

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 September 8, 2011

The Board of Governors met at the Seminary Facilities in Hamilton, Ontario on September 8, 2011. Present at the meeting were Archie J. Bax, Hank Kampen (Treasurer), Rev. Richard Aasman (Chairman), Barry Hordyk, , Dr. Andrew J. Pol (Secretary), Rev. Willem B. Slomp, Rev. Eric Kampen, Rev. John VanWoudenberg, Lammert Jagt, Rev. John Ludwig and Karl J. Veldkamp (Vice-Chairman/Corresponding Clerk). Regrets: None. The Principal, Dr. G.H. Visscher was present as well. The meeting was opened by Rev. Richard Aasman with the reading of 1 Peter 1:1-9 and prayer.

Memorabilia

In our memorabilia we remembered the passing to glory of Sr. Geertsema, the late wife of Professor Geertsema, and Mrs. Visscher, the mother of Dr. G.H. Visscher. Further, we remembered and held up in prayer our brothers Dr. de Jong and Dr. Gootjes and their families, both of whom have significant health challenges.

Minutes, Agenda & Officers of the Board The minutes of the Board meeting held on April 26 , 2011 were, with amendments and clarifications, adopted. The agenda for the meeting was settled. It was affirmed that the current officers would continue in their positions: Rev. Richard Aasman, Chairman, Karl J. Veldkamp, Vice-Chairman, Corresponding Clerk, Dr. Andrew J. Pol, Secretary and Hank Kampen, Treasurer.

Correspondence of Note

- a. Press Release for April 26, 2011 Board meeting
- b. Request to Superannuation Fund relating to retirement of Dr. C. Van Dam
- c. Letters of appointment relating to the teaching assistant, Joshua Walker (Freshmen Greek) and temporary lecturer, Rev. John Ludwig (Church Polity)
- d. Letter of appreciation to Dr. N.D. Kloosterman
- e. Letter of appreciation from Catherine Mechelse, administrative assistant at the Seminary in connection with recognition of her 25 years of service to the Seminary.

Receipt of Reports-Material Agenda Items:

- a. **Academic Committee** - It was reported that the guidelines for lecture visits were finalized by this committee, and subsequently adopted by the Board. The matter of the "Statement of Institutional Purpose" had substantial attention by the academic committee and subsequently by the Board. It was determined that a review and refinement of this statement will be a material element of the self study within the process of seeking accreditation with the Association of Theological Schools ("ATS"). The process of accreditation will assist in the intended refinement and review.

b. **Finance & Property Committee** – The minutes of the meetings of this committee held on March 24, 2011 and June 9, 2011 were received for information. The Twenty Ninth Annual Report of this committee was also received with thankfulness. It was apparent from the faithful support of the churches and the fund balances, that the Seminary was (and is) truly blessed. The finalized and audited financial statements for the fiscal period ending December 31, 2010 were received and Henry Salomons, CA was re-appointed as the auditor of the Seminary for the period ending December 31, 2011. A draft budget for the calendar year 2012 was presented, discussed and approved. Such budget requires an increase in the per communicant member assessment from 69.00 to 72.00 (CDN).

c. **Senate** – In connection with the Senate reports the following were received: Course Work Reports; Registrar; Librarian; Lecture Schedule for 2011-2012; Convocation Committee; Faber-Holwerda Bursary Committee and a Conference Attendance report from the Librarian

d. **Principal** –The report of the Principal was received with thankfulness.

e. **Visits to the Churches** – The report/summary of Dr. A.J. de Visser relating to his visits to various churches in Australia and in Papua New Guinea was received with much gratitude. It was noted that visits of this nature, although at times inclusive of informal element, do have long term incalculable benefits in strengthening the bonds between the churches there and in Canada.

f. **Sabbatical Report** – The report of Dr. C. Van Dam relating to his sabbatical activities was received with much gratitude and interest.

g. **Rev. Thomas G. Reid** – During the meeting Rev. Thomas G. Reid was invited to join the meeting. Rev. Thomas G. Reid is the current Librarian and Registrar of the Reformed Presbyterian Theological Seminary in Pittsburgh, PA. He provided advice and direction to the Board with respect to the completion of our comprehensive self study with ATS. As he has been involved in this activity at his home seminary, his experience and involvement in such process was of practical and timely value. He will continue to assist throughout the self study process on a “as required” basis.

h. **Governance Committee** – A material proposal of this committee presented new definitions relating to “adjunct professors” and “adjunct lecturers” , both of which were defined within the context of the governing Act of the seminary and the bylaws. Subject to final drafting reviews and the like, the changes were approved in principle. Such amendments are subject to the further and final approval of the next general synod of the churches to be convened.

i. **Accreditation** – The readiness report was confirmed as being delivered to ATS in April of 2011, with the subsequent approval of ATS by a letter dated June 27, 2011 confirming that the candidacy status of the Seminary had been granted. Dr. G.H. Visscher, Margaret Van der Velde and Karl J. Veldkamp were appointed to the Accreditation Steering Committee. It was further confirmed that Margaret Van der Velde and Karl J. Veldkamp would be attending an ATS workshop in Pittsburgh, PA on September 15 & 16, 2011. All of the sub committees for the completion of the self study were settled and agreed to, with the result that the Board is fully engaged across the full range of the self study modules.

j. Schedule of Lecture Visitors for 2011-2012 academic year – Rev. Eric Kampen and Rev. John Van Woudenberg were appointed to complete the visits in the Fall of 2011 and Rev. Richard Aasman and Rev. Willem Slomp were appointed to complete such visits in the Winter session.

k. Church Polity Instructor – The appointment of Rev. John Ludwig as a temporary lecturer in church polity for 2011-2012 was confirmed.

l. Professor Search Committee – this committee was tasked with reviewing, considering, determining and presenting candidates for the position that will be created upon splitting the department of Diaconiology and Ecclesiology. The composition of this committee was confirmed as including: Rev. Eric Kampen, Rev. Willem Slomp, Rev. John Van Woudenberg, Dr. G.H. Visscher and Karl J. Veldkamp (convenor). It was confirmed that this committee will be commencing its activities which will include the solicitation of input from the churches. It was further confirmed that any such proposed appointment is conditional on the approval of the next general synod of the churches to be gathered to the formal authorization for the position of a fifth professor at the Seminary, and the actual appointment itself.

m. Preaching Seminar – 2012 – upon the recommendation of the Senate, a seminar with a focus on preaching was approved for January, 2012.

n. Letter/Proposal from the Deputies for Training for the Ministry of the Free Reformed Churches of Australia – A letter from the Deputies was received which entreats the Seminary to explore ways in which there can be some form of distance learning from the Seminary for students in Australia. In particular they suggest a form of foundational first year to be taken by distance learning. The matter was considered at length and referred to the Committee for Standards 7 & 10 (part of the ATS self Study) to consider, evaluate and report on. It was agreed that the letter of the deputies would be responded to with the request to be patient to allow for a full review and consideration of the proposal.

Next meeting of the Board is tentatively scheduled for March 1, 2012, 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