

## **Press Release of the Meeting of the Board of Governors of the Canadian Reformed Theological Seminary held on January 16, 2020.**

### **Opening and Roll Call.**

The chairman of the Board, Rev. J. Louwarse, led in opening devotions. All governors were present. Dr. Van Vliet was present as Principal and sr. L. Kuizenga was present as requested to take the minutes of the meeting.

### **Memorabilia**

Information was shared about the personal circumstances of emeriti professors, as well as widows and families of professors.

### **Minutes and Agenda**

The minutes of the meeting held on September 5, 2019 were approved. The agenda for the meeting was established.

### **Decisions, Reports, Agenda Items**

1. The Board noted that a report has been sent to the Association of Theological Schools (ATS). The ATS is responsible for providing CRTS with accreditation and will do a site visit at our seminary in March. The Board noted their thankfulness to the staff and faculty for all the work done on this report, particularly Margaret Alkema, who was responsible for coordinating the ATS self-study report.
2. The Board received correspondence from the Senate detailing the establishment of the Canadian Reformed History Collection (CRHC) committee. It was formed for the purpose of establishing a collection of historical items relating the Canadian Reformed Churches and their members. The CRHC has a longer-term vision of forming a relationship with all the churches via general synod, perhaps as a standing committee. Yet in the interim, the Senate requested that the CRHC be considered an ad-hoc committee of the Library Committee of CRTS, and be allowed to use some of the Library's space to house its collection. With some provisos, the Board gave approval to the Senate's proposal.
3. The Board spent considerable time discussing an update from the committee tasked to investigate Distance Education. The Board instructed the committee: (1) to define more precisely the end goal with respect to distance education so that interim steps will lead to that goal; and (2) to consult with a professional online course designer to get help and advice. The Board looks forward to receiving a full report from the committee for its September meeting.
4. The Board decided to delay its strategic planning session from September 2020 to September 2021. This is due to the ongoing work committees are still busy with from the last strategic planning session, and to the work that will need to be done implementing various proposals made to ATS.
5. The chairman reported on a positive follow-up visit made to the principal in connection with his responsibilities as principal of CRTS.
6. Revs. J. Louwarse and C. Vandervelde reported on lecture visits to CRTS on November 12-13, 2019, as well as on visits with the five professors. This report was received with thankfulness.
7. The Finance and Property Committee provided minutes of the recent meetings they held. They were received for information.

8. The Governance Committee was requested to update the provisions in the CRTS Handbook for resolutions by mail, as these are quite outdated. Various proposals for other updates to the CRTS Handbook were adopted.
9. An assessment report on the functioning of the Board of Governors was received with thankfulness and was briefly reviewed.
10. Margaret Alkema reported that in response to the Board's request for a workload study she has drafted a survey, and that the results will be shared with the Senate and the Board in due time.
11. Dr. J. Van Vliet presented his principal's report, and this was received with thankfulness. The Board approved a proposal for CRTS to communicate with members of the churches via a newsletter/postcard.
12. The Board received a report from the Senate. It approved a sabbatical proposal for Dr. A.J. de Visser for the fall of 2020. One of Dr. de Visser's normal responsibilities is to lead the sermon sessions each week. In connection with this, the Board accepted a recommendation from the Academic Committee that the faculty organize Dr. de Visser's sabbatical in a manner that does not adversely impact the workload of the other professors.
13. Dr. T. Van Raalte reported on a visit to the Australian churches. It was received with thankfulness.
14. Four of the professors reported on attending various conferences. These reports were received with thankfulness.

**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. Slaa 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.