

## APPENDIX VII

### BOARD OF GOVERNORS

To the General Synod 1974 - Toronto, Ontario

July 24, 1974

Dear Brethren,

The Board of Governors of the Theological College submit to you the following report.

#### MEETINGS

Since the General Synod 1971, the Board held three meetings: on October 22, 1971, September 14, 1972, and September 12, 13, and 14, 1973. Two times the Board of Governors and the Board of Trustees met in a combined meeting, namely on October 23, 1971, and on September 14, 1973. It is the Board's intention to have another meeting shortly before Synod 1974 begins.

At the first meeting after Synod 1971, the Rev. W. Loopstra resigned as President and the Rev. D. VanderBoom as Secretary. An election resulted in Rev. D. VanderBoom becoming President, Rev. W.W.J. VanOene becoming Secretary, and Rev. J. Mulder becoming Vice-President. Elections at subsequent meetings had the same outcome so that the same persons still serve in the same capacity.

The joint meetings with the Board of Trustees regarded mainly the financial aspects of the operation of the College and the revision of the Constitutive Documents; a draft of the Revised Constitutive Documents has already been sent to Synod.

#### MEMBERSHIP

The Board recall with gratitude the dedication of the late Rev. H.A. Stel. His failing health did not prevent him from showing a lively interest in the matters concerning our College to the very last. At his funeral, the Board were represented by the Vice-president and the Secretary. The President was scheduled to arrive in time for the funeral, but when, due to delays caused by the Christmas rush and the Montreal weather conditions, his plane was delayed for several hours, he had to cancel his reservation.

In harmony with the decision of Synod 1971, the Rev. M. VanderWel filled the vacancy.

The Rev. W. Loopstra left for an extended trip, and so did the Rev. A.B. Roukema, the first choice of alternate. Thus the Rev. P. Kingma took part in the deliberations and decisions from September 1973 till April 1974, when the Rev. W. Loopstra returned.

No further changes have occurred in the membership of the Board.

#### BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The Board expect Synod to be in the possession of the copies of documents which the Board of Trustees have sent in compliance with Article XII, sub 1, 1, of the Constitution, and therefore deem themselves free from the obligation to quote extensively from those documents.

Much to his regret - and no less to that of the Board of Trustees and of the Board of Governors - Mr. A.H. Oosterhoff was compelled, upon the advice of his physician, to relinquish his post as Secretary of the Board of Trustees. This function was taken over by Mr. J. Medemblik.

This is the proper place to express the gratitude of the Board of Governors for all Mr. Oosterhoff has done as Secretary of the Board of Trustees and for his work in drafting the revision of the Constitutive Documents, submitted to Synod for its approval.

In this report to Synod, the Board of Governors may draw the attention especially to the following particulars from the minutes and reports of the Board of Trustees.

The Board of Trustees met on a regular basis, and it is for a very large extent through the labours and activities of the Board of Trustees that the operation of the College was rather smooth. The Board of Trustees endeavoured to safeguard the interests of the Faculty, the Students, and the Churches all at the same time.

The accumulated surplus helped keep the contributions by the Churches down, at least during the years 1971 and 1972. For the year 1973 an increase could not be avoided. By some, the authority of the Board of Governors and of the Board of Trustees to increase the amount to be contributed, was challenged. In the Draft Constitutive Documents provision has been made for this, so that misunderstandings are avoided. Another difficulty was that the salaries of the Faculty were fixed by Synod and that no provision exists for an eventual increase to keep abreast of the cost of living. A solution was found in granting the Professors an extra allowance over 1974 of 15% of the basic salary; these 15% were deemed reasonable, seeing that the professors' salaries were still on the 1971 level. A proposal regarding these salaries will be found below.

The Board wish to underline the following reminder by the Board of Trustees: We therefore again remind the Churches that the College cannot function without a regular source of funds and this requires at least a quarterly remittance to the Treasurer.

The Board of Trustees also had the driveway on the property widened and paved, by which widening additional parking space has been provided.

Student accommodation is still provided; a small fee is charged for this, which is applied against the cost of cleaning.

The library facilities in the basement have been expanded and the valuable assistance of Mrs. J. Faber should not be unmentioned.

The Savings Action of the sisters throughout the Churches has resulted in an increase of the funds available for the library and its future accommodation. Besides, the building itself has acquired a "homelier" character by additional carpeting and drapes. The sisters also presented the College with various teaching aids, and their whole endeavour also means a lightening of the burdens carried by the Board of Trustees.

With gratitude it may be mentioned that no difficulties whatsoever have arisen between the Board of Governors and the Board of Trustees. The Board of Governors wish to express their heartfelt appreciation of the work done by the Board of Trustees, without whose constant endeavours the daily operation of the College would have been impossible.

## FACULTY

All that has been remarked above does not mean that the labours of the Faculty are minimized or slighted. On the contrary: the Board are very grateful to the Lord and King of the Church that they may report that the Board found the Faculty faithful in adhering to the Truth of God, revealed in His Word and summarized in the Confessions of the Church, in all their teaching. The lectures which some Board-members attended gave evidence of this. It is deplorable that the members of the Board who live in Western Canada are unable to visit the lectures, due to the costs involved.

The Rev. Professor Drs. H.M. Ohmann, Lic., was installed on October 22, 1971, on which occasion he delivered an inaugural address on "Blood Vengeance, City of Refuge, and Death of the High Priest". The Board request that Synod grant Professor Ohmann permanent tenure.

With gratitude the Board take note of it that all three Professors and the Lecturer the Rev. G. VanDooren were enabled by the Lord our God to fulfil the duties of their office at our College almost uninterruptedly. At the installation of Professor Ohmann, the second Lecturer, the Rev. H. Scholten, was prevented by illness from attending. It was not until the fall of 1972, that he could resume his teaching activities. Thus, through the grace of our God, the academic year 1972-1973

was the first year in the history of our College that all members of the Faculty could give all their lectures, and each one in his own department only.

Dr. J. Faber was invited by the Westminster Theological Seminary to deliver a series of lectures on the documents of the Second Vatican Council. He accepted this invitation, and lectured in Philadelphia, Pa., in January of this year. The Board mention this event since it shows that the academic level of the instruction at our College is recognized also by other (long established) institutions for higher learning.

This academic level is the object of constant vigilance, not only of the Faculty, but also of the Board of Governors. The Board deemed the three years of theological training to be rather short, and therefore asked the Faculty whether they would consider the question of extending the time of study from three to four years. At present, the Faculty did not deem it necessary to do so. This matter will remain a point of study, since the Board are not convinced by the arguments which the Faculty adduced, namely, that students have already studied for three or four years at a liberal arts College when they begin their theological study; that the problem is "rather one of not sufficient time for study for the students than it is one of lack of time of teaching for the Faculty"; and that the time set aside for attending lectures at the College at Kampen, is also limited to three years.

Under this heading the Board also mention the "extra-curricular activities" taking place in our College. Faculty members also conducted a "Teachers' Course" which was well-attended. Upon a request from one of our Schoolboards, members of the Faculty, in cooperation with others, organized a Summer Course for Teachers.

#### CONSTITUTIVE DOCUMENTS

The Draft Constitutive Documents were prepared by Mr. A.H. Oosterhoff, LL. M., member of the Board of Trustees. Already at the joint meeting of October 23, 1971, it was clear to both the Board of Governors and the Board of Trustees, that a revision of the above documents as they had been adopted by the General Synod of New Westminster 1971, was necessary. Registration as a Charitable Organization necessitated inclusion of the required provisions; experience in operating the College also revealed flaws in the 1971 documents or made it clear how improvement could be obtained. Synod itself can note the changes proposed. In some respects, they reflect the practical situation which has appeared to cause no undue difficulties.

#### MISCELLANEOUS

No Librarian has been found as yet. As mentioned above, Mrs. J. Faber provides most valuable assistance and dedicates many hours to this work. Both the Faculty and the Board of Governors remain diligent in this respect.

Upon the advice by the Faculty, the Board adopted the provision that persons over thirty years of age - who can be admitted to the Theological studies without being in possession of the degree of Bachelor of Arts or its equivalent - should at least have a diploma Highschool, academic course.

The General Membership Meeting of the Foundation for Superannuation approved the acceptance of the Board as a member of this Foundation. The effects of this membership are reflected in the financial statements.

As for the salaries of the Professors, the Board of Governors, in consultation with the Board of Trustees, did not dare to go any farther than granting the Professors a special allowance for the year 1974 of 15% of the basic salary. The Board, however, also decided to propose to Synod - as the Board hereby do propose - to increase the Professors' salaries by 25%, retroactive to January 1, 1974, and to declare the 15% special allowance granted by the Board of Governors in consultation with the Board of Trustees, to be part of this increase. The Board do not expect any future difficulties regarding these salaries if the Draft Constitutive Documents are adopted by Synod.

For their part, the Board participated in the Convocations and College Evenings which were held during the past three years. The attendance of Churchmembers at

such occasions attests to the large place our College occupies in the hearts of the membership.

## CONCLUSION

While being grateful for the interest shown in our College and its affairs by the Churches in general, the Board wish to echo some remarks made by the Principal of the College in more than one Yearly Statement; namely, that the Churches shall exert themselves that there are students of theology; and that it is desirable that the Churches keep the vacancies open for young men from their own midst.

Respectfully submitted The Board of Governors

W. LOOPSTRA    M. VANBEVEREN    M. VANDERWEL  
J. MULDER      D. VANDERBOOM    W.W.J. VANOENE

To the General Synod 1974.

November 9, 1974

Dear Brethren,

The Board of Governors have the honour of presenting an additional report. This has become necessary as a result of the meeting which the Board held prior to Synod and of the meetings which the Board held with the Board of Trustees and with the Faculty.

During the joint meeting with the Board of Trustees and the Faculty, the question of property and of continued suitability of the present College Building was discussed. As a result of this discussion, the following decision was made:

The Boards declare themselves in favour of using the moneys reserved from time to time for purchasing property with a view to possible future development of the College and to request Synod to authorize the two Boards to do so, if they deem this advisable.

Further, the Boards came to the conclusion that it is advisable to hire a full-time Administrator for the College. The workload of the Board of Trustees and especially of the Secretary and the Treasurer, of the Registrar of the College, of the Secretary of the Board of Governors, and the time and effort required for the general administration of the College prompted such conclusion. The Boards therefore decided to authorize the appointment of such an Administrator.

The Board also declared themselves in favour of the concept of rank and remuneration as set forth in enclosed document. Synod is requested to note that this will necessitate some changes in the submitted draft Constitutive Documents.

The yearly contribution by the Churches had to be fixed at \$22.00 per communicant member for the year 1975.

In this connection the Board also wish to inform Synod that the tardiness of Churches was discussed. Some Churches are habitually in arrears. The Boards, in their joint meeting, stressed that the College has to work on monthly commitments and that therefore the Churches should pay monthly, and in advance; and that there is an unfairness in it when some Churches pay regularly, and the others do not.

The Boards would appreciate it if Synod could, in one way or another, bring this to the attention of all Churches. Churches, which teach the members that the freewill offerings should come in regularly, and in advance, may be expected to practise this themselves with respect to the College.

Since the Board are still working under the old Constitution, the Board wish to inform Synod that, in consultation with the Faculty, the Board have decided to recommend extension of the Course of Study at the College from three to four years, this to be effective as of the beginning of the Academic Year 1975/1976.

The reason for this decision is the necessity to secure a thorough knowledge of the languages of Holy Writ as a necessary condition for further study, which cannot be provided under the present set-up. A course of four years will render it possible to weave this study into the pattern of lectures and exams and to teach during the first of the four years some other subjects which now are taught during the three years of the present set-up and are more of an introductory nature. Thereby the burden during the last three years would be lightened for the students.

It will be clear to Synod that, if the Synod adopts the new Constitutive Documents, this decision of the Board of Governors, in consultation with the Faculty, would not require an express approval by Synod, since Article XXII of the proposed Constitution provides under 1., that the Course of Study is fixed by the Senate with the approval of the Board of Governors. If Synod adopts the proposed Constitutive Documents, the Faculty will execute the above decision to extend the Course of Study to four years.

In the meeting with the Faculty the question was discussed whether we should not follow the apparent trend to confer the degree of Master of Divinity upon those who are in possession of the Bachelor of Arts degree and have attained an academic standing to be determined by the Faculty. No decision was made.

In view of the fact that the Rev. Mr. W. Loopstra has not been nominated by the Regional Synod East for appointment as a Governor (this in harmony with the proposed Constitutive Documents), the Board wish to express their gratitude for all the work which the Rev. W. Loopstra did, first as President, later as a member of the Board. The Board are assured that the Rev. W. Loopstra will also further remember the work of our College in his prayers and, according to the opportunities given to him, further its interests.

In concluding this additional report, the Board wish to express their gratitude for the living interest which is shown in the cause of our College as it became evident anew during the College Evening which was held on November 8, 1974.

Respectfully submitted,  
For the Board of Governors

W.W.J. VANOENE, Secr