

RTS CHARLOTTE TO OFFER COUNSELING DEGREE

According to Dr. Michael J. Kruger, president of Reformed Theological Seminary (RTS) in Charlotte, N.C., the recent announcement of the school's new counseling degree program has been long awaited by many.

This fall, RTS Charlotte will offer multiple counseling degree options including a Master of Arts in Christian Counseling, (M.A.CC) as well as a Master of Divinity (M.Div.) with a counseling emphasis. In addition, there are options for an M.Div and M.A.CC dual degree, as well as a Master of Arts in Theological or Biblical Studies (M.A.TS/BS) and M.A.CC dual degree.

The M.A.CC degree program requires completion of 66 credit hours, 34 of which will include Bible and theology classes. According to Kruger, the emphasis is intentional in order to equip counselors with a strong foundation in Bible and theology.

The program at RTS Charlotte, developed according to principles articulated by the Christian Counseling & Educational Foundation (CCEF), led by Dr. David Powlison, seeks to restore Christ to counseling and counseling to the church.

Kruger sees biblical counseling as the ministry of God's Word in a one-to-one setting. "Whereas preaching is the public ministry of the Word, counseling can be understood as the private ministry of the Word," said Dr. Kruger.

"I think what has happened in the church is that we've come to view people with problems as folks to be sent to other places, as though the Bible is not able to deal with their problems, [but] the Bible is sufficient for marriage problems, depression, and anxiety."

Kruger believes there will be a demand for the program's graduates. "Churches are overloaded with ministry concerns," he said. "Many don't have time to offer the pastoral care that is needed."

FOR MORE INFORMATION including the application procedure, visit rts.edu.