

**APPENDIX II — (Acts, Article 48)**  
**REPORT OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS**  
**OF THE THEOLOGICAL COLLEGE**

TO THE GENERAL SYNOD OF THE CANADIAN REFORMED CHURCHES

Esteemed Brethren,

Herewith the Board of Governors submit their tri-annual report to your assembly. Since the Board of Trustees report directly to Synod, the Board of Governors shall refrain from going into matters which are specifically in the province of the Board of Trustees. What should not be omitted, however, is a word of great appreciation for all the work which the Board of Trustees have done also during the past three years which elapsed since the General Synod of Toronto 1974. The constant attention which those brethren give to the well-being of the College ensures the smoothness of its operation as far as the material aspects are concerned.

Joint meetings of the Board of Governors and the Board of Trustees were held when this appeared necessary and feasible. It is and remains a handicap that the Board of Governors are unable to meet regularly since the high costs are prohibitive. Decisions are sometimes reached by means of correspondence, which is a time-consuming method and one not free from the danger of misunderstanding. Yet we may say that decisions could almost invariably be reached unanimously and that no difficulties have arisen within the Board of Governors or between the Board of Governors and the Board of Trustees or the Board of Governors and the Senate: the task was fulfilled in good Christian harmony.

The Board of Governors conducted three meetings during the past three years: September 11, 1975, September 13 and 14, 1976, and September 8, 9, and 10, 1977. Joint meetings with the Board of Trustees also took place as well as meetings with the Faculty.

At each yearly meeting officers were chosen as provided in Article VI, sub 5, a, of the Constitution of the Theological College of the Canadian Reformed Churches. Each and every election confirmed the present officers in their position: Rev. D. Vander Boom as President, Rev. W.W.J. Van Oene as Secretary, and Rev. J. Mulder as Vice-President.

The main concern of the Board is, of course, the academic aspect of our College. During the past three years the Faculty could work uninterruptedly: to all its members the Lord gave strength, ability, and a sufficient measure of health to perform the task to which the brethren were appointed. It is and remains a thing to be deplored that the members of the Board are spread over such a wide area, for the board members who live out West very seldom have the opportunity to visit the lectures. The Board did manage to arrange some visits to be brought by those members not residing in Ontario, but for the larger part this burden rests on those members of the Board who are within easy distance of the College.

When saying that the burden of visiting the lectures rests on a few members, we do not wish to imply that it is a bothersome burden. The time-factor is the one aspect which causes difficulties. As for the rest, it is a pleasure every time anew to attend the lectures given at our College. The brethren who teach there are capable men who do their work with great dedication, in total submission to the inerrant Word of our God and in faithful adherence to the Reformed Confessions. The Board is grateful that that can be the brief summary of their report to your assembly.

What causes concern is the number of students. When we consider the number of existing vacancies and add to that the number of vacancies which are to be expected within the next ten years, we can easily see that many young men will be needed to fill those vacancies. Then we do not even take into account the very realistic argument that new institutions, too, can be expected within the next ten years.

We are assured that the Churches, in their prayers and intercessions for our College, also remember the need for students. Yet we deemed it advisable once again to draw the attention especially to this point.

The course of study at the College has been extended to four years. That is the main reason why no one will graduate in 1978.

In connection with the lengthening of the time of study from three to four years, it is under consideration whether not the Master of Divinity degree should be conferred in-

stead of the Bachelor of Divinity degree. No decision has been reached as yet. The Senate is to investigate this whole question further before making such a decision.

As for degrees and their recognition, it was brought to the attention of the Board that a proposed Bible College in London, Ontario, tried to obtain official recognition by the Provincial Government, which recognition would also result in official recognition of the degrees granted. After having discussed this question with the Senate, and in the light of past information and experiences, the Board decided not to pursue this matter for the time being.

The presence of Dr. C. Trimp of the Theologische Hogeschool in Kampen, The Netherlands, was utilized by requesting him to deliver three lectures at our College. The personal contact proved to be very fruitful.

The lack of a sufficient supply of Reformed textbooks in the English language is felt by both the Senate and the Board. For that reason the Board requested "the Faculty, because of a shortage of material and the lack of solidly Reformed text books, to periodically issue a written digest of their lectures." Until now this request has not been followed up although some material has been made available and a hint has been given that more is forthcoming. Governors who visited the lectures have more than once expressed that they deplored it that what they heard during the lectures was not preserved in writing for future generations of students and for ministers who are already serving the Churches in that office.

Most of the work at our College is done without any publicity. Once in a while part of it becomes more public.

Every year a College Evening was organized, combined with a Convocation when there was a graduation. The brotherhood across the country show their love and interest by attending those functions in large numbers.

Most of the Churches are very faithful in remitting their share in the cost of our College. We sincerely wish that it could be said "without exception."

Members of the Faculty visited Churches in the West during their "working holidays," an activity which is highly appreciated by and in those Churches.

Teachers and other interested Church members benefited from special courses given.

It is under consideration to organize courses (other than the above) for persons not enrolled in our College, who wish to broaden their knowledge and understanding of the Holy Scriptures and of the Reformed doctrine in the widest sense.

Among the workers at our College who are to be mentioned in this report is the Rev. A.B. Roukema, who was appointed as Associate Librarian. He has catalogued many of our library books and periodically a list of newly-catalogued books is issued.

No news can be given about the library and its "housing." It is still not possible to utilize the garage building — which is almost a complete house in its own right — for as long as the main building provides student accommodation. We shall have to wait till a proper building can be erected.

Although the Board of Governors and the Board of Trustees have the authorization to purchase property for relocation of our College, no such purchase has as yet been made.

It would amount to gross neglect if we should not mention the name of our "Jack-of-all-trades." Miss Anne Van Sydenborgh who functions as a receptionist, hostess, guide, assistant-treasurer, secretary to the Board of Trustees and, if required, to the Board of Governors, just to mention some aspects of her multi-faceted position. She fulfils the duties of her many-sided position to the full satisfaction of all concerned.

After the Rev. A.B. Roukema had been appointed and after Miss Van Sydenborgh had become acquainted with her work, Mrs. J. Faber terminated her activities in the field of library-work at our College. What she did for the College, especially during those first years of its gradual development and upbuilding, will be held in grateful remembrance.

In conclusion, the Board wishes to express their great gratitude towards the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ for His wonderful protection and mercies of which we received such a large share in our College. May He, from Whom all good and perfect gifts come down, with Whom there is neither variability nor shadow of turning, continue to bestow upon our College and all who labour there in His service, as well as upon the Churches which maintain this institution, His gracious blessing without which neither our care or labour nor His gifts can yield any fruit.

Respectfully submitted, The Board of Governors,  
In their name W.W.J. VAN OENE, Secretary