



Supporter Congregation Information & Application Form



Reformed Theological College: Supporter Congregations

Reformed Theological College (RTC) has been blessed to engage with a wide range of churches beyond its traditional supporting denominations. This reflects a strategic desire to minister more extensively within the broader Australian and New Zealand Reformed community and the evangelical church ecosystem. While RTC remains firmly committed to its distinctively Reformed theological and ecclesiological basis, it recognizes that many evangelical churches align with the College's work but may not fully embrace all teachings in the Subordinate Standards¹, particularly regarding baptism.

To formalize these relationships, the RTC Board has recently established the “**Supporter Congregation**” category.

What is a Supporter Congregation?

A Supporter Congregation is a church or congregation of Reformed teaching that wishes to align with the College and support its work but is unable to subscribe to all of RTC's Secondary Standards.

Key distinctions include:

- **Not a Membership Category:** This is a category of supporter, not a formal membership under the RTC Constitution.
- **No Voting Rights:** Supporter Congregations do not carry voting rights at the AGM or other elections.
- **Theological Alignment:** While not requiring full subscription to all Subordinate Standards, these churches acknowledge and support RTC's Primary Standard (the Bible) and its overall mission and Reformed theological position.

Benefits of Being a Supporter Congregation

Churches in this category receive several benefits to recognize their commitment to the College:

- **Official Recognition:** Supporter Congregations are acknowledged on the RTC website and are presented with a Supporter Congregation certificate for display.
- **Engagement:** These congregations are kept “on the inside” with regular RTC news updates and receive invitations to participate in college events alongside Congregational Members.
- **Scholarship Access:** Students from Supporter Congregations may, at the discretion of the Faculty, be granted financial support under the Reformed Minister Training Scholarship Scheme.

Commitment to Support RTC

Supporter Congregations commit to:

1. **Prayer and Promotion:** Prayerfully support the College and encourage their members to study at RTC and participate in RTC events.
2. **Financial Support:** Make financial gifts to support the work of the College equal annually to at least 50% of the Membership Fees set from time to time for Congregational Members.

Note: As the Congregational Membership fee currently is \$1,000 + GST, a Supporter Congregation commits to make annual gifts to RTC of at least \$500 per year.

¹The Heidelberg Catechism and the Belgic Confession, the Canons of the Synod of Dort and the Westminster Confession of Faith



Application Form: Supporter Congregation

Name of Church ('the Church')

Address

Email Address

Denominational affiliation (if relevant)

On behalf of the Church, we certify that:

1. The Church desires to be recognized as a **Supporter Congregation** of the Reformed Theological College (RTC).
2. The Church supports the RTC statements on **Mission, Vision, Core Values, and Educational Philosophy**.
3. The Church agrees to RTC's **Primary Standard** (Scripture as the infallible Word of God) and supports the College requiring its Faculty and Directors to subscribe to the Subordinate Standards (as defined in the RTC Constitution - Rule 3).
4. The Church declares that while it may not fully subscribe to all RTC Subordinate Standards, it is of **Reformed teaching** and wishes to **align with the College's work**.
5. The Church commits to support RTC in **prayer** and by **promoting** its courses and activities to its members.
6. The Church commits to **financially support** RTC with gifts equal annually to at least 50% of the Membership Fees set from time to time for Congregational Members.

These statements have been authorised at a duly constituted meeting of the Church's senior governance body on (Date).....

Date

Signed

Church role

Once completed, please return this form to: principal@rtc.edu.au