



Covenant

CANADIAN REFORMED TEACHERS COLLEGE

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

25 CELEBRATING
YEARS



I N S I D E

Highlights from the College

The Well Known Triangle Finance Report

from the VICE-CHAIRMAN **GERRIT BOS**

It is my privilege to address you in this issue of the Covenant Newsletter. I've been on the board now for one and a half years, and it has been a great experience; eye-opening, busy, and very rewarding. It has reinforced my belief that the teachers college is a very worthwhile organization to support, and I am glad to be a part of it. This past February we again had our Annual General Meeting (AGM). At the meeting all governors, delegated representatives of each supporting school society, gather from across Canada to celebrate the successes of the past year, to make decisions regarding current issues, and to chart a broad path for the future. To help forge the links between you, our readers, and Covenant College, we've published the up-to-date list of all the governors alongside this article.

This year has been especially joyful because of our 25th anniversary. Those who still have vivid memories of the beginning can reflect on the struggles and blessings over what might still seem like only a few years ago. But for current students, 25 years must seem like a long time. The teachers college was begun before they were born! I'm struck by the appropriateness of our theme text of Psalm 78:4 that we "tell the next generation." I'm also struck by the wide reach the teachers college has through its graduates, faculty, students, and volunteers. Many of our 161 graduates are employed or volunteer in one of our schools across Canada, and

even abroad. Our current students are able to gain practical knowledge and experience through practicum placements, and hopefully the schools can experience the benefit of getting to know one or more of our students, seeing the fresh ideas they have, and encouraging them on their way. The ultimate beneficiaries may well be your children or grandchildren.

At the AGM we had an opportunity to reflect on the many blessings we have received in the past year, the faithful teaching, the eager learning, the practicum placements, and the strengthening of ties between Covenant College and our supporters – schools and individuals alike. Much reason for thankfulness to our Lord! We also had an opportunity to give consideration to some needed new initiatives. We'll keep you posted regarding an on-line option for distance learning and professional development, an investigation into whether a fourth year is feasible or wise, and ongoing efforts towards accreditation and recognition of our course credits. Our primary goal remains to provide dedicated, well-educated, Reformed teachers for our schools. Looking ahead to the end of this budget year, once again we are facing a significant budget shortfall. To make things more convenient for our regular and new donors, we have decided to offer a direct payment option. Our new suggested donation level of \$396 per year works out to \$33 per month. We also plan to contact corporate sponsors. With these initiatives we hope to establish a more regular income stream. This will stand us well for our discussions with the Ministry of Training, Colleges, and Universities, which pays close attention to sound financial practices of OSAP-eligible schools.

Overall the AGM was a very positive experience. As a college we are indeed richly blessed by our Lord. We remain optimistic for the future and, going forward with energy and enthusiasm, we do our best to do His will, so that His name may be glorified in all that we do, and that our work for Covenant College may be a part of living out our lives of thankfulness.

>> Board of Governors

Peter Aikema	.....	<i>Covenant, Neerlandia</i>
Gerrit Bos	.....	<i>Maranatha, Fergus</i>
Martha de Gelder	.....	<i>Past Chairman</i>
Tim de Gelder	.....	<i>Owen Sound</i>
Jane deGlint	.....	<i>William of Orange, Surrey</i>
Arthur DeLeeuw	.....	<i>John Calvin, Chilliwack</i>
Thea Heyink	.....	<i>Covenant, London</i>
Sharon Hofsink	.....	<i>Timothy, Hamilton</i>
Eric Jans	.....	<i>Attercliffe</i>
Debby Lodder	.....	<i>Cornerstone, Lynden</i>
Len Lodder	.....	<i>Dufferin, Carman</i>
Harry Moes	.....	<i>Credo, Langley</i>
Dave Pruim	.....	<i>Immanuel, Winnipeg</i>
Peter Ravensbergen	.....	<i>John Calvin, Smithville</i>
John Schoon	.....	<i>Credo, Woodbridge</i>
Willa Dale Smid	.....	<i>Eben-ezer, Chatham</i>
Steve Spencer	.....	<i>Emmanuel, Fergus</i>
Peter Vandersluis	.....	<i>Chairman</i>
Anthony Vis	.....	<i>Dufferin, Orangeville</i>





25th Anniversary Committee BACK L-R: Allard Gunnink, Henry Homan, George Hofsink, FRONT L-R: Kim Harsevoort, Martha de Gelder



from the PRINCIPAL CHRISTINE VAN HALEN FABER

The arrival of Spring reminds us once again of the Father's faithfulness: "As long as the earth endures, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night will never cease" (Gen. 8:22).

The LORD also showed his faithfulness to our six graduating students in that all were offered, and subsequently accepted, a teaching position in one of our schools.

As you, the reader, will undoubtedly know by now, this year marks the 25th anniversary of our college. Thanks to the creativity and ingenuity displayed by the members of the 25th Anniversary Committee, special events are featured throughout the academic year. Some of these events involve faculty and students, others the Board of Governors, and still others the broader educational and supporting community. It is my pleasure to highlight some aspects of three recent events during which we could commemorate with gratitude the Lord's gifts to us.

School-College interactions

We are grateful that, this year, with the professional (and in some cases, financial) cooperation of schools and school boards, our students could be placed not only in Ontario schools, but also in schools across Canada. This also allows for faculty interaction with staff and school communities at (special) membership meetings. During the second and third practicum sessions I visited the school communities in Carman, Winnipeg, Coaldale, Edmonton, and Neerlandia. I hope to do the same during the fourth practicum when students will be placed in Fraser Valley schools and in Lynden.

These interactions have proven to be very worthwhile. Even during a very brief stay in any one of our communities I am reminded over and over how well our schools function in assisting parents in





Two agenda items may be of special interest to our readers:

Firstly, the matter of pursuing avenues that may lead to forms of recognition and accreditation continues to have the attention of the board. In an earlier Newsletter (Summer 2004) we outlined the mandate of the then recently appointed Accreditation Ad Hoc Committee.

the education of their children. Much work is done behind the scenes by local boards, and committees. As a teacher-educator, I am greatly encouraged to see how across our country many teachers and their students busy themselves with teaching and learning that is in accordance with God's Word. As a colleague to fellow-teachers I observe the considerable challenges that are before us when we are called to "translate" provincial curriculum expectations into teaching practices that reflect deeply who we are. It is not an easy task to plan and deliver instruction that is fully in line with our calling as God's people in a society that no longer recognizes the Lordship of Christ. We pray for daily guidance for our teachers, and we continue to seek for ways in which, nation-wide, we may assist and support each other in our tasks.

Annual Governors Meeting

It will not come as a surprise that this year's Annual Governors Meeting also reflected the special character of our anniversary year. The regular business of the board was suitably framed by the launch of a power point video presentation (capably designed and put together by Thea Heyink on behalf of the Fundraising Committee) at the beginning and a Symposium and an Open House at the end.



Since then, this committee has developed and circulated a discussion paper for the purpose of seeking input from member school communities. The consensus: Continue to pursue recognition and accreditation of the programs while maintaining their Reformed character. We are pursuing several avenues. One is the ongoing contact with Redeemer University College in Ancaster,

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ON. We recognize that the process of seeking to enter into an articulation agreement by which course credits are recognized is a complicated one for both institutions. However, we trust that also this process will lead to a clear decision that will benefit the college. A second avenue is to develop a case file that reflects specific instances in which our courses are recognized by academic institutions elsewhere. For example, upon submitting program descriptions and individual course syllabi in support of an application for further studies we were pleased to learn that in Manitoba, one of our three-year Diploma of Teaching graduates received 31 course credits for work done at our college. We are presently tracking former students and their accreditation developments in Alberta and Australia and are also beginning to explore options in British Columbia. We solicit your prayerful support for these endeavours.

The second agenda item of interest to the reader concerns the plans for investigating options and possibilities for professional development and distance education. The matter of professional development has once again been discussed by the Board of

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Governors. In response to a specific request by a local school board, we are in the process of developing an in-service Bible Instruction course to be offered in Fergus in July 2007. It seems likely that other school communities may follow suit by requesting “the College” to offer on-site in-service professional development opportunities. We are greatly encouraged by this development. In an effort to decrease the physical distance between our schools and the college even more, we are pleased with the progress made by the Information Technology Committee. To-date the focus of this committee has been on the operational aspect which includes developing a plan for upgrading the college’s computers. With the invaluable assistance of W.A.T.C.H., the women’s saving’s action, funds could be made available to purchase and install a new server and upgrade several computers. This has streamlined the in-house sharing of files etc., and allows for greater student access to the Internet for research purposes. Also our librarian, Eleanor Boeringa, continues to monitor the options available to make our library

schools across Canada and in Lynden. To help us engage in a collective form of reflexive practice, approximately forty current and past (even “founding”) governors, school board and education committee members, principals, and faculty members met to discuss the perceived challenges for Reformed education. After an introduction in which the context was shaped around recent writings about the identity and functioning of schools (e.g., L. Kampen, 1999; N.P. Wolterstorff, 2002; Dilts & Bateson, 2006; J.G. VanDooren, 2006), symposium participants were invited to exchange ideas on the central question What are the challenges for Reformed education today? During several rounds of discussion, a number of foundational matters were raised – ranging from the nature and character of Reformed education to the significance of the governance model of “parent/church community-supported schools.”

Elsewhere in this Newsletter you will find a diagram intended to help us visualize and articulate the place and purpose of our



more accessible. The next area to be explored involves the options we may have (and develop) to provide in-service support to schools and teachers via distance education. We recognize that in terms of the contents and method of program delivery such a development has huge philosophical and practical ramifications. Careful study is required on the part of the faculty, the IT Committee, the Program and Personnel Committee, and not least of all, our potential participants: the teachers.

Symposium on Reformed Education

The Annual Governors Meeting also offered a good opportunity to organize a Symposium on Reformed education and the role of the college. After all, Covenant College does not operate in isolation, but considers itself integrally linked to the family of Reformed

schools. We thank br. Bill Gortemaker for his willingness to share this refined form of his initial black board sketch.

One of the encouraging outcomes of the symposium was the desire to organize a nation-wide Board Conference in the very near future. In order to turn this idea into a reality, a steering committee with representation from Washington State, British Columbia, Alberta, Manitoba, and Ontario will meet in Winnipeg in April 2007.

This brings me to the end of the highlights. Much work has been done by relatively few people. Much more work awaits doing – with your continued help and support. It is our prayer that all our efforts may continue to be blessed richly. *“To the end that man may serve his God” [Belgic Confession, Art. 12].*



CHURCH, HOME & SCHOOL the well known triangle

CONCEPT: BILL GORTEMAKER GRAPHIC: DAVE GORTEMAKER

It has been reported elsewhere in this magazine that the symposium held on February 10 in celebration of the teachers college's

Now that we are becoming more and more a part of the Canadian society, we realize that absolute isolation is neither possible nor acceptable. The home, the church, and the school exist in the middle of the world. There is a constant interaction between the community of the triangle and its surroundings.

The new version illustrates this. The arrows coming from outside symbolize the influence of the world – an influence that is exerted by various means, including printed and digital sources. The small,

pulsating lines permeating the “boundaries” of the triangle remind us that the relationship must be mutual. The followers of

Christ, who is King of all creation, have a task with respect to the world. As believers we are

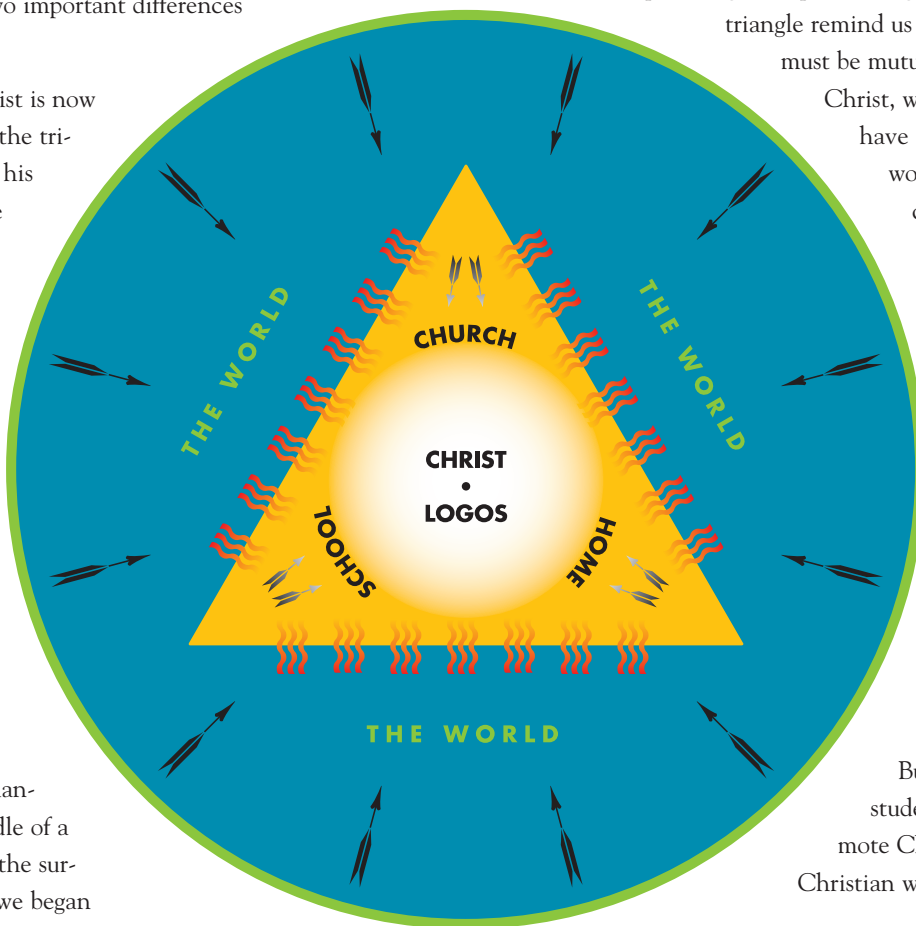
called to live in such a way that our faith radiates outward in all the areas of life in which God places us. The school, together with the home and the church, must prepare the youth for this task. We are not referring here to a calling to “transform” the world. That, we are convinced, is not the schools' function.

But we are thinking of our students' obligation to promote Christ's kingship – by their Christian walk, through their studies,

25th anniversary discussed a new version of the well-known triangle of “home, church, and school.” As the illustration on this page shows, there are two important differences with the older version.

Firstly, the name of Christ is now placed in the middle of the triangle. His presence and his Word are central for the life of the church, the home, and the school; and although this has always been understood, the new version makes it explicit. Christ must be our focus. It is to Him and his life-giving Word that the covenant community must turn at all times for nourishment and guidance.

Secondly, the revised triangle is placed in the middle of a circle, which stands for the surrounding world. When we began



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establishing our own schools in this country, one of the reasons was to protect the youth from a potentially hostile environment.

in the choice of their careers, in their concern for and involvement with a lost world.

finance report THEA HEYINK

Yes, here we are again ... it seems that in every newsletter, we have to pass along the news that Covenant College is running short of funds to make the budget before year end. It becomes a refrain running throughout all our reports. At our recent Annual General Meeting, this issue took up much time, as we discussed every angle of this recurring problem. By year end 2006 we closed the books with a \$3600 deficit, and this year is shaping up to end with a much

larger deficit. We need to ask ourselves, why is this a chronic problem? Well, last year we increased the teaching time of one faculty member from part-time to full-time to meet the growing needs of the College. At the same time, operation and maintenance costs increased quite substantially.

The board, committees and faculty of the College are looking ahead and planning for the future. There are many avenues we ought to pursue to remain a viable post-secondary institution of learning. We need to pursue the matter of accreditation. We also require investigation of adding a fourth year to the current program. And

lastly, we ought to develop distance learning courses, a venture that will cost much in terms of time, effort, and finances. But these important steps will be hard to implement if we only maintain the status quo.

But again, how do we deal with our persistent issue? We looked around at other similar institutions and we discovered that many have gone with the pre-authorized withdrawal system. It is truly a win-win system. On the donors' side, it becomes just another regular payment to be made, and will provide a no-effort system of charitable support to the College. Implementing this system would allow the College to receive automatic stable revenues.

Please consider the College need prayerfully. Elsewhere you will see the form for the pre-authorization to withdraw regular donations from your bank account. We urge you to clip it, fill it in, attach a void cheque, and send it in. Several weeks after receiving this newsletter, you may hear from your local college representative. Would it not be a nice thing to be able to say, "The form is in the mail"?

For those of you who prefer to send in cheques, we are more than happy to receive them. We truly are thankful that we have such a faithful donor base. Please consider a special donation at this time to get us to fiscal year-end.

In conclusion, we ask for your continued prayers on behalf of Covenant College. Without the College, our elementary and secondary schools would certainly find it very difficult to acquire enough Reformed teachers. Let us keep this fine institution in top quality working condition, and so continue to help Reformed parents raise their children in the fear of the Lord! Psalm 78:4 *"We will not hide them from our children; we will tell the next generation the praiseworthy deeds of the Lord, his power, and the wonders he has done!"*

Since the writing of this report, the financial picture of the college has become increasingly grim. If you have not done so already, please respond to our request for support as soon as possible.

Actual Revenue & Expenditures to February 28, 2007		
	ACTUAL	% OF BUDGET
Revenue	244,949	57%*
Expenses		
Remuneration - Teaching	258,678	53%
Fringe Benefits	17,012	37%
Prof. Dev./Princ. Conf.	1,135	50%
Research Leave	3,750	50%
Practicum Teaching	3,014	40%
LCRSS League	83	83%
Library	11,236	55%
Building Expenses	14,755	49%
Administration	15,237	67%
Miscellaneous	25,083	78%
Total Expenses	228,412	53%
Revenue Less Expenses	16,537	

**To date revenue has included almost all of the student tuition which, along with a high volume of donations in the month of December, accounts for the revenue reported above. The past two months have each resulted in a deficit of \$20,000 and we will depend strongly on donations in the next few months to keep us in the black.*

25 CELEBRATING YEARS

Do you already own a copy?



to read what our fathers were thinking and doing when they sought to build Reformed schools, to find out about the efforts put forth to establish the College, [and] to ponder the challenges that face us . . .” (M. DeGelder, p.ix).

If you are a first-time parent, or a Board- or Committee member, or a teacher, or someone looking for a gift to give, or a supporter of Reformed education: This book is for you!

Milestones as steppingstones is a publication prepared by the faculty of Covenant Canadian Reformed Teachers College in celebration of twenty-five years of reformed teacher education, and is dedicated to all who love Reformed education. It seeks to engage the reader by inviting you to “reflect on what God’s Word has to say about the education of our children,

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NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

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CHURCH _____ PHONE _____

EMAIL (optional) _____

PRE-AUTHORIZED DIRECT WITHDRAWL FORM

I hereby authorize **Covenant Canadian Reformed Teachers College** to withdraw regular monthly payments from my bank account in the amount of:

\$33/Month - Withdrawn on the _____ of the month

\$396/Annually - Withdrawn on _____ each year

\$ _____/Month - Withdrawn on the _____ of the month

SIGNATURE:

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