convention as well as various Reformed Baptist and evangelical Anglican groups). While in Britain, Dr. Duncan supplied pulpits in the Church of Scotland, Free Church of Scotland congregations, and Presbyterian Association of England churches (now called The Evangelical Presbyterian Church of England and Wales). His pastoral ministry now spans three decades and four congregations: The Covenant Presbyterian Church of St. Louis, Missouri; Trinity Presbyterian Church, Jackson, Miss.; First Presbyterian Church, Yazoo City, Miss.; and historic First Presbyterian Church, Jackson, Miss., where he served for almost 18 years.

At 28, Dr. Duncan was elected to the Reformed Theological Seminary (RTS) faculty. In 1990, Dr. Duncan was ordained in the Presbyterian Church in America (PCA). He began to teach at RTS, Jackson, Miss., where he eventually became chairman of the systematic theology department and the John R. Richardson Professor of Theology. Over time at RTS, he has lectured regularly at three campuses (Jackson, Charlotte, and Orlando). He has taught all of the core Systematic Theology courses, Pastoral/Social Ethics, Apologetics, History of Philosophy and Christian Thought, Covenant Theology, Patristics, Evangelism, Worship, Church History, Philosophical Theology, Scottish Theology, Contemporary Theology, and Theology of the Westminster Standards. He left his full-time position at RTS to become Senior Minister of the historic First Presbyterian Church (1837) in Jackson, Miss., in 1996 and served until 2013 while continuing to teach at RTS as adjunct. He returned to the regular faculty of RTS in 2012 and became Chancellor/CEO of RTS in 2013.

Dr. Duncan has authored, co-authored, edited or contributed to more than 35 books including, *The Underestimated Gospel* (B&H, 2014), *The Unadjusted Gospel* (Crossway, 2014), *Gospel Clarity: Challenging the New Perspective on Paul* (with Bill Barclay) (Evangelical Press, 2011), *Children and the Lord's Supper* (Mentor, 2011), *Baptism and the Lord's Supper* (Crossway, 2011), *Entrusted with the Gospel* (Crossway, 2010), *Perspectives on Christian Worship* (B&H, 2009), *Does Grace Grow Best in Winter?* (P&R, 2009), *Fear Not* (Christian Focus, 2008), *Women's Ministry in the Local Church* (Crossway, 2006), *Should We Leave our Churches* (P&R, 2004), *The Westminster Confession in the 21st Century: Essays in Remembrance of the 350th Anniversary of the Westminster Assembly*, (Mentor, 2003, 2004, 2009), *Give Praise to God: A Vision for Reforming Worship*, (P&R, 2003), *The Genesis Debate*, (Crux Press, 2000), and *Matthew Henry's Method for Prayer*, (Christian Focus Publications/Christian

Heritage, 1994).

Dr. Duncan is an active churchman and has been involved in the presbyteries and general assemblies of the PCA in various ways for many years. He was appointed to the PCA Strategic Planning Committee, was on the PCA Committee on Psalmody, and served on the GA Committees of Commissioners for Covenant Seminary, MNA, and Bills and Overtures. He was chairman of the Credentials Committee of the Presbytery of the Mississippi Valley, vice-chairman of the PCA Creation Study Committee, and on the Search Committee for Coordinator of Reformed University Ministries. He also served twice as chairman of the PCA GA Theological Examination Committee. Dr. Duncan has been Moderator of the Presbytery of Calvary (SC) and the Presbytery of the Mississippi Valley. He was also elected Moderator of the PCA General Assembly (2004-2005) – the youngest minister to serve as moderator in the denomination's history.

Along with his friends Mark Dever, Al Mohler, and C.J. Mahaney (joined by John Piper, John Macarthur, and R.C. Sproul), Dr. Duncan co-founded Together for the Gospel ("T4G") in 2006. T4G has become a major catalyst for the young, reformed resurgence. He is the founder and chairman of Reformed Academic Press. He serves on numerous boards/councils, including The Council on Biblical Manhood and Womanhood, Highland Theological College, The Gospel Coalition, and the Reformed African American Network. He is the chairman of the RUF Midsouth Committee, which oversees the university campus ministry throughout the region.

Dr. Duncan has given academic lectures and addresses widely, including the following: the University of Edinburgh, New College; the Free Church of Scotland College (now Edinburgh Theological Seminary); Rutherford House (Edinburgh, Scotland); Beeson Divinity School, Birmingham, Alabama; Belhaven University (Jackson, MS), the Presbyterian Theological College, Melbourne, Australia, the University of Chester, England, national and regional meetings of the Evangelical Theological Society; the annual national meetings of the North American Patristic Society; the annual national meeting of the Social Science History Association (Atlanta, GA, 1994); International Theological Seminary (of LA, CA in Hong Kong); he has given the Mullins Lectures at the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary (Louisville, KY, 2004), the den Dulk Lectures, Westminster Theological Seminary, California, and the Adams Lectures, Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary (Wake Forest, NC, 2011).

Dr. Duncan and his wife Anne have two adult children (Sarah Kennedy teaches school in South Carolina, and Jennings studies at RTS Jackson) and reside in Jackson, Mississippi.

Reformed Theological Seminary (RTS) is a theological seminary in the Reformed theological tradition with campuses in multiple locations in the United States. Founded by conservatives in the Southern Presbyterian Church, the Presbyterian Church in the United States, in 1966, it serves primarily students from more conservative branches of

the Presbyterian and Reformed traditions.

Founding

In 1966, conservatives from the Southern Presbyterian Church, the Presbyterian Church in the United States (PCUS), concerned about the increasing influence of liberalism and neo-orthodoxy in the denomination's seminaries and pulpits, established Reformed Theological Seminary, independent from the PCUS, along "Old School" Presbyterian lines, to educate ministers. RTS has largely served the Presbyterian Church in America since that denomination's founding in 1973, then later the Evangelical Presbyterian Church and the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church, and in more recent years, serves a large population of students from Particular Baptist and independent churches.

Leadership

RTS is governed by a board of trustees that exercises oversight through its administration. It is led by its executive committee, the chancellor of the RTS system, and the respective campus presidents.

Academics

RTS follows the Reformed tradition, including Covenant Theology.

Accreditation

Reformed Theological Seminary is accredited by the Association of Theological Schools in the United States and Canada to award the MDiv, MABS, MAR, MATS, MAC, MACC, and DMin degrees. It is also accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges to award master's and doctorate degrees. The Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs accredited the MAC degree program.

Programs of study

RTS's institutional focus is training students (especially in its Presbyterian and Reformed branches) to be pastors, missionaries, educators, and Christian counselors. RTS offers Doctor of Ministry (DMin), Master of Divinity (MDiv), and Master of Arts (MA) degrees in several subjects. Through its Global program, RTS offers the Master of Arts (Biblical Studies) degree (MABS) and the Master of Arts (Theological Studies) degree (MATS). The degrees can be earned completely online.

Faculty

RTS has had many notable faculty members, adjunct professors, and visiting lecturers, including R.C. Sproul, John Frame, Roger Nicole, Ronald H. Nash, Steve Brown, Douglas F. Kelly, Richard L. Pratt, Jr., Michael J. Kruger, Justin S. Holcomb, Bruce Waltke, Willem A. VanGemeren, and Tim Keller.

In April 2010, Bruce Waltke offered to resign his professorship at Reformed Theological Seminary because of controversy over a video by The BioLogos Foundation in which

he discussed his positive views on evolution. Waltke wrote in a letter that he found no fault with the RTS administration on the matter.

Campuses

RTS has campuses in Jackson, Mississippi; Orlando, Florida; Charlotte, North Carolina; Atlanta, Georgia; Washington, D.C.; and its Global Campus. RTS also has sites in New York City, as well as Dallas and Houston in Texas.

MORE PHOTOS



Judge Crystal Wise Martin, George Fair, RTS Trustee,
Dr. Tony Doggett, RTS Chancellor's Chief of Staff,
and Dean Jim Rosenblatt



Dr. Ric Cannada, Jr., RTS Chancellor Emeritus; Dr. Deborah Wright
and Past President Neddie Winters



Dennis Watts, Lynk Health
and Richard Wilbourn



Hugh Trussell and Lee Bush



Mr. Ricky Rayborn, RTS Chief Operations Officer, and Tamica Jeuit



Sister Dorothea Sondgeroth and
Dr. Ligon Duncan, RTS Chancellor and CEO