

Press Release of the Meeting of the Board of Governors of the Canadian Reformed Theological Seminary held on January 7, 2026

Opening and Roll Call

The chairman, Rev. Jeff Temple, led in opening devotions. All the governors were present along with the administrative assistant, Mrs. Leanne Kuizenga who was present to take the minutes of the meeting.

Memorabilia

Information was shared about the personal circumstances of the emeriti professors Drs. de Visser, Van Dam, and Visscher and their wives. Sr. Gootjes is also doing well and the chairman will contact sr. DeJong and sr. Deddens in the near future.

Minutes and Agenda

The agenda for the meeting was established. The minutes of the regular meeting held on September 4, 2025 were approved. Correspondence and outstanding matters on the action log were reviewed.

Correspondence

The Board received confirmation from the CRA that the amended bylaws for the seminary have been filed.

Decisions, Reports, Agenda Items

1. The board decided to adopt the following updated wording for the Core Values
 - i. Uphold gospel truths
 - ii. Foster spiritual maturity
 - iii. Cultivate pastoral effectiveness
 - iv. Pursue academic excellence
 - v. Serve supporting churches
 - vi. Promote the Reformed faith
2. After considering the outcomes of the September 2025 strategic planning day, the board decided to pursue the following thrusts and initiatives:
 - a. Uphold faithful integrity in the age of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and equipping the CRTS community to avoid the pitfalls of AI usage and to deal responsibly with AI by focusing on spiritual maturity and integrity for lifelong ministry. Within this main thrust two initiatives were approved: (i) the senate and staff will work together to determine an effective way to equip faculty and staff concerning AI; (ii) the staff will explore ways to incorporate training on the responsible use of AI within the curricular and co-curricular programs at CRTS
 - b. In an effort to ensure a high degree of preparation for ministry among CRTS graduates, the Board tasked a committee with investigating how the PTP and other program modules could be used to further cultivate an aptitude for ministry.
 - c. In an effort to strengthen preparation for potential mission service, both domestically and abroad, the Board tasked a committee with reviewing, and potentially revising, the requirements and guidelines for the Diploma of Missiology.

3. The board approved proposals (1) to ensure a smooth transition as the appointments of executive members come to an end and new governors are appointed; (2) to optimize the timing of strategic planning to ensure that the work remains sustainable.
4. The board reviewed a discussion paper dealing with the question of the relationship between the CRTS professors and the church holding their ministerial credentials. The paper noted that whereas the credentials of professors who come from other federations are held by their new home church in the Hamilton area, the credentials of professors who come from Canadian Reformed churches remain with the last CanRef church they served which may or may not be their home church in the Hamilton area. The board decided to study the matter further in case it is a good idea to have more consistency on this matter.
5. The Board received the November 13, 2025 and January 5, 2026 minutes from Academic Committee, as well as a very positive report on lecture visits to the CRTS (Fall 2025).
6. The Board approved the Advanced Theological Studies Assistance (ATSA) Bursary application guide for prospective applicants and the internal guidelines for applications. This bursary exists to support recent graduates of the CRTS who intend to pursue advanced theological studies prior to entering the ministry in the Canadian Reformed churches.
7. The Board received the October 21 minutes from the Finance and Property (F&P) Committee, and noted their ongoing faithful work with thankfulness.
8. The Board received very positive feedback from the Association of Theological Schools (ATS) concerning the work CRTS recently did to update and improve our bylaws and policy documents as well as our plan for keeping them current in the future.
9. The Board approved a policy concerning annual staff visits.
10. Dr. Van Vliet presented his principal's report and the board joins him in giving thanks to the LORD for the ongoing work of the seminary.
11. The Board received reports from Dr. William den Hollander about his visit to the churches in Manitoba, and Dr. Van Vliet about his participation at the Evangelical Theological Society (ETS) Conference.

Press Release and Closing

The next Academic Committee meeting is scheduled for September 8, 2026 , and the next Board meeting is scheduled for September 10, 2026. The completion of the Press Release was delegated to the vice-chairman in consultation with the Executive and the Principal. Rev. Jeff Temple closed the meeting with prayer.

On behalf of the Board of Governors of the Canadian Reformed Theological Seminary,
Rev. Julius VanSpronsen (Vice-chairman)