

Report of New Brunswick Theological Seminary

Lament, Liminality, and Lessons Learned

Lament

Lament is defined as a passionate expression of grief or sorrow. We joyfully lament because lament does not allow us to revert to easy answers for unabated suffering. The New Brunswick Theological Seminary (NBTS) community and the Reformed Church in America (RCA) family mourn and lament the losses of Allan J. Janssen and Gregg Mast.

Allan J. Janssen, PhD, an affiliate professor emeritus at NBTS and General Synod professor emeritus of the RCA, died of complications from the COVID-19 virus on April 3, 2020, at St. Peter's Medical Center in Albany, New York. A longer memorial can be found at www.nbts.edu/dr-allan-janssen-march-31-1948-april-3-2020.

Gregg A. Mast, PhD, president emeritus of NBTS and General Synod professor emeritus of the RCA, died on April 27, 2020, at Albany Medical Center Hospital in Albany, New York, after being ill with the COVID-19 virus for several weeks. A longer memorial can be found at www.nbts.edu/memori-am-gregg-alan-mast.

The impact of Dr. Janssen's and Dr. Mast's contributions and legacies will be felt in our community for generations.

Liminality

Because of COVID-19, we began the 2020–2021 academic year in what is called “liminal space” or threshold space. In Latin, *limen* means a threshold, a starting line in a race, or a beginning place. Liminal space is a very good phrase for times such as this, when events and places open us up to the sacred (Richard Rohr). In the New Testament, the phrase “when time came to a fullness” was used to capture the liminal space created by Jesus's birth or God's incarnation. In 2020–2021, our world entered liminal space as our past, present, and future came together in our current climate and moment. In our liminal space, we experienced our “right here” torn apart from our “over there.”

We grieved the tragic gap between our world as we knew it and something new and unknown. We grieved for humanity and nature as we simultaneously grappled with our previous lives, current losses, and the resilient spiritual new appearances being birthed.

We grieved the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. We grieved the 146 million cases worldwide and the more than 500,000 in the United States. In addition to Dr. Janssen and Dr. Mast, we grieved the death of distinguished alumni Rufus “Bumpy” McClendon (April 9, 2020) and the recent losses of family members and other loved ones in our community.

We grieved the estimated 18 million people and families who were impacted by sudden unemployment in the United States. We grieved the racial and social unrest that unfolded across the nation, including lawlessness, police violence, oppression, systematic racism and discrimination, gender oppression and violence, domestic terrorism, divisiveness, shadow conspiracies, classism, pathology, homophobia, and the plurality and polarization of thought and

action. We continue to seek an antidote to the chaos as we reflect on our changing realities during this liminal season.

Lessons Learned

We responded to the onset of COVID-19 by striving to serve and support our seminary students as fully as possible. Classes quickly moved online, and we applaud the faculty for the thoughtful and excellent manner in which instruction shifted to the virtual environment. We are grateful to our faculty and students who have gracefully navigated the transition to full-time online learning. The seminary continues to work with seminarians to make sure they can access classes and to ensure their well-being. We developed institutional outreach to each of the seminarians and secured three emergency CARES grants to support our efforts:

- \$300,000 for student scholarships and compensation for lost tuition and rental income
- \$12,000 for basic student needs (e.g., food, housing, transit, medical, childcare)
- \$12,000 for the institution to offset income lost from renting our facilities

We also created the Student Emergency Fund and raised \$23,500 to help students who faced unexpected consequences due to COVID-19. We are grateful for your funds and prayers that continue to support our students during these challenging times!

During the COVID-19 shutdown, our finance department, led by chief financial officer Ken Termott, worked diligently to secure a PPP loan in the amount of \$531,900 to help cover expenses that continued, despite lost income due to the pandemic. Mr. Termott then followed PPP guidelines and submitted an application to the Small Business Administration (SBA) to have the total loan forgiven. We are pleased to report that we have received a letter from the SBA stating the total loan has been forgiven.

Additionally, to respond to the evolving needs of the academic community, the Gardner A. Sage Library: (1) re-envisioned its staff priorities and added a digital services librarian; (2) joined the Digital Theological Library, a cooperative effort among theological libraries to build a shared digital collection beyond what any individual library could afford to own; and (3) began to digitize the NBTS Archives for inclusion in the Internet Archive, a partnership with the Theological Commons of Princeton Theological Seminary Library.

Admissions quickly shifted outreach efforts online, with successful informational sessions and continued work to secure new students for the 2020–2021 academic year. Our staff continued to reach out to potential students and inform them that we were open for business and accepting applications for enrollment.

Our faculty held virtual office hours, and our dean and president held weekly listening sessions. You can access all videos at www.youtube.com/nbtheo/videos and are encouraged to share them widely.

Our alumni organization continues to develop. This effort is currently being put forth and funded by alumni and will be alumni-led. There are very active and enthusiastic members on the steering committee, and alumni have been invited to send messages to the class of 2021. A celebration honoring our alumni will be held on May 21, 2021. Alumni from the classes of 2016,

2011, 2006, 2001, 1996, 1991, 1986, 1981, 1976, 1971, 1966, 1961, 1956, 1951, 1946, and 1941 will be the focus of this celebration.

We replicated our graduation activities from 2020. That is, we offered a virtual graduation celebration for our graduates on May 22, 2021, at 11:00 a.m. We are honored to have Cynthia Hale as our commencement speaker. Barbara Felker is the recipient of the President's Service Award. We held our in-person conferring ceremonies for our graduates on May 29, 2021. Our board of trustees participated or was represented in all of the graduation ceremonies.

Accomplishments of 2020–2021

The In Trust Center's Wise Stewards Initiative—NBTS Board of Trustees Participation

As institutional leaders grapple with the long-term impact of the global pandemic on theological schools, efforts to maximize the potential of governing boards has taken on even greater urgency. Faced with unprecedented challenges and fast-emerging opportunities, presidents and board chairs are seeking help that is institutionally relevant, affordable, and specific to the strengths and expertise of their boards.

The In Trust Center's Wise Stewards Initiative meets all three criteria and more.

The curriculum, resources, and format of the project are designed by experienced educators, administrators, and consultants—all of whom have firsthand knowledge of graduate theological education—especially for leadership teams of theological schools. With funding from the M.J. Murdock Charitable Trust, participation is within financial reach of every school.

The Wise Stewards Initiative utilizes a cohort-based learning model that includes assessments, resources, faculty coach-led presentations, and peer learning opportunities with governance teams from other schools. Cohorts are comprised of up to ten theological schools.

Objectives:

- Creating space for innovation, leading change, and maximizing board potential
- Reimagining governance as a force for change
- Strengthening the president/board partnership in support of institutional renewal
- Clarifying roles and responsibilities of boards of theological schools

Advancement and Marketing

For many across our community, this year has proven to be one in which creativity overcame the challenges of the pandemic. We are grateful for your prayers, generosity, and support, which extended beyond our campus to all seminarians, as we train current and future seminarians to think critically, act justly, and lead faithfully.

With your support, our "A Light in God's Cities Campaign" ended in receipts and pledges of \$2.1 million. We also thank our advancement team for dedicated efforts that yielded a 61 percent increase in gifts and donations. This is an encouragement to continue our efforts to meet and surpass the goal of budgeting for a surplus. We are grateful for your kindness and your assistance, which will empower us to continue guiding current and future seminarians to think critically, act justly, and lead faithfully, as they pursue meaningful lives and careers.

With regard to marketing, as of this reporting, our three very brief YouTube commercials have been viewed 14,779, 33,804, and 50,130 times respectively.

- www.youtube.com/watch?v=cIldox7120A
- www.youtube.com/watch?v=hNFIOTW-_Ys
- www.youtube.com/watch?v=OfGCKQDI7Q0

There also have been many more views on our tactics running on the Facebook platform, particularly ads with still images and our 27-second commercial, which can be seen here: <https://vimeo.com/431292324>. All of this has resulted in 182,850 impressions thus far. In terms of exposure, the campaigns have been very successful and have generally performed above industry average key performance indicators. We pray that this online interest in our program will result in applications, acceptances, and enrollments.

NBTS's Reformed Church Center

2019 marked the 20th anniversary of the NBTS Reformed Church Center. In 1999, the NBTS Board of Trustees approved the creation of The Center for Reformed Church Studies, proposed by John Coakley to give expression to the RCA presence in the life and witness of NBTS, with a mission to:

- Instill in RCA students at the seminary a strong sense of belonging to the RCA.
- Use the resources of the seminary, an academic community where free inquiry and disciplined analysis are deeply valued, to reflect critically and prophetically on the RCA's living traditions and its pressing concerns (adapted from the charter of the Reformed Church Center).

Over the last 20 years, the Reformed Church Center has held more than 100 conferences, workshops, and classes, and has hosted dozens of research fellows and other visiting scholars. Every year, the Reformed Church Center grants three fellowships: the Albert A. Smith Fellowship in Reformed Church History, the Alvin J. Poppen and John R. Young Fellowship in Reformed Worship, and the Hazel B. Gnade Fellowship in RCA Women's Studies.

The Reformed Church Center also has helped "to form ministers who are knowledgeable and committed to the RCA," as it says in the charter, by supporting students and the classes that superintend them in their ministry process. We are grateful to those who have served as directors over the years, including John Coakley, assisted initially by Susan Hasner and then Joanne Noel; Barbara Fillette; and James Hart Brumm, who has served as director since 2014.

The Reformed Church Center continued its service to the RCA in this twentieth anniversary year with a variety of programs:

- A series of short colloquies that will look at Reformed theological education in the twenty-first century. Richard Mouw, former president of Fuller Seminary, will be the first presenter in this series.
- Three Saturday events that will help the RCA reflect on the Vision 2020 Team final report in advance of the next General Synod.
- Fellowship presentations that will explore missions, the changing worship landscape, and the role of Black women volunteers in the RCA in the 1970s and 1980s.
- An exploration of race and the role of slavery in the founding of NBTS.
- A livestream conversation with John L. Bell, internationally renowned worship leader, who will join us live from Glasgow to talk about liturgy and justice.

NBTS and Partners' SHELTER Project Secures Luce Grant in Response to Pandemic

Thanks to generous support from the Henry Luce Foundation, NBTS, in partnership with the Reformed Church of Highland Park Affordable Housing Corporation (RCHP-AHC) and Rutgers University-New Brunswick, has launched a project to address the issue of housing insecurity during the COVID-19 pandemic. This new initiative offers a rapid response to a pressing question for some of the most vulnerable people in the wider community: In an age of pandemic, what does it mean to shelter in place when you have no shelter?

Through its Theology Program and its commitment to supporting its partners' responses to COVID-19, the Luce Foundation awarded \$150,000 to NBTS for the immediate launch of the SHELTER project (shelternj.org). Seventy-five percent of the awarded funds will be directed to RCHP-AHC to rapidly secure housing and provide ongoing wrap-around services for families and individuals whose housing and other basic needs, such as the purchasing of food and medicine, have been impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. These individuals and families are experiencing challenges related to undocumented or immigration status; recent release from parole or incarceration; HIV and other medical needs; or other human service needs that have made them especially vulnerable during the COVID crisis.

By fostering community partnerships and directing funds to support the urgent responses of service providers doing the work of social justice, this project advances the seminary's explicit commitment to promote justice in society. Although the current emergency is all too immediate, when the pandemic fades, "shelter" will still be an elusive goal for many; therefore, the aim of our partnership is to create a long-term relationship not only with RCHP-AHC but also with the individuals and families who are receiving services. Seth Kaper-Dale, executive director of RCHP-AHC, has expressed excitement for "the potential of this project to help a pandemic be not a moment for further rejection and isolation, but rather a moment where we stop, listen, and participate in creating 'home' for already susceptible populations."

Led by Nathan Jérémie-Brink, Feakes Assistant Professor of the History of Global Christianity at NBTS; Colin Jager, director of the Center for Cultural Analysis and professor of English at Rutgers; Kristin O'Brassill-Kulfan, coordinator and instructor of Public History at Rutgers; and producing director Dan Swern of coLAB Arts, "this project reflects NBTS's commitment to 'act justly' in our response to this pandemic, and to foster partnerships that promote critical thinking about the complex economic, socio-psychological, and racial factors that leave people without homes."

We applaud the Luce Foundation's emergency response funding and the SHELTER project's "amazing group of researchers, professors, pastors, and community activists committed to provide persons impacted by COVID-19 with safe spaces and needed resources for recovery and survival."

NBTS Wins Grant to Engage Science in Curriculum, and with Theology and Race

This year, as one of nine seminaries granted funding by the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) to begin integrating science into their core curricula, NBTS presented a program of four courses (Analyzing and Confronting the Systems of Privilege, Contextualized Ministry and Public Faith, and History of Global Christianity I and II) and a major campus event exploring the theme "Naming the Past to Claim a Better Future: COVID-19, Pseudo-Science and Pseudo-Theology."

This innovative Science for Seminaries project is organized by the AAAS Dialogue on Science, Ethics, and Religion (DoSER) Program in partnership with the Association of Theological Schools. It reflects the deep commitment of NBTS to dismantle various forms of oppression, sexism, classism, and racism. This project provided an outstanding opportunity for the NBTS community to deepen our commitment as an anti-racist institution by exploring the ways science and theology intersect to not only create systems and structures that foster injustice and various forms of oppression, but also to liberate and promote the well-being of all city residents and the wider society.

NBTS vice president and academic dean Beth Tanner, who is also the Rev. Dr. Norman and Mrs. Mary Kansfield Professor of Old Testament Studies, and Janice McLean-Farrell, Dirk Romeyn Assistant Professor of Metro-Urban Ministry, are leading the project. It kicked off for the entire NBTS faculty at the beginning of the school year with a discussion of Terrance Keet's *Divine Variations: How Christian Thought became Racial Science* and includes workshops with science and theology experts in pedagogy, sociology, and nanoengineering. Invited experts will provide lectures, discussion exercises, hands-on syllabi preparation, and assistance in planning a field trip excursion to the American Museum of Natural History in New York City.

In the spring, we redesigned our anti-racism workshop and made it into an online two-day workshop titled "Analyzing the Systems of Privilege." The workshop was taught by Janice McLean-Farrell, PhD (Theology); Nathan Jérémie-Brink, PhD (History); Beth LaNeel Tanner, PhD (Hebrew), and Micah L. McCreary, PhD (Psychology). The workshop was designed to aid us in recognizing and naming the powers and privileges in our culture that advantage some and disadvantage others. During the workshop, we discussed some of the power and privilege issues at the forefront of concern, but we pray you will always look for the ways some are lifted on the backs of others and work for justice in our world.

Following the workshop, we taught the course "Analyzing the Systems of Privilege" focused on providing seminary students with a better understanding of the importance of science in their learning and their ministry. Analyzing the Systems of Privilege is a required course for all master's students. The course aims to provide students with both academic and experiential knowledge about some of the -isms in our world. Students engaged in personal and social analysis of issues that limit the sharing of the gospel message and the love of Christ in our churches and communities.

Some of the resources for this class were purchased with grant funds. Required books for IN511 were:

- Graves, Joseph L. *The Race Myth: Why We Pretend Race Exists in America*. New York: Plume, 2005.
- Wytma, Ken. *The Myth of Equality: Uncovering the Roots of Injustice and Privilege*. Downer's Grove, Illinois: IVP Press, 2019.
- Leong, David P. *Race and Place: How Urban Geography Shapes the Journey to Reconciliation*. Downer's Grove, Illinois: IVP Books, 2017.
- Desmond, Matthew. *Evicted: Poverty and Profit in the American City*. New York: Crown Publishing, 2017.

NBTS Launches WELL Program, Receives \$1 Million Grant

Thanks to a generous grant of nearly \$1 million from the Lilly Endowment Inc., NBTS designed the WELL Program to create a collaborative and supportive community for African American pastors leading urban congregations and Latinx pastors launching new churches.

The term WELL, though not an acronym, has theological, biblical, and psychological implications that matter to our project. First, WELL denotes what we propose to be the quality of the program—an excellent endeavor that through its very execution will foster and enhance wellness among both leaders and participants. Second, this biblical motif represents a place where God’s people frequently gather and are met with the provision of God. One scriptural account depicts Jesus meeting a woman who was marginal to the religious community and describing himself as living water. The WELL program seeks to extend this metaphor into practice, where pastors find resources and respite. Third, the name reflects our project’s inherent mission of promoting soundness of body and mind and personal satisfaction.

Pastors play a pivotal role in their congregations, and the demands on them are great in ordinary times, much less the extraordinary challenges faced in 2020 and 2021. We created WELL with thoughtful input from pastors and with our three core principles of “think critically, act justly, and lead faithfully” in mind. We believe this multi-faceted approach of assisting pastors who serve in two diverse ministries, African American and Latinx, will help revitalize their personal and professional ministry development and growth while creating a collaborative community.

Our project draws on our experiences as educators, mental health practitioners, and pastors. It is designed to address the pressures—spiritual, emotional, and financial—of urban pastoral leaders, which are magnified by the disproportionately high rate of COVID-19 among Black and Brown people. Our primary aim for the project is to help participating pastors embrace and embody a mindset and lifestyle of WELL-ness in personal spirituality and self-care, leadership, authentic relationships, and overall vitality.

Although in service to the church and its members, pastoral ministry seeks to address the needs of the wider community, and the pastor’s role is to care for, nurture, and minister to the needs of all God’s people. We see WELL as a way to improve pastors’ resilience and overall well-being and to grow their capacity for constructive outreach to congregants and the broader community. The program, which commences this year and runs through 2025, offers participants (four groups of twenty in two-year cycles, for a total of eighty) a wealth of personal, interactive, and educational resources. These include:

1. The WELL Team: Developed by a core team of university and seminary professors and pastors, the project will include a financial consultant, a church generosity strategist, and an urban planner, and brings together pastors, in person or virtually, for learning sessions and conferences.
2. WELL Learning Intensives: Via Zoom, these are structured learning activities that strengthen mental health and leadership skills.
3. The WELL Conferences: Conducted by NBTS faculty and staff as well as experts in the fields of church stewardship and real estate and finance, these will be in person or conducted online via Zoom.

4. The WELL Developmental Learning Plan (Capstone): At the end of each group's first and second year, WELL fellows and/or WELL teams will summarize their learning experiences and detail how these will be incorporated into their ministries.

A seasoned team with expertise in relevant fields will be involved in every step of WELL:

- Denominational leaders: Eddy Alemán (general secretary, RCA), Micah L. McCreary, PhD (president, NBTS)
- Staff: Gihane Jérémie-Brink, Jacqueline Madison-McCreary, Terry A. Smith
- Consultants: Jimmy Hanson (president and chief executive officer, The Hampshire Companies), Carla Ray (senior generosity strategist, Generis)

Digital Theological Library (DTL)

NBTS, under the leadership of Patrick Milas, has added the DTL, an expansive database in the studies of religion and theology. Our students, faculty, and staff can find more than 600,000 ebooks, 60 million full-text articles, and 21,000 journals from over 150 databases. Using this database, our community can access Proquest dissertations and theses and find millions of dissertations from 1743 to current day. Access to the DTL is restricted to matriculated students and current faculty and staff.

NBTS Presidential Scholars Program

This year, NBTS introduced the Presidential Scholars Program. Presidential scholars will work with NBTS President McCreary to strengthen and expand the work of the seminary and the Office of the President. There will be two simultaneous programs—one for Doctor of Ministry students and the other for NBTS faculty first, and eventually other church mavens. The goal of the program is to develop theological-based briefs on theology and praxis, and power and privilege. We are grateful for the partnership with Charles Boyer and his organization, Salvation and Social Justice: Liberating Public Policy Theologically, whose generosity has made this project possible.

RCA/NBTS Month—March 2021

As the RCA's first and oldest seminary, through the years, NBTS and RCA have been an important part of each other's legacies. Today, we continue to partner to equip lay leaders and pastors for ministry. This year, our constituencies gathered during the month of March for a series of online events to learn more about how the RCA and NBTS are working together. The events were free, but registration was required.

March 8: Leadership. We kicked off with a conversation between Eddy Alemán, RCA general secretary; Micah L. McCreary, NBTS president; Jill Ver Steeg, RCA chief operating officer; and Amanda Bruehl, NBTS chief of staff.

March 10: Global Mission. Strengthening and growing the global church by creating ministries of compassion, by developing leaders, and through sharing the good news, our goal was to provide opportunities for local churches to partner with global churches in ways that are collaborative and mutually meaningful, helping us all live and love like Jesus. Participants learned about what is happening around the world through RCA Global Mission and how NBTS and RCA Global Mission are partnering together to equip people for work in the global church.

March 13: Women's Stories Day (www.nbts.edu/events/2021-womens-stories-day). Anna M. Jackson, co-pastor of Second Reformed Church in Hackensack, New Jersey, was the featured speaker at the 2021 Women's Stories Day. Jackson, who is the 2020–2021 Hazel B. Gnade Fellow in RCA Women's Studies at NBTS, presented on the topic "Like Trees Planted By the Water: RCA New York City Black Women Lay Leaders of the 1950s–1970s," her study of matriarchs in Black RCA congregations and the larger church in the 1970s and 80s. There were a large number of Black women, even more so than in other RCA congregations, who were not ministers of Word and sacrament but who took leadership for their congregations in denominational settings and even on the world stage—such as during the struggle against apartheid. Jackson plans to look at the work they did and conduct oral interviews with several of the women and people who knew them. Sharon Atkins, pastor of Bethany Memorial Reformed Church in New York City and the new president of the RCA African American Black Council, was our devotional leader. A native of Montego Bay, Jamaica, she was raised in Brooklyn and has been an active member of the RCA since her youth.

March 17: Transformed & Transforming. The RCA's Transformed & Transforming team walks alongside churches, helping them take their next step toward fulfilling God's vision for ministry. Their strategic priorities are to cultivate transformation in Christ and equip emerging leaders of today and tomorrow, focusing on discipleship, leadership, local mission, and next generation engagement. Participants learned how the RCA supports leaders in seminary and beyond, as they lead in their congregations and communities.

March 24: Church Multiplication. The RCA's Church Multiplication team works with local classes, regional synod teams, and international partners to equip them to start new churches. Participants learned about church revitalization through multiplying ministry, including a new effort called "Fresh Expressions," which is designed to help existing churches foster and support the expansion of ministries.

Collaboration with RCA Global Mission and NBTS Doctor of Ministry in Missiology and Global Christianity

RCA Global Mission and NBTS have been working together to develop a framework to advance the works of RCA Global Mission and NBTS Missions. We are developing our framework around a focus on programs, partnerships, and promotions. Our team also consulted the RCA Missionaries Timeline, composed by James Brumm.

We have assembled the following project teams:

- **Overwatch group:** Beth Tanner, Jaeseung Cha, JP Sundararajan, and Micah McCreary
- **Program group:** Janice McLean-Farrell, Jinhong Kim, Derrick Jones, and En Young Kim
- **Partnership group:** Nathan Jérémie-Brink, Amanda Bruehl, Scott Engelsman, and Luis Ruiz
- **Promotion group:** Cathy Proctor, Amanda Bruehl, Scott Engelsman, and Gael Uwera

We are currently working within each committee to develop the purpose and objectives of our partnership. We solicit your prayers.

Nomination of the Rev. Dr. Micah L. McCreary as a General Synod Professor

New Brunswick Theological Seminary would like to offer one recommendation to the RCA General Synod: The New Brunswick Theological Seminary Board of Trustees recommends Rev. Dr. Micah L. McCreary to the Office of General Synod Professor.

Greg Dunlap, chair of the NBTS Board of Trustees—Board of Affairs Committee, proposed that the board nominate NBTS President Micah L. McCreary to be recommended by the board as a candidate to become a General Synod professor. President McCreary agreed to serve in this capacity representing NBTS. The full Board of Trustees then unanimously voted to nominate and forward to the General Synod of the RCA a recommendation that McCreary serve as a General Synod professor for the RCA. The following resolution was prepared by John Coakley for NBTS:

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WHEREAS the Rev. Dr. Micah L. McCreary has been since 2018 a minister of Word and sacrament in good standing in the Reformed Church in America, having previously held his ordination in the National Baptist Convention and the American Baptist Convention and having served faithfully for 19 years as a pastor in those denominations; and

WHEREAS the Rev. Dr. Micah L. McCreary has served faithfully since 2017 as president and John Henry Livingston Professor of Theology at New Brunswick Theological Seminary, one of the two historic seminaries of the Reformed Church in America, and

WHEREAS the Rev. Dr. Micah L. McCreary is a member of the First Reformed Church of New Brunswick, New Jersey, and the Classis of New Brunswick, and has traveled widely in the Reformed Church in America as preacher and presenter; and

WHEREAS the Rev. Dr. Micah L. McCreary provides leadership in the Reformed Church in America in matters of clergy development and theological education, not least as a member of the Commissioned Pastors Advisory Team and of the Pastoral Formation Oversight Board, for which he has helped to fashion the bylaws and structure; and

WHEREAS in his role as president of New Brunswick Theological Seminary, the Rev. Dr. Micah L. McCreary oversees the implementation of the seminary's curriculum and the evaluation of students for the Certificate of Fitness for Ministry in the Reformed Church in America, and has worked to expand the program of the seminary's Reformed Church Center; and

WHEREAS in his role as a faculty member at New Brunswick Theological Seminary, the Rev. Dr. Micah L. McCreary teaches required courses in both the Master of Divinity and the Doctor of Ministry degree programs, drawing upon his 21 years of experience

in higher education at Virginia Commonwealth University, where he served as a senior faculty member; and

WHEREAS the Rev. Dr. Micah L. McCreary is an established scholar who has published widely, specializing in matters closely related to ministry, including family and community mental health and the integration of psychology and spirituality;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the 214th regular session of the General Synod of the Reformed Church in America, meeting October 14–19, 2021, declares the Rev. Dr. Micah L. McCreary a General Synod professor.

The NBTS leadership and community continue to pray, connect, and serve to the glory of God in this season of enduring and in preparation for the times to come. Thank you for your continued commitment, generous spirit, and other contributions of support.