

Press Release for the Board of Governors of the Theological College of the Canadian Reformed Churches for a meeting held on September 9, 2010

The Board of Governors met at the College Facilities in Hamilton, Ontario on September 9, 2010. Present at the meeting were Archie J. Bax, Hank Kampen (Treasurer), Lammert Jagt, Rev Richard Aasman (Chairman), Barry Hordyk, Dr. Rev Andrew J. Pol (Secretary), Rev. Willem B. Slomp, Rev Eric Kampen, Rev John VanWoudenberg, Rev John Ludwig and Karl J. Veldkamp (Vice-Chairman). All board members were present, with the Principal, Dr. G.H. Visscher also in attendance. [It was noted that this was the first Board meeting for Barry Hordyk, who executed a Statement of Compliance, as required] The meeting was opened by Rev Richard Aasman with the reading of Ephesians 2: 1-10.

Minutes, Agenda and Matters Arising from the Minutes

The minutes of the Board meeting held on May 27, 2010 were, with amendments, adopted. The agenda for the meeting was settled. In connection with the minutes and in consideration of the recommendations of the past Secretary, Rev R. Schouten it was decided that: work normally completed by the Secretary would not be delegated to non Board administrative staff; Dr. A.J. Pol would continue as the recording Secretary and would be exempted from preparing the reports on class room visits; K. Veldkamp will be designated as the corresponding secretary; and K. Veldkamp as the Vice Chairman will be formally included in the executive, with a corresponding amendment to the bylaws to be drafted for approval.

In recognition of the years of service of Rev J. de Gelder as lecturer in church polity, it was agreed that a letter of appreciation would be written to both him and his council.

Dr. Jannes Smith joined the meeting and following introductions and the reading of the subscription form for professors, Dr. Jannes Smith signed such form.

Correspondence of Note

- a. Acts of General Synod Burlington 2010 are received and the items relevant to the College are observed and considered as follows:
 - i. the review and accreditation committee was mandated to collate and consider the input of the churches in regard to the possible appointment of a fifth professor, with the Senate fully involved. A proposal is to be developed for consideration by the full Board;
 - ii. the Board noted the appreciation and gratitude expressed by Synod for the assistance and support provided by Dr. Maris during the illness of Dr. N. H. Gootjes, while concurrently accepting the judgement of Synod that the Board had erred in regard to his appointment as temporary instructor.

- iii. With the support of Synod, tenure was granted to both Dr. G. H. Visscher and Dr. A.J. de Visser.
- iv. Dr. G.H. Visscher was appointed as Principal for the years 2011-2014.
- v. At the direction of Synod the governance committee was mandated to seek the input of the churches in terms of finalizing the terms of an appointment policy and process for the appointment of professors.
- vi. At the direction of Synod the review and accreditation committee was mandated to seek the direction of the churches relating to the rationale and considerations for the possible appointment of a fifth professor.
- vii. With the approval of Synod, the College will operate under the operating/style name of the “Canadian Reformed Theological Seminary”, with the express understanding that the legal name will remain as the “Theological College of the Canadian Reformed Churches”

b. In accordance with recommendations of the Senate, Dr. A.J. de Visser was appointed as vice principal, with his term extending to 2014, and Dr. B. Faber was confirmed in his appointment as guest lecturer in the homiletics department. Recent experiences have determined that further effort is required in clarifying the status of those who form part of the “Faculty” or not, such as adjunct lecturers, adjunct professors and the like. The governance committee was mandated to consider this and report to the Board with proposals.

Receipt of Reports-Material Items:

- a. **Academic Committee Report:** their provisional minutes of their most current meeting are received for information.
- b. **Finance and Property Committee:** Minutes of their most recent meetings were received for information. It is confirmed that all arrangements relating to the move of Dr. J. Smith and his family have been completed. The audited financial statements for the period ending December 31, 2009 are received and ratified and the budget for the fiscal year commencing January 1, 2011 and ending December 31, 2011 was approved and adopted. Henry Salomons, C.A. was appointed as auditor of the College for the next fiscal year.
- c. **Senate:** In connection with the work of the Senate the following reports were received: Course Work Reports, Registrar, Librarian, Lecture Schedule 2010-2011, Convocation Committee, Faber Holwerda Bursary Committee and the Librarian (which included a report on a conference attended by the Librarian).

d. Visits to the churches: A report of Dr. C Van Dam of his visits to churches in Singapore and Australia for the period June 10-July 2 2010 was received. It was noted that there were no further plans to visit any other churches, in Canada, or otherwise, in 2010.

e. Conference Report: Dr. G.H. Visscher provided his report on his attendance for the first time at the meeting of the Association of Theological Schools (“ATS”), with ATS being the association that the College is seeking accreditation with. The report indicated that these meetings have value and provide assistance. The Board affirmed its ongoing support and commitment to the accreditation process. As the conference was held in Montreal it also provided an opportunity for Dr. G.H. Visscher to connect with and interact with members of the ERQ and Institute Farel.

f. Pastoral Training Program: The updated PTP manual was received, considered and approved. With the amendments approved the PTP now has four main components:

1. An orientation week after the first year.
2. A Catechism teaching practicum during the second year
3. An evangelism/mission practicum after the second year and during the third year; and
4. A summer internship after the third year.

g. Lecture Visits – these are confirmed as follows: Revs J. Ludwig and J. Van Woudenberg for Semester I of 2010-2011; and Rev Richard Aasman and Dr. Rev Andrew J. Pol for Semester II.

h. Students and Classical Examinations: The matter of the need to consider the inclusion of oral testing and examinations was considered and evaluation. This would necessarily be connected to sermon preparation and delivery as well. Such discussion also included the understanding the role that churches and councils should play in counselling, guiding and directing candidates for seminary. Heightened involvement of consistories was considered and will be pursued.

i. Review and Accreditation Committee – This committee provides an update on our accreditation with the Association of Theological Schools, which is a detailed and slow process. At this stage the College has been accepted as an Associate Member. Upon finalization of a Readiness Report, the next material step will be the completion of a comprehensive self study. The Board appointed the Librarian, M. Vandervelde as the coordinator of the accreditation process, with a mandate to work with the Senate and the Review and Accreditation Committee as needed in preparing the Readiness Report for the ATS.

j. Appointments and Teaching: The appointment of Dr. N.D. Kloosterman as a lecturer in Church Polity for the second term is confirmed. The Sabbatical of Dr. Van Dam commencing full time in the second term of the Academic year 2010-2011 is confirmed,

Next meeting of the Board is tentatively scheduled for January 6, 2011 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