

SUPPLEMENT VI — (Acts, Art. 75)

REPORT OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS OF THE THEOLOGICAL COLLEGE

To The General Synod of the Canadian Reformed Churches

May 1971

Esteemed Brethren:

The Board of Governors, appointed by General Synod Orangeville 1968, are pleased to submit to your Assembly a Report on their activities.

ACTIVITIES GENERALLY

The Board have held four meetings during the past years: on February 18-20, 1969; September 9, 1969 and June 22 and 23, 1970, while a last meeting before General Synod was held on May 25 and 26, 1971.

At all these meetings the members of the Board were present and in some cases the meeting was attended by members of the Faculty.

A report on matters decided at the meetings and by the "Rules for Communication between the Governors", and of the actions taken will be found under separate headings of this report. Relations between the Board of Governors and the Committee of Administration have been excellent. Synod Orangeville appointed Mr. A. VANDERHOUT as member of the Committee of Administration and Mr. C. LINDHOUT as Treasurer. Neither of these two brothers could accept this appointment. At one of the meetings of the Board Mr. H. DANTUMA from Burlington was nominated, elected and appointed as Treasurer-member of the Committee.

The Board REQUEST Synod to approve of this action.

The Board RECOMMEND Synod to re-appoint the members of the present Committee of Administration on the following ground: The membership of this Committee should not fluctuate unnecessarily to ensure a good continuation of the work.

From the Second Annual Report of the Committee of Administration it appears that the Committee wants a more liberal mandate. The Board passes this information on to Synod because Synod has to decide on the relation between Board and Committee.

At the first meeting after the appointment by Synod Orangeville officers were elected: Rev. W. LOOPSTRA, President; Rev. D. VANDERBOOM, secretary; Rev. H. A. STEL, Assessor. After the Rev. L. MOES left for the Netherlands the Board decided to "Receive Rev. W. W. J. VANOENE as a replacement for Rev. L. MOES." The Board did not deem it necessary to make any changes when the Revs. VANBEVEREN and VANOENE moved to other parts of the country. The Board REQUEST Synod to approve of these actions.

MANDATE

Synod Orangeville, 1968 did not adopt a specific mandate. We understand that the mandate given to Deputies for the Training toward the Ministry by General Synod Edmonton, 1965 still stands as far as it is applicable in the present situation, (Acts Synod Edmonton 1965, Art. 199) and we consider the "Rules and Regulations" adopted by Synod to be our specific charge

SUPERVISION OF THE INSTRUCTION

Rule III reads: "The Governors shall exercise supervision over the instruction given in order that may be barred whatever is not in accordance with the Scriptures and the Creeds of the Church." The Board decided that during the period from Synod Orangeville till the next General Synod the Governors from Eastern-Canada would visit the Lecturers at the College. With gratitude the Board report that the instruction being given shows that professors and lecturers do their work with love and zeal and that there was nothing in their teaching which was not in accordance with the Scriptures and the Creeds of the Church.

Counselling of Students before admission to the College took place in accordance with the relevant decision. (Acts Synod Hamilton 1962, Art. 170.)

APPOINTMENTS AND NOMINATION

Rule IV reads: "The Governors shall submit to General Synod a nomination to appoint docents for existing vacancies. The Synod shall not be bound by this nomination. The Governors shall draw up special regulations covering leave of absence and the termination of the service of docents."

The Board wishes to report that the Reverend Mr. FRANCOIS KOUWENHOVEN, M.Th. appointed by Synod Orangeville, 1968 has served as professor in the Old Testament Department till his death.

The matter of nomination of a successor has been considered by the Board with the advice of the Faculty. The Faculty prepared two Confidential Reports to serve the Board; they also submitted their advice in the matter. The decision of the Board is laid down in a "Confidential Report to Synod New Westminster 1971", which will be submitted to Synod under separate cover. On the basis of received information and the decision of the Board concerning nomination the Church at New Westminster was requested to convene Synod at an earlier date than originally planned.

Regulations covering leave of absence and termination of service have not been drafted. For this matter we refer to the next item of this report.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- a) Synod express itself as to the retirement age of professors;
- b) Synod re-appoint the professors and lecturers who form the present Staff, and give them a permanent tenure.

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS

After an advice was received, submitted to the Board by the Committee of Administration, it was decided to have a "Constitution and Bylaws" prepared for the Board, the Senate and the Committee of Administration. Due to lack of time this "Constitution and Bylaws" has not been finalized. A Draft has been prepared and the Board **RECOMMEND:** that Synod deal with this matter.

OPENING OF THE COLLEGE

The Theological College of the Canadian Reformed Churches was officially opened on Wednesday, September 10, 1969 in a Solemn Convocation where professors and lecturers were installed. A copy of the program of this Convocation is attached as Appendix A.

The Board informs Synod that no names for the College have been proposed which were acceptable to the Board.

The Board also gratefully acknowledges the work of the 'Savings Action

Committee', as a result of which it was not necessary to budget for many items necessary for the furnishing of the College.

INCORPORATION

This matter had the attention of the Board. At one of the meetings it was decided "to request the Committee of Administration to enquire after the possibilities and implications of incorporation of the Theological College and to forward a report of their findings to the Board of Governors". In the Minutes of a meeting of the Committee of Administration they report on this matter. Part of these minutes are attached to this report as Appendix B. The Board RECOMMEND:

- a) that Synod deal with and express itself on the matter;
- b) that, since much legal terminology is involved, prof. A. H. OOSTERHOFF be added to the work-committee that has to deal with the matter, and that he will receive the privilege of the floor in these matters.

FACULTY MATTERS

The Faculty kept the Board informed about the course of the first study-year with a report concerning the work and about the daily life at the College. A Handbook was compiled and published, a copy of which is attached as Appendix C.

As a temporary arrangement to enable the continuation of the work the Faculty requested and the Board advised that the Faculty avail themselves of the help of Rev. D. VANDERBOOM, M.Th., for the academic year 1970/1971. On the basis of information received the Board decided:

- a) to change the title "candidate of Theology" into "Bachelor of Theology" (B.Th.) for those who did not receive a "full-fledged" training at the College;
- b) to have the degree of "Bachelor of Divinity" (B.D.) conferred upon students who have received a 'full-fledged' College training, and who have successfully completed their studies at the College.

The Board RECOMMEND: that Synod decide accordingly.

It gives the Board much pleasure to inform Synod that Mr. M. C. WERKMAN had the degree of B.Th. conferred upon him in February 1971, while he and Messrs. J. GODSCHALK, W. HUIZINGA and C. VANDAM graduated on May 21, 1971 where the latter three received their B.D. degree. This graduation took place in the building of Central Presbyterian Church, Hamilton.

Although this is a Faculty matter the Board judged this to be a matter of such historic importance that it is reported here in this report to Synod. At the beginning of the Academic year the Board organized the "First Annual Meeting" which was held on September 16, 1970. One of the Governors Rev. W. W. J. VANOENE addressed the meeting with a speech about "The Sound Doctrine", while professor SELLES spoke about "Goal and Nature of the New Testament Studies". A copy of the program of this meeting is attached as Appendix D.

Matters of the Library were referred to the Faculty. The Board has requested the Faculty to be diligent with regard to the establishing of the Library, and has relieved Rev. J. MULDER of his duties as Librarian of the Board.

Matters of Tuition Fees and Conditions for Registration were decided upon with the advice of the Faculty. It was also decided to open the possibility for 'Special Courses' which are given at the College for the benefit of our teachers at the Elementary Schools and other interested people.

The Board submit the following RECOMMENDATIONS and REQUEST:

Recommendations:

1. To adopt the recommendation of the Committee of Administration as found in their second annual report Appendix B, p. 16. (This report is attached as Appendix E to this report of the Board.)
2. A Draft Pension Regulations has been prepared by the Committee of Administration and adopted by the Board. Synod adopt these Regulations.
3. An increase in contributions by the Churches was recommended and adopted during the past years.

The Board REQUEST to approve of this action.

4. To decide that the Board is authorized to empower the Committee of Administration to engage a professional Auditor to audit the books on an annual basis.

Request:

That the Advisory Committee, which is to prepare proposals to Synod re matters concerning the College avail themselves of the assistance of the Secretary of the Board of Governors.

Respectfully submitted,

W. Loopstra, President

J. Mulder

H. A. Stel

M. VanBeveren

D. VanderBoom, Secretary

W. W. J. VanOene