

**APPENDIX X A**  
**REPORT OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS**  
**TO GENERAL SYNOD CLOVERDALE 1983**

Esteemed Brethren,

The Board of Governors of the Theological College hereby presents to your assembly its report which covers the academic years 1980/1981, 1981/1982 and 1982/1983.

With thankfulness to the Lord, we mention that the work could be continued without interruption. No serious illness hampered the operation of the College and when in some cases a member of the Faculty received a leave of absence, the schedule of lectures could be arranged in such a manner that the progress of the work of the students was not jeopardized.

From the reports of the Governors who visited the lectures during the past three years, it is clear that the instruction is not only on a scholarly level, but also faithful to the Scriptures and confessionally sound.

Three students completed their studies and with the arrival of three new students this year, the total enrolment stands at fifteen.

The matter of granting degrees to those who have successfully completed their studies was extensively discussed with the Senate. In accordance with academic norms and pursuant to Section 10 of the Canadian Reformed Theological College Act, 1981, the Board authorized the Senate to confer degrees as follows: the Master of Divinity degree on students who entered the College with a Bachelor's degree (or equivalent), and the Bachelor of Divinity degree on those who had been admitted on the basis of an admission exam (without an undergraduate degree).

Upon the advice of the Senate and in order to maintain the academic level of instruction, the Board decided that a student needs to attain a weighted average of 65% in the final marks of an academic year in order to be able to continue his studies at the College or to graduate. It is understandable that not all students welcome this decision, but this decision was felt to be necessary in order to maintain minimum standards of academic achievement commensurate with post graduate institutions of higher learning and so that the Churches may be better served as a result.

In January 1982 we were saddened by the death of the Rev. H. Scholten, M.Th. He served as lecturer in the Ecclesiological Department from the date the College was established until he was forced to retire due to illness. The Board remembers his zeal for the cause of our College. His dedication to the instruction of future ministers of the Word still is a reason for great thankfulness.

After ten years as professor of Old Testament, Prof. H.M. Ohmann left us and assumed a professorial position at the Theological College at Kampen, The Netherlands. The Board is thankful for his faithful and fruitful labour among us since 1971.

To fill the vacancy, Synod 1980 appointed Rev. C. VanDam, M.Th., an alumnus of our College. He was installed on September 4, 1981, and could commence his teaching without delay. The following year, and this year again, Prof. VanDam spent the summer months at the Theological College at Kampen studying towards a Th.D. degree. For that purpose, he received permission to remain in Kampen until a few months after the beginning of the academic year. His doctoral studies are expected to be a blessing for the College. Hopefully, Prof. VanDam can have his promotion next year.

A leave of absence was also granted to Prof. Dr. J. Faber for the first semester of the academic year 1981/1982. Dr. Faber had received an invitation from Westminster Theological Seminary to give guest lectures as professor of Systematic Theology. The Board judged the invitation a recognition of Dr. Faber as a Reformed scholar and of the College as a Reformed institution of academic standing. The visit was also considered conducive to make our College better known.

Due to his age, the Rev. G. VanDooren, M.Th., had to retire as lecturer in Diaconology

at the end of the academic year 1981/1982. Since Synod 1980 had charged the Board to make a recommendation to the next Synod regarding a fourth full-time professor, preferably a professor of Diaconology, it was considered wise not to burden another brother with lecture preparation because his appointment could be only for a limited period of time. Upon the recommendation of the Senate, Rev. G. VanDooren was appointed as a temporary instructor for the course year 1982/1983 in accordance with By-Law Number 1 of the College. His appointment is now extended until the time that a fourth professor can assume his duties. The Board is thankful that, in spite of his age, Rev. G. VanDooren is still able and willing to continue as a lecturer.

The appointment of a professor of Diaconology has received the Board's full attention. It is hoped that it will be possible to submit a recommendation to your Assembly.

An important event for our College was the enactment of the Canadian Reformed Theological College Act, 1981 in the Ontario Legislature which was proclaimed into force by His Honour the Lieutenant Governor of Ontario on December 11, 1981, whereby the College became an incorporated institution and received the authority to grant the degrees of Bachelor of Theology, Bachelor of Divinity, Master of Divinity and Master of Theology. While Synod 1971 had already authorized the Board of Governors and the Board of Trustees to pursue incorporation, the intention of the Ontario Government to prohibit the conferring of degrees by nonrecognized colleges and universities made the incorporation an urgent matter. The Board wishes to express its appreciation to Mr. C.M. Loopstra, LL.B., who spent much time and effort to prepare the Private Bill and to draft the subsequently adopted By-Laws. The support of the Honourable Mr. George A. Kerr, Member of Parliament, who sponsored the Bill in the Ontario Legislature, was acknowledged by inviting him to the College Evening last year. We are particularly grateful that the Government of Ontario was able to enact provincial legislation specifically for the benefit of the College recognizing the special Reformed status of the College in relation to Synod and the Churches. For example, we refer you to Section 4 of the Act:

"The College shall be carried on as a Christian institute of theology whose basis shall be the infallible Word of God as interpreted by the Belgic Confession, the Heidelberg Catechism and the Canons of Dordt as adhered to by the Churches."

and Section 6(2) of the Act:

"The Board may petition the Churches at any time for a special assembly of Synod to deal with matters pertaining to the College."

The Canadian Reformed Theological College Act, 1981 necessitated some changes in the organization of the College. The Board of Trustees has disappeared and the Trustees have become Governors. The Board of Governors, thus enlarged, has appointed an Academic Committee consisting of the six ministers who used to form the Board of Governors. The former Trustees now form the Finance and Property Committee. In this matter, the workload for everyone involved remains virtually the same as before the incorporation. The reports of the Finance and Property Committee approved and adopted by the Board of Governors will be submitted to your Assembly as an appendix to this report. After Synod 1980, the Academic Committee met four times. The new Board of Governors had three meetings. Part of those meetings were attended by representatives of the Senate when consultation was necessary.

The Board has to report that in spite of the efforts of the Finance and Property Committee, a more suitable building for our College has not yet been found. The present facilities are considered inadequate for the number of students enrolled. A step in the right direction is the decision to increase the building reserve from \$5,000 to \$25,000 annually as per Budget 1982. It is the wish of the Board that the goal of better facilities can be reached in the very near future.

After more than five years as administrative assistant, Miss Anne VanSydenborgh decided to leave us and to move to another part of the country. We wish to express our appreciation for the excellent work she has done since her appointment in 1976. Her place is taken by Miss Teresa G. Bouwman to the satisfaction of all concerned.

The constant and wholehearted support the College receives from the Churches is a reason for great thankfulness. The attendance of the College Evenings/Convocations also shows the interest of the Church members every year again. The continued activities of the Women's Savings Action is highly appreciated. The result of their action is always a pleasant surprise at the annual College Evenings.

We give thanks to the Lord our God for the blessings He has bestowed upon the College and upon all who have been involved in the work. May His grace and favour be upon our institution also in the future.

We draw your attention to the following provisions of the Canadian Reformed Theological College Act, 1981:

1. **Section 5(2):**  
"Within three years from the coming into force of this Act, the Board shall be re-constituted to consist of eleven Governors to be elected or appointed by Synod in such manner as may be prescribed by the by-laws of the College, for a term of three years."
2. **Section 5(5):**  
"The Board may, by by-law,
  - a. reduce the size of the Board to consist of not fewer than seven Governors or increase the size of the Board; and
  - b. provide for the election and retirement of Governors in rotation, but no such by-law shall come into effect until it has been confirmed by Synod."
3. **Section 5(11):**  
"The government, conduct, management and control of the College and of its property, revenues, expenditures, business and affairs are vested in the Board and the Board has all powers necessary or convenient to perform its duties and achieve the object and purpose of the College including, without limiting the generality of the foregoing, the power . . . .
  - d. to appoint, in accordance with the policies established by Synod, members of the faculty who are in full accord with the basis of the College as set out in section 4;
  - e. to promote, suspend and remove and to grant tenure and leave of absence to members of the faculty in accordance with the policies established by Synod, but any action resulting in suspension or removal of a faculty member shall be in accordance with the by-laws of the College and is subject to an appeal to Synod;"
4. **Section 6(1):**  
"Synod shall assemble not less than every three years to do, in addition to any other business that may be transacted, the following:
  1. Receive the report of the Board as to the operation of the College.
  2. Elect or appoint the Governors in accordance with subsections 5(2) to (6).
  3. Consider the audited financial statements and the report of the auditor for the previous fiscal periods.
  4. Appoint the auditors until the next assembly of Synod.
  5. Confirm or reject any by-laws passed by the Board that under this Act require confirmation by Synod."

We submit to your Assembly the following recommendations for your consideration:

1. To receive and adopt this report and all appendices.
2. To confirm the adoption of:
  - a. *By-Law Number 1* being a by-law relating generally to the affairs of the Theological College of the Canadian Reformed Churches (with Regulation No. 1 being a part thereof);
  - b. *By-Law Number 2* being a by-law respecting the borrowing of money and the issue of securities; and

- c. *By-Law Number 3* being a by-law to amend Section 3.04 of By-Law Number 1 pertaining to the election and term of Governors, including the election or appointment and retirement in rotation of five Governors.
- 3. To accept the resignations of Mr. Hessel Dantuma and Mr. John Medemblik as Governors, and pursuant to Section 5(2) of the Act and Section 3.04 of By-Law Number 1 (as amended):
  - a. to appoint Anton L. VanderHout, Esq. (Hamilton) as Governor for a term from the date of his reappointment until the third General Synod held after the date of his reappointment;
  - b. to appoint Henk Kampen, Esq. (Toronto) and to reappoint C.M. Loopstra, LL.B. (Toronto) as Governors for a term from the date of their appointment until the second General Synod held after the date of their appointment;
  - c. to reappoint Maas van Grootheest, Esq. (Fergus) and Arie Hordyk, Esq. (Burlington) as Governors for a term from the date of their reappointment until the next General Synod held after the date of their reappointment; and
  - d. to appoint, elect, reappoint or reelect six (6) active ministers as Governors (in accordance with Section 3.04 (a) of By-Law Number 1 (as amended) to hold office until the next General Synod and to appoint at least three (3) substitutes from each Regional Synod area.
- 4. To direct the Board of Governors to appoint a new professor of Diaconology (as per a detailed report to be presented to Synod).
- 5. To direct the granting of tenure to Professor C. VanDam, M.Th. and the Rev. W.W.J. VanOene, M.Th. (both appointed by General Synod, 1980).
- 6. To consider the audited financial statements and the report of the auditor for the previous fiscal periods.
- 7. To appoint Robinson, Lott & Brohman, Chartered Accountants, as auditors until the next assembly of Synod.
- 8. To ratify and confirm the acts of the Board of Governors and officers of the College for the years 1980, 1981, 1982 and until the date of this report.
- 9. To authorize the convening Church for the next General Synod to convene a special assembly of Synod at the request of the Board of Governors for urgent reasons.

Submitted at Hamilton, Ontario this 9th day of September, 1983 by the Board of Governors of the Theological College of the Canadian Reformed Churches.

Rev. D. VanderBoom, chairman  
 Rev. J. Mulder, vice-chairman  
 Rev. M. VanBeveren, secretary  
 Mr. H. Dantuma, treasurer  
 Rev. D. DeJong  
 Rev. J. Geertsema  
 Mr. A.J. Hordyk  
 Mr. C.M. Loopstra  
 Mr. J.J. Medemblik  
 Mr. M. VanGrootheest  
 Rev. J. Visscher