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

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**Report to
General Synod Burlington 2010**

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October 1st, 2009

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Esteemed brothers in the Lord,

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The Board of Governors of the Theological College of the Canadian Reformed Churches hereby submits to your assembly, in accordance with section 6 (1) of the Canadian Reformed Theological College Act (1981) (the "College Act"), a report of its work and decisions since the last General Synod held in May, 2007 (Synod 2007).

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Board of Governors

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Synod 2007 appointed to the Board Mr. A. Bax, Mr. H. Kampen and Rev. A.J. Pol. At the meeting of September 6, 2007, letters of acceptance were received from these three brothers and they subsequently signed the "Declaration of Governors" as found in By-law 12 as well as the "Statement of Compliance" as found in the Handbook of the Theological College.

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Since Synod 2007, the Board of Governors has met seven times. The meetings took place in Hamilton, in the facilities of the College on September 6, 2007, January 24, 2008, April 21, 2008, September 4, 2008, Dec. 11th, 2008, January 29, 2009 and September 10, 2009. Another meeting is planned for January of 2010. Minutes of these meetings of the Board are available for consultation by members of Synod 2010. All Board members were able to attend every meeting

In December, 2007, Rev. G. Ph. VanPopta submitted a letter of resignation which was accepted by the Board. The Board wishes to acknowledge the work of Rev. VanPopta during his time on the Board. Invited to take the place of Rev. VanPopta was Rev. E. Kampen, the first alternate for Regional Synod East as appointed by Synod 2007. At a subsequent meeting, Rev. Kampen also signed the "Declaration of Governors" and the "Statement of Compliance."

The following brothers have completed their term as Board members: Dr. G. Nederveen, Mr. G. Nordeman and Rev. R. Schouten. The Board would like to express its gratitude for the work done by these brothers during the last nine years. The Board is submitting a proposal to Synod to fill the vacancy in the Finance and Property Committee. Synod will

46 receive background information regarding the qualifications of these brothers.
47 Recommendations to fill the ministerial vacancies may be expected from Regional Synod
48 West 2009 and Regional Synod East 2009.
49

50 **Senate and Faculty**

51 52 *Retired faculty*

53
54 During the last three years, the retired Professor of New Testament, Prof. J. Geertsema,
55 continued to function as part of the Senate. His ability to attend meetings was sometimes
56 hindered because of the illness of his wife. In November of 2007, sr. Geertsema was
57 struck by a severe bacterial infection which has had permanent effects. On Dec. 15, 2008,
58 Prof. and Mrs. Geertsema were able to celebrate his 45th anniversary in the Ministry of the
59 Word. Dr. J. DeJong remains on permanent disability and has suffered a further decline
60 of health during the last three years and is now being cared for in Shalom Manor in
61 Grimsby, Ontario. In addition, sr. K. Deddens, widow of Dr. K. Deddens, has been
62 dealing with cancer. We commend Dr. and Mrs. DeJong and their family, as well as Prof.
63 and Mrs. J. Geertsema and Mrs. Deddens to the care of God and request the continued
64 prayers of the churches for these individuals.
65

66 *Faculty milestones*

67
68 In May of 2008, Dr. G.H. Visscher successfully defended his doctoral dissertation at
69 McMaster University and was awarded the degree of Doctor of Philosophy. In October of
70 2009, the Rev. J. VanVliet was awarded the Th. D. degree from the Theologische
71 Universiteit Apeldoorn. We congratulate these faculty members upon reaching these
72 scholarly milestones which are significant for them personally but also very beneficial for
73 the well-being of the College and the supporting churches. The Board is thankful for the
74 continued studies and academic achievements of the faculty.
75

76 *Lecturer in Church Polity*

77
78 At its meeting of January 24th, 2008, the Board approved a proposal from the Senate to
79 reappoint Rev. J. de Gelder as instructor in Church Polity for a period of three years, a
80 period going to the end of the 2010-2011 academic year. The Board is very appreciative of
81 the willingness of both Rev. de Gelder and the Consistory of the Church at Flamborough to
82 help the College in this way.
83

84 *Tenure*

85
86 Dr. Visscher has served as Professor of New Testament since June 1, 2001 while Dr. de
87 Visser has served as Professor of Diaconology and Ecclesiology since June 1, 2004. Both
88 professors have demonstrated a commitment to excellence in teaching and research and
89 have so earned the respect of colleagues and students. They meet the requirements for
90 Tenure as set forth by Synod Abbotsford 1995, Art. 97. The Board is therefore asking
91 Synod 2010 to approve granting of tenure to these professors.
92

93 *Principalship*

94

95 In accordance with the decisions of Synod 2004, Dr. G.H. Visscher was scheduled to take
96 over the Principalship in September, 2008. Due to the poor health of Dr. N.H. Gootjes,
97 Dr. Visscher took over the principalship already in 2007. The Principalship of Dr. G.H.
98 Visscher is scheduled to end in 2011. Under the rotating principalship concept, Dr. A.J. de
99 Visser is in line to become the next Principal. However, Dr. de Visser is of the view that
100 his current workload does not allow for these added responsibilities transition; in addition,
101 he does not believe he is the right man for this task. The Board has accepted Dr. de
102 Visser's current position on this matter. Since the remaining faculty is either new or
103 retiring, the Board determined that it would be best to reappoint Dr. Visscher as Principal
104 for the period from 2011 to 2014.

105

106 *Course work*

107

108 The Board can report that despite several challenges, the work of the Theological College
109 has continued without interruption since the last General Synod. Each September, the
110 Board received an extensive report from the Senate about the work of the previous
111 academic year. These reports indicate that all courses were taught and that the adopted
112 curriculum was fully implemented. In addition, each spring and fall, a team of two Board
113 members visited the lectures for two days and provided a comprehensive report to the
114 Board. These reports indicate that the instruction provided by the faculty is fully
115 Scriptural, in accord with the confessions of the churches, and is academically challenging.

116

117 *Visits to the Churches by faculty members*

118

119 Dr. N.H. Gootjes visited the churches in British Columbia from April 30 to May 3, 2007.
120 He spoke in various places on the topic of the frequency of celebrating the Lord's Supper.
121 Attendance at the speeches was quite good. In April of 2008, Dr. G.H. Visscher was able
122 to visit with the churches in Manitoba. He spoke in both Winnipeg and Carman on the
123 topic of "Forgiveness and Reconciliation." Again, attendance was good at these meetings.
124 In August of 2008, Dr. Visscher visited the American Reformed Church at Denver, CO
125 and gave an adapted version of the same speech presented earlier in Manitoba. Apart from
126 these official trips on behalf of the College, faculty members are regularly invited to make
127 presentations on various topics among the churches. During the last three years, Dr. De
128 Visser has given presentations on evangelism in various places while Dr. Visscher spoke in
129 the Fraser Valley of British Columbia on "The New Perspective on Paul" and "Federal
130 Vision." The Board and the Senate are confident that these visits to the churches by faculty
131 members serve the positive purpose of promoting good relations and awareness of the
132 College as well as making connections with prospective students.

133

134 *Department of Dogmatology*

135

136 In the fall of 2007, the Board for the first time became aware that Dr. Gootjes was dealing
137 with significant health issues relating to the functioning of his memory. At its meeting of
138 January 24, 2008, the Board decided to grant Dr. Gootjes a sabbatical for Semester I of the
139 2008-2009 academic year. At the same meeting, the Board decided to appoint Prof. Dr.

140 J.W. Maris of Apeldoorn, the Netherlands, as a temporary instructor in dogmatology for
141 Semester I of the 2008-2009 academic year, provided that he would be willing to sign the
142 Subscription Form (adapted to reflect his status as a non-faculty member).

143

144 Before the sabbatical of Dr. Gootjes came into effect, however, it became evident that he
145 would not be able to finish his work for the 2007-2008 academic year. On March 25, 2008,
146 the Board approved a recommendation from the Senate to relieve Dr. Gootjes of his
147 teaching duties for the balance of the 2007-2008 academic year due to continuing memory
148 problems. At the same time, the Board approved the proposal of the Senate to appoint Rev.
149 P. Feenstra to teach Dogmatics 2409, Rev. E. Kampen to teach Symbolics 2410 and to
150 accept the offer of Prof. J. Geertsema to teach Symbolics 1409.

151

152 At the meeting of April 21, 2008, it became clear to the Board that the health of Dr.
153 Gootjes was not improving and the decision was made to place him on indefinite sick
154 leave. This decision was taken in consultation with Dr. and Mrs. Gootjes and with their
155 full agreement. At the same meeting, the Board approved a proposal of the Senate to
156 appoint Rev. J. VanVliet, minister of the Maranatha Canadian Reformed Church in Surrey,
157 British Columbia, as a temporary instructor in dogmatology for Semester II of the 2008-
158 2009 academic year (January to May 2009).

159

160 At its meeting of December 11, 2008, the Board received information that Dr. Gootjes
161 was not able to envision a return to his professorial duties at the College by September
162 2009 nor was he able to anticipate a return beyond that date. The Board therefore decided
163 that while investigation of his difficulties continued, Dr. Gootjes would remain on
164 indefinite sick leave. At the same meeting, the Board declared a vacancy in the department
165 of dogmatology. Further, the Board mandated the Senate to provide recommendations for
166 temporary instructor (s) to replace Dr. Gootjes for the 2009-2010 academic year. The
167 decision to declare a vacancy and to seek a replacement for Dr. Gootjes was made with the
168 full knowledge and agreement of Dr. and Mrs. Gootjes.

169

170 At the meeting of January 29, 2009, the Board adopted a proposal of the Senate to appoint
171 Rev. J. VanVliet as temporary instructor in dogmatology for the 2009-2010 academic year.
172 The Board considered the possibility of asking for an early Synod in order to seek approval
173 to appoint Rev. VanVliet as Professor of Dogmatology but decided not to do so on the
174 grounds that there was not sufficient time to allow for an appointment to be in place by
175 September 2010.

176

177 Also at its meeting of January 29th, the Board decided to seek approval from Synod 2010 to
178 appoint Rev. J. Vanvliet as Professor of Dogmatology. In a separate submission to this
179 Synod to be provided at a later date, the Board will provide a comprehensive proposal to
180 this effect.

181

182 On February 23, 2009, the Board received a letter of acceptance from Rev. VanVliet for
183 his appointment as temporary instructor in dogmatology for the 2009-2010 academic year.
184 In this way, the Lord has made it possible for the work of the College to continue without
185 interruption.

186

187 The appointment of Dr. Maris was questioned by several of the churches on the grounds
188 that he is not a member of our churches or of a church with which the Can. Ref. Churches
189 have ecclesiastical fellowship.

190

191 In its original letter (dated March 4, 2008) informing the churches of the appointment of
192 Dr. Maris, the Board indicated that while it “would have strongly preferred to find a
193 person from within our own federation or from among one of our sister churches, this
194 proved to be not possible at this time.” At the same time, the Board stated that Dr. Maris
195 was well-qualified to teach Reformed dogmatics and that he was well appreciated in the
196 Theological University of our sister churches where he has taught on various occasions.

197

198 In a follow up letter to the churches (dated May 6, 2008), the Board indicated that in
199 appointing Dr. Maris as “temporary instructor,” it had worked with the assumption that
200 there was no requirement for non-faculty, temporary instructors to be members of the
201 Canadian Reformed Churches or one of their sister churches. The same assumption has
202 been operative on many occasions in the past when guest lecturers or short term, temporary
203 instructors were appointed to speak or instruct at the College. For procedural and
204 governance purposes, these individuals have never been considered part of the Faculty and
205 they are not able to avail themselves of the regular rights and role of being a member of the
206 Faculty.

207

208 Because of the concerns of the churches, the Board engaged in closer scrutiny of the
209 College Act and the By-laws. Through this exercise, it became apparent that both the well-
210 established past practice and the recent appointment of Dr. Maris do not conform to the
211 current operating By-law. The Board now realizes that the incorporating statute (the
212 College Act which created the College) includes “instructors” as “Faculty, whereas By-
213 law 12 goes on to include “temporary instructor” as part of the “Faculty.” Since all Faculty
214 members are required to be members of the Canadian Reformed Churches or their sister
215 churches, the churches were correct in pointing out to the Board that the decision to
216 appoint Dr. Maris did not fit with By-law 12.

217

218 Despite the realization that the appointment of Dr. Maris did not fit with By-law 12, the
219 Board felt it had no choice but to make a onetime exception to the requirement as stipulated
220 in the by-law, thus allowing the appointment to stand. Before the Board appointed Dr.
221 Maris in January of 2008, the Board looked at home and abroad for scholars who could
222 help us out on short notice, who could do so for a full semester, and who have the academic
223 credentials to teach the required material. Our investigation led us to conclude that no
224 minister (or team of ministers) in our federation or of one of the sister churches was
225 available at that time to fill the vacancy from September to December of 2008. Rev. Van
226 Vliet, whom we had been able to engage for Semester II of the 2008-2009 academic year
227 was not available for Semester I.

228

229 In our May 6, 2008 letter to the churches, the Board stated the following: *The study of*
230 *dogmatics is a singular and challenging discipline. As Board, we have an obligation to see*
231 *to it that the program of instruction at the College continues at an appropriate academic*
232 *level. We believe and know that Dr. Maris has the appropriate confessional and academic*
233 *credentials to provide faithful and academically responsible education for our students.*

234 *His written material is known and has been reviewed and his character, views and*
235 *background considered. As Board we are convinced that at this critical moment there is no*
236 *other possibility for us to accomplish the goal without a significant diminishment in the*
237 *delivery of the academic curriculum.*

238

239 As Board, we now ask Synod to judge that under the difficult circumstances surrounding
240 the department of dogmatology, the appointment of Dr. J. Maris as temporary instructor in
241 dogmatology was understandable and defensible.

242

243 At the same time, the Board realizes that it needs to work toward greater clarity in the
244 governing documents of the College so that in specific and limited circumstances the
245 College is able to avail itself of the services of speakers and lecturers who do not belong to
246 the supporting churches or sister churches but whose expertise would be beneficial for the
247 program of instruction. Specifically, the Board needs to find a way to harmonize the
248 College Act and By-law 12 in regard to the terms “lecturer,” “instructor” and “temporary
249 instructor.” We hope to serve the next General Synod with a proposal in this regard.

250

251 *Department of Old Testament*

252

253 At the meeting of January 24, 2008, the Board received notice from Dr. C. Van Dam that
254 he intends to retire as Professor of Old Testament upon reaching the age of 65 in the spring
255 of 2011. The Board decided to grant Dr. Van Dam retirement upon the completion of the
256 2010-2011 academic year. At its meeting on December 11, 2008, the Board decided to
257 declare a vacancy in the Department of Old Testament effective at the beginning of the
258 2011-2012 academic year. A Search Committee (consisting of three members of the
259 Academic Committee, one member of the Finance and Property Committee as well as the
260 Principal) was appointed and the work began of researching candidates. Input was
261 received from the Senate and many of the churches. In a separate submission to be
262 provided at a later date, the Board will be seeking the approval of Synod 2010 to appoint a
263 new Professor of Old Testament.

264

265 In his letter of January 24, 2008, Dr. Van Dam also requested a sabbatical during his last
266 year of teaching. Dr. Van Dam was entitled to this sabbatical following his last term as
267 Principal but did not receive one due to the Board not being able to locate a replacement
268 instructor. Subsequent to January 24, Dr. Van Dam provided a detailed plan of the work
269 which he intends to do during his sabbatical. The Board has granted Dr. VanDam a
270 sabbatical for semester 2A and 2B of the 2010-2011 academic year.

271

272 **Support from Australia**

273

274 The bond between the College and the Free Reformed Churches of Australia (FRCA) is
275 reflected not only in the student body but also in the significant financial support received
276 from these churches. Synod 2009 of the FRCA decided to provide support at the level of
277 \$65.00 per communicant member. During the last three years, the Board was also pleased
278 to receive representation from the Deputies for the Training for the Ministry of the FRCA
279 at Board meetings and at the annual Convocation. As another indication of the bond

280 between the College and the FRCA, Dr. Van Dam has been delegated to represent the
281 College on a speaking tour in Australia in 2010. During the last three years, the Deputies
282 of the FRCA have pressed the Board of Governors to investigate possibilities in the area of
283 Distance Learning via the internet. The goal would be to allow Australian students to
284 complete at least their first year of studies at the College via distance learning, utilizing
285 technology available and in development. The position of the Board has so far been that
286 practical obstacles are prohibitive and that in any case, the classic, face to face academic
287 model of interactive education is particularly important in the preparation of pastor. In
288 the future, there will likely be more dialogue with the Deputies of the FRCA on this point
289 as it remains a matter they wish to seriously pursue.

290

291 **Staff**

292

293 *Administrative assistant*

294

295 The Board is grateful for the continued service of Ms. Catharine Mechelse in her
296 administrative role. She fulfills a variety of roles within the functioning of the College and
297 helps to ensure that all facets of the College run smoothly.

298

299 *Librarian*

300

301 We are also grateful for the faithful and professional service of our librarian, Ms. Margaret
302 Van der Velde. Each year, the Librarian files a comprehensive Report to the Board about
303 developments and changes in the Library. From these reports, it is abundantly evident that
304 the Library is well-managed and ever responsive to the needs of faculty and students as
305 well to constant changes in technology.

306

307 **Student body**

308

309 Since the last Synod, nine students have graduated from the College with the Master of
310 Divinity degree while one student received the Diploma of Theological Studies. In
311 September 2007, the Master of Divinity degree was conferred upon Mr. David DeJong, Mr.
312 Dmitri Kiselev and Mr. Jim Witteveen while the Diploma of Theological Studies was
313 awarded to Rev. Jaeman Choi. In September, 2008, three more students received the
314 degree of Master of Divinity: Mr. Rolf denHollander, Mr. Stuart Harsevoort and Mr.
315 Cornelis Kleyn. Three more students graduated with a Master of Divinity in September
316 2009: Mr. Ken Bergsma, Mr. Ryan DeJonge and Mr. Rodney Vermeulen. At the time of
317 the writing of this report, 16 students were enrolled in the Master of Divinity program
318 while two were in the Diploma of Theological Studies. In addition, there was one full
319 time auditor. Of the M. Div students, 13 were from the Canadian Reformed Churches
320 while three came from the Free Reformed Churches of Australia.

321

322 **Finance and Property**

323

324 Attached to this Report for inclusion in the *Acts of Synod* are the 2007, 2008 and 2009
325 Annual Reports of the Finance and Property Committee along with audited (as applicable)

326 Annual Financial Reports for the years 2006, 2007 and 2008. These Reports indicate that
327 the facilities of the College are functioning very well and are being kept in good repair. It
328 is also clear from the Reports that the churches continue to support the College faithfully.
329 Each year the Budget could be met. Mr. H. Salomons, C.A., functions as Auditor at
330 present. In addition, the Board also acknowledges with thankfulness the generous annual
331 contributions of the Women's Savings Action.

332 333 **Pastoral Training Program**

334
335 Synod 2007 decided that the Pastoral Training Program be kept separate from the College
336 curriculum and that it should become mandatory for all students aspiring to the ministry of
337 the Word among the Canadian Reformed Churches in accordance with the document
338 entitled "Guidelines for the Pastoral Proficiency Program" (Article 78 of the Acts,
339 Recommendation 4.10). Synod 2007 also decided to appoint a Funding Committee with
340 authority to assess the churches (Article 78, Recommendation 4.11). The Board can report
341 that the Pastoral Training Program and the new method of funding internships is working
342 well. The PTP Coordinator, Dr. A.J. de Visser, has good communication with the
343 Funding Committee appointed by the Church at Guelph. There is good cooperation from
344 the churches in finding placements for the students and the students continue to testify that
345 the benefits for them are considerable.

346 347 **Decisions of Synod 2007**

348
349 *Article 124, Acts of Synod 2007.*

350
351 Article 124 of the Acts of Synod 2007 states: "To mandate the Board of Governors of our
352 Theological College to encourage and aid the FRCSA (Free Reformed Churches of South
353 Africa) in the quest to redesign their Theological Training by serving them with advice,
354 and by extending academic backing through guest lectures, as well as assisting students
355 who may enroll here with the necessary language and social support."

356
357 At its meeting of September 6, 2007, the Board reviewed this decision of Synod. It was
358 noted that the FRCSA had been made aware of this decision of Synod 2007 and that the
359 way was therefore open for them to come to the Board or the Senate with specific requests.

360
361 At its meeting of April 21, 2008, the Board received a letter from Dr. Hannes Breytenbach,
362 National Coordinator of the Ministerial Training Structure of the FRCSA. In this letter, Dr.
363 Breytenbach requested an opportunity to meet with representatives of the College in order
364 to discuss how the ministerial training program of the FRCSA might find help in the
365 programs and expertise of the College. The Board decided to leave this matter to the
366 Senate to respond as it sees fit. The secretary of the Board advised Dr. Breytenbach to
367 contact the Senate directly.

368
369 Since that time, there has been significant dialogue between representatives of the FRCSA
370 and the Senate of the College. The Board therefore considers that it has fulfilled the
371 directives of Article 124 of the Acts of Synod 2007.

372 *Article 130 of the Acts of Synod 2007, sections 5.1 - 5.5*

373
374 This Article contains the decisions of Synod in relation to the proposal of the Board of
375 Governors to add a fifth professor to the faculty of the College. The decisions are as
376 follows:

- 377
- 378 • Not to agree with the recommendation of the Board of Governors to add a fifth
379 professor as suggested in their proposal.
- 380 • To mandate the Board of Governors, for the future well being and benefit of the
381 Theological College, to take note of the observations and considerations as listed
382 above.
- 383 • To mandate the Board of Governors to initiate a full and independent review that
384 considers all aspects related to the work of the College and that this review and its
385 recommendations be presented to General Synod 2010.
- 386 • To mandate the Board of Governors to consider alternate options for the delivery of
387 programs (for example appointment of part time lecturers) if the need arises.
- 388 • To mandate the Board of Governors to initiate a full review of the expectations of
389 faculty. This includes teaching assignments, service to the churches, and programs
390 of research.

391
392 To facilitate the implementation of these Synodical directives, the Board established a
393 Review and Accreditation Committee and decided to embark on the process of
394 accreditation with the Associations of Theological Schools (ATS) as the most suitable
395 means of obtaining a “full and independent review” of all aspects of the work of the
396 College as mandated by Synod.

397
398 At the Board meeting of September 4, 2008, the Review and Accreditation Committee
399 reported that the process of accreditation was now underway. A concern was raised at this
400 meeting that the process of accreditation with the ATS would be lengthy. It would not be
401 finalized in time for Synod 2010 but in some respects will only be starting due to the
402 protocols followed by the ATS (including self-study and visitation).

403
404 In order to allow for at least a partial review before Synod 2010, the Board, in its meeting
405 of January 29, 2009, decided to charge the Review and Accreditation Committee to
406 appoint an external committee of at least three experts in the realm of theological
407 education, preferably from the Association of Reformed Theological Seminaries (ARTS),
408 to conduct “a review of the curriculum of the Theological College and the further activities
409 of the professors with a view to assessing their workload in service of the College and the
410 churches as mandated by Synod 2007.” Further, the Board also decided that “all of this
411 will be done in addition to the accreditation program with ATS and with a deadline of
412 September 1, 2009.”

413
414 At the meeting of September 10, 2009 the Review and Accreditation Committee reported
415 to the Board that it had appointed an external committee consisting of Dr. Joel Beeke
416 (President, Puritan Reformed Theological Seminary), Dr. Michael Haykin (former
417 Principal of the Toronto Baptist Seminary and currently Professor of Church History and
418 Spirituality at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary) and Dr. Joseph Pipa (President of

419 Greenville Seminary). The external committee was asked to review the workload of the
420 faculty, taking into account not only the requirements of teaching the adopted curriculum
421 but also the demands of research, administration and the many other kinds of tasks
422 performed by faculty members. The basic task of the external committee was to determine
423 whether or not another full time faculty member is needed.
424

425 The external Committee arranged for a visit to the College in the month of July, 2009.
426 They were able to speak at length with faculty, students and members of the Review and
427 Accreditation Committee.
428

429 On August 26, 2009, Drs. Beeke, Haykin and Pipa provided a written report which was
430 shared with the Board in its meeting of September 10, 2009. While emphasizing that “so
431 much of what goes on in the College proceeds flawlessly and is in good order,” the
432 external committee presented a number of considerations and recommendations to the
433 Board which can be summarized as follows:
434

- 435 • Workload help is needed in delivering the current curriculum. The greatest need for
436 workload relief is in the area of diaconiology. The present church historian is far
437 too overworked to maintain his current pace.
- 438 • There is a need for a fifth full-time professor for the academic year 2010-2011.
439 Barring substantial growth, the school should be well situated with five professors
440 for many years to come.
- 441 • Generally, the course offerings of the College are appropriate and sufficient but
442 there are some areas of weakness which need to be addressed. The areas which
443 need to be developed are pastoral theology, missions, apologetics, philosophy and
444 spirituality.
- 445 • There is need for more help in the area of administration. The external committee
446 recommends the appointment of a full-time person to this position as soon as
447 possible.
- 448 • The principalship should be a permanent rather than rotating position and the
449 present principal should be appointed to that position. Rationale: Not everyone is
450 equally qualified for this position and too many changes from year to year in
451 leadership leave a school in a rather tenuous position.
- 452 • The Deanship should be a permanent position for similar reasons for continuity’s
453 sake. When deans rotate this can be difficult on the student body.
- 454 • The College should join the Association of Reformed Theological Schools (ARTS).
455 Being part of this body would assist the College in keeping abreast of contemporary
456 developments without in any way jeopardizing its Reformed identity
- 457 • For smoothness of operation and continuity with other seminaries, the College
458 should consider the possibility of moving to a regular two-semester-per-year
459 system, with as many annual or every other year course offerings as is feasible with
460 a small faculty.
- 461 • The College should update the College Handbook and, in the process, discuss
462 levels of expectation for continued education, study, workloads (taking into account
463 teaching loads, new preps, and administrative hours), and writing/publication of
464 faculty members.

- 465 • Having five professors would allow the College to have a bit more flexibility with
466 sabbaticals, and enable the faculty to get a bit more involved in lecturing, writing,
467 and publishing.
- 468 • Though the faculty does a good job of keeping its doors open to students, more
469 work should be done by the faculty in mentoring students.

470

471 Having considered these recommendations as well as an evaluation of them by the Review
472 and Accreditation Committee, the Board, in its meeting of September 10, 2009, decided to
473 pursue the appointment of a part-time Chief Administrative Officer who would take on
474 many of the responsibilities of the Registrar, the Dean of Students, the Principal, as well as
475 various aspects of the Pastoral Training Program. The Board also decided that it needed
476 more time to consider many of the recommendations of the external committee including
477 the main recommendation for a fifth faculty member since it is based, in part, on a
478 perceived need for additional courses (apologetics, spirituality, counseling and missiology)
479 and an otherwise expanded vision for the College. For this reason, the Board is not ready at
480 this time to make a specific proposal for a fifth professor with a particular department or
481 course load.

482

483 Even though the review and accreditation process initiated by the Board upon the
484 instruction of Synod in 2007 has not yet led to a clear direction and a concrete proposal, the
485 Board remains convinced that a fifth professor would be very beneficial for the future of
486 the College. The Board fully expects that it will be coming to Synod 2013 to seek approval
487 for the appointment of a fifth faculty member. To assist in understanding such perspective
488 and intention, the Board would like to share the main reasons for its conviction that a fifth
489 professor is warranted and desirable:

490

- 491 • While the teaching load of the faculty has not increased over the last years, the
492 maturing of the College should allow for greater specialization in the work of
493 faculty members. Continuing with the current number of faculty members is
494 possible but not ideal.
- 495 • In the past and up to the present, the wide range of subjects taught by faculty
496 members made it difficult for them to stay current in all areas of instruction
497 assigned to them and to do research.
- 498 • Increasing the number of faculty members would enable the professors to develop
499 their research and to give more substantive leadership in contemporary issues. The
500 churches would be well served by men who have time to become true experts in
501 their field of endeavor.
- 502 • Use of part time lecturers is not desirable as a long term solution; part-time lecturers
503 would in all likelihood be ministers with responsibilities in their own
504 congregations; while ministers can help in a crisis, the impact on their own
505 workload would be enormous.
- 506 • Outside experts (the external committee) from the ARTS have indicated that a fifth
507 professor is highly recommended.
- 508 • The ATs has already indicated that it expects six professors as a minimum.
- 509 • The subject matter of the professor of ecclesiology and diaconology is too large;
510 he is required to teach many subjects which are not naturally unified as are the

511 disciplines taught by the professors of OT and NT and Dogmatology. His current
512 responsibilities include Introduction to Diaconology, Homiletics, Sermon Session,
513 Catechetics, Liturgics, Church History, Poimenics, Missiology and oversight of
514 the Pastoral Training Program.

- 515 • The College has been in existence for 40 years but has not developed a legacy of
516 written materials for the benefit of future students and for the churches; this lack
517 can be attributed in large measure to workload issues.
- 518 • While the number of faculty has not increased for many years, the supporting
519 churches have seen substantial growth which would seem to indicate that it would
520 be possible for the churches to financially support a fifth professorate.
- 521 • There is a need to expand existing courses and develop new courses particularly in
522 the areas of missions, apologetics and pastoral theology.
- 523 • Considering the importance of homiletics, we need to ensure that the professor
524 teaching this discipline has sufficient time for his work and for ongoing
525 development of the curriculum.

526
527 In view of the above information, the Board considers that it has only partially fulfilled the
528 mandate found in sections 5.3 – 5.5 of Article 130 of Synod 2007 and requests Synod 2010
529 to renew this mandate.

530
531 *Article 130 of the Acts of Synod 2007, section 5.6*

532
533 This part of the decision mandated “the Board of Governors to review the appointment
534 procedure for faculty members to insure transparency within the generally accepted
535 academic appointment process. This review should include the possibility of appointing an
536 academic search committee and a short list of candidates to be presented to the churches.”

537
538 On September 4, 2008, upon recommendation of the Governance Committee (a sub-
539 committee of the Board which records and establishes policies and procedures for the
540 Board), the Board adopted an appointment process which includes the use of a Search
541 Committee comprised of members of the Academic Committee and the Finance and
542 Property Committee as well as the Principal; in addition, the appointment process involves
543 input from the churches and from the Senate, interviews with potential candidates and a
544 short list of candidates to be presented to delegates to Synod 1-2 weeks before Synod with
545 one preferred choice indicated by the Board.

546
547 It should be noted that this new appointment process was adopted after the decision to
548 appoint Rev. J. VanVliet as temporary instructor but has been implemented after a vacancy
549 was declared in the department of Old Testament.

550
551 The Board considers that this decision satisfies the mandate set forth in point 5.6 of Article
552 130 of the Acts of Synod 2007.

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557 **By-law Number 12**

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559 Since the last Synod, the Board of Governors has dealt with four matters that required an
560 amendment to By-law Number 12. These changes have been approved by the Board, but
561 since all by-law changes need to be approved by general synod we hereby submit them for
562 approval. They are as follows:
563

564 **1. Amendment by way of an addition to section 13.10 of operating by-law no. 12.**

- 565 a. The change is to add as subparagraph (d) to section 13.10 the following:
566 *(d) Notwithstanding the provisions of subparagraphs (a), (b) and (c) of this*
567 *section 13.10, the amount of any pension or other allowance paid to a*
568 *professor, his wife and to or in respect of any dependants by the*
569 *Government of Canada or by any province or municipality or any agency*
570 *thereof shall include any and all amounts that would be paid but are not*
571 *as a result of :*
- 572 i. *the net income of the professor, his widow or his dependants, as the*
573 *case may be, exceeding the threshold amount determined by the tax*
574 *authorities from time to time whereby such entitlement for any such*
575 *pension or allowance is not paid, either in whole or in part; or*
 - 576 ii. *any other action of the professor, his widow or his dependants which*
577 *is entirely within the control and discretion of such professor, widow*
578 *or dependants, as the case may be."*
- 579 b. Explanatory Note: The current by-law references a deduction for any
580 pension or other allowance "paid" to a professor, widow or to or in respect
581 of dependants. There are and could be circumstances where a professor,
582 widow or dependants are not actually paid such pension or allowances
583 where the tax filing position and income exceeds the threshold set by
584 Canada Revenue Agency and such pensions or allowances are in effect
585 "clawed back" and not "paid". The rationale for the amendment is that such
586 additional income and claw back is driven by the personal circumstances,
587 income and tax filing of the professor, widow or dependants and the College
588 should still receive a "notional" credit for such payments which would
589 otherwise have been paid.
- 590 c. This change was approved by the Board of Governors in its meeting of
591 January 21, 2008.

592 **2. Amendment by way of an addition to section 11.02(b) of operating By-law no.**
593 **12.**

- 594 a. The change is to add to this section the words "have not reached age 76" so
595 that the amended section will read: *Members of the Senate shall remain*
596 *members as long as they meet one or more of the conditions set out in*
597 *section 11.02(a), have not reached age 76, and provided they are a member*
598 *of the faculty in good standing.*
- 599 b. Grounds:
- 600 i. Since the Board appoints a retired faculty member to the Senate it
601 should also be the Board that determines how long this member
602 should serve. There is no other instance or provision in the Act or the
603 By-law in which the Board makes "indefinite" appointments (e.g., a

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professor is required to retire before age 71) and the Board should not do so when it comes to members of the Senate.

- ii. By-law 12 is the current operating By-law that has combined all the provisions that were drafted in the earlier years of the College’s existence (old By-law 4 regarding the Senate was adopted in January 1986) and at that time the matter of retirement from the Senate may not have had sufficient attention. Now is the time to update the By-law so that Synod 2010 can approve the addition of an age limit for serving on the Senate.
- iii. There is simple wisdom in imposing an age limit for serving on the Senate just as there is an age limit for serving as professor before reaching age 71.
- iv. Sooner or later, age brings with it limitations that are not always recognized by the person who is affected by them but which are observed by others. It would be the responsibility of other Senate members to inform a colleague that he is no longer functioning optimally and suggest “retirement”. This unpleasant duty would not be the case if the person must retire by age 76 while still vigorous and alert.

- c. This change was approved by the Board of Governors in its meeting of September 10, 2009.

3. Correction to section 3.08 of operating By-law no. 12

- a. The change is to correct the reference to Section Eleven to read Section Seventeen
- b. Section 3.08 currently reads: Calling of Meeting – Meetings of the Board shall be held from time to time at such time and on such day as the Board, the Chairman, any officer with the concurrence of the Executive Committee, or any four (4) Governors may determine. Notice of the time and place of every meeting so called shall be given in the manner provided in Section Eleven to each Governor, not less than seven (7) days before the time when the meeting is to be held. No notice of a meeting ...
- c. Section 3.08 should read: Calling of Meeting – Meetings of the Board shall be held from time to time at such time and on such day as the Board, the Chairman, any officer with the concurrence of the Executive Committee, or any four (4) Governors may determine. Notice of the time and place of every meeting so called shall be given in the manner provided in Section Seventeen to each Governor, not less than seven (7) days before the time when the meeting is to be held. No notice of a meeting ...
- d. Explanatory Note: Since Section 11 deals with the Senate, this reference is clearly incorrect. The correct reference is to Section 17 –Notices.
- e. This change was approved by the Board of Governors in its meeting of September 10, 2009.

4. Amendment by way of the deletion of section 12.03 from operating By-law no. 12 and subsequent required re-numbering of the other sections.

- a. Introduction
 - i. By-law 12.03 states the following: *“Counseling – The Academic Committee shall appoint not less than one person from among its*

651 *members and not less than one member of the faculty, to form a*
652 *Committee to counsel an applicant for admission to the College*
653 *concerning the significance of his studies as preparatory to the*
654 *office to which he aspires and shall examine him on his knowledge*
655 *of the Word of God and the confession and government of the*
656 *churches and church history. The Committee shall, from time to*
657 *time, report in writing to the Senate and the Academic Committee on*
658 *each applicant counseled and examined.*

659 ii. By-law 12.03 has been implemented by the applicant being
660 interviewed on the day of the September Board meeting by one of
661 the Governors and a member of the Senate. Such an interview lasts
662 15 – 20 minutes. A brief report is presented to the Board the same
663 night, at which time formal admission to the College is granted by
664 the Board.

665 b. Considerations.

666 i. By-law 12.03 has as context various by-laws dealing with admission
667 of students to the college. Given that context, as well as given the
668 wording of By-law 12.03 itself, it is clear that the “counseling”
669 required by this by-law pertains to admission of students to the
670 college.

671 ii. The Board has assigned the Senate the responsibility to deal with
672 admissions [By-Law 11.05 (a)]. The involvement of the Board in the
673 admission process, both by involvement of its members in the
674 counseling, and by actually granting the admission, prevents the
675 Board from truly being objective in handling of an appeal from a
676 student denied admission by the Senate as specified in By-law 11.05
677 (b).

678 c. Recommendation: Delete By-law 12-03.

679 d. This change was approved by the Board of Governors in its meeting of
680 September 10, 2009.

681 **Bachelor of Theology Program.**

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683
684 At the meeting of January 29, 2009, the Board adopted a proposal from the Senate to
685 implement a B. Th. program for the Theological College. This is a three year degree
686 program for those who have been unable to meet the requirements for the M.Div. program
687 but who would like to prepare for or further equip themselves for full-time work in the
688 church. Receiving a B.Th. degree would not qualify a student for admission to the M.Div.
689 programs. Students who wish to serve in the ministry of the Word in their own churches
690 will be responsible to ascertain whether or not the B.Th. program will be sufficient.

691 **Name change**

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694 In its meeting of September 10, 2009, the Board adopted a proposal to change the name by
695 which the College operates or is known from “The Theological College of the Canadian
696 Reformed Churches” to “Canadian Reformed Theological Seminary.” As the College was

697 created by way of a private act of the legislature in Ontario, the legal name would not
698 change. The College would simply operate under a different style or operative name.

699

700 The Board felt that the while the current name clearly indicates the connection to the
701 churches, it is rarely used because it is too long and unwieldy; instead of using the full
702 name, people frequently refer to our institution simply as “the Theological College” or as
703 “the Theological College in Hamilton” – names which are too generic and vague. In
704 addition, the Board considered that the current name reflects historical connections to the
705 seminary of our sister church in Kampen, the Netherlands (“Theologische School van de
706 Gereformeerde Kerken in Nederland”). However, after forty years the Theological College
707 stands on its own feet and the connections with ‘Kampen’ are not as strong as they used to
708 be. It is time to consider what kind of name ‘works’ well in the North American context.
709 Advantages of the proposed new name are:

710

- 711 • The identity of the College is clearly indicated by the words “Canadian Reformed.”
- 712 • The educational character of the College is highlighted with the words “Theological
713 Seminary.” The word ‘seminary’ points to the goal of preparing students for the
714 ministry of the Word. The word ‘theological’ indicates that we aim to do this at an
715 academic level.
- 716 • The length of the name is brought back from seven to four words.
- 717 • The character of the name is in line with current North American usage.
- 718 • Though modernized and ‘Canadianized’, the new name retains the essentials of the
719 old name. The Board is confident that the churches will readily embrace the new
720 name.
- 721 • This name is already being used informally.

722

723 The Board therefore asks Synod to approve this name change with the understanding that
724 the legal name of the College will not change since it is embedded in the College Act
725 which can be changed only by the Legislature of the Province of Ontario.

726

727 **Recommendations**

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- 729 1. To receive this report and all its appendices.
- 730 2. To acknowledge the expiration of the term of office of Dr. G. Nederveen, Mr.
731 G.Nordeman and Rev. R. Schouten and to express gratitude for their work.
732 Further, to express gratitude for the contributions of Rev. G. Ph. VanPopta who
733 resigned from the Board in 2007.
- 734 3. Pursuant to Section 5(2) of the Act and Section 3.04 of By-Law 3:
 - 735 a. To appoint, elect or re-appoint six active ministers to hold office until the
736 next General Synod and to appoint at least three substitutes from each
737 Regional Synod area, keeping in mind that the By-laws prohibit anyone
738 serving more than three consecutive terms and also keeping in mind the
739 following:
 - 740 i. The following brothers were appointed by Synod 2004 and are
741 eligible to be reappointed for one more term: from Regional Synod

- 742 West, Rev. W. Slomp; from Regional Synod East, Rev. J.
743 VanWoudenberg.
- 744 ii. The following brothers were appointed by Synod 2007 and are
745 eligible for reappointment: from Regional Synod West, Dr. A. J.
746 Pol; from Regional Synod East, Rev. E. Kampen (appointed by
747 Synod as a substitute but now serving on the Board).
- 748 b. To reappoint brs. A. Bax and H. Kampen as Governors for a term lasting
749 until the second subsequent General Synod.
- 750 c. To reappoint brs. L. Jagt and K. Veldkamp as Governors for a term lasting
751 from the date of re-appointment until the next subsequent General Synod.
- 752 d. To appoint one new non-ministerial Governor for a term lasting from the
753 date of appointment until the third subsequent General Synod, with a
754 standby replacement candidate as well. The Board recommendation for this
755 appointment can be found in a separate letter which also contains a
756 curriculum vita.
- 757 4. To express gratitude for the help of Rev. P. Feenstra, Rev. E. Kampen Prof. J.
758 Geertsema, Dr. J. Maris and Rev. J. VanVliet during the illness of Dr. N.H.
759 Gootjes.
- 760 5. To request the churches to continue to remember in their prayers the needs of Mrs.
761 K. Deddens, Dr. and Mrs. J. DeJong, Dr. and Mrs. N.H. Gootjes and Prof. and Mrs.
762 J. Geertsema.
- 763 6. To judge that under the circumstances surrounding the department of dogmatology
764 and in view of the lengthy past practice of inviting guest speakers and guest
765 lecturers who are not members of the Canadian Reformed Churches or their sister
766 churches, the appointment of Dr. J. Maris as temporary instructor in dogmatology
767 was understandable and defensible.
- 768 7. To approve the granting of tenure to Dr. A.J. de Visser and to Dr. G.H. Visscher.
- 769 8. To approve the appointment of Dr. J. VanVliet as Professor of Dogmatology.
- 770 9. To approve the retirement of Dr. C. VanDam and to express deep gratitude for
771 thirty years of faithful and diligent service to the College and the Churches as
772 Professor of Old Testament.
- 773 10. To approve the appointment of a new Professor of Old Testament in accordance
774 with the recommendation of the Board contained in a submission separate from this
775 Report.
- 776 11. To appoint Prof. G.H. Visscher as Principal for the years 2011-2014.
- 777 12. To approve the College continuing under the operative name of “Canadian
778 Reformed Theological Seminary” without any change to its legal name.
- 779 13. To approve the changes to By-law 12 described in this report.
- 780 14. To renew the mandate given to Board in sections 5.3 – 5.5 of Article 130 of the
781 Acts of Synod 2007.
- 782 15. To agree that the Board has completed the mandate given in section 5.6 of Article
783 130 of the Acts of Synod 2007.
- 784 16. To agree that the Board has completed the directives of Article 124 of Acts of
785 Synod 2007.
- 786 17. To recommend for the consideration of the churches the reasons given in this report
787 for the eventual appointment of a fifth professor and to seek the direction of the
788 churches in that regard.

- 789 18. To approve all other decisions and actions of the Board and of its committees for
790 the years 2007, 2008 and 2009 until the date of this Report.
- 791 19. To express gratitude for the support from the Free Reformed Churches in Australia.
- 792 20. To consider the audited financial statements and the report of the Auditors for the
793 previous fiscal periods; to relieve the Treasurer of the Board of all responsibilities
794 for these fiscal periods; to reappoint br. H. Solomons as Auditor until the next
795 General Synod.
- 796 21. To acknowledge with gratitude the enormous contributions of the Women's
797 Savings Action to the well-being of the College.
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TWENTY-FIFTH ANNUAL REPORT

of the

FINANCE AND PROPERTY COMMITTEE

PRESENTED TO THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS

of the

THEOLOGICAL COLLEGE

of the

CANADIAN REFORMED CHURCHES

Hamilton, Ontario, Canada

September 2007

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September 6, 2007

The Board of Governors of the Theological College
of the Canadian Reformed Churches

Esteemed Brothers:

The Finance and Property Committee (“the committee”) of the Theological College of the Canadian Reformed Churches is pleased to submit the Twenty-fifth Annual Report covering the period June 13, 2006 – June 3, 2007.

1. GENERAL ACTIVITIES

The committee is pleased to report that the Lord enabled the members to meet four times over the year under review. The committee consisted of brs. K.J. Veldkamp, chairman, G.J. Nordeman, secretary, W. Oostdyk, treasurer, and two members-at-large L. Jagt and Wm. Smouter. All members were present at each meeting. In view of the upcoming retirement of the brothers W. Oostdyk and W. Smouter, Synod Smithers 2007 appointed br. A.J. Bax and br. H.C. Kampen as governors to serve on the Finance & Property Committee. These two men attended the June meeting of the committee as observers. We thank the brs. Oostdyk and Smouter for the dedication with which they served the committee in various capacities, including terms as treasurer and secretary respectively and for the work they tirelessly performed for the College.

Consistent with By-law 4: 6.1 (d), three meetings were also attended by the principal, Dr. N.H. Gootjes and one meeting by the vice-principal, Prof. G.H. Visscher acting as liaison with the Senate.

Applications for permanent residency for Dr. de Visser and his family were approved by the Canadian authorities. Dr. de Visser expressed his thankfulness to the committee for the assistance provided in this process.

Minutes of our meetings have been circulated to all members of the Board of Governors, the Principal of the College, and to the Deputies for the Training for the Ministry of the Free Reformed Churches of Australia.

2. PHYSICAL PROPERTY AND MAINTENANCE

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The committee continues to be of the opinion that it is very important that all repairs and renovations be performed while keeping in mind the long-term objectives of the College and its financial resources.

Routine maintenance was attended to. However, a number of costly repairs needed to be taken care of that incurred expenses beyond what was budgeted. A basement wall had started to bulge and because of the constructional significance an engineering report and building permit were required in order to make the necessary repairs. The final bill exceeded \$21,000.

The flat roof of the college, which had last been repaired in 1992, needs to be completely redone before the end of 2007 at a cost that will exceed \$23,000. It is for these unexpected major expenses that the college reserves cash in its Capital Fund.

3. **FINANCES RELATING TO THE FACULTY AND STAFF**

Consistent with Synod directives the salaries of the professors were reviewed. Adjustments were made to maintain Synod's intent that these salaries provide a disposable income comparable to that of ministers in the Hamilton/Burlington area. The result was an approximately 2% increase in salaries for the year 2007.

The committee continued to spend considerable time dealing with the long-term disability of Dr. De Jong. The committee has exercised discretion in this matter with a view to the wellbeing of Dr. de Jong and his family, but at the same time operating within the limits of its mandate and the employment arrangements that exists between Dr. de Jong and the College.

At the present we support one professor-emeritus, one professor on long-term disability leave, and Mrs. Faber, the widow of the late Prof. Dr. J. Faber.

Ms. C. Mechelse and Ms. M. Vander Velde continue to serve us in capacities as Administrative Assistant and Librarian respectively. The staff's salaries were reviewed and adjusted in accordance with the established schedules. The annual performance review conducted by the principal is an important factor in this process.

4. **FINANCES**

We may thankfully report that the churches continue to support the College faithfully including the continued substantial contributions of our sister churches in Australia. Mr. Henry Salomons has been our auditor for the past five and a half years and we are thankful for his professional advice and assistance to the College. It should be noted that Mr. Salomons is engaged to *review* the Financial Statements of the College and not to perform an *audit*.

990 We continue to appreciate the good work of Mrs. Karen Schuurman, who was
991 appointed on a part-time contractual basis to provide support keeping the financial
992 books of the College.

993
994 You will have received separately the College's financial statement for the year
995 ended December 31, 2006.

996
997 The College remains in good standing with Canada Revenue Agency and maintains
998 its status as a charitable and not-for-profit institution.

999
1000 The College has also been the recipient of donations over and above the
1001 contributions of the churches. These are always gratefully received and we give
1002 thanks to our Heavenly Father for His continued blessings.

1003
1004 The Foreign Student Bursary Fund continued to receive sufficient support to allow
1005 it to support two foreign students this year. However, because of the departure of
1006 one and the graduation of the other student, the regular advertisements promoting
1007 the Fund, has been stopped till we receive new students under this program.

1008
1009 A video camera was purchased for the purpose of recording student sermon
1010 sessions. The results have proven to be very satisfactory.

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1013 5. **TUITION FEES**

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1015 Tuition fees remain the same for next year. The fees of \$2,000.00 per year for the
1016 academic years of 2005 – 2008 were set and approved by the Board of Governors at
1017 its September 2005 meeting.

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1020 6. **BUDGET**

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1022 The budget for the year 2007 was submitted to, and approved by the Board of
1023 Governors in September 2006. We are pleased to confirm that this budget required
1024 no increase in contributions of the churches and remained at \$66.00 per
1025 communicant member. Financial statements for the year 2005 were approved by the
1026 Board of Governors and were sent to the churches in September 2006. A draft
1027 budget for the year 2008 was drawn up this past June, which includes a
1028 recommendation to increase the assessments by \$3.00 to \$69.00 per communicant
1029 member.

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7. **CONCLUSION**

With thankfulness and in humility we render all honour and glory to Christ, the Head of the Church, who again was pleased to enable the entire College community to work for the benefit of our congregations, especially in Canada, the United States, Australia, and abroad in the mission fields.

This report is respectfully submitted this 6th day of September 2007 A.D.

With brotherly greetings,
Yours in Christ,
The Finance and Property Committee
of the Board of Governors of the
Theological College of the
Canadian Reformed Churches

L. Jagt

G.J. Nordeman, Secretary

W. Oostdyk, Treasurer

W. Smouter

K.J. Veldkamp, Chairman

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TWENTY-SIXTH ANNUAL REPORT

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Of the

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FINANCE AND PROPERTY COMMITTEE

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PRESENTED TO THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS

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THEOLOGICAL COLLEGE

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CANADIAN REFORMED CHURCHES

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Hamilton, Ontario, Canada

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September 2008

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September 4, 2008

The Board of Governors of the Theological College
of the Canadian Reformed Churches

Esteemed Brothers:

The Finance and Property Committee (“the committee”) of the Theological College of the Canadian Reformed Churches is pleased to submit the Twenty-sixth Annual Report covering the period June 4, 2007 – June 25, 2008.

1. **GENERAL ACTIVITIES**

The committee is pleased to report that the Lord enabled the members to meet six times over the year under review. The committee consisted of brs. K.J. Veldkamp, chairman, A.J. Bax, secretary, H.C. Kampen, treasurer, and two members-at-large L. Jagt and G.J. Nordeman. All members were present at each meeting.

Consistent with By-law 4: 6.1 (d), two meetings were also attended by the principal, Dr. N.H. Gootjes and by the vice-principal, Prof. G.H. Visscher and four meetings were attended by Prof. G.H. Visscher alone – one as designate Principal and three as Principal, acting as liaison with the Senate.

As requested by the Board, the committee has made arrangements for Dr. Maris to come to Canada for the September to December 2008 term. This was necessary because of Dr. Gootjes health issues and his inability to teach for the fall semester. All arrangements are in place for Dr. Maris and his wife. Arrangements are also well underway to have Rev. Van Vliet join the College for the January to May 2009 time frame.

Minutes of our meetings have been circulated to all members of the Board of Governors, the Principal of the College, and to the Deputies for the Training for the Ministry of the Free Reformed Churches of Australia.

2. **PHYSICAL PROPERTY AND MAINTENANCE**

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The committee continues to be of the opinion that it is very important that all repairs and renovations be performed while keeping in mind the long-term objectives of the College and its financial resources.

Routine maintenance was attended to. A few projects needed to be taken care of that incurred expenses beyond what was budgeted.

- A meeting room upstairs had a window installed and was converted to the Principal's office. This allowed for better space utilization and a more logical layout.
- Blinds were replaced in the lobby, three classrooms and the lounge
- The meeting room downstairs was painted and the ceiling was replaced.

3. **FINANCES RELATING TO THE FACULTY AND STAFF**

Consistent with Synod directives the salaries of the professors were reviewed. Adjustments were made to maintain Synod's intent that these salaries provide a disposable income comparable to that of ministers in the Hamilton/Burlington area. The result was an approximately 1.4% increase in salaries for the year 2008.

The committee continued to spend considerable time dealing with the long-term disability of Dr. De Jong. The committee has exercised discretion in this matter with a view to the wellbeing of Dr. De Jong and his family, but at the same time operating within the limits of its mandate and the employment arrangements that exists between Dr. De Jong and the College.

At the present we support one professor-emeritus, one professor on long-term disability leave, one professor on extended sick leave and Mrs. Faber, the widow of the late Prof. Dr. J. Faber. Application has been made to also receive disability benefits for Dr. Gootjes.

Ms. C. Mechelse and Ms. M. Vander Velde continue to serve us in capacities as Administrative Assistant and Librarian respectively. The staff's salaries were reviewed and adjusted in accordance with the established schedules. The annual performance review conducted by the Principal is an important factor in this process.

4. **FINANCES**

We may thankfully report that the churches continue to support the College faithfully including the continued substantial contributions of our sister churches in Australia. Mr. Henry Salomons has been our auditor for the past six and a half years and we are thankful for his professional advice and assistance to the College. It should be noted that Mr. Salomons is engaged to audit the Financial

1206 Statements of the College this year rather than „review“ them. This was done in order
1207 to meet the requirements of the Act and the By-Laws which state that an audit
1208 is required.

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1210 We continue to appreciate the good work of Mrs. Karen Schuurman, who was
1211 appointed on a part-time contractual basis to provide support keeping the financial
1212 books of the College.

1213
1214 You will have received separately the College’s financial statement for the year
1215 ended December 31, 2007.

1216
1217 The College remains in good standing with Canada Revenue Agency and
1218 maintains its status as a charitable and not-for-profit institution.

1219
1220 The College has also been the recipient of donations over and above the
1221 contributions of the churches. These are always gratefully received and we give
1222 thanks to our Heavenly Father for His continued blessings.

1223
1224 The Foreign Student Bursary Fund continued to have sufficient support to allow it
1225 to support foreign students should this be necessary. However, because there are
1226 currently no students receiving support, the regular advertisements promoting the
1227 Fund, has been stopped till we receive new students under this program.

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1229
1230 **5. TUITION FEES**

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1232 A proposal to increase Tuition fees has been presented to the Board. The fees of
1233 \$2,000.00 per year for the academic years of 2005 – 2008 were set and approved
1234 by the Board of Governors at its September 2005 meeting. The proposed fees
1235 effective for the academic year starting September 2008 to 2011 are \$2200.

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1239 **6. BUDGET**

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1241 The budget for the year 2008 was submitted to, and approved by the Board of
1242 Governors in September 2007. The Financial statements for the year 2006 were
1243 approved by the Board of Governors and were sent to the churches in September
1244 2007. A draft budget for the year 2009 was drawn up this past June, which
1245 maintains the assessments at \$69.00 per communicant member.

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7. **CONCLUSION**

With thankfulness and in humility we render all honour and glory to Christ, the Head of the Church, who again was pleased to enable the entire College community to work for the benefit of our congregations, especially in Canada, the United States, Australia, and abroad in the mission fields.

This report is respectfully submitted this 4th day of September 2008

A.D. With brotherly greetings,
Yours in Christ,
The Finance and Property Committee
of the Board of Governors of the
Theological College of the
Canadian Reformed Churches

A.J. Bax, Secretary

L. Jagt

H. Kampen, Treasurer

G.J. Nordeman

K.J. Veldkamp, Chairman

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TWENTY-SEVENTH ANNUAL REPORT

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Of the

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FINANCE AND PROPERTY COMMITTEE

PRESENTED TO THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS

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Of the

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THEOLOGICAL COLLEGE

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Of the

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CANADIAN REFORMED CHURCHES

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Hamilton, Ontario, Canada

September 2009

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September 10, 2009

The Board of Governors of the Theological College
of the Canadian Reformed Churches

Esteemed Brothers:

The Finance and Property Committee (“the committee”) of the Theological College of the Canadian Reformed Churches is pleased to submit the Twenty-seventh Annual Report covering the period June 25th 2008 to June 16th 2009.

1. **GENERAL ACTIVITIES**

The committee is pleased to report that the Lord enabled the members to meet four times over the year under review. The committee consisted of brs. K.J. Veldkamp, chairman, A.J. Bax, secretary, H.C. Kampen, treasurer, and two members-at-large L. Jagt and G.J. Nordeman. All members were present at each meeting except for one meeting where one member was absent with notification.

Consistent with By-law 4: 6.1 (d), four meetings were also attended by the principal, Prof. G.H. Visscher, acting as liaison with the Senate.

The arrangements for temporary instructors, Dr Maris from September to December 2008 and Rev. Van Vliet from January to May 2009 were completed successfully.

Dr. N. H. Gootjes continues to struggle with his health. This prevents him from returning to his teaching duties. The committee continues to work with and monitor this situation with respect to obtaining an appropriate medical report to support a disability claim with our insurance company.

In light of Dr. Gootjes current inability to carry out his duties and the Board’s appointment of Rev. Van Vliet as temporary Instructor for the 2009- 2010 school year, the committee has made financial arrangements with the Surrey congregation for Rev. Van Vliet to assume his duties at the college and has arranged for his move from Surrey to his new home in the Hamilton area

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2. **PHYSICAL PROPERTY AND MAINTENANCE**

The committee continues to be of the opinion that it is very important that all repairs and renovations be performed while keeping in mind the long-term objectives of the College and its financial resources.

Routine maintenance was attended to. A few projects needed to be taken care of that incurred expenses beyond what was budgeted.

- A meeting room upstairs had a window installed and was converted to the Principal's office. This allowed for better space utilization and a more logical layout.
- A new Faculty lounge was created from existing space.
- Repairs were made to the front entrance.
- Blinds were replaced in the lobby, three classrooms and the lounge
- The meeting room downstairs was painted and the ceiling was replaced.

3. **FINANCES RELATING TO THE FACULTY AND STAFF**

Consistent with Synod directives the salaries of the professors were reviewed. Adjustments were made to maintain Synod's intent that these salaries provide a disposable income comparable to that of ministers in the Hamilton/Burlington area. The result was an approximately 1.3% increase in salaries for the year 2009.

The committee continued to spend considerable time dealing with the long-term disability of Dr. De Jong. The committee has exercised discretion in this matter with a view to the wellbeing of Dr. De Jong and his family, but at the same time operating within the limits of its mandate and the employment arrangements that exists between Dr. De Jong and the College.

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1436 performance review conducted by the Principal is an important factor in this
1437 process.

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1439 4. **FINANCES**

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1442 faithfully including the continued substantial contributions of our sister churches
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1444 half years and we are thankful for his professional advice and assistance to the
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1446 Statements of the College for the year 2008 rather than being engaged only to
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1451 books of the College.

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1465 not been any students receiving support, the regular advertisements promoting the
1466 Fund, has been stopped till we receive new students under this program. We are
1467 currently reviewing one student for eligibility for support from the fund. If this
1468 proceeds there are adequate funds for support at present.

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1471 5. **TUITION FEES**

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1473 The tuition fees effective for the academic year starting September 2008 to 2011
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1479 6. **BUDGET**
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1489 7. **CONCLUSION**

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1491 With thankfulness and in humility we render all honour and glory to Christ, the
1492 Head of the Church, who again was pleased to enable the entire College
1493 community to work for the benefit of our congregations, especially in Canada,
1494 the United States, Australia, and abroad in the mission fields.

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1496 This report is respectfully submitted this 10th day of September 2009

1497 A.D. With brotherly greetings,
1498 Yours in Christ,
1499 The Finance and Property
1500 Committee of the Board of
1501 Governors of the Theological
1502 College of the
1503 Canadian Reformed Churches

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1512 A.J. Bax, Secretary

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1520 H. Kampen, Treasurer

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1528 K.J. Veldkamp, Chairman

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