

## 2.2 Board of Governors of the Theological College

### BOARD OF GOVERNORS OF THE THEOLOGICAL COLLEGE OF THE CANADIAN REFORMED CHURCHES

#### REPORT TO GENERAL SYNOD NEERLANDIA 2001

November 1, 2000

Esteemed Brothers in the Lord,

The Board of Governors of the Theological College of the Canadian Reformed Churches hereby submits to your assembly, according to section 6.1 of the Canadian Reformed Theological College Act, 1981, a report of its work and decisions since May 1998.

#### **Board of Governors**

The Board of Governors can report with thankfulness that the work of the Theological College could continue without interruption during the past three years. The Board met five times during the past term: June 18, 1998; September 10, 1998; September 9, 1999; March 22, 2000; September 7, 2000. Minutes of these meetings will be available for your assembly. General Synod 1998 appointed to the Board the brothers J.Moesker, W.Oostdijk and W.Smouter. These brothers signed the Declaration of Governors of the Theological College of the Canadian Reformed Churches. The brothers J.Visscher, H.J.Sloots, P.G.Feenstra, W.DenHollander and D.G.J.Agema have completed their term as Governors. The Board expresses thankfulness for the work done by these brothers. The Board submits a proposal to fill the vacancy in the Property and Finance Committee. Your assembly will receive confidential information concerning the proposed appointment. Recommendations to fill the other vacancies will have to come from Regional Synod East 2000 and Regional Synod West 2000.

#### **Senate / Faculty**

The Board can report with thankfulness that the professors were able to do their work during the past three years. The Lord granted them health to do their work. At the end of each academic year the Board received a report of the course work. The Board expresses thankfulness for the dedication of the professors. In the fall and the spring of each academic year the Board visited the lectures. All reports in the past three years were positive. The Governors concluded that the lectures are presented in a clear and scholarly way. The Board can also testify that the instruction is in accordance with the Holy Scripture, the Confession and the Church Order (see By-Law 1, section 3.16 (b)). The professors visited the churches. Dr. VanDam visited the churches in British Columbia (1998), Dr. J. DeJong the churches in Alberta / Manitoba (1999) and Prof. J. Geertsema the churches in British Columbia (2000). In March 2000 the Board approved a change to the scheduling of these lecture tours. The churches in the West are now divided into

three territories, instead of two. This means that all the western churches will be visited once every three years. The three territories are Manitoba (with Denver), Alberta and British Columbia. In terms of time this would make the tours more equitable. In addition the rotation among the professors can now proceed without adjustment. Dr. Van Dam also visited Mexico, Australia and New Zealand. He submitted reports on these visits to the Board.

Dr. Gootjes requested a sabbatical leave for the Fall semester of the year 2000. The Board approved this request and appointed as his replacement Drs. J. M. Batteau, minister of the Gereformeerde Kerk in Wageningen, The Netherlands.

In accordance with the decision of General Synod of Fergus 1998 (Acts, Art. 83), the Board decided to grant tenure to Prof. Dr. J. DeJong and Prof. Dr. N. H. Gootjes.

In September 2000 Dr. J. Faber requested the Board to accept his resignation from the Senate. The Board decided to accept Dr. Faber's resignation and thanked him for his faithful labours as a member of the Senate during the time of his retirement.

In March 2000 the Senate informed the Board by letter that Prof. J. Geertsema would like to retire as Professor New Testament effective at the end of the academic year 2000-2001. By that time Prof. Geertsema will have reached the age of 66 years (See By-Law 6, Regulation 1, section 2, as amended in By-Law 8). The Senate noted that this request is about half a year too late according to By-Law 8, nevertheless the Senate was of the opinion that this request ought to be granted. The Board decided to accede to Prof. Geertsema's request and granted him honourable retirement as Professor of New Testament at the end of the academic year 2000-2001. The Board expresses deep gratitude for the many years of faithful service of Prof. Geertsema. The Board also instructed the Senate to proceed with investigations that would lead to the proposal of a nomination to fill the vacancy of Professor of New Testament. Your assembly will receive a confidential proposal in this regard.

Synod Fergus 1998 decided "to appoint Prof. Dr. J. DeJong as principal for the period of September 1999 to September 2002, and to designate Prof. Dr. C. van Dam as Principal for the years 2002 to 2005, the Lord willing. This transfer of responsibilities will take place the day after the Convocation in 1999." In September 1999 Prof. Dr. J. DeJong took on the responsibilities of Principal. The Board requests Synod to appoint Prof. Dr. C. van Dam as Principal for the years 2002 to 2005, and to designate Prof. Dr. N. H. Gootjes as Principal for the years 2005 to 2008, the Lord willing. The transfer of responsibilities will take place the day after the Convocation in 2002.

### **Students**

Currently nine students are enrolled in the College. In the past three years eleven have graduated from the College. Eight have entered the ministry of the Word, of which three now serve as missionaries. Two graduated with a Diploma of Theological Studies. With thankfulness the Board reports that the students could continue their work unhindered. We pray that under the blessing of the Lord the churches continue to endeavour that there be students of theology (Art. 21 C.O.)

### Facilities

The Annual Reports of the Property and Finance Committee will give your assembly more accurate information with regard to this point. The past three years the Committee has been occupied with the new addition to the College building. Synod 1998 directed "the Board of Governors to proceed with the 'Recommended Plan' on the basis as set out in this report" (Art. 87.IV.B.) In June 1998 the Board appointed a Promotion/Fund Raising Committee. The Fund Raising Committee consisted of the brothers H.Berends, G.Kuik and P.Lindhout - representing the Western churches, the brothers D.Pot and B.Veenendaal representing the Australian churches, and the brothers M.Kampen and W.Smouter, representing the Eastern churches. In September 1999 this Committee could report that the fund raising had been completed successfully. The Board expresses thankfulness for the willingness of the churches in Australia, Canada and the United States of America to contribute to this cause.

This also meant that the Building Committee could start its work. This Committee consisted of the brothers W.Oostdijk and J.VanderWoude and the sisters C.Mechelse and M.VanderVelde. With gratitude the Board can report that the work on the addition was completed before the start of the 2000-2001 academic year. On September 8, 2000 there was an official opening and an Open House. The Board appreciates all the work done by many. Above all we give thanks to the Lord for His blessing and we pray that the Lord may use these new and updated facilities for the glory of His name.

In this connection the Board expresses thankfulness for the work of the Women's Savings Action. Each year they donate a substantial amount to the College. Without their faithful labours we would not be able to fill the library with the necessary books. The Board also acknowledges with deep gratitude the continued support by the Free Reformed Churches in Australia. The Board invited a representative of the Australian Deputies for Training for the Ministry and one of the brothers involved in fund raising to be present at the official opening.

### Pastoral Training Program

Synod 1998 decided (Art. 107.IV.C.) to direct the Board of Governors:

1. to proceed with the components of the proposed program, including the internship, on a trial basis, assessing their effectiveness and considering possible alternatives without making them prerequisites for entrance to the ministry at this time (Art.4.B.I. C.O.);
2. to consider how elements of this proposed program can best be integrated with the academic courses presently being taught at the College, and whether this can be accommodated without extending the present course beyond four years;
3. to consider the addition of another faculty member for the diaconological department;

In September 1999 the Board appointed Rev.J.DeGelder of Flamborough as Coordinator of this program. In cooperation with the Senate he has developed Guidelines for this Program. The Board notes with thankfulness the enthusiasm expressed by those who have already been involved in this program. The Senate has

also taken a closer look at the remuneration of the students involved in this program. Because Synod 1998 decided that the program be introduced on a "trial basis," The Board is of the opinion that due to the short time it cannot come to your assembly with definite proposals. The Board asks Synod for a mandate to come to the 2004 Synod with a specific proposal about the program, as well as the financial remuneration.

The Board also investigated the other items mentioned in the decision of Synod 1998. The Church at Orangeville submitted a suggestion to the Board in this regard as well. It suggested:

1. To significantly increase the weight of the Poimenics course in the existing academic program at the Theological College.
2. To appoint another faculty member, so that one professor can concentrate on the field of Diaconiology, and thus facilitate the above.

With regard to the appointment of a fifth professor the Board is of the opinion that this is not feasible at this point of time. It would mean an increase in assessment of \$11.00 per communicant member. With regard to increasing the weight of the poimenics course, the Board decided upon recommendation by the Senate to increase the weight of the Diaconiological disciplines. This would mean that the other departments will need to sacrifice « hour per week for the whole year, or 1 hour per week for one semester. The Senate is looking at using part-time lecturers in those diaconiological disciplines that need strengthening.

### **Master of Theology Program**

The Board requested the Senate to investigate the possibility of instituting a Master of Theology program at the College. The Senate came to the conclusion that such a program is not viable at this point. The Board is in agreement with this conclusion. This does not mean that the idea should be completely abandoned. The Board wants to make the churches aware of the need for further education of ministers. This will not only benefit the College in connection with future vacancies, but also benefit the churches.

### **Accreditation**

The Board instructed the Senate to research the matter of obtaining accreditation by the Association of Theological Schools (ATS). The Senate concluded that membership in the ATS is not feasible. The Board concurred with this report, but did decide to have a closer look at developing and improving College policies.

### **Auditor**

General Synod 1998 appointed sr. A. Spithof C.A. as Auditor until the next Synod (Acts, Art. 86.IV.B). In November 1999 sr. Spithof submitted a letter of resignation due to time restraints. The Property And Finance Committee accepted this resignation and appointed br. H. Salomons C.A. as Auditor. The Board is thankful for sr. Spithof's many years of faithful service.

### **Committee for the Official Web-site**

The Board requests General Synod 2001 to appoint sr. Margaret VanderVelde to the synodical Committee for the Official Web-site. It gives the following grounds:

1. such an appointment would facilitate the integration of information from

the Theological College that should be posted on the Canadian Reformed website

2. such an appointment would reflect the reality that sr.VanderVelde is already involved in posting information of the Theological College on the website.

**Recommendations:**

1. to receive this report and all its appendices.
2. to acknowledge the expiration of the term of office of the brs. J.Visscher, H.J.Sloots, P.G.Feenstra, W.DenHollander and D.G.J.Agema as Governors with grateful acknowledgement of their labours, and pursuant to Section 5(2) of the Act and Section 3.04 of By-Law I (as amended)
  - a. to appoint, elect or re-appoint six active ministers to hold office until the next General Synod and to appoint at least three substitutes from each Regional Synod area;
  - b. to re-appoint the brs.M.Kampen and J.VanderWoude as Governors for a term from the date of his re-appointment until the first General Synod held after the date of their re-appointment;
  - c. to re-appoint the brs.W.Oostdijk and W.Smouter as Governors for a term from the date of their re-appointment until the second General Synod held after the date of their re-appointment; to appoint br. G.J.Nordeman from Burlington as Governor for a term from the date of their appointment until the third General Synod held after the date of his appointment (with as alternate br. L.Jagt from Burlington).
3. to appoint Prof.Dr.C.VanDam as Principal for the period of September 2002 to September 2005, and to designate Prof.Dr.N.H.Gootjes as Principal for the years 2005 to 2008, the Lord willing. The transfer of principalship will take place the day after the Convocation in 2002.
4. to approve all decisions and actions of the Board and of its committees for the years 1998, 1999, 2000 and 2001 until the day of this report.
5. to express thankfulness for the support from the Free Reformed Churches in Australia.
6. to mandate the Board to present to Synod 2004 proposals regarding the Pastoral Training Program and the financial remuneration
7. to consider the audited financial statements and the report of the Auditors for the previous fiscal periods; to relieve the Treasurer of the Board of all responsibilities for these fiscal periods; to appoint br. H.Solomons as Auditor till next General Synod, and to thank sr.A Spithof for her many years of faithful service.
8. to appoint sr. Margaret VanderVelde to the synodical Committee for the Official Web-site.

The Board wishes your assembly the blessing of the Lord in all your deliberations and decisions.

For the Board of Governors,

	J.Moesker
R.Aasman	W.Oostdijk
D.G.J.Agema	H.J.Sloots
W.DenHollander	W.Smouter
P.G.Feenstra	J.Visscher
M.Kampen	J.VanderWoude