



IRBS Theological
Seminary

A CONFSSIONAL REFORMED BAPTIST SEMINARY | Preparing Men to Serve.



BIBLICALLY GROUNDED • CONFessionALLY COMMITTED • HISTORICALLY CONNECTED



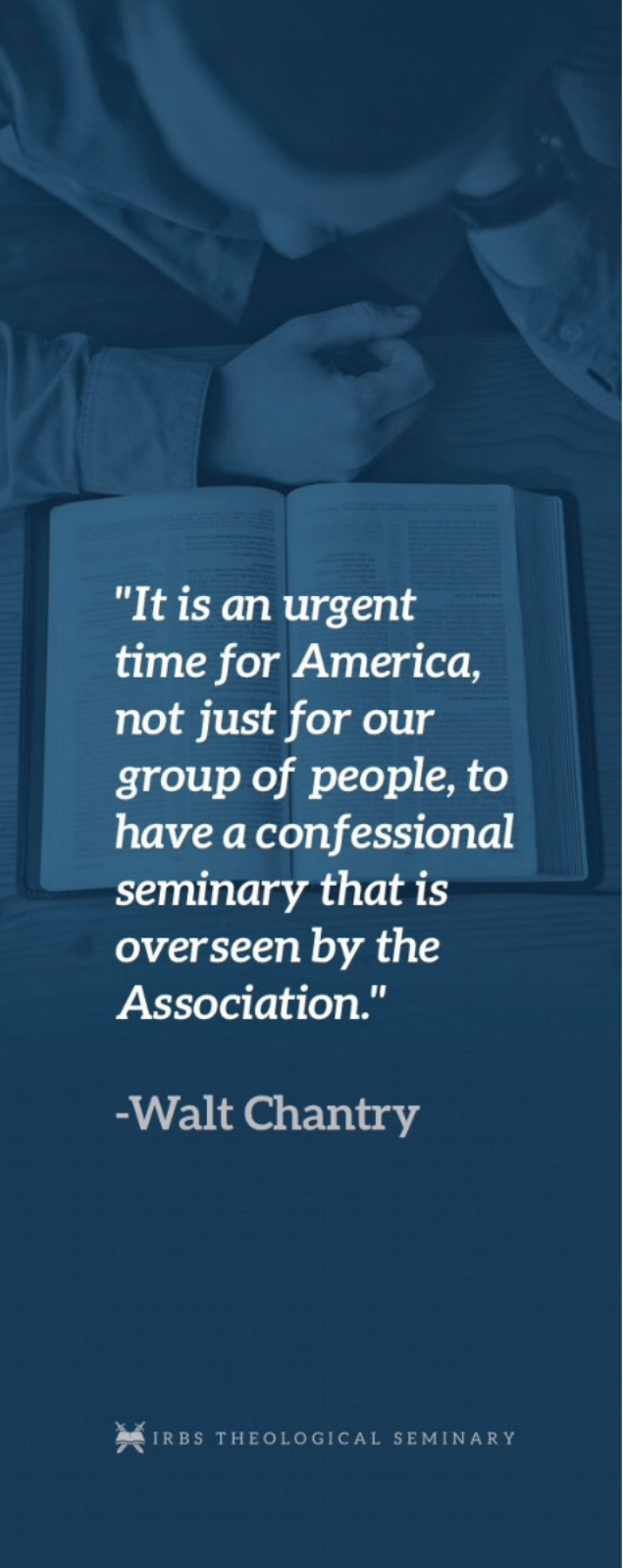
In April 2017 the ARBCA General Assembly took the historic step of approving the establishment of a full residential seminary to train men in the work of spreading the Gospel around the world.

WHAT IS THE VISION?

In God's providence, a revival of Reformed Baptist theology began in the United States in the mid 1950's and spread around the world. The fruit of this benevolent providence is the establishment of Reformed Baptist churches and missions on six continents. In America this includes a church association (Association of Reformed Baptist Churches of America -- ARBCA), a mission service (Reformed Baptist Mission Services -- RBMS), ministerial training (Institute of Reformed Baptist Studies -- IRBS), and published theological books.

Since the earliest years, Reformed Baptists in America sought and found opportunities to train men formally for the ministry within a 1689 London Confession framework. Since its inauguration in 1997, ARBCA has declared training to be one of its main missions; until now it has partnered with Westminster Seminary California to prepare pastors in Reformed Baptist traditions.

The vital work of spreading the Gospel compels ARBCA to train men who will pastor sound Biblical churches. The teachings of 17th century English Particular Baptists are the traditions to which the seminary will adhere, seeking to train pastors to proclaim the Gospel in its purest form. ARBCA and IRBS Theological Seminary are thinking generationally, preparing the foundation for the future health of current churches and expansion to areas where sound doctrine is not yet available.



***"It is an urgent
time for America,
not just for our
group of people, to
have a confessional
seminary that is
overseen by the
Association."***

-Walt Chantry

WHAT WILL DISTINGUISH THE SCHOOL?

ARBCA can claim the world's foremost expert in confessional Reformed Baptist doctrine and history in the newly named President of IRBS Theological Seminary, Dr. James M. Renihan. Students from around the world have studied under Dr. Renihan's direction in the Institute of Reformed Baptist Studies as well as at many seminar and conference presentations. It is his scholarly leadership that will be the driving force in establishing the only stand-alone seminary in the world founded on Confessional Reformed Baptist distinctives.

WHAT NEED WILL BE MET?

There is a growing need for advanced training in Reformed Baptist theology worldwide. Yet there has not been a single residential seminary dedicated to equipping men for the work of establishing Reformed Baptist churches and serving the Lord in missionary endeavors. IRBS Theological Seminary will meet this need with a curriculum and course structure grounded in preaching the Word of God according to the doctrines reflected in the London Baptist Confession of Faith of 1689.

WHAT IS THE PLAN?

In response to God's providences, ARBCA is committed to establishing a seminary designed to meet the unique requirements of preparing Reformed Baptist pastors, missionaries, church planters and theologians for the continued advancement of Gospel work among the nations.

With interest from potential students around the world, IRBS Theological Seminary plans to begin classes in the Fall of 2018. It is expected that each new year will seat a class of ten or more students, with the first class graduating in Spring 2021. The goal is for this class to provide graduates who will fill the pulpits of retiring pastors or begin new church works in areas in the United States and abroad where no confessional Reformed Baptist church now exists.

The seminary will be implemented in phases.

During Phase I, from Fall 2018 through Spring 2021, the school will be housed at Heritage Baptist Church in Mansfield, Texas. Four core faculty members will instruct students in the fundamental courses. Adjunct professors will provide additional courses to round out a full academic experience. Each student will progress through a three-year program qualifying him for a Master of Divinity degree. The beginnings of a substantial library are already underway with 15,000 volumes having been donated to the seminary. TexShare (a statewide resource-sharing consortium) will provide access to other significant libraries throughout the state. By the end of Phase I, IRBS Theological Seminary expects to graduate its inaugural class of ten students.

Phase II covers the academic years from Fall 2021 through Spring 2024. The plan includes progress towards accreditation, a move to a separate leased space in Mansfield, increases in enrollment and faculty, an expanded library, and early plans for a stand-alone facility. Plans to build a facility will be presented in Capital Campaign format during these formative years. Forty-two graduates are projected to have completed studies at the seminary by the close of Phase II.

Phase III projections assume completion of the seminary startup plan between Fall 2024 and Spring 2027. It is intended that faculty additions will bring the number of Core Faculty to seven. The plan calls for increased student body enrollment to bring each class up to 15 students. The library is intended to be completed with 20,000 volumes in time for the seminary to move to its own facility during this phase. By the end of Phase III, it is projected that, with its seventh graduating class, IRBS Theological Seminary will confer a Master of Divinity degree on its 81st graduate.

WHAT IS THE COST?

ARBCA churches, individuals and outside friends invested \$2 million in the 20-year operation of the Institute of Reformed Baptist Studies under the umbrella of Westminster Seminary California. Phase I of the plan to establish a comprehensive standalone seminary will require an investment of \$1.5 million. The work leading to the first graduating class in 2021 will include site preparation, library acquisition and setup, preparation for accreditation, and student and faculty recruitment.

WHY NOW?

In God's providence, through ARBCA's Institute of Reformed Baptist Studies and the teaching ministry of Dr. Jim Renihan, many men have prepared for ministry and engaged in advanced academic study. As a result, IRBS Theological Seminary now has available a group of qualified men who adhere to confessional Reformed Baptist doctrines and practices and who are able to provide instruction in each academic area needed to provide a full seminary education. These Core Faculty members, ARBCA's own pastor-scholars, will be joined by renowned scholars from around the world, teaching their respective specialties. James Dolezal, Crawford Gribben, Thomas Ascol and others will enrich the academic environment as visiting professors.



WILL YOU JOIN US?

The IRBS Board of Trustees established a Board of Regents in December 2016. This group of business and church leaders advise and guide the Trustees in financial and business matters. Regents Paul Gullickson, Tom Castillo, Scott Thomas, Russell Allsup, and Wes Becker invite you to consider participating in Project 1689, a formal effort to fund the IRBS Theological Seminary through multi-year financial commitments. Your help will make a big difference in bringing the IRBS Theological Seminary vision to fruition, providing vital financial support to its startup.

Contact us at
giving@irbsseminary.org
682-400-4926

To make a one-time, monthly, or quarterly commitment to the founding of this important work visit
irbsseminary.org/donate

A blue-tinted photograph of a man in a suit and tie, carrying a messenger bag, walking. The image is partially obscured by the large white text on the right.

Preparing Men to Serve Christ and His Church.

PHASE 1 | 2018-2021

Housed at Heritage Baptist Church
Core Faculty September, 2018*:

James M. Renihan, *Professor of Historical Theology*

Fred Malone, *Professor of Pastoral Theology*

Rich Barcellos, *Associate Professor of Biblical Studies*

Steve Martin, *Dean of Students*

Stefan Lindblad, *Assistant Professor of Systematic Theology*

4 Adjunct Professors first academic year
beginning September 2018

7 Adjunct Professors second academic year
beginning September 2019

10 adjunct Professors third academic year
beginning September 2020

Dean of Students and Director of Administration
begin work July 2017

LIBRARY INSTALLATION

15,000 volumes on site September 2018
Access to major libraries through TexShare
Establish reference only vs check out

ACCREDITATION

TX Higher Education Board exemption
TX Workforce Commission exemption
SACS accreditation consideration
Association of Reformed Theological Schools
accreditation application

First cohort of ten students begins September 2018;
full first phase capacity of 30 by September 2020

FIRST GRADUATING CLASS SPRING 2021

Target: 10 graduates

*Core Faculty defined as faculty providing core courses having full faculty voting rights. IRBS Seminary academic matters are governed by faculty with business matters deferred to Trustees.

PHASE 2 | 2021-2024

Housed off site in Mansfield, TX

5 Core Faculty September 2021

Director of Admissions added fall 2020

LIBRARY EXPANSION

Expanded library to 17,500 volumes
Capital Campaign begun fall 2021

ACCREDITATION

Association of Theological Schools
accreditation application

Fourth cohort of 12 students begins

September 2021; full second phase
capacity of 36 by September 2023

FOURTH GRADUATING CLASS SPRING 2024

Target Total: Graduates 42

PHASE 3 | 2024-2027

New facility for stand alone school:
September 2024

7 Core Faculty September 2024

Director of Library added fall 2023

LIBRARY EXPANSION

Expand Library to 20,000 volumes

Capital Campaign completion

Seventh cohort of 15 students
begins September 2024

SEVENTH GRADUATING CLASS SPRING 2027

Target Total: Graduates 81



IRBS THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

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IRBSSEMINARY.ORG

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