

## **Press Release of the Meeting of the Board of Governors of the Canadian Reformed Theological Seminary held on Sept. 7, 2017.**

### Opening and Roll Call

The Board of Governors met at CRTS on Sept. 7, 2017. All the governors were present. Rev. R. Aasman opened with Scripture reading and prayer. Leanne Kuizenga was present to take the minutes of the meeting.

### Memorabilia

The following brothers and sisters were remembered in prayer: Mrs. K. Deddens, the passing away of Dr. J. DeJong. sr. M. DeJong, , sr. W. Faber, Dr. N.H. Gootjes and his wife, Dinie, as well as the two emeriti professors J. Geertsema and C. Van Dam.

Minutes and Agenda – The minutes of the Board meeting held on Jan. 12, 2017 were approved. The agenda for the meeting was established.

### Receipt of Decisions, Reports-Material Agenda Items:

1. A letter was drafted in response to the Deputies for the Training of the Ministry of the Free Reformed Churches of Australia (FRCA) about the impact of CRTS if the Australian churches were to set up their own seminary. Three areas were highlighted: loss of Australian students, financial costs, and the need for seminary professors.
2. At the Strategic Planning Meeting held on Sept. 6, 2017, a number of key items concerning the present and future operation of the seminary were discussed. The Board reviewed these items and committees were appointed to deal with the following key topics: distance education, encouraging enrollment, expanding the pastoral training program, and ways that CRTS can improve training for mission/church planting. At its next meeting in January the Board will discuss the mandates of these committees in more detail and communicate more information about them to our supporting community.
3. The Key Thrust, “Investigate 2<sup>nd</sup> year Preaching Consent” raised at the first Strategic Planning Session was discussed. The Board agreed with the proposal to allow students to approach Classis for preaching consent after their 2<sup>nd</sup> year of study and decided that it would be best to have the proposal come via the ecclesiastical route to General Synod 2019.
4. Report of the Executive Committee. The chairman and acting vice-chairman (Rev. J. Louwse) met with the Principal and reported that there is a good working relationship between staff and faculty members.” Condolences were sent to Marg DeJong after her husband passed away.
5. Report of the Principal. Dr. G.H. Visscher expressed appreciation for the support and cooperation he received from the Board during his nine years as principal. He looks forward to being able to focus his time and energy on teaching New Testament. By December he will inform the Board as to when he hopes to retire. He wished Dr. J. Van Vliet the Lord’s blessing in his new role as principal. Dr. G. Visscher was thanked for his dedication and diligence over the past nine years.
6. The report on visits to the lectures at CRTS on March 8-9, 2017 was received from Revs. R. Aasman and J. Poppe. 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

7. The Governance Committee proposed a Form for the Ordination of Professors. The Board approved it and will inform Synod 2019 that it has been drafted for the installation of professors when they are installed as a minister in one of the local churches. This Form recognizes that the Installation of the brother **as professor** will happen at the CRTS Convocation.
8. Dr. G. Visscher reported on visits he made to churches in British Columbia. This report was received with thankfulness.
9. Report of the Finance and Property Committee: The Board approved the 2018 budget. The assessment per communicant member remains at \$90. The 2016 Audited Financial Statements were also approved.
10. Report of the Senate. The Board accepted:
  - a. The recommendations of the Senate with regard to the wording of the Statement of Institutional Purpose (SIP), namely, “CRTS submits to the doctrine of the infallible Word of God as summarized in the ecumenical creeds and the Belgic Confession, the Heidelberg Catechism, and the Canons of Dort,” and will view the SIP as an internal document. Synod 2019 will be informed of this decision.
  - b. The recommendation of the Senate not to have an elaborate tenure structure in place is approved. Seminary professors are ministers of the Word committed to their families, the seminary, and the church federation. Should there be any evidence of a reduced commitment to the seminary and professional development, there are adequate means to address such without necessitating a more elaborate tenure structure. This will be sent as the answer to the question raised by Synod 2016.
11. Annual Reports from the Registrar, Librarian, CRTS Website, Convocation Committee, Faber-Holwerda Bursary, Publication Foundation, Foreign Bursary, as well as from the faculty on course work and attendance at conferences were received with thankfulness.
12. The Board accepted the Sabbatical Proposal of Dr. J. Van Vliet. He will receive a full sabbatical, Jan.15- July 15, 2018.
13. Association of Theological Schools (ATS).The Board formalized the appointment of M. Alkema as the Accreditation Coordinator and expressed appreciation for the work that she does. An ATS delegation will visit CRTS in 2020 and so the governors were made aware that they will be required to work on committees for the new Self-Study report.

#### New Business

The date of the next Board Meeting was set for January 11, 2018 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