



CONFESSIONAL. EXEGETICAL. PASTORAL.

President's Greeting



May 2024

Dear Christian friends,

The long-anticipated month is here. The process of planning is complete, now it's time to remember the Lord's blessings and to give thanks for all He has done during the last quarter century of IRBS. If you will be with us in Mansfield, it will be wonderful to greet you; if you are unable to join us, please give thanks to the Lord for all His blessings to our school. And, as we gather to celebrate 25 years of IRBS, please pray that the Lord will prosper the next 25 years of service in His name.

Our banquet on the 16th will be special, for Rev. Don Lindblad, a founding Trustee, will address us, reminding us of the Lord's providence in establishing IRBS and His sustaining grace that brings us to today. On the 17th, our four core faculty members will be preaching on the five Solas of the Reformation. We will do this in four sermons, each one concluding with its relation to the fifth sola, Soli Deo Gloria.

The commencement service on May 18 will be a special day. Four men have completed their studies and are seeking to go forth in service to Christ. This is the culmination of much hard work, the goal for which we strive. I am personally thankful for our excellent faculty, our skilled administrators, and our Trustees who oversee the work. In addition, I am deeply grateful for all of you, for you are an essential part of this labor to honor the Savior. Thank you for your prayers and your ongoing support. Please rejoice with us at this God-blessed accomplishment for these graduates.

In Christ,
James M. Renihan
President, IRBS

You're invited!

IRBS' 25th Academic Year Celebration, Conference & Graduation



James Renihan

IRBS Faculty Conference

at Heritage Baptist Church
Mansfield, TX



Richard Barcellos

Friday, May 17, 10AM-3PM*

Please note new end time.

Charles Rennie



Our Department Heads

will speak on the
Five Solas
in four sessions.

J. Ryan Davidson



Lunch provided.

Free admission



Joseph David Bane
MDiv



Julius Eddie Santiago,
MDiv



Christopher Amico
Cert. RB Studies



Justin P. Bond
Cert. RB Studies



IRBS 2024 Commencement

at Heritage Baptist Church
Mansfield, TX

Saturday, May 18, 10AM

Please join us in honoring the Class of 2024!

Followed by light refreshments.

Free admission

Scroll down to read bios on each of our graduates.

Apply today

for the 2024/2025 Academic Year.

Please submit applications no later than July 15 for fall admission.

Summer Course Schedule

Registration now open

Greek III - J. Henson
Hebrew I - J. Wilson

Fall Course Schedule

Registration opens May 29

Symbolics - J. Renihan
Hebrew II - J. Wilson
Ancient Church/Patristics - J. Montgomery
Introduction to Research Writing - M. Grinder
Acts & Pauline Epistles (UK) - T. Decker
Foundations of Philosophical Theology - J. Dolezal
Homiletics I - R. Davidson
Preaching Practicum I - R. Davidson
Hermeneutics - R. Barcellos

Legacy (self-paced) Course List

Email admissions@irbsseminary.org for more information about any of these classes.

Doctrine of God with
Dr. James Dolezal
will be held May 27-31 at

IRBS
UNITED KINGDOM

Introducing the IRBS BDiv

This coming fall semester, our Diploma Program will be transitioning into a BDiv (Baccalaureate in Divinity) program!

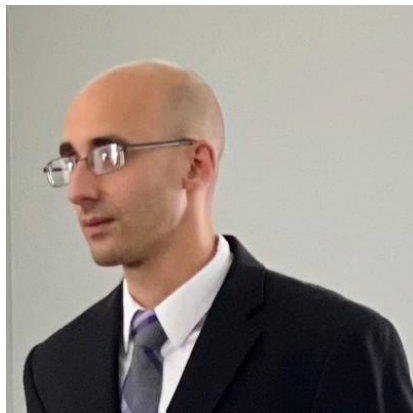
Like the Diploma Program, the BDiv will be designed to give mature students (30 and above) an opportunity to study at IRBS who have not yet earned a bachelor's degree. It is an exact reflection of our MDiv program, 110 credits that may be completed in a minimum of 3 years of full-time enrollment. It will also require completion of 600 hours of ministry internship work. The courses can be completed residually, online, or a hybrid of the two. Students who are accepted into this program will be on temporary academic probation, which will be lifted after 15 credits are completed with a GPA of 2.0 or higher. BDiv students will participate in class as any other student would, regarding assignments, examinations and class participation.

The BDiv will be a degree granting program. Upon completion of the program, a bachelor's degree will be conferred to graduates.

Congratulations to the Class of 2024!

Christopher Amico

Certificate of Reformed Baptist Studies



- Certificate of
- Hometown: Buffalo, NY
- Prior Education: B.A. History & M.A. Education at University at Buffalo; MDiv Biblical Languages at Liberty University
- Spouse: Trish Amico
- Kids: Gabriel, Nathan, and Anna
- Plans: Continue serving as an Associate Pastor at my current church and explore the

A word from the graduate:

My time at IRBS has been a tremendous blessing to my life, ministry, and family. The professors are not only very capable scholars, but seasoned pastors, with a heart for equipping men for the ministry. The courses are biblically grounded, theologically robust, confessionally aligned, historically informed, spiritually edifying, and pastorally oriented, which serve to form the heart, head, and hands of students for the work of the ministry. I chose to study at IRBS in order to gain a deeper grounding in Reformed Baptist theology, history, and practice, and I certainly have not been disappointed. It has helped lay a solid foundation for a lifetime of learning in Christian theology and the Reformed Baptist tradition. Not only does IRBS deliver an excellent education, but they also provide a loving Christian community with which to engage as a student. I have profited significantly from the monthly faculty forums and missions-focused prayer meetings, and my wife has been especially blessed by the monthly women's Bible study. I pray that God would continue to pour out His grace on the staff, faculty, students, and ministry partners of IRBS, so that they can continue this great

possibility of planting a Reformed Baptist Church in Western New York.

work of equipping and training men to faithfully serve the church for generations to come.

Justin P. Bond

Certificate of Reformed Baptist Studies



- Hometown: Gilbert, AZ
- Prior Education: BA Biblical and Theological Studies from Providence Christian College; Currently Working on MDiv at The Master's Seminary
- Spouse: Kiley Bond
- Kids: Lydia & Leeland
- Plans: My plans for the near future include finishing my MDiv under my pastor and elders at The Master's Seminary, continuing to grow in ministry, continuing to create video content that is biblically sound and helps the everyday Christian at *For the Gospel Ministries*, and being faithful as I serve my local church with my family.

A word from the graduate:

My time at IRBS over the past few years has been one of the highlights of my life. I have formed incredible friendships with students and faculty, for which I am truly grateful. While every class I attended was valuable, there were a few that stood out and left a lasting impact on me. Dr. Barcellos' Hermeneutics class significantly influenced my perspective on how ministers and all Christians should interpret the Scriptures faithfully. Dr. Dolezal's teachings on the Doctrine of God and Angels were particularly memorable for me. The more I learned about the depth of our creator, the more I found myself drawn to worship Him. Lastly, Doc's class on symbolics deepened my understanding of the confession's content and its application to the church and individuals. Being part of the class that used his pre-published volume on the 2LCF was a special experience that I will always treasure. Throughout my time at IRBS, I honed my skills in handling God's word, bringing me closer to the Lord. The humility displayed by our professors, especially in addressing challenging questions or concerns, left a lasting impression on me. I am eternally grateful for their example.

Joseph David Bond

Master of Divinity

- Hometown: Zirconia, NC
- Prior Education: Bachelor of Arts in Pastoral Studies from Georgia Baptist College, Senoia, GA
- Spouse: Lydia Bane
- Kids: Rob, Chloe, Ben, Anna, Marshal
- Plans: Pastoring and Oklahoma church planting



A word from the graduate:

In 2018 the first IRBS course I took with Dr. Renihan was so rich, edifying, and life-changing that I longed to complete the whole MDiv program, though this was financially and logistically impossible at the time.

To my joy, this prayer was answered in late 2020 when Heritage Baptist Church (Mansfield, TX) invited me to serve as a pastoral intern while they sponsored me through seminary. I cannot adequately express my deep thankfulness to the whole congregation with the elders and deacons for giving me this opportunity to receive ministry training deeply rooted in our confessional Baptist faith. Your selfless and gracious financial support enabled me to pour myself into these studies while not crippling my health or neglecting my family. The robust church life and pastoral mentorship I experienced at Heritage gave soul-anchoring churchly context to the truth I was learning in seminary. For all this I am eternally grateful.

I owe a great debt also to the most generous giving of Wesley and Barbara Myers of Arcadia, OK, who graciously sponsored my courses and books.

To all the pastors, deacons, and congregations of TAARBC (Texas Area Association of Reformed Baptist Churches), thank you for your friendship, mentorship, and faithful example which have been so instructive and edifying.

Though I cannot adequately thank every professor and teacher who profoundly impacted me, here are a few. Dr. Renihan thoroughly acquainted me with the rich heritage of our confessional theology and our forefathers who framed it. Dr. Dolezal gave me the deep foundations underlying all of this. Dr. Scheiderer and Professors Lindblad and Rennie helped me apply these principles to particular subjects. Dr. Barcellos helped to restore our tradition's Christ-centered precritical hermeneutic. Dr. Riddle gave me back the full received text of the New Testament as providentially preserved to the Reformation churches. Dr. Prodigalidad exemplified the virtue of prudence diligently applied to pastoral administration. Dr. Wilson modeled the rigorously-trained mind of a polymath scholar with a proportionally large heart of pastoral warmth, humility, and service. Dr. Malone deepened my understanding of shepherding and Dr. Hicks of our glorious union with Christ. Dr. Montgomery introduced me to a rich depth of church history I had never before known. As IRBS Administrator, Brent Ward modeled sacrifice, labor, and diligent service on our behalf. Lynne Renihan served us so selflessly and joyfully in her countless hours of tedious library cataloging and sorting.

Thank you to my dear most godly and precious bride, Lydia, for all her encouragement and faithful home-keeping which enabled me to complete this rigorous course work. Also to my dear children: Rob, Chloe, Ben, Anna, and Marshal and all the joy they bring. Thank you to my father, Evangelist Randy Bane, the faithful gospel herald who first preached faith into my heart and discipled me in the Christian faith. Throughout seminary I benefitted from this Scriptural and theological foundation. Also to my mother, Donna Bane for her diligent homeschooling labors which helped to prepare me for academic research and writing.

I am also deeply grateful to both my belated grandfathers — R. F. Bane of Zirconia, NC and J. Harold Patterson of Pickens, SC — both of whom instilled in me an old-fashioned Appalachian farming work ethic that helped me persevere through tougher seasons of seminary in anticipation of the future harvest.

Thank you to my fellow students and friends including Vishal Reddy, Julius Santiago, Sal Pezzino, Samuel Medina, and Chris Morris, whose friendship and personal instruction greatly enriched my seminary experience.

Above all I thank our glorious and gracious triune God for all of this, and for all of you, and may he be forever glorified in the fruit of all your labors on our behalf!

Julius Eddie Santiago

Master of Divinity



- Hometown: Chicago, IL
- Prior Education: Bachelor of Science with a minor in Literature from Moody Bible Institute
- Spouse: Jasmine Bane
- Kids: Selah & Solomon
- Plans: Serve Christ at Covenant Baptist Church, New Berlin, WI, as bi-vocational elder; Begin MA in Philosophy with a concentration in Metaphysics this fall

A word from the graduate:

Julius Eddie Santiago was born and raised in Chicago, Illinois. He received a Bachelor of Science with a minor in Literature from Moody Bible Institute. Julius and Jasmine have been happily married for nine years and are the parents of two beautiful children, Selah and Solomon. Their future plans are to relocate to New Berlin, Wisconsin to be members of Covenant Baptist Church. Lord permitting, Julius will be examined this fall and anticipates serving Christ at CBC as a bi-vocational elder. His desire is to see a confessional Baptist church planted in Chicago in the years to come as there is no confessional Baptist presence in the city. Desiring to be further equipped ministerially, and aspiring to teach theology and philosophy professionally, he has been accepted and will begin an MA in Philosophy with a concentration in Metaphysics this fall. Julius was mentored by pastor John Yoder and commended by the church to the gospel ministry in 2019. In light of this commendation he and his family relocated to Fort Worth, TX to begin his MDiv at IRBS in August 2021. With the Lord's provision he was able to study full-time at IRBS. Julius and Jasmine are grateful to be members of Christ Covenant Reformed Baptist Church, the friendships that have formed through the Texas Area Association of Reformed Baptist Churches, the invitation and privilege to have preached in many churches in other Reformed Baptist Associations, and the many sacrifices and generous gifts that have made this season possible. Julius has been encouraged and challenged throughout the course of his time as he sat under the instruction of professors who sought to share their contemplation with passion and clarity. He gives thanks to the Lord for the many careful guides given to IRBS, the consistent support provided by the administration of IRBS, and trusts that the Lord will continue to use IRBS to help men learn sound doctrine and prepare for the good work of the gospel ministry.

Opportunities to Connect

Women's Fellowship

Our monthly fellowship time is on hiatus. Stay tuned for it to pick up again in September. Have a blessed summer!

Student-led Missions Prayer Meeting

All students are very welcome to a monthly missions prayer meeting via **Zoom**. The next meeting will be Saturday, May 18, at 1pm Central Time (note the changed time, due to the graduation ceremony). Our particular focus will be on persecuted brethren, unreached people groups, and confessional Baptist missionary endeavors. Please join us as we bring these vital matters in prayer to our God.

Building Tomorrow's Church

Registration is now open for BTC 2024.

Theme: "The Person & Work of the Holy Spirit"

**Gilbert, Arizona
June 6-8**



Partner with us

Our Church Partnership program offers tuition-free, credit-earning courses to members of supporting churches, along with many other benefits.

Check them out at [Church Partnership Program](#).

Things to read

JIRBS



This yearly journal offers some of the best scholarship for Reformed Baptists on the pressing theological issues of our day. Articles by faculty members and others outside the faculty who are invited to contribute an article or review to the issue.

Articles include:

- A Necessary Distinction: Christ as God and Christ as Mediator (James M. Renihan)
- Retrieving the Bibliology of John Owen (Jeffrey T. Riddle)
- Benjamin Keach and the Everlasting Covenant: Baptist Expositor of a Puritan Doctrine (Daniel D. Scheiderer)
- Robert Haldane's Life, Influence, and Contribution to the Issue of the Sabbath (Jon English Lee)
- Thomistic Natural Theology and its Implications: A Review Article of Jeffrey Johnson's The Failure of Natural Theology (David VanDrunen)

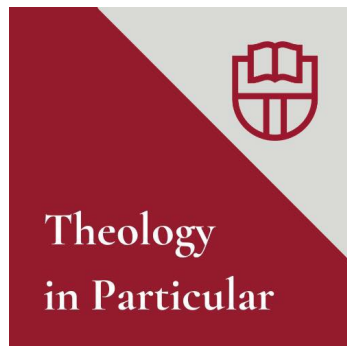
Looking for something more to read?

Check out our new [Faculty Book Recommendations List](#) for a categorized list of quality resources!

Order your **Thankful for 25 Years LS tee**
(in navy or red) in time for our May events!



Podcasts - Over 250,000 downloads to date!



Joe Anady discusses a variety of relevant topics with IRBS faculty. New episodes air every Monday. Listen on your favorite podcast app or find all episodes on our [website](#).



Just a few minutes to listen? Check out our microcast, featuring brief discussions between Dr. Renihan & Pastor Fred Pugh, Chairman of the Board of IRBS, on matters about, and within, the Second London Baptist Confession of Faith. Episodes air every Thursday. Listen on your favorite podcast app or find all episodes on our [website](#).

Prayer Requests

Praise God for the Class of 2024 and for 25 years of IRBS!

Please be in prayer for the upcoming celebratory & commencement events. May the Father have His hand over the whole week - the banquet, faculty conference, and graduation ceremony, as well as travel mercies for all.

Also, we appreciate you lifting up our students and faculty as they finish the spring semester strongly, right through final exams.

As always, pray that the Lord's will be done in all that we do, and that His glory remains the ultimate aim of all.

Thank you for your faithful prayer support.
May IRBS continue to be an effective tool in His hand.
Soli Deo Gloria!



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