

APPENDIX IV A
REPORT OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS
OF THE THEOLOGICAL COLLEGE
OF THE CANADIAN REFORMED CHURCHES
TO THE GENERAL SYNOD OF WINNIPEG, 1989

Esteemed brethren in the Lord,

The Board of Governors of the Theological College hereby presents to your assembly its report over the academic years 1985-1986, 1986-1987, and 1987-1988. Due to the early date of the Synod 1989, it is not possible for us to cover fully the academic year 1988-1989, but we will provide you with some information on this year as well so that you are brought up to date.

General

The Board expresses its gratitude that the work at our College could continue without interruption during these past years. Professors and students were generally blessed with health and strength to do their work. We do remember, however, that the Lord took unto Himself our brother Garnet Peet, B.A., M.Div., who did successfully finish his studies at our College and accepted a call to the church at Ottawa but was not ordained in the ministry. His passing away has made a deep impression on the College community.

The Governors faithfully visited the lectures also in the past three years and reported to the Board concerning the diligence and zeal of the Faculty and the students. We may state with gratitude that the scholarly instruction at our College is given in accordance with the Word of God and is in harmony with the Reformed Confessions.

The Board considers it proper to pass on to your assembly that a special course leading to a "Diploma Theological Studies," proposed to Synod 1986 and approved by that assembly, has been finalized and put into place. This course will be properly advertised so that in time it may perhaps find positive use.

It is the purpose of our College to train young men for the ministry of the Word. During the past three years, eleven students have graduated from our College, seven of whom have received/accepted calls from our Churches. We are grateful for this good result. At present there are 5 students enrolled in our College (4 seniors and 1 freshman). The Registrar's Report 1988 shows that various promising contacts have been made for the future. Seeing the present amount of vacancies in our Churches, the great need for the work of our College continues to manifest itself.

Faculty

With respect to the Faculty, the following may be noted. The Board mentions with gratitude and pride the promotion of our professor of Old Testament, C. van Dam to *doctor theologiae* at the Theologische Hogeschool in Kampen on June 5, 1986, after defending a thesis on "The Urim and the Thummim." This was indeed an academic highlight for our College.

We also mention that Prof. J. Geertsema, appointed by the Synod of Burlington (West) 1986 has successfully begun his work at our College and has adjusted well to the rigours and demands of academic life. He has also been appointed as Dean of students.

This brings us to two important matters with respect to our Faculty. Our principal, Dr. J. Faber, has informed the Board of Governors that he wishes to avail himself of the opportunity to retire from active duty as professor of dogmatics and as principal of our College, a post which he filled since 1968 at our College. His retirement is scheduled to commence on January 1, 1990. The Board has regretfully but also posi-

tively accepted Dr. Faber's request for retirement, in deep gratitude for what Dr. Faber has meant for our College as professor and principal since it was established. Surely under his leadership, our College has been greatly blessed by the Lord and has grown during the last twenty years to be a respected and trusted centre for the training for the ministry. We expect that Synod will properly address this matter.

We also mention that Dr. K. Deddens is expected to retire on June 30, 1990. Dr. Deddens has been appointed as professor for a term of six years by Synod Cloverdale 1983, and this time will then come to an end. Dr. K. Deddens has served our College capably and well, and we are grateful for the work that he has done.

All this means that your assembly must come to the appointment of two professors, one for the department of dogmatology and one for the departments of diaconology and ecclesiology. The Board will submit to your assembly per separate letter suitable recommendations to fill these forthcoming vacancies.

Principalship

The retirement of Dr. J. Faber also means that the position of Principal at our college must be reviewed. B-law No. 1 (Sec. 8.01) requires that the Board shall seek the advice of Synod with respect to the appointment of the Principal, his power, function, and duty.

Until now this Principalship was a permanent position. This was largely due to the fact that at the time when the College was established, there was only one professor in the possession of a Doctor of Theology degree. Now this situation has changed. In most American institutions the (permanent) Principalship is almost exclusively a full-time administrative function, but at our College this is not so, for the Principal also has a full teaching load.

The Board of Governors, after consultation with the Senate, therefore proposes to General Synod that there be from now on a rotating Principalship, as is done also at the Theologische Universiteit in Kampen, the Netherlands. To allow for some fairness and continuity, we suggest that the Principal be appointed to serve for three years. The order of rotation should be determined by the beginning dates of the professorships.

We therefore propose that Dr. C. Van Dam be appointed as Principal for the period of January 1, 1990 – August 31, 1993 and that Prof. J. Geertsema be designated as Principal for the period of September 1, 1993 – August 31, 1996.

Staff and Facilities

With respect to the staff at our College we may report that since the previous Synod, Mrs. K. Marren, who moved with her husband and family to Smithers, B.C., has been replaced as librarian by Miss Marian van Til (B.A.). Catherine Mechelse is functioning well as administrative assistant and as assistant librarian. The Board is pleased with the work and efforts of the staff.

We may gratefully report that our College has made a smooth transition from the old building into the new facilities in Hamilton. This building excellently serves our college community and meets all its needs.

After Synod 1986, the Academic Committee as well as the Board of Governors met three times. The Finance and Property Committee met at many occasions to ensure that matters containing the administration of finances and property were duly considered and resolved. The annual reports of the Property and Finance Committee over this past period, approved and adopted by the Board, will be submitted to Synod as an appendix to this report.

Retirement and Appointment of Governors

It should be mentioned that many Board members are slated to retire, in accordance with the provisions in the Theological College Act.

The Rev. J. Mulder, who has been our chairman for the last nine years, will retire,

as well as the Rev. J. Visscher, our vice-chairman. The Rev. M. van Beveren, our former secretary, who served as Governor for as long as we can remember, and as secretary of the Board since 1983, has retired from active ministry and therefore cannot be reappointed as Governor. We are grateful for the great amount of extra work that these brothers have done for the well-being of our College and the Churches.

Further, the brothers C. Loopstra, our legal expert who was instrumental in drafting the College Act, and H. Kampen, who has served as able treasurer, cannot be appointed for another consecutive term. The Board has learned to appreciate the dedication and expertise of these brothers who will be sorely missed. Needless to say, this means that after Synod 1989 the staff of the College and the Board of Governors will experience quite a turnover and change in membership!

Conclusion

To cover the proper retirement process of Faculty members, the Board has adopted a By-law No. 8, being a by-law to amend section 2 of regulation No. 1. We submit this by-law to your assembly for consideration and approval. We also submit to Synod one updated version of the Act and By-laws.

The College has continued to receive the spiritual and financial support from the Churches which is needed to pursue this important effort. The Board wants to mention in this regard especially the blossoming contacts which the College has with our sister churches in Australia who have officially decided to support the Theological College in 1987. We expect the existing contacts to intensify and have gratefully solicited the further support and input of our sister churches in Australia. We are grateful to the Lord for this undeserved blessing.

The Churches have also continued to show interest in our College at the annual convocation/college evening and through the Women's Savings Action. The Board wishes to remember at this point the passing away of our sr. G. Selles who from the beginning of the existence of our College has been active in the Women's Savings Action. We are grateful for her enthusiasm and fruitful work done so faithfully for our Theological College throughout these many years. May the Lord continue to comfort our esteemed professor-emeritus, the Rev. L. Selles in his bereavement.

On the basis of the above report, we humbly submit to your assembly the following recommendations for your consideration:

1. to receive this report and all appendices.
2. to accept the resignation of C. Loopstra and H. Kampen as Governors, and pursuant to Section 5(2) of the Act and Section 3.04 of By-Law Number 1 (as amended):
 - a. to appoint C. Veldkamp (Toronto) and Dr. John Boersema (Ancaster) as governors for a term from the date of their appointment until the third General Synod held after the date of their appointment (with as alternates H. Faber – Burlington – and H. Jager – Ancaster); a brief "curriculum vitae" of these brothers is included as appendix to this report.
 - b. to reappoint H. Buijs (Burlington) and C.G. Heeringa (Dundas) as governors for a term from the date of their reappointment until the second General Synod held after the date of their reappointment;
 - c. to reappoint A.L. VanderHout (Hamilton) as governor for a term from the date of his reappointment until the first General Synod held after the date of his reappointment;
 - d. to appoint, elect or reappoint or reelect six active ministers (in accordance with section 3.04 [a] of By-Law Number 1 [as amended]) to hold office until the next General Synod and to appoint at least three substitutes from each Regional Synod area.
3. to direct the Board of Governors to appoint a new professor of dogmatics (as per detailed report to be presented to Synod).
4. to acknowledge gratefully the faithful labour of Dr. J. Faber as professor of dogma-

tology and as principal of our College since the establishing of the College in 1968.

5. to direct the Board of Governors to appoint a new professor of diaconiology and ecclesiology (as per detailed report to be presented to Synod).
6. to acknowledge gratefully the faithful work of Dr. K. Deddens as professor of diaconiology and ecclesiology at the College since 1983.
7. to appoint Dr. C. Van Dam as Principal of the Theological College for the period of January 1, 1990 – August 31, 1993, and to designate Prof. J. Geertsema as Principal for the period of September 1, 1993 – August 31, 1996, the Lord willing.
8. to consider the audited financial statements and the report of the auditor for the previous fiscal periods.
9. to reappoint Robinson, Lott and Brohman, Chartered Accountants, as auditors until the next assembly of Synod.
10. to ratify and confirm the acts of the Board of Governors and officers of the College for the years 1985, 1986, 1987 and 1988 and until the day of this report.

Submitted at Hamilton, Ontario, this 4th day of January, 1989, by the Board of Governors of the Theological College of the Canadian Reformed Churches.

Rev. J. Mulder, chairman
Rev. J. Visscher, vice-chairman
Rev. Cl. Stam, secretary
Mr. H. Kampen, treasurer
Rev. P. Kingma
Mr. H. Buist
Mr. C.G. Heeringa
Mr. C.M. Loopstra
Rev. M. van Beveren
Mr. A.L. Vanderhout
Rev. M. VanderWeide