



# Covenant

CANADIAN REFORMED TEACHERS COLLEGE

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



[www.covenantteacherscollege.com](http://www.covenantteacherscollege.com)



NOVEMBER 2009





## from the CHAIR GERRIT BOS



In their service, God's people express their thanksgiving. This fact is being brought home to me once again now that I am writing at the time of the Thanksgiving weekend in Canada. When you read this Newsletter, it may be around the American Thanksgiving weekend. The need for thanksgiving is further illustrated here in Classis Northern Ontario with two anniversaries of ministers who have served 25 years in the ministry. Why do we as God's people serve? It is to give back to Him a portion of what He has given us freely.



We are reminded in Ps 100 to "Serve the LORD with gladness." This shows that service is first and foremost a matter of the heart. How do we serve? Again, this is a simple matter: We serve with everything the Lord has given us; with our talents; our material possessions; our time.

At Covenant, too, we exist to serve. We serve our students, our school boards, teachers, and the entire Reformed

community. We do this first and foremost by providing Reformed, high quality teacher education. We offer

a three-year Diploma of Teaching for students with a high-school diploma, a one year Diploma of Education for students with a university degree, and

new this year, a one-year Diploma of Educational Studies. This new program fills a need for students who want Reformed teacher training after a number of years' teaching experience, but do not have a university degree. Our programs serve our students well in their teaching, and also in their roles as parents, volunteers, Board and Education Committee members. We serve school boards across Canada, and also in the United States, Australia, and perhaps even in the Netherlands through possible practicum placements for English immersion programs there. We are keenly aware of differences in educational policies in each of these jurisdictions, and we also continue to work toward increased recognition of our courses and programs in the Canadian provinces and internationally.

**“ We serve with everything the Lord has given us; with our talents; our material possessions; our time. ”**



Covenant serves the broader Reformed educational community also through in-service training, conferences, the support of committees involved in education, the preparation of curriculum material, speaking engagements, and helping school societies looking to start a new school or coming with other significant initiatives. We do this with the involvement of governors from each of the member school societies, committee members, faculty, staff, students, volunteers, the WATCH ladies, and all our supporters. In all these people the attitude of gratitude in their service comes through loud and clear. Are you surprised to see our students in the list? Like everyone else involved in Covenant, they become part of the family. They help shape their educational experience, and are often seen helping in a variety of activities. All of this is part of Covenant's role of service to God and our neighbour.

As you are reading this, you may be thinking: "This talk about serving from the heart is well and good, but it usually is all about the money." It is true that

sufficient money is important for any organization, including Covenant. We have a modest budget, smaller than most school societies, but we do have to meet it year by year. And although this year we were up in pre-authorized donations, school society revenue, and tuition, we were short on general donations, and therefore we ended with a shortfall. You'll be able to read the details further on in this newsletter.

Yet gratitude prevails. There was time to do all we wanted to do, there was involvement by all societies, a full slate of governors, eager committee members, opportunities we can pursue toward full accreditation to benefit boards that receive public funding for certified teachers; the list goes on. In our service to our heavenly Father, we need your prayers, your time and your heartfelt support. Talk to your local governors, to teachers in your area, to your extended family. Show them your support for Reformed education at all levels, ask how they are doing, how we all can help. Consider volunteering on one of our committees. Suggest names



of those who would be suitable as vice-chair (a person who would be chair from Feb 2011 to Feb 2013, the Lord willing). Above all, pray for our parents, schools, teachers, boards, and all institutions involved in Reformed education, including Covenant Canadian Reformed Teachers College.

**THANK YOU** to the Kerwood/Chatham Sharks! Winners of the Ontario Canadian Reformed Hockey League's Tournament - C Division. They earned the opportunity to give 25% of the door receipts to a charity of their choice and they chose Covenant. We thank you very much!

✂ Please detach and mail to: CCRTC • South Square RO • P.O. Box 30026 • 1576 Upper James Street • Hamilton, ON • L9B 2Y5

## ☐ 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 hereby authorize Covenant Canadian Reformed Teachers College to withdraw regular monthly payments from my bank account in the amount of and agree to accept annual increases as set by the board.:

☐ **\$33/Month** - Withdrawn on the:

☐ 15th of the month ☐ 30th of the month

☐ **\$396/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.





## from the principal **CHRISTINE VAN HALEN-FABER**

Autumn 2009 began with warm temperatures and with lush green grass to offset the gradually-changing displays of glorious colour on the trees. This description could serve as an analogy for the first months of teaching and learning at Covenant Teachers College: A warm atmosphere of cooperation and camaraderie, and a wonderful mix of steady and gregarious personalities. With gratitude we note that in the twenty-ninth year of operating the College there are twenty full-time students, three full-time instructors, two part-time staff (administrator and library technician) and seven sessional instructors. You can well imagine that this translates into a building that is alive and buzzing with activity!



We welcome to our sessional faculty Miss Deanna Smid. Deanna is a Ph.D. candidate at McMaster University and is finishing her dissertation. We are glad that she still has time to teach the Survey of English Literature course at our College. Dr. Ben Faber was found willing to teach the History of Ideas course, Rev. Douwe Agema returned to instruct our students in two bible courses, and Mr. Bill Horsman (who turned three score and ten this past summer) is teaching a math and a science course. In the second semester we hope to welcome Mme. Dominique Wildeboer (French), and Dr. Art Witten and Mr. Tim Wildeboer who will share the physical education course. Returning in a full-time capacity are Mr. Allard Gunnink, Miss Judy Kingma and

Dr. Christine van Halen. Under God's guidance, we look forward to completing yet another year of faithful instruction. Together we are reminded that our work is best described as work of service. This year's theme text was taken from 1 Cor. 12 – the well known passage in which the diversity of gifts is described. We paid special attention to the words, "There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit. There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. There are different kinds of working, but the same God works all of them in all men." We pray that our Triune God may bless the work of our hands, as together we explore faithfully our unity in diversity.

The 2009-2010 academic year will be filled with regular and special activities.

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As regular activities we count the course work as well as its application in the classroom during practice teaching sessions. We deeply appreciate the continued practical support we receive from school communities across Canada and in Lynden WA. Placing students in real classrooms forms a very significant part of the program of studies offered at the CCRTC, and it allows experienced teachers to model and speak about their teaching practice. In addition to placing students in Ontario schools, we plan to place students in Western schools (BC and Lynden) during Practicum 2, in Manitoba during Practicum 3 and in Alberta for Practicum 4. Yearly we rotate the placement times as well as the supervising faculty. A faculty member's physical presence at the practicum sessions also allows for presentations and workshops to local school communities and staffs.

New this year will be the option open to students who hold a University degree to be placed on an extended practicum at the Gomarus College in Groningen, The Netherlands. This Reformed high school has introduced an immersion English program for its students, and requires native English-speaking (student-) teachers to play an active role. We are excited to be able to offer our students the possibility of teaching overseas at the invitation of the Gomarus College. Also new this year is the introduction of a different diploma – the Diploma of Education Studies. This diploma will be issued to those who do not have the university requirements for entering into the one-year program, but who are admitted on the basis of a College diploma as well as teaching experience (e.g., an EA position). Needless to say, the presence of these “mature” students lends a very special and welcome dimension to our College population.

The program and course offerings at the College are under regular review, as are the ways in which programs and courses can best be offered. For example, to what extent can we make use of today's technology? What are the practical implications? How might technology help to advance (or perhaps restrict) the work we do? We are excited about the new library software program currently being implemented and tested. This hosted solution will allow teachers (and others) to access our catalogue from home or from school, and will make borrowing books easier. We recognize that our library is a wonderful resource to our supporting communities, and all it takes for individuals to borrow a book or other items is the completion of a patron registration form. Interested?! Please contact Eleanor Boeringa at [eleanorb@covenantteacherscollege.com](mailto:eleanorb@covenantteacherscollege.com).

Over time, the recognition that Covenant Teachers College can also play a role in settings beyond a pre-service teacher education program has grown. Regularly we receive requests for offering “in-service professional development” opportunities in local schools, and faculty members respond by providing a workshop or a course, or by assisting schools in a different way. For example, the three full-time faculty members will be involved in sharing professional knowledge and expertise as part of the exciting staff research and development project introduced at the Guido de Brès High School. During the past Summer, Rev. D. Agema taught a bible course for practising teachers in Neerlandia AB, and to-date several requests for summer courses to be offered in 2010 have been received from schools across Canada.

At its 2009 Annual Meeting, the Board of Governors recognized the need for

expanding the faculty by one additional full-time person. Advertisements have been placed, and we ask you to support this development prayerfully with your financial support as the appointment of a fourth faculty member will have significant implications for our relatively modest budget. Recent indications suggest that although the pre-service role of the CCRTC may be restricted to some provinces in which our graduates are teaching (Ontario and Manitoba) due to provincial requirements, the in-service teacher support role the College can play is not restricted in any way. Close cooperation with local Principals and Boards makes it possible for Covenant College to play an active role in Reformed schools across Canada and beyond. We encourage all Boards to consider ways in which your College can serve the needs of your school.

Lastly, Covenant Teachers College plans to offer a series of four evening seminars for teachers and other interested persons. In this series we plan to examine aspects of the unique character of Reformed education, also in relation to other approaches of Christian schooling. We ask that you reserve the dates (February 11, 18, 25, March 4) and keep an eye out for notices that will contain additional information and registration procedures.

The 2009-2010 year has only just begun. It is clear that we cannot do our daily work on our own. Nor can we fulfill our plans in our own strength. Daily we depend on the grace of our heavenly Father, through the work of our Lord Jesus Christ and his Holy Spirit. We pray that Covenant Teachers College will be blessed so that we may continue to be a blessing to the schools we serve.





## FROM THE GOMARUS COLLEGE, GRONINGEN – THE NETHERLANDS

CHRISTINE VAN HALEN-FABER

Visitors are a regular occurrence at the College. Parents, grandparents, or other interested individuals who happen to be in the vicinity of the College drop in from time to time to join the students (or faculty) during one of the breaks. Recently, we experienced a visit of a different kind when seven teachers from a Dutch secondary school visited us.



All seven are involved in the Twee Talig Onderwijs (English immersion) program offered to students in the first three grades of their academic program at one of our “sister schools,” the Gomarus College in Groningen. Students enrolled in the immersion program study several subjects in English – and by implication, their teachers teach these subjects in English. Exposure to the language is fostered in various ways: Email correspondence with an individual student during the first year, a teacher-directed project with groups of students in year 2, and a two-week academic immersion visit to an English-speaking school in year 3. During



**“We are excited to be able to offer our Diploma of Education students this international placement option.”**



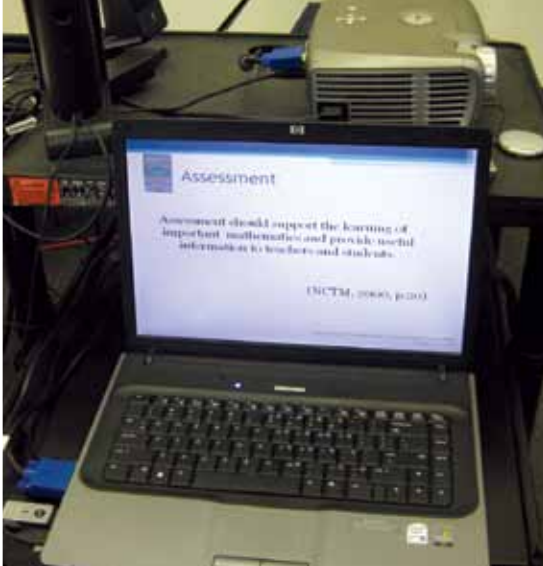
the past three years, our sister school in Groningen has developed several international contacts, including contacts with Ontario schools.

Since teacher development is part of this immersion program, we were delighted to meet seven colleagues whose main aim was to get to know the Canadian schools, and speak English as much as possible. Their stay was filled with visiting elementary schools and especially high schools, connecting with Canadian colleagues who teach similar subjects, and even attempting to teach a class or two. Of special interest to our College is the plan that two student-teachers will spend

an extended practice teaching placement at Gomarus in the spring of 2010. We are excited to be able to offer our Diploma of Education students this international placement option.

The visit of our Gomarus colleagues ended with a mini-conference at Covenant Teachers College on October 20. This conference included the Dutch visitors, the CCRTC students and faculty, high school principals and other guests. The topic of the conference was “The place of devotions in a Reformed (high) school” and featured several presenters: Mr. Allard Gunnink led the participants in devotions, and then explained the place and purpose of devotions. Rev. Douwe Agema explained the structure of a Devotions Guideline he has developed for use in the secondary schools, and Mr. George Alkema spoke about his own experiences in using the guideline with his students at the Guido de Brès High School in Hamilton. The morning was concluded with a session in which the visitors shared their findings under the theme “Pearls and Puzzles.” The pearls were the observations they treasured and hope to take back to their own teaching settings. The puzzles were questions they had for us to consider.

A delicious lunch was served by the students of Covenant College, offering a final opportunity for collegial mingling. We are grateful for the opportunity to work closely together with our Gomarus brothers and sisters in faith – and are again reminded that Reformed education is a world-wide endeavour. We pray that the LORD may keep us faithful in our efforts to serve Him.



WOMEN ASSISTING<sup>THE</sup>TEACHERS COLLEGE IN HAMILTON

## W.A.T.C.H. - Who Are We?

We are **Women**, representing our churches from Canada, Australia and the USA, who **Assist** in raising awareness and funds for the **Teachers College in Hamilton**.

### WHAT HAVE WE DONE?

With the help of many enthusiastic WATCH reps, we have been able to raise \$35,000 over the past 13 years. This “fun”draising has been achieved in a variety of ways: mum sales, bake sales, door collections, “Two-nies for Teachers” Jars, etc.

These funds have been used to purchase those necessary extras that are not on the operating budget. The IT department has been supported by the purchase of two LCD projectors, a laptop, a network printer, and an AV cart. The digital camera records daily life at the College in a visual format, and the purchase of two photocopiers, one in the main office and the other in the library, have really simplified the work of faculty, staff, and students. The students have enjoyed the new refrigerator and stove, also purchased by WATCH funds, not only for cooking, but also for the occasional science experiment!

We want to be a visible presence in our churches. To help us with this we have come up with a new logo! We extend special thanks to Alice Swaving for her work in designing this “eye-catcher”.

### WHERE ARE WE GOING?

We currently have 30 W.A.T.C.H. representatives, however we would like to see many more churches with a WATCH-ful presence! We are striving to find a contact in each congregation to assist in the raising of awareness (& funds). We hope to send along to our reps regular bulletin updates informing the communities of what is happening at “Covenant College”. WATCH reps will also be encouraged to promote the college in their congregation through word and prayer.

**If your congregation is without a W.A.T.C.H. rep, maybe you would consider joining our team!**

We continue on in prayer, asking that our heavenly Father will bless CCRTC as it strives to teach students who will in turn teach and influence so many of our covenant children.

**Eleanor Boeringa** CCRTC LIASION ..... 905-304-3912 or [eleanorb@covenantteacherscollege.com](mailto:eleanorb@covenantteacherscollege.com)  
**Julie DeHaan** CHAIR ..... 905-957-9184 or [wilcoandjulie@gmail.com](mailto:wilcoandjulie@gmail.com)  
**Connie Stieva** TREASURER..... 905-383-8979  
**Robin Westrik** SECRETARY..... 519-763-4397 or [rjwestrik@rogers.com](mailto:rjwestrik@rogers.com)



# from the finance committee

HELENA DEJONGE

Once again the Lord has provided the means necessary for Covenant Canadian Reformed Teachers College to begin another year of instructing students in Reformed Education. This gives us much reason for thankfulness. The college is also, however, dealing with the reality of a deficit of \$27,000 from the previous school year. This is no small amount. It

**“Donations are the largest source of revenue for CCRTC. It is also our most unpredictable.**

could be reason for discouragement and could cast doubt over the future plans of CCRTC. And yet, as 1 Thess. 5:16-18 reminds us, we must “Be joyful always, pray continually, **give thanks in all circumstances...**” We are not making light of this deficit when we share with you the following financial details, about which we are thankful.

Firstly, from September 2008 to August 2009 approximately \$411,000.00 could be collected from various revenue sources despite difficult economic times. Many other organizations relying upon voluntary contributions had even greater difficulty raising funds than we did. Also, this is not the first time that the college has had a deficit of this magnitude.

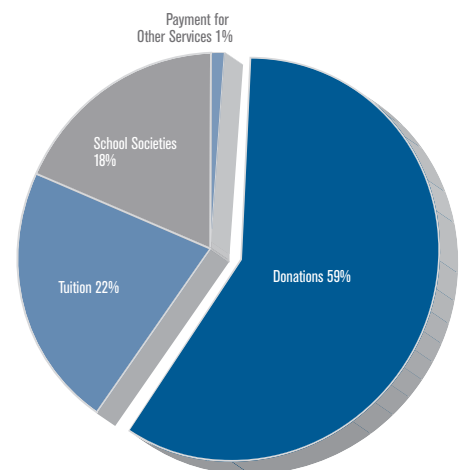
Thankfully, on that previous occasion, after the community was made aware of the situation, donations the following year covered that year’s expenses as well as the deficit of the previous year. As you can tell from the pie graph, CCRTC is funded by three main sources. While donations received were significantly lower than budgeted, the other two sources of income, student tuition and school society contributions, were higher than expected. Finally, donations given through Pre-Authorized Payments almost

doubled from the previous year. This is in large part due to the work of the governors, who have been busy raising awareness of this program in their local congregations and we thank them for all their work.

Donations are the largest source of revenue for CCRTC. It is also our most unpredictable. We have come to anticipate a sharp increase of donations in December and then again in the spring. For the other months it is difficult to estimate the funds that will be coming in. We therefore continue to encourage Pre-Authorized Payments so that the bookkeeper can have a better idea of what to expect. However, all donations given outside Pre-Authorized Payments are not only appreciated, they are needed, especially when we are trying to make up for the deficit of the previous year. We ask that you remember the financial needs of the college when sharing your first fruits. If you already contribute regularly, perhaps you could consider making an extra donation or increasing the amount you normally give. Please fill out the form on page three and return it to the College in the postage-paid envelope provided. Above all, we ask that you remember all the needs of CCRTC when calling upon our Father in prayer.

## 2008/2009 Results and 2009/2010 Budget

Revenue	2008 / 2009 Actual	2008 / 2009 % of Budget	2009 / 2010 Budget
Contributions/ Donations	\$203,471	73%	\$280,597
Society Revenue	\$91,659	108%	\$85,000
Student Tuition	\$111,780	105%	\$93,075
Miscellaneous	\$4,050	405%	\$1,050
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$410,690</b>	<b>87%</b>	<b>\$459,722</b>
Expenses			
Remuneration-Teaching	\$279,362	101%	\$288,192
Fringe / Benefits	\$42,597	96%	\$45,313
Prof. Dev./ Princ. Conf.	\$1,533	102%	\$2,705
Research Leave	\$7,500	100%	\$7,500
Practicum Teaching	\$13,909	185%	\$10,000
Building Expenses	\$30,068	98%	\$34,215
Administration / Library	\$42,131	76%	\$51,352
Miscellaneous	\$20,865	104%	\$20,400
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$437,965</b>	<b>99%</b>	<b>\$459,722</b>
<b>Revenue - Expenses</b>	<b>-\$27,005</b>		<b>0</b>



## CCRTC FUNDING

[www.covenantteacherscollege.com](http://www.covenantteacherscollege.com)