

Press Release for the Board of Governors of the Theological College of the Canadian Reformed Churches for a meeting held on September 10, 2009.

The Board of Governors met at the College Facilities in Hamilton, Ontario on September 10, 2009. Present at the meeting were Archie J. Bax, Lammert Jagt, Hank C. Kampen (Treasurer), Dr. Gijsbert Nederveen (Chairman), Gerard J. Nordeman, Dr. 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 Principal, Dr. G.H. Visscher is in attendance, together with Rev E. Rupke (minister of the Free Reformed Church of Bunbury, West Australia), who is in attendance as one of the Deputies for Training for the Ministry of the Free Reformed Churches of Australia ("FRCA"). The meeting is opened by Dr. G. Nederveen with the reading of Scripture and prayer.

Signing of Subscription Form

As a preliminary matter, the chairman read the form of subscription, after which it was signed by Rev J. Van Vliet (now Dr. J. Van Vliet).

Minutes & Agenda

The minutes of the Board meeting held on January 29, 2009 were approved as written and the agenda for the meeting was settled.

Correspondence of Note

- a. Various letters to and from Rev Van Vliet and the Maranatha Canadian Reformed Church of Surrey, British Columbia, with respect to the appointment of Rev Van Vliet as temporary lecturer and the understanding and terms with respect to same.
- b. Letter from the Deputies for the Training for the Ministry of the Free Reformed Churches of Australia seeking information as to who was expected to go to Australia on behalf of the College in 2010.
- c. Letters from the Flamborough Canadian Reformed Church and Attercliffe Canadian Reformed Church expressing concern and reservation about the procedures by which Rev J. Van Vliet was appointed as temporary lecturer and in particular the presumptive nature of the wording with respect to the anticipated approval by General Synod Burlington 2010.
- d. Letter from the United Reformed Church of London (Ontario) inviting the College to have a representative at the upcoming Synod of the URCNA scheduled for July, 2010 (which was agreed to).

Material Agenda Items

a. Report of the Academic Committee – the regular report was received, with particular attention to the interviews of prospective students. The students approved for admission for the 2009-2010 Academic year were Ben Schoof, Calvin Vanderlinde and Theo Wierenga for the M. Div program; and Amos Chong and Nam Tuck Chong for the Diploma of Theology program.

b. Report of the Finance and Property Committee – the minutes of this committee were considered together with their annual report. The audited financial statements for the fiscal period ending December 31, 2008 were received and the auditor, Henry Salomons, was reappointed as auditor for the fiscal period ending December 31, 2009. The budget for the fiscal period ending December 31, 2010 was presented and approved.

c. Various Reports- reports were received from or with respect to the following: Visits to the lectures, the Senate re course work and activities, the Principal (provided at Convocation), Visits to the churches, the Librarian, the Registrar, the Lecture Schedule for 2009-2010, the Faber-Holwerda Fund Committee, and the Website Committee.

d. Address of Rev E. Rupke- On behalf of the FRCA Rev Rupke addressed the Board. He expressed thankfulness for the work at the College and confirmed the ongoing support of the FRCA. Concurrently he expressed the ongoing desire of the FRCA to have the College seriously consider implementing some form of distance learning to compensate for the vast distance between Australia and Canada. He outlined the vision of the FRCA to establish a “basis year” of theology in Australia, with the objective to provide confessionally Reformed training for prospective students at the College.

e. Report of the Governance Committee – this committee provided a report on their meetings and activities with a summary of changes and amendments required for the College Handbook and bylaws.

f. Conference Reports – Reports were received from Dr. A. J. DeVisser regarding his visits to the 2009 Gospel Coalition Conference and to the Calvin Conference held in Dordrecht, the Netherlands, from the Librarian, M. Vandervelde regarding her visit to the annual conference of the American Theological Library Association in St. Louis, MO and from Rev J. Van Vliet regarding his visit to a Calvin Conference held in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

g. Foreign Student Bursary Fund – the report of the committee for this fund is received, with an emphasis on recent activities in arranging for attendance to the College of a minister from Ethiopia. The challenges were explained and it was confirmed that efforts will continue.

h. Report of Search Committee to fulfill vacancy for the chair in Old Testament- this committee confirmed that its work was ongoing, that interviews and inquiries had commenced and that a final recommendation, subject to following the necessary procedures and protocol, would be made to the Board in January of 2010.

i. Report of the Review and Accreditation Committee- a report of this committee with respect to a visit to the College of Dr Joel R. Beeke [President and Professor of Systematic Theology, Puritan Reformed Theological Seminary], Dr. Michael A.G. Haykin [Adjunct Professor – Church History and Spirituality, Toronto Baptist Seminary] and Dr. Joseph A. Pipa, Jr. [President, Professor-Historical & Systematic Theology, Greenville Presbyterian Theological Seminary], was received. Consideration was given to the “Evaluation and Summary of Recommendations” prepared by the mentioned individuals, together with the evaluation, comments and input of the members of the Accreditation and Review Committee. The

evaluation and review led to two broad proposals: i. Pursue the appointment of a part time Chief Administrative Officer to take over many managerial and administrative tasks; and ii. To pursue the appointment of a fifth professor and to define clearly the tasks and role of such fifth professor (and the resulting realignment of roles for the other professors) and to seek the support of the upcoming General Synod in that regard, with a view to possible appointment in 2013. A more fulsome and complete summary and commentary can be found in the full report of the Board of the College to the churches which was delivered to the churches directly in preparation for General Synod Burlington 2010. In connection with this committee, a proposal of the Senate to have M. Vandervelde, the Librarian, supervise and coordinate the accreditation process of the College with the Association of Theological Schools was adopted.

j. **Proposed Name Change**- following discussion and consideration, it was agreed to suggest “Canadian Reformed Theological Seminary” as the new operating name for the College (with no change to the legal name) to the churches.

k. **Senate proposal re annual Conference** – A proposal of the Senate to have the College sponsor an annual conference for academic stimulation, networking and broadening of the interface of the College community with the “Reformed World” was adopted.

l. **Understanding, Clarifying and Defining “instructors” and “lecturers”** – Recent experiences at the College had highlighted the need to clarify and amend the definitions and references to “instructors”, “temporary instructors” and “lecturers” in the College operating bylaw, as both the incorporating statute and past accepted practice were not consistent. The Governance committee was instructed to examine the matter and bring proposals forward.

m. **Form for the Installation of new professors** – a proposal relating to the acceptance of a new form of installation for professors was adopted in principle, subject to final review and comment by the Governance Committee.

n. **Retirement Age for members of the Senate** – To deal with a perceived gap in governance and procedure, the Board adopted a proposal to establish a mandatory retirement from membership in the Senate, upon reaching the age of 76, with a specific grandfathering provision, exempting Prof J. Geertsema from the application of the new provision.

o. **Proposal to amend bylaw 12.03 relating to incoming students** – A proposal to amend bylaw 12.03 was adopted so that the concept of counselling prospective incoming students was deleted and the whole matter of approval of admission was delegated to the Senate.

p. **Tenure** – as both Dr. G.H. Visscher and Dr. A.J. DeVisser had met the requirements for granting tenure, upon the recommendation of the Academic Committee, the Board will recommend to General Synod Burlington 2010 to grant tenure to both professors.

q. **Sabbatical of Dr. Van Dam** – The application and proposal of Dr. Van Dam relating to his sabbatical for the academic year 2010-2011 was accepted, with the Semester I element being subject to the availability of a replacement instructor, lecturer or professor.

Next meeting of the Board was scheduled for some time in January, 2010 D.V.

Press Release and Closing

The completion of the Press Release was delegated to the executive for completion 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