

Press Release of the Meeting of the Board of Governors of the Canadian Reformed Theological Seminary held on September 5, 2019.

Opening and Roll Call.

The secretary of the Board, Rev. M.H. Van Luik, led in opening devotions. All governors were present with the exception of Rev. R. Schouten who was absent with notice. Rev. C. VanderVelde and br. A. Datema were welcomed as new governors. Dr. Van Vliet was present as Principal and sr. L. Kuizenga was present as requested to take the minutes of the meeting. Three guests were also welcomed to the meeting; br. Bruce Huizinga was present representing the Australian Deputies for Training for the Ministry and Gerard and Cora Hagg were present representing the Deputies from South Africa.

Election or confirmation of officers

The new governors, Rev. C. VanderVelde and br. A. Datema were welcomed, and the compliance documentation was signed. They had an orientation session prior to the board meeting. Rev. J. Louwse was appointed chairman of the Board of Governors, after election by secret ballot. Rev. J. Poppe was appointed as Vice-chairman and corresponding secretary; Rev. M.H. Van Luik was reappointed as Recording Secretary, and brother C. Medemblik as treasurer.

Memorabilia

Information was shared about the personal circumstances of emeriti professors, as well as widows and families of professors. Concerns and reasons for thankfulness were brought before the Lord in prayer.

Minutes and Agenda

The minutes of the meeting held on January 17, 2019 were approved. The agenda for the meeting was established.

Decisions, Reports, Agenda Items

1. The Board reviewed General Synod Edmonton decisions concerning CRTS. The Board noted with thankfulness the appointment of Dr. W. den Hollander as professor of New Testament. Arrangements have been made for his transition to CRTS. The Governance Committee was asked to look at the Acts of Synod, Art.84, 2.15 about the appointment of the principal. The Board appointed an ad hoc committee to look into the appointment of new professors and the time needed for such a person to prepare for teaching, taking into consideration procedures and finances.
2. The Board received a "Metrics Report," which provides feedback allowing the Board to evaluate how well the Seminary is functioning, as well as a 2019 Church Survey Report. These reports were received with thankfulness, and they will be used especially in the upcoming strategic planning session.
3. Dr. Van Raalte reported on how prayer has been included in the student mentoring groups led by each professor, and how this was deemed very beneficial by the students and will be continued. He was thanked for his work and this initiative was considered to be completed.
4. A committee was established to investigate the possibility of Distance Education reported on its work. The Board mandated the committee to work in consultation with the Senate to

investigate what would be needed in terms of personnel and technology for various potential uses of distance education at CRTS.

5. A committee established to investigate a further emphasis on mission and church planting at CRTS reported to the Board. The Board sent the report to the Senate for feedback.
6. A letter was sent from the Board of CRTS to all the United Reformed Churches in Canada. Since some of these churches are sending men to study at CRTS, and are calling CRTS graduates, some of these churches were asking if they were required to make a lump-sum payment in support of CRTS if they called one of our graduates. The Board's letter explains how CRTS is supported by our churches, and that a lump-sum payment was not required. It requested the prayerful support of the URC churches, and welcomed any contributions these churches might want to give.
7. The Board decided to have another Strategic Planning Session on September 9, 2020. These sessions are normally held once every three years, and give the CRTS Board, faculty, staff, and students the opportunity to review the strengths and weaknesses of CRTS, and to make longer term plans for the Seminary.
8. The executive gave an oral report. It included a very positive review of the work of the principal, as well as noting other pertinent matters relating to the faculty.
9. Revs. J. Ludwig and M.H. Van Luik reported on lecture visits to CRTS on February 20 and March 26, as well as on visits with the four of the professors and lunch with the students.
10. The Finance and Property Committee provided some information on a "building audit" that was done to determine what kind of building maintenance and renovations will be required in the next ten years. They will report on this in further detail at the next Board meeting. A capital drive to cover these costs outside of the regular assessments to the churches is being planned. The audited financial statements of 2018 and the budget for 2020 were approved. Minutes of the Finance and Property Committee's meetings held in April and June were received for information. The Health and Safety Policy was approved by the Board.
11. Margaret Alkema was present for the next portion of the meeting as ATS Coordinator. CRTS belongs to the Association of Theological Schools, and in 2020 it will be visited by representative of ATS to determine whether or not it can maintain accreditation. Over the past year the Board of Governors, faculty and staff have been engaged in an extensive self-study, examining CRTS according to the standards set by ATS. A draft of the Self Study Report was presented, along with a list of proposed recommendations of things that CRTS could improve on. The steering committee took input from the meeting to adjust the recommendations that will be submitted to ATS for their consideration. An ATS Institutional Peer Profile Report 2018-19 and an ATS Strategic Information Report 2018-19 were received for information.
12. Margaret Alkema was also present for the discussion of the Annual Report of the Assessment Coordinator, the Minutes from Assessment Day (May 14, 2019), and the Alumni Survey 2019. These reports were received with thankfulness.
13. The principal presented his principal's report, and it was received with thankfulness. It included an update on the commemorative volume celebrating the 50th anniversary of CRTS, which is printed and available for sale in time for the 2019 Convocation.
14. Our former Board chairman, Rev. R. Aasman and our principal, Dr. J. van Vliet travelled to Australia in June 2019 for meetings with the Australian Deputies for Training for the Ministry. They presented a final copy of the report taken to Australia answering various questions the Australian deputies had about the possibility and feasibility of setting up their

own seminary. They reported back on a round table discussion with the Australian deputies, which concluded that there is a need for close interaction in seminary training between our churches.

15. Dr. T. Van Raalte submitted a sabbatical report and the principal gave an evaluation of it. The Senate proposed and the Board approved moving forward with the tenure of Dr. Van Raalte.
16. The following annual reports were received with thankfulness: course work report, registrar's report, library report, website report, convocation committee report, Faber-Holwerda bursary report, publication foundation report, conference report, foreign student bursary report, and the lecture schedule for 2019-20.
17. Dr. J. Van Vliet reported on an Australian church tour, librarian M. Alkema and Drs. A.J. deVisser and T. Van Raalte on conference reports.

New Business.

1. Lecture visits were organized for semesters 1 and 2 of the 2019-20 school year.
2. The date of the next Board Meeting was set for January 16, 2020 at 10:00 am.

Press release and Closing.

The completion of the Press Release was delegated to the vice-chairman in consultation with the Executive and the Principal. Rev. J. Poppe closed the meeting with prayer.

On behalf of the Board of Governors of the Canadian Reformed Theological Seminary,
Rev. J. Poppe (Vice-chairman/Corresponding Clerk)

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'J. Poppe', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.