

**Press Release for the Board of Governors of the Theological College of the Canadian Reformed Churches for a meeting held on January 24, 2008.**

The Board of Governors met at the College Facilities in Hamilton, Ontario on January 24, 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. All board members are present with Rev E. Kampen attending in replacement of Rev George Ph. van Popta (see below). The meeting is opened by Dr. G. Nederveen with the reading of Scripture and prayer.

**Preliminary Matters**

Due to the resignation of Rev George Ph. van Popta, Rev Eric Kampen joins the Board as a designated ministerial substitute as determined by Synod Smithers 2007. It is confirmed that Rev Eric Kampen, together with Hank Kampen and Archie J. Bax have signed the "Declaration of Governors". The Board elects Karl J. Veldkamp as Vice Chairman, to replace Rev George Ph. van Popta who acted as Vice-Chairman previously.

**Minutes & Agenda**

The minutes of the Board meeting held on September 6, 2007 are reviewed, revised and approved and the agenda for the meeting is settled.

**Executive Committee**

The Executive Committee reports on its current activities, particularly in the context of ensuring the churches are informed on a timely manner relating to the health challenges of Dr. Gootjes.

**Finance & Property Committee Report**

This committee reports and it is noted that:

- a. The College continues to receive, enjoy and benefit from the ongoing faithful support of the constituent churches;
- b. The committee proposes and the Board approves an amendment to bylaw no. 12 which clarifies the calculation of and manner in which outside pension income is received or deemed to have been received by retired professors, their spouses or their dependants (to be further ratified by the next duly constituted Synod of the churches); and
- c. It is confirmed that the Principal's allowance will now be paid to Prof G. Visscher as the new acting Principal effective January 1, 2008.

**Correspondence of Note**

Correspondence of note is received from:

- a. The Australian Deputies for Training for the Ministry inquire regarding the possibilities for distance education via the internet, videoconferencing and the like. Although the Board is hesitant about such proposal due to practical challenges, the Board appoints a sub committee consisting of Rev Schouten and Rev Pol to dialogue with the Australian Deputies and to seek greater clarity on the matter.
- b. The Senate seeking:
  - i. Approval for one Rev Steve Frieswick providing limited instruction in the World Religions course. Approval is granted;
  - ii. Approval of the reappointment of Rev de Gelder as Instructor in Church Polity for a three year term. Approval is granted, subject to ratification by the next Synod to be convened; and
  - iii. Approval for the appointment of Ms. Margaret B. Vandervelde and Prof G. H. Visscher (at that time) to the Website Committee. The Board approves these appointments.
- c. Dr. C. Van Dam regarding his retirement in 2011 and proposed period of Sabbatical for the 2010-2011 Academic year. Consistent with the bylaws of the College, Dr. C. Van Dam's requests for retirement and the Sabbatical are noted and granted. The approval for the Sabbatical is subject to the provision in due time of an acceptable formal proposal consistent with Sabbatical requirements.
- d. Rev G. Van Popta advising that due to ministerial and other related duties he must regretfully resign from the Board of Governors. This is accepted duly acknowledging his contributions to the Board as Vice Chairman. Concurrently a letter of acceptance of appointment is received from Rev E. Kampen, his designated replacement.

### **Material Agenda Items**

1. Dr. N.H. Gootjes- due to the current ill health of Dr. Gootjes and his inability to attend to his regular duties at the College, upon the advise and recommendation of the Senate, it is decided that Dr.N.H. Gootjes will be relieved of his teaching duties for Semester I of the 2008-2009 Academic Year. The decision regarding the teaching duties of Dr. Gootjes for Semester II of the 2008-2009 Academic year is deferred to a meeting of the Board scheduled for April of 2008, with a request to the Senate to consider alternatives and provide a proposal in advance of the meeting scheduled. It is expected that Dr. Gootjes will complete his teaching duties for Semester II of the current Academic year (2007-2008).

2. The Senate advises that Dr.C. VanDam will function as Dean of Students and Recording Secretary and Dr. A. De Visser will act as Registrar and Corresponding Secretary.
3. Professor G. Visscher is appointed as Principal and Dr. C. Van Dam as vice-Principal. The appointment of Dr. C. Van Dam as vice-Principal will be reviewed in January of 2009.
4. Based upon a recommendation of the Senate and following extensive discussion the Board agrees to appoint Dr. J.W. Maris as a temporary instructor in dogmatics for Semester I of the 2008, subject to:
  - a. Dr. J. W. Maris agreeing to sign the Subscription Form as adapted to reflect his status as a non faculty member; and
  - b. Clarification and confirmation being received with respect to what Dr. J.W. Maris might believe in regard to Genesis 1, the doctrine of the church and the calling to the ministry. This will be attended to by seeking satisfactory written responses and otherwise from Dr. J.W. Maris to questions formulated by the chairman and secretary of the Academic Committee. Dr. J. W. Maris will be a retired professor of the Theological University of the Christelijk Gereformeerde Kerken in Apeldoorn effective January of 2008 and a member of the Christelijk Gereformeerde Kerken in the Netherlands.
5. In response to decisions of Synod Smithers 2007 the Board:
  - a. Appoints Rev E. Kampen (convenor), Mr. A. Bax and Mr. L. Jagt to a committee to initiate and oversee accreditation of the College with the Association of Theological Schools. This accreditation will include a full and independent review as mandated by Synod Smithers 2007.
  - b. Mandates this ad hoc committee to research the appointment procedure for faculty members and to recommend various ways in which a recommendation and/or decision relating to future faculty appointments would be made by the Board in consultation with the Senate and subject to the approval of the churches by way of a duly constituted Synod.
  - c. Mandates the ad hoc committee to consider pursuing membership in the Association of Reformed Theological Schools at such time as membership in the Association of Theological Schools is achieved.
6. The Report of the Foreign Students Bursary Fund is received for the fiscal period ending December 31, 2006 showing a balance in the fund of \$91,578 as at December 31, 2006.

7. The Board receives the report of Dr. C. Van Dam regarding his attendance at a three day conference on “God’s Righteousness and the Obedience of Faith” which included presentations by Rev. Norman Shepherd.
8. The Board receives the report of Dr. G. Nederveen and Rev J. Van Woudenberg of their visits to the lectures at the College in October of 2007 which is gratefully received.
9. It is confirmed in Question Period that all materials relating to agenda matters of the Board will be shared with the Australian Deputies for Training for the Ministry, save and except that which is deemed to be of a personal and confidential nature.

Next Meeting of the Board is scheduled for April 24, 2008, d.v.

The Meeting is closed in prayer and thanksgiving by brother H. Kampen.

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