



Covenant

CANADIAN REFORMED TEACHERS COLLEGE

"...tell the next generation..." PSALM 78:4

NOVEMBER 2014



CCRTC NEWS

FALL 2014

www.covenantteacherscollege.com



from the PRINCIPAL CHRISTINE VAN HELEN-FABER

*Summer and winter and springtime and harvest...
Great is thy faithfulness!* – HYMN 66 - BOOK OF PRAISE

Much has happened in and around Covenant Teachers College since the publication of our Spring Newsletter. In early June, six students graduated from their respective programs, and are now busily engaged in what they trained for while at Covenant Teachers College: Teaching! School communities in Fergus, Jordan Station, Norwich, Owen Sound, and Smithville warmly welcomed our graduates, and continue to provide them with a supportive environment in which they can employ their God-given talents. We wish Marise, Joanna, Maria, Janelle, and Dianne the Lord's rich blessings as they guide their students on a path of discovery of Father's world.

Speaking of teacher development... It is good to note that school boards are well aware of the importance of creating a supportive professional development environment for all their teachers. To be a teacher who is well-versed in applying Biblical principles to every-day teaching involves hard work and requires constant vigilance. To be able to do one's regular task in new and exciting ways that engage our students adds yet another challenging dimension. Most school Boards acknowledge the importance of ongoing professional development, and some Boards have established a routine of inviting College faculty to present a series of in-service summer seminars to

an entire team of teachers. In July, the Coaldale Christian School community saw the presence of Dr. Ben Faber in its midst as the teachers took three days to explore *Learning with language, language arts, and literature* across grades K-12. From all reports, this event was enjoyed and appreciated by participants and instructor alike. Of particular note and local interest was the fiction case study based on the book *Obasan* by Joy Kogawa, an author who is well-known in the Lethbridge-Coaldale area.

July was also a busy month for teachers in the Fraser Valley and beyond. In response to a request by Boards and Principals, the College launched the first

course of its new *Certificate of Reformed Education* program. Rev. D.G.J. Agema taught a one-week intensive Bible course to sixteen participants from schools all across the Valley, Smithers, and Lynden WA. In addition, teachers who wanted to gain credit status towards the Certificate completed an exit project. This event was also received with much enthusiasm.

While teachers were busily engaged in taking courses, Mr. Dave Dykstra (Guido de Brès Christian High School, Hamilton ON) and Mr. Randy Dykstra (Ebenezer Canadian Reformed School, Smithers BC) busied themselves by developing an on-line course to be offered during the 2014-15 Fall-Winter semester: *Science in the Reformed Classroom*. This is an elective course within the *Certificate of Reformed Education* program. The College is excited about these new developments, and counts on your continued support as we continue to... tell the next generation (also the next generation of teachers!)

In August, the College launched its "new and improved" website WWW.COVANTTEACHERSCOLLEGE.COM. With today's technological possibilities, it is wonderful to be able to place the College more centrally in the focus of those who may wish to make good use of its services. In addition to the publicly available library catalogue (including several theme-related collections), the current Academic Calendar, and a handy "Donate" reference page, the intent



“ it is our prayer that our work together this year will be characterized by a spirit of rejoicing in our Lord – so that our love for our Lord “may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight so that [we] may be able to discern what is best...” – PHIL. 1:9,10.

is to make the website a repository of board and committee materials, as well as a faculty-student communication tool. We thank the Public Relations and Information Technology committees for their groundwork, and express our appreciation to Donna Van Huisstede, who serves as our webmaster.

In September the College opened its doors to new and returning students and full-time and sessional faculty. We were welcomed into brightly-lit spaces. Thanks to a generous donation, the lighting in the hallways and library has taken on a new and stylish look over the summer, while the lights in the classrooms have been retrofitted also.

On the Orientation Day, the opening words to the academic year were chosen from Paul’s letter to the Philippians, “*Rejoice in the Lord always. I say it again: Rejoice!*” (Phil. 4:4). Together we looked at the unique placement of these words within this chapter, and within the entire letter – and we came to the conclusion that the phrase may be compared to a fulcrum, a term quite familiar to the students who have had to teach a science

unit of study on “work, force, and levers”. A fulcrum is a point of rest which allows the lever to do its work most effectively, so when we think of these words as that point of rest we will experience that once the strains and stresses of the school year hit us, there is no need to be anxious about anything.

With an enrolment of twenty students in total (4 in the one-year Diploma of Education program, 5 in the final year of the Diploma of Teaching program, and 6 and 5 in the first and second years of the Diploma of Teaching program respectively) the building is alive and abuzz with female and male voices. It’s good to hear and see! For those of you who are visiting the Hamilton area and who would like to experience the activity in and around our College, please feel free to drop in for a visit!

The 2014-2015 academic year promises to be a year filled with regular and special events and projects. As you can read elsewhere in this Newsletter, the matter of accreditation continues to have the steady attention of the Board. Likewise, the matter of faculty and staff succession

thanks!

Covenant College would like to thank the ladies who attended the Ontario Women’s League Day this year for their generous donation of **\$1800.00** to the cause of the College!

features centrally in the work of the Board and several of its committees. The importance of fostering future leaders for our Canadian Reformed school communities is not limited to elementary and secondary schools, but extends to Covenant Teachers College. Women and men who consider teaching at a post-secondary level are encouraged to take up studies at graduate levels, and to seek contact with Covenant Teachers College. These matters, too, are opportunities to rejoice in our Lord and in his good gifts to us.

Thinking of Covenant Teachers College, and all it entails: individual supporters, member schools, board members, committee members, staff, faculty, and students, it is our prayer that our work together this year will be characterized by a spirit of rejoicing in our Lord – so that our love for our Lord “may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight so that [we] may be able to discern what is best...” (Phil. 1:9,10).

Great is God’s faithfulness!



treasurer's report NATHAN HELDER

Greetings from your new CCRTC Treasurer! As this is my first newsletter, allow me to share a few things about myself. My wife (a past graduate of the CCRTC) and I, as well as our children, are members of the Flamborough Canadian Reformed Church. Since 2007, I have been the President of Gelderman Landscape Services. This role has allowed me to provide leadership and direction to the company, while also giving me time to volunteer in several forums.

“ We are committed in helping the Governors so that they can fulfil their roles and responsibilities at the highest level.

You may wonder, what does the Treasurer do? The Treasurer's role at CCRTC is to be part of the Executive Committee, to ensure that the College is being fiscally responsible on all stages, to be the “watch dog” of the financial health of the College, and to provide operational confidence, strategy and sustainability for the College. No small task!

Over the past several months, I have been familiarizing myself with the Finances and Operations of CCRTC by interviewing many of the faculty, executive board and governors. I have asked questions that pertain to: the governors roles & responsibilities, their frustrations or challenges, how they have built partnerships with their local school society, what types, tools, or methods have they used to gain more support, what types of tools might be beneficial or helpful for them, as well as where they see the College in 5 years.

Overwhelmingly, the Governors primary request was for the Finance Committee to develop some tools or methods that will help them gain confidence in their role, hold them accountable and enable them to solicit new donors.

I can also share with you that the Finance Committee now has 6 members – Brian Jager, Jack Kingma, Adam VanHof, Rita DeGelder, Karen VanVeen and myself. We are committed in helping the Governors so that they can fulfil their roles and responsibilities at the highest level.

We are pleased to share with you that the new website is up and the “Donate” page is complete. The Pre Authorized Payment (PAP) form is easily accessible at <http://www.covenantteacherscollege.com/donate.html> . Here you will also find where to give, how to give, and also see how your donations impact the College. It's with great thankfulness to the Lord

that we can report that the College has been extremely blessed this summer. Typically the summer months can be considered “weaker” months, however this summer the revenues have been approximately 80% higher than in 2013. Earlier this summer we had anticipated a deficit of \$60,000, yet we ended the year with a small deficit of approximately \$4,000. Thank you for making CCRTC important in your lives!

Your financial support is heartily received; we look forward to your continued prayerful and financial support in the coming year and put our trust in the Lord as He will provide. He continues to show us that He will bless our efforts when they are done in faith.

Yours in Christ, Nathan Helder

MARG DANTUMA

CHAIR, PROGRAM AND PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

CCRTC CERTIFICATE OF REFORMED EDUCATION



“...we will tell the next generation the praiseworthy deeds of the LORD, his power, and the wonders he has done.” – PS. 78:4

Covenant Canadian Reformed Teachers College was opened in 1981. Its mandate was to provide our schools with teachers trained to teach from a covenantal, Reformed perspective, teachers who were equipped to “tell the next generation the praiseworthy deeds of the LORD.”

About three years ago, the Board of the Teachers College grappled with the question of the College’s future direction. A survey was conducted of our school communities across the country, asking for input into the viability and sustainability of our college as the definitive source for reformed teacher training and the college’s future direction. The responses showed a great appreciation for the work of the college but also reflected disappointment with the lack of accreditation that the schools in western Canada and Lynden, Washington required. Accreditation is being pursued but is a lengthy process.

Earlier this year, a formal request was made by the BC and Lynden, WA school boards and principals asking the college to develop a certificate program that would provide regular professional development opportunities that “focus on incorporating our Reformed Christian worldview, doctrines, and perspectives into course content, teaching methods

and approaches.” The College was very thankful for this request, and responded enthusiastically in the hope that all member schools will support the new program in due time. It was also a timely request because an on-line science course was being developed that would provide professional development to teachers across the country.

The Certificate program consists of 6 credits. The CCRTC will offer 4 courses that will address matters foundational to Reformed education, and 2 elective course credits from either CCRTC or a source approved by the college. Courses will be offered on-line as well as on-site at different locations (BC/AB/MB/ON). Our first on-line credit course, *Teaching Science in a Reformed Classroom* by Dave and Randy Dykstra was successfully launched in October. We are also thankful that Rev. Agema could travel to Surrey BC this summer to provide the on-site Bible course.

The Certificate of Reformed Education program being developed by the CCRTC is an exciting development. It opens doors to all who seek professional development in reformed teaching. On page 20 of “Milestones as Stepping Stones”, a booklet commemorating the College’s 25th anniversary, we read of Rev. Van Dooren’s response to Mr. H. James’ question in a 1958 *Hamilton Spectator* section asking why the Dutch build their own schools instead of working together with the public schools. Van Dooren writes: “Are in the “public school” our children considered as “conceived and born in sin” and therefore unable to do any good, and inclined to all evil, except [by] the regenerating grace of God? Or are they considered as autonomous beings, able to do good out of themselves? You understand, Mr. James, then the whole basis of instruction and education is totally different.”

It is from this covenantal Reformed perspective that the College seeks to help in equipping our teachers to “tell the next generation the praiseworthy deeds of the LORD”. May our Heavenly Father continue to bless our College with the means to assist men and women to do so.

CCRTC & ACCREDITATION

– AN UPDATE

MANDATE

Following up on earlier work and recent progress Covenant has made in formalized Governance, increasing recognition for individual Covenant courses, and improved financial stability, this Ad Hoc committee will discuss relevant matters pertaining to the topic of Accreditation and/or Recognition of Covenant Canadian Reformed Teachers College; its programs and courses. The committee is expected to come up with an Accreditation Plan, and include in its considerations:

- The needs and wants of constituent school societies in Ontario, Manitoba, Alberta, British Columbia, and Washington, USA.
- Current external realities in the Province of Ontario
- Current situation of Covenant in terms of Faculty, Financial Means, Programs, and Partnerships.
- Possible phases toward the ultimate goal that all CCRTC students can teach in all member schools with full funding.
- Experiences of recent graduates
- Requirements of the Ontario Ministry of Training, Colleges, and Universities (MTCU), and the Ontario College of Teachers (OCT), including:
 - Accreditation (external or self)
 - Becoming a Permitted Institution (MTCU)
 - Requirements for full recognition by OCT
 - Possible relocation to another jurisdiction

From time to time, the question is asked “What does it take to get the teacher training programs offered at Covenant accredited?” This Newsletter contribution is intended to provide you with an update of the work done by the Accreditation Committee during the past year or so.

The committee consists of Gerrit Bos, Ben Faber (Advisory), Peter Feenstra, Julie Lindhout, Frank C. Ludwig, Cornelius (Butch) Medemblik (Convenor), Ed Slaa (Secretary), Heres Snijder, Christine van Halen, and Karl J. Veldkamp (Advisory).

As the committee worked its way through the items that are included in the mandate prepared by the Board, it did so while also keeping abreast of developments within and outside the College. For example, it availed itself of the results of the Program and Personnel Committee Survey as these became available in August 2013. From the survey

results, the committee took note of the broadest single conclusion: If the College is to continue to pursue its current mandate of providing Reformed Christian teachers for the benefit of the maximum number of schools, students and teachers across the country, then achieving accreditation should be the primary focus.

Establishing contact with other institutions of higher learning that have recently obtained accreditation for similar academic programs was another way in which the committee informed itself of steps to be taken, including the preparatory work to be done, and networks to be established. We

were blessed with wonderful opportunities to interact with men and women who spoke encouraging words and shared their own experiences as their institutions sought recognition and accreditation.

With the help of local educators in the field, the committee also reviewed the teacher certification requirements in the provinces which are the primary jurisdictions in Canada that would be the “target” markets for graduates of the College: BC, AB, MB, and ON. We

concluded that no jurisdiction seems to stand out as being notably more accessible than Ontario for

“Consider what you can do to help us in this important work.”

small independent institutions. As such, relocation does not appear to provide an obvious solution. Therefore the committee agreed to focus its efforts on the certification/accreditation requirements of Ontario, which would allow for transferability to Manitoba, Alberta and British Columbia based on current criteria.

We recognize that full accreditation involves a two-pronged process: accreditation as a “permitted institution” by the Ontario Ministry of Colleges, Training, and Universities, and accreditation by the professional regulatory body, the Ontario College of Teachers. We acknowledge that

the process is a lengthy and highly-complex one. As the committee researched the various aspects of its mandate, it became clear that seeking full accreditation will be a challenge, but arguably a worthy effort. Notwithstanding *perceived obstacles and biases*, CCRTC should not underestimate the *quality of its program and the training offered to the educators that graduate from the College*. The legislation and framework exists to permit such applications to be made.

During the current academic year, the accreditation committee will continue its work by focusing on steps towards becoming a “permitted institution”. Externally, this includes obtaining the services from a consultant, a government relations specialist who works for an organization that provides high quality public policy advice and strategic direction to clients. The committee agreed that such a consultant would be quite valuable in making the appropriate inquiries and contacts and then gauging the “temperature” as to the timing and likelihood of success of any application. We will also maintain the invaluable contact with other institutions that have gone through a similar process.

Internally, the College will continue to ensure that all the pieces that are required for the process are indeed in place. This includes developing clear descriptions of the governance structure and the policies of the College, its academic programs, its financial viability, etc.

We conclude this update with the strongest possible appeal to you, the reader: **please consider what you can do to help us in this important work**. Pray for a blessing on this process and for continued strength for the committee members and the Board. Support us financially, as obtaining (and maintaining) accreditation is a very costly process at every step along the way.



Covenant
CANADIAN REFORMED TEACHERS COLLEGE

The Board of Covenant College **INVITES APPLICATIONS** from prospective students for the **2015-2016 ACADEMIC YEAR.**

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS:

FOR THE 1 - YEAR DIPLOMA OF EDUCATION PROGRAM:

Suitable university degree

FOR THE 3 - YEAR DIPLOMA OF TEACHING PROGRAM:

A grade 12 diploma with university entrance equivalence.

APPLICATION DEADLINE: MARCH 31, 2015.

Prospective candidates are invited to contact the College for more information and/or to obtain an admission application package.

Those who plan to seek admission in the year 2016-2017 are also encouraged to contact the College as soon as possible.

IF YOU DREAM OF TEACHING, CONSIDER Covenant!

CANADIAN REFORMED TEACHERS COLLEGE



QUESTIONS? FIND ANSWERS AT:

www.covenantteacherscollege.com

covenant@covenantteacherscollege.com | 905-385-0634 | Fax: 905-385-8409

OR visit us at: 410 Crerar Drive, Hamilton, Ontario, L9A 5K3

OR email: covenant@covenantteacherscollege.com

from the it committee

CHECK IT OUT!!

The IT Committee at Covenant College has been very busy lately. We are happy to announce the debut of our new and improved website! After determining that the previous site was too “antiquated” for our ever changing technological society, we determined to launch a new, much more appealing, website. The new site is aesthetically pleasing and much more intuitive.

You can find the new website at WWW.COVENANTTEACHERSCOLLEGE.COM.

Be sure to browse the site and mark it as a favorite! Also, if you, or someone you know, is interested in attending the College, all you need to do is visit us online and the information you need is at your fingertips. Information on professional development activities is also available, including our new certificate program currently being offered to teachers across the province.

Another definite bonus of the new website is ease of access to the College’s library. It’s only one click away and you can read what new books are there as well as various book reviews. This can be a handy tool for students, teachers, librarians, and anyone who loves a good read.

The website is also intended to be a tool for

staff, students, and governors. By logging in, these various groups can access relevant information. For example, students can download assignments and other resources. Governors can post and retrieve documents pertinent to their tasks. Staff can post information for their classes, as well as work collaboratively.

For the member, or potential member, you can click the donate tab and download a PAP form, or access other interesting information about your College. In the near future it is hoped that a direct donate button will make giving to the College even easier.

All that said, the website continues to be a work in progress. We ask for your input and suggestions for improvement. The new site allows the College to make updates directly

and in a timely fashion. Improvements are always in the works. Feel free to contact the College via the contact tab and share your thoughts.

In addition to designing the new website, other items have needed our attention. One of them has been the Promethean Interactive Whiteboard. After some initial glitches, the board is now just working fine! To make it work even better, a dedicated computer will be installed to ensure consistent operation not only during instructional interactions but also during meetings where the SKYPE function is used, allowing governors across Canada and in Lynden WA to ‘attend’ the meeting.

Digital projector installation was another area of improvement for the College. Each classroom now has a digital projector mounted on the ceiling, for use by students and staff alike.

Finally, there is the regular maintenance and retirement of older equipment. These include staff computers, library circulation stations, as well as student computer stations. Additionally the committee monitors the printers and photocopiers. The Committee is a busy one, but the work is enjoyable, and we also enjoy wonderful support throughout the broader community.

On behalf of the IT Committee:
*Eleanor Boeringa, John Crowder, Allard Gummink,
Richard Hoeksema, Marc Ravensbergen,
Christine van Halen, and Donna Van Huisstede*

 Please detach and use the postage paid envelope enclosed or mail to: **CCRTC • 410 Crerar Drive • Hamilton, ON • L9A 5K3**

Yes! I would like to support the CCRTC!

- One-Time gift of \$ _____ (cheque Enclosed)
- Monthly by pre-authorized Automatic withdrawal

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ PROV PC _____

CHURCH _____

PHONE _____

EMAIL (optional) _____

Pre-Authorized Direct Withdrawal Form

I want to be a regular donor to Covenant Canadian Reformed Teachers College and allow automatic donations from my bank account as indicated below. I agree with the conditions in the application and can terminate this agreement at any time.

- \$40/Month** - Withdrawn on the:
 15th of the month 30th of the month

- \$480/Annually** - Withdrawn on _____ each year

- \$ _____/Month** - Withdrawn on the:
 15th of the month 30th of the month

SIGNATURE

Please ATTACH a blank cheque marked “VOID” to this form.