

Press Release for the Board of Governors of the Theological College of the Canadian Reformed Churches for a meeting held on April 21, 2008.

The Board of Governors met at the College Facilities in Hamilton, Ontario on April 21, 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 are present. The meeting is opened by Dr. G. Nederveen with the reading of Scripture and prayer.

Minutes & Agenda

The minutes of the Board meeting held on January 24, 2008 are reviewed, revised and approved and the agenda for the meeting is settled.

Finance & Property Committee Report

This committee reports that preparations have commenced for the arrival of Dr. and Mrs. Maris relating to housing, work permit, remuneration, insurance coverages and the like. The financial arrangements with Rev E. Kampen, Rev P. Feenstra and Prof J. Geertsema relating to assistance completing Semester II in Dogmatics on behalf of Dr. Gootjes are confirmed.

Correspondence of Note

- a. Correspondence is received from Dr. J. Maris in response to questions from the Board for confirmation and clarification. It is confirmed that such response is satisfactory for the purposes of confirming the appointment of Dr. Maris.
- b. A note from the Principal confirming the attendance of Dr. C. Van Dam and Dr. A. De Visser completing lectures in the Sudan on behalf of MERF.
- c. Letter from the Principal advising of the recommendation of the Senate that Dr. Gootjes be relieved of his teaching duties for the balance of Semester II of the 2007-2008 Academic year due to the continuing health concerns relating to Dr. Gootjes. Rev P.G. Feenstra, Rev E. Kampen and Prof J. Geertsema are appointed as temporary instructors to teach the dogmatics program for the balance of the Academic Year. [These decisions were taken and approved effective March 25th]

- d. A letter is received from one of the churches in which they express objections to the appointment of Dr. J. Maris on the basis that it contravenes the bylaws of the College in that Dr. J. Maris is not a member of one of the churches of the federation of Canadian Reformed Churches. Following intensive review, consideration and discussion the Board acknowledges that this was indeed an oversight , but that the current academic needs of the College and current circumstances would require and permit a one time exception to this requirement. A letter of explanation will be sent to the consistory of the church that had written to the Board, together with all other consistories of the churches in the Canadian Reformed Churches.

- e. Regarding Dr. Gootjes, due his continued ill health and inability to complete his task it is decided that he will be placed on indefinite sick leave. This situation will be monitored in consultation with Dr. Gootjes and his family, subject to the medical diagnostic advice he receives. It is determined that realistically Dr. Gootjes will not be available at all for the 2008-2009 Academic year and that a replacement is required for Semester II of the 2008-2009 Academic year.

Material Agenda Items

- a. The Board accepted the proposal of the Senate to appoint Rev J. P. Van Vliet, minister of the Canadian Reformed Church in Surrey, British Columbia, as a temporary instructor in dogmatics for Semester II of the 2008-2009 Academic year. Rev J.P. Van Vliet is a doctoral candidate at the Theological University of the Christelijk Gereformeerde Kerk at Apeldoorn, the Netherlands.

- b. The Board received the favourable report of Dr. C. Van Dam and Dr. A. De Visser on the lectures they had given at the Khartoum Pastor's Conference held in Sudan in February of 2008.

- c. A report is given by Prof G. Visscher on the visits to the churches in Manitoba which were completed in April of 2008. Prof. Visscher was able to provide a number of presentations as well as speak with young men interested in the ministry.

- d. We are advised that Prof. G. Visscher is scheduled for his thesis defence in connection with his doctoral studies through McMaster University in May of 2008, d.v.. Dr. G. Nederveen, Board chairman will attend this event on behalf of the Board.

- e. With respect to accreditation of the College with the Association of Theological Schools it is reported that the initial application and material has been submitted and that the process has

been fully initiated. The next step in the process is a one day visit by the Association to the College to assess eligibility and the like.

Next meeting of the Board is scheduled for September 4, 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 by Rev. E. Kampen.

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