

A Synopsis of TFY 2023 *July 10 - 28, 2023*

What is TFY? The Theological Foundations for Youth program is an annual ministry of the Reformed Presbyterian Theological Seminary (RPTS) and Youth Ministries Committee of Synod dedicated to equipping young people for a life of ministry to Christ in the Reformed Presbyterian Church by providing intensive theological instruction, practical ministry experiences, and an increased awareness of opportunities to serve Christ within the RPCNA.

Who may attend TFY? High School students (juniors going into their Senior year Fall 2023) who are communicant members in good standing of an RPCNA congregation and have been recommended by their Session for the program.

What is the location? TFY takes place this summer (July 10-28) at the Reformed Presbyterian Theological Seminary in Pittsburgh, PA, for three weeks, with the second week ministering at a local Reformed Presbyterian congregation.

Who will I meet at TFY? About 25-30 other young people from across the denomination who are eager to deepen their knowledge in preparation for serving Christ in the Reformed Presbyterian Church; RPTS faculty and staff who will teach and run the program; staff of the other Reformed Presbyterian Institutions, and many others who will challenge you in your commitment to Christ.

What can I expect from the program? You can expect **two weeks** of intensive theological instruction in the history, doctrine, and distinctive principles of the Church from Seminary professors and TFY staff (often up to 8 hours of class per day), as well as **a week** of practical application in the context of a local RPCNA congregation. You will also become better acquainted with the Reformed Presbyterian Institutions (Seminary, Retirement Home and Geneva College) and enjoy free time for fellowship, reflection, and recreation.

What will be expected of me? You should be prepared for extensive readings in important Christian texts and strenuous spiritual exercise, including deep study, evangelistic encounters with unbelievers, vibrant fellowship with like-minded believers, and critical self-evaluation of your walk with Christ and His specific calling for your lives. Attendance is expected for the entirety of the TFY program. No exceptions will be made for students who request leaves of absence for family, school, vacation, or other reasons.

SOCIAL MEDIA STATEMENT: One important discipleship focus of this program is to train our youth in the God-honoring use of technology and social media. To this end, we will be restricting access to cell phones to brief, stated times at the end of each day. While we recognize the many benefits of social media and related technology, we also hope to mitigate their increasing intrusiveness into the academic, practical and social elements of the program. It is our prayer and expectation that participants will enjoy an undistracted focus on all that God has for them in TFY and that they will experience and learn to cultivate healthy dynamics of Christian fellowship during the program and beyond. A telephone number will be available for communication with parents in case of emergencies. Students will need to agree to this statement and understand that their cell phones will be stored securely for the duration of the TFY program, with the exception of stated times at the end of each day. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions or concerns.

How do I apply? Your pastor will recommend you. You will then be expected to complete a personal application and express a willingness to participate fully in all aspects of the program. Go to **tfy.rpts.edu** for the online application. Application deadline is **March 15, 2023**. There is a fee of \$450, plus travel expenses, which will often be met by nominating congregations. Many congregations support their youth by assisting them with some or all of this expense - please check with your Pastor. Your session may inquire into the availability of need-based scholarships. If you are accepted into the program, the TFY fee of **\$450 is due by June 15, 2023**, and checks should be made payable to "RPTS" with the student's name noted, and mailed to RPTS, TFY-Attn: Kim Backensto, 7418 Penn Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15208.

On the website you will find a student application and instructions, brochure, and RPTS Statement and Community Standards. Recommended students and parents are required to have read these forms and policies before their application can be accepted.

To register: tfy.rpts.edu