

REFORMED  THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY  
ORLANDO

M E M O R A N D U M

**TO:** All Students

**FROM:** Dr. Mark Futato, Academic Dean  
OFFICE OF THE ACADEMIC DEAN

**DATE:** March 6, 2009

**RE:** Dr. Frank James

Today I must be the bearer of bitter-sweet news. Dr. Frank James will be leaving us at the end of this semester to become the Provost of Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary in Boston, MA. We rejoice with Frank and Carolyn at this new opportunity but we will miss them.

Frank wanted you to know:

*After 16 years in sunny Orlando, Carolyn and I are headed to arctic New England. This week, I was offered and accepted the post of Provost at Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary. Transitions like this are always difficult. We have loved our years at RTS Orlando as well as our many dear friends and so many wonderful memories. It has been a great privilege to serve alongside you as Professor and President. The truth of the matter is that I have a deep affection for all the faculty, staff and students.*

*Leaving RTS Orlando students will be really hard. You have truly ministered to me in difficult times—especially in my sorrow. You have trusted me when hard decisions had to be made, and you have inspired me with your dedication to living out the gospel. I will never forget how students just dropped everything, loaded up vans with food and supplies and made their way to the victims of hurricane Katrina—Or how counseling students flew to Rwanda to minister to the victims of genocide—Or how the staff have faithfully prayed for Omar and Joseph—Or how faculty have quietly provided financially for students in need. So we will depart RTS Orlando with heavy hearts in June. On the other hand, I am very much looking forward to working with the new President of Gordon-Conwell, Dennis Hollinger, and his outstanding team.*

*My favorite theologian (Carolyn) joins me expressing our love to all of you. We want to stay in touch. We also ask for your prayers as we finish the semester and then head to New England.*

*Rock on Sisters and Brothers!*

*Dr. J (aka “The Velvet Hammer”)*

Fortunately, Dr. Andrew Hoffercker, author of the well known work, *Building a World View* (2 vols), has agreed to teach the Church History classes next year for RTS/Orlando. Dr. Hoffercker has an M.Div. Gordon-Conwell and a Ph.D. from Brown. He has taught for over 25 years, first at Grove City and now at RTS/Jackson. You will find him both warm and wise.