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**The Board of Governors
Theological College
of the
Canadian Reformed Church**

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Synod of the Canadian Reformed Churches
Chatham, Ontario
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Esteemed brothers:

During the last year, the churches have been made aware of the serious illness of Dr. J. DeJong, Professor of Diaconiology and Ecclesiology at the Theological College of the Canadian Reformed Churches in Hamilton, Ontario. Due to Dr. DeJong's deteriorating condition, the Board of Governors made the decision on September 4th, 2004, to place him on an indefinite leave of absence. Although this decision was made with profound regret, the Board had come to the realization that, humanly speaking, Dr. DeJong will not again be able to teach students at our Theological College. We are deeply thankful for the work that Dr. DeJong was able to accomplish at the Theological College since he began his task there in 1990. By the grace of God, his ministry of service at our College was upbuilding and fruitful for students and colleagues and for the churches as a whole. We ask that the churches continue to remember the needs of Dr. and Mrs. DeJong and their family before the throne of God's grace.

On September 4th, the Board of Governors authorized the Senate to propose a full-time professor and, if necessary, also part-time lecturers to fill the vacancy in the departments of Diaconiology and Ecclesiology. We are grateful that the Senate was able to fulfill this mandate in a relatively short time. At its meeting of January 8th, 2004, the Board was able to give its whole-hearted endorsement to the Senate proposal. We trust that the attached proposal will also meet the approval of your assembly.

May the Lord bless you in all of your endeavours.



R. Schouten
Secretary