

Press Release of the Meeting of the Board of Governors of the Canadian Reformed Theological Seminary held on Sept. 8, 2016.

Opening and Roll Call

The Board of Governors met at CRTS in Hamilton, Ontario, on Sept. 8, 2016. All the governors were present at the meeting except br. B. Hordyk who was absent with notice. Rev. R. Aasman opened with the reading of Ps. 140 and led in prayer. Sr. Leanne Kuizenga was present as requested to take the minutes of the meeting. Rev. Pieter de Boer from the Free Reformed Churches of Australia was welcomed. Rev. de Boer informed the Board that the Australian churches intend to send a delegate to visit CRTS once every three years. The new governors Rev. John Louwerse, Rev. Joe Poppe, Rev. James Slaa, Br. Peter Vandersluis, and Br. Kasper Van Veen were welcomed to the meeting. The new governors signed the compliance documentation.

Memorabilia

The following brothers and sisters were remembered in prayer: Srs. K. Deddens, the widow of the late Dr. K. Deddens, Dr. J. DeJong and his wife Margaret, sister W. Faber, widow of the late Dr. J. Faber, Prof. J. Geertsema, Dr. C. Van Dam, Dr. N.H. Gootjes and his wife, Dinie.

Minutes and Agenda – The minutes of the Board meeting held on Jan. 14, 2016 were approved. The agenda for the meeting was established.

Receipt of Decisions, Reports-Material Agenda Items:

- a. Article 76 from the Acts of Synod 2016 was reviewed. It was noted that no correspondence was received from the clerk of Synod and therefore the Board does not have enough information to deal with all of the recommendations as found in Article 76. Many of these things will come back on the January agenda. Two recommendations of Synod 2016 were dealt with: The Board appointed Dr. Jason Van Vliet as Principal beginning September 2017 (Art. 76, Rec. 4.5), and the Board granted tenure to Drs. J. Smith and J. Van Vliet. (Art. 76, Rec. 4.11)\
- b. After a meeting between the faculty of CRTS, the chairman and vice-chairman of the Board, and the Deputies for Theological Training in South Africa, the decision taken by email to allow theological students of our sister churches in South Africa to be long distance auditors of certain courses taught in CRTS was officially approved. The details were spelled out in a Memorandum of Agreement between CRTS and the Deputies for Theological Training in SA. The churches there are at a crossroads. Circumstances are deteriorating at the Theological School in Mukhanyo, so they need to set things on a better track as soon as possible. In order to do that, however, certain technical equipment needs to be put in place. All expenses for that will be covered by SA which means there is no budgetary impact for CRTS.
- c. Strategic Planning. Report on Key Thrust 1 – Promotional Plan Proposal (Dr. J. Van Vliet). This report was received with appreciation. It was suggested that there should be more communication with church councils and ministers to help encourage young men to pursue the ministry.
- d. Report of the Executive Committee. The chairman and vice-chairman met with the Principal and reported he has a good working relationship with the staff and other faculty members.

- e. Report of the Principal. Dr. G.H. Visscher gave an update on the incoming and outgoing students, as well as on the upcoming conference which will commemorate the 500th anniversary of the Reformation.
- f. Report on Visits to the Lectures at CRTS on March 17 and 18, 2016 were received from Rev. R. Aasman and Dr. A. J. Pol. These reports gave reason for thankfulness since the students are being taught in faithfulness to the Word of God and the Three Forms of Unity
- g. The Governance Committee submitted items with suggested changes and additions (e.g. Privacy Policy, Board-Committee Operating Protocol) to the College Handbook that incorporated previous decisions of the board. These suggestions were adopted.
- h. A Report on Visits by the Professors to churches in Ontario was received with thankfulness. Fourteen out of thirty churches have been visited and the remaining 16 churches will be contacted in the coming months.
- i. The following Conference Reports were received for information:
 - 1. ATLA Conference Report – M. Alkema
 - 2. Grand Rapids Conference Report – Dr. T. Van Raalte
 - 3. ATS Conference Report – Dr. G. H. Visscher
- j. The Board accepted the recommendation of the Academic Committee to reconsider its earlier decision and accept the recommendation of the Principal that CRTS seek membership in the Evangelical Fellowship of Canada and in Christians in Higher Education Canada (CHEC). In our day and age when colleges and universities are being required to offer same-sex couples housing, admission, and any number of similar “rights” it is prudent to be in contact with organizations that keep us informed about the various political tensions and happenings that may adversely affect CRTS and its missions.
- k. Report of the Finance and Property Committee: The Financial Statements for 2015 and the CRTS Budget for 2017 were approved by the Board. The assessment per communicant members was increased from \$85 to \$90.

New Business

- a. The date of the next Strategic Planning Session has been scheduled for Wednesday, September 6, 2017. Frank Oostdyk was appointed as the Strategic Planning Coordinator. The Board agreed to bring in an outside facilitator.
- b. Date of the next Board Meeting: January 12, 2017 at 1 p.m.

Press Release and Closing

The completion of the Press Release was delegated to the Vice-Chairman in consultation with the Executive and the Principal, and Rev. J. Louwse closed the meeting with prayer and thanksgiving.

On behalf of the Board of Governors of the Canadian Reformed Theological Seminary,

Rev. J. Ludwig, Vice-Chairman/Corresponding Clerk