

Press Release for the Board of Governors of the Theological College of the Canadian Reformed Churches for a meeting held on September 4, 2008.

The Board of Governors met at the College Facilities in Hamilton, Ontario on September 4, 2008. Present at the meeting were Archie J. Bax, Lammert Jagt, Hank C. Kampen (Treasurer), Dr. Gijsbert Nederveen (Chairman), Gerard J. Nordeman, Rev Andrew J. Pol, Rev Robert A. Schouten (Secretary), Rev. Willem B. Slomp, Rev Eric Kampen, Rev John VanWoudenberg and Karl J. Veldkamp (Vice-Chairman). All board members were present. The Principal, Dr. G.H. Visscher was also in attendance, as was Mr. Murray Plug who was present as a representative of the Deputies for Training for the Ministry of the Free Reformed Churches of Australia. The meeting was opened by Dr. G. Nederveen with the reading of Scripture and prayer.

Minutes & Agenda

The minutes of the Board meeting held on April 21, 2008 were approved as written and the agenda for the meeting is settled.

Correspondence of Note

- a. Correspondence was received from several of the churches relating to the appointment of Dr. J. Maris and their concerns, comments, objections and support relating to such appointment.
- b. A number of letters were received from the Deputies for Training for the Ministry of the Free Reformed Church of Australia relating to their concern for Dr. Gootjes, the attendance of Mr. Murray Plug at our meeting, possibilities relating to distance learning and a guest lecturer for Australia in 2010.
- c. Letter of acceptance of Rev. J. Van Vliet wherein he accepts his appointment as temporary lecturer in dogmatics for the second term of the 2008-2009 Academic Year

Receipt of Reports-Material Items:

- a. **Academic Committee Report:** This committee provides their considerations and recommendations regarding the desire of the Deputies for the Training for the Ministry of the Free Reformed Churches of Australia to have the College explore and institute online web based distance learning. The Australian churches would see a model of this nature of great assistance to the men in Australia considering theological training, but are deterred by the distance and the resultant costs. Based upon the significant costs and management involved in such initiatives and having a strong emphasis on the classic "in class" interactive learning model, the Academic Committee recommends against going in this direction, which is accepted by the Board. The committee also reports on positive interviews with Timothy Schouten, Robert Van Middelkoop and David Winkel, all of whom are starting at the College as freshmen.

- b. **Finance & Property Committee:** The audited financial statements of the College for the fiscal period ending December 31, 2007 were presented to the Board and were approved and received with thankfulness. The Budget for the calendar year 2009 was presented to and approved by the Board, with the assessment per communicant member remaining at \$69.00. Upon the advice of the Senate and upon the recommendation of the finance and property committee, tuition fees for the academic years 2008 to 2011 were increased from \$2000.00 per year to \$2200.00 per year.
- c. **Visits to the Lectures:** Positive reports were received from Rev A.J. Pol and Rev R. Schouten with respect to visits to lectures conducted in the second term of the 2007-2008 academic year.
- d. **Senate:** The Senate advises that the program of instruction as adopted in the Curriculum has been fully implemented and in particular reported on the instruction given at the end of the 2007-2008 academic year by Rev P. Feenstra, Rev E. Kampen and Prof. J. Geertsema (in the context of the sick leave of Dr. Gootjes).
- e. **Librarian:** A wide ranging report was received regarding the collection, periodicals, cataloguing software, conferences, website, archives and the like from M. Van der Velde, the College Librarian.
- f. **Registrar:** With three freshmen students admitted, it brought the full student body over all years to 17 registered students.
- g. **Governance:** As a result of Synod Smithers 2007 direction to review the appointment procedure for new professors to ensure greater transparency, a detailed proposal was tabled for the Board's review. This comprehensive proposal was considered at length by the Board. The Governance Committee was directed to continue work on such proposal for subsequent review and approval by the Board.
- h. **Pastoral Training Program:** A positive and comprehensive report on this program was received from Dr. De Visser who advised that the program is well received by the churches and a very positive practicum for the students. A "Catechism Teaching Practicum" was received and adopted as an addition to the program guidelines.
- i. **Accreditation:** The process with the Association of Theological Schools is ongoing and comprehensive. The Board affirmed its view that changes to programs and processes can be effected and seriously considered and implemented in advance of the completion of the accreditation process.
- j. **Dr. Gootjes:** Dr. Gootjes continues to be on indefinite sick leave and his current health status is uncertain, with no anticipation of any further certainty for some time yet. It was agreed that a decision as to his ability to teach for the 2009-2010 academic year will be made at the

December , 2008 meeting of the board. A subcommittee of three board members was appointed to assist the Board with this.

Next meeting of the Board is scheduled for December 11, 2008 d.v..

Press Release and Closing

The completion of the Press Release is delegated to the Vice Chairman in consultation with the Executive and the meeting was closed with prayer and thanksgiving.

On behalf of the Board of Governors of the Theological College of the Canadian Reformed Churches ,
Karl J. Veldkamp, Vice Chairman