

Press Release for the Board of Governors of the Theological College of the Canadian Reformed Churches [Canadian Reformed Theological Seminary] for a meeting held on January 6, 2011

The Board of Governors met at the Seminary Facilities in Hamilton, Ontario on January 6, 2011. Present at the meeting were Archie J. Bax, Hank Kampen (Treasurer), Lammert Jagt, , Rev R. Aasman (Chairman), Barry Hordyk, , Dr. Andrew J. Pol (Secretary), Rev. Willem B. Slomp, Rev Eric Kampen, Rev John VanWoudenberg, Rev John Ludwig and Karl J. Veldkamp (Vice-Chairman/Corresponding Clerk). All board members were present, together with the Principal, Dr. G.H. Visscher. Condolences were conveyed to Barry Hordyk upon the recent loss of an uncle, br. Arie Hordyk , who was one of the original governors of the Seminary, and the loss of his mother in law, sr. Catharina Vanderkruk. The meeting was opened by Rev R. Aasman with the reading of Luke 2:41-52.

Minutes, Agenda and Matters Arising from the Minutes

The minutes of the Board meeting held on September 9, 2010 were, with amendments, adopted. The agenda for the meeting was settled. As follow up to the minutes the following items were addressed and dealt with:

- a. Following discussion and consideration, an amendment to the operating bylaw was approved whereby the Vice Chairman would be considered officially part of the “Executive”, with a corresponding amendment that the quorum for the Executive would increased from two to three. These amendments will have effect going forward and will be submitted for affirmation by the churches by way of the next general synod to be convened in 2013, d. v.
- b. It was reported that the prospective student from Nepal was unsuccessful in securing a study visa and accordingly would not be attending the Seminary.
- c. The matter of reviewing and considering the proper terminology and reference for those who are not part of the Faculty, but are permitted to instruct on a one off or part time basis, remains under consideration by the governance committee.

Correspondence of Note

- a. Letters were written to each of Dr. A.J. de Visser and Dr. G.H. Visscher confirming their tenure appointments. Each of these professors acknowledged their appointments in writing and confirmed their commitment to the tenure policy and the underlying basis of the Seminary.
- b. Letter of encouragement was delivered to the Farel Reformed Theological Seminary (Montreal, Quebec).
- c. Letters of appreciation to Rev J. de Gelder and the Canadian Reformed Church at Flamborough expressing appreciation for Rev de Gelder’s work at the Seminary.

Receipt of Reports-Material Items:

- a. **Academic Committee Reports:** their provisional minutes of their most current meetings were received for information. Of particular note was their conclusions relating to considering applications by students from out of country (that is, from developing nations). Admitting such students has demonstrated significant challenges and the intended results and goals are not necessarily achieved.
- b. **Visits to the Lectures:** The report relating to the visits to the lectures conducted by Revs. J. Ludwig and J. Van Woudenberg on October 26 and 27, 2010 were received with gratitude. Additional lecture visits are scheduled for January 5 and 6th, 2011, to be reported on at the next board meeting.
- c. **Finance and Property Committee:** Minutes of their most recent meetings were received for information. It is confirmed that the Seminary had received a special bequest from an estate in the amount of \$200,000.00 with much gratitude. Consideration is being given to the appropriate way in which to utilize such material gift. This will be subject to further consideration and review.
- d. **Conference Reports:** Reports were received with respect to: the 2010 NAPARC World Missions Meeting in Philadelphia, by Dr. A. J. de Visser; the 62nd Annual Meeting of the Evangelical Theological Society and the 2010 Meeting of the IBR, by Dr. C. Van Dam; Atlanta 2010 Conference, by Dr. G.H. Visscher; and contact and trip to Singapore, by Dr. G.H. Visscher.
- e. **Pastoral Training Program:** The report for this program for 2010 was received with gratitude. There was concurrence that this program continues to be fully appreciated and valued by the churches and the participants. There was discussion around the need to continually improve and refine the training as it relates to the preparation and delivery of sermons.
- f. **Exit Survey Report 2010** – This report was received for information on the understanding that its results have a limited value on a current basis due to the low number of participants and the time necessary to compare to other results and to observe trends had not yet passed. The Principal and Vice Principal will have full opportunity to interact and comment upon any comments found in such surveys.
- g. **Review and Accreditation Committee** – This committee provides an interim report wherein they provide a comprehensive mandate affirmed by the Board. The process of accreditation with the Association of Theological Schools continues on schedule. There was thorough discussion around the underlying reasons and considerations for the addition of a fifth professor and the proper rationale for such appointment. The matter is left with the committee for further consideration and reporting to the Board.
- h. **Appointments, Teaching, Principalship and Program considerations:** It was noted that Dr. N.D. Kloosterman as a lecturer in Church Polity will shortly be commencing teaching for the second term. Dr. C. Van Dam had delivered his last formal class lectures in December of 2010 and was fully on his Sabbatical. With reference to the position of a Principal, it was determined that the Board was not in support of a permanent principalship. The Board also determined that it was not in support of being committed to a regular system of rotation, but would retain discretion when reappointment was required.

Next meeting of the Board is tentatively scheduled for March 24, 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/Corresponding Clerk