



# Covenant

CANADIAN REFORMED TEACHERS COLLEGE

JULY 2021

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



## from the PRINCIPAL CHRISTINE VAN HALEN-FABER

*"Be still and know that I am God"* PSALM 46:10

With the words of our theme text on our lips we closed the 2020-2021 academic year. A year of uncertainty and turbulence, yet a year that allowed us to experience God's faithfulness and many blessings. Some highlights of the past semester include:

- Synchronous virtual teaching and learning opportunities.
- Twenty students who successfully completed a unique practicum placement, featuring a combination of in-class and online teaching.
- Online devotions with students, faculty, and staff.
- Nine teacher candidates who graduated from their respective programs.

• Many virtual Board, committee, faculty, and administrative meetings that enabled us to continue with the various tasks at hand.

The list could go on, but I think you get the picture. Thanks to the blessings of technology, the work continued under rather unusual conditions. For that we are deeply grateful. Having said this, we very much hope and pray that in-person teaching and learning will resume once again in September. After all, the core of all education is shaped by vibrant interpersonal relationships.

As a College community we are grateful for the many gifts God has given us over the almost 40 years the College has existed. Recently we were reminded

of this when the LORD in his wisdom took to himself the brothers Case Lindhout and Jack Pieterman. Both men have served Reformed Christian education, and specifically Covenant Canadian Reformed Teachers College, in many different ways. We thank God for them and pray that those who mourn their passing may be comforted by his rich promises in Christ.

**I conclude this final-of-the-year update with the reminder that with your prayerful support, our task continues. As we make preparations for the next academic year, striving to be the definitive source for Reformed teacher training, we do so in quiet confidence and trust: Be still and know that I am God.**

# THANK YOU!



At the graduation, a gift was presented on behalf of the W.A.T.C.H. committee.

In the words of the W.A.T.C.H. liaison, "Although various restrictions may have been in place due to COVID, that did not hinder the creative spirit of many representatives and fundraising continued this year, even if it might not have been quite as usual. We are truly grateful for their hard work! And so without further ado, we are delighted to present the College with a cheque for \$8,000.00!! It represents the giving spirit of so many individuals across the country and indeed, across the border!"

Our response:  
A huge **"THANK YOU!"**



## THE ACCREDITATION FRONT

The Spring of 2021 marked a significant milestone in the history of Covenant Canadian Reformed Teachers College (CCRTC):

The Minister of Colleges and Universities granted his final approval, subject to some conditions, to confer a Bachelor of Education degree to students who

successfully complete the two-year program. This ministerial consent opens the way for the College to pursue the required professional accreditation by the Ontario College of Teachers (OCT). The process has now been put in motion and several cordial meetings between OCT's accreditation branch and CCRTC's faculty have already taken place. Once again we find ourselves

articulating our raison d'être, along with the principles that shape CCRTC's operation, this time in the context of the Ontario Regulations that govern the teaching profession. Lord willing, the application will be submitted in the late Fall of this year and a review panel will be appointed at that time. As always, we covet your prayers.



# INTRODUCING THE CLASS OF 2021

This year’s graduation was a virtual-but-real event for nine teacher candidates: A virtual celebration followed by “porch visits” during which the diploma, a gift, and a long-stemmed rose were presented. On behalf of the entire Covenant Canadian Reformed Teachers College (CCRTC) community we extend our warmest congratulations and wish them God’s blessings as they embark on their teaching career. With great delight we introduce you to these graduates:

Rebecca Bosscher successfully completed the two-year program. A graduate of Guido de Brès Christian High School, she holds an Honours BA from Brock University. She accepted a Grade 7 teaching position at Attercliffe Canadian Reformed Elementary School, in Attercliffe, ON.

Lisa Boon received the Diploma of Teaching. She is a graduate of Rehoboth Christian School in Norwich. She will be teaching at Ebenezer Christian School in Campden, ON along with the extra-special task of working with a student with special needs.

Maaïke de Jong is a graduate of Providence Reformed Collegiate in Komoka and received the Diploma of Teaching after successfully completing the three-year program at CCRTC. She will be teaching Grade 3 at Hope Reformed Christian School, Paris, ON.

Samantha DeGraaf obtained the Diploma of Teaching, having previously graduated from the Early Childhood Education program at Niagara College. She gained work experience at several schools and will

be teaching “her own” Grade 1 at Hope Reformed Christian School, Paris, ON.

Hailey Jongbloed successfully completed the three-year program and received the Diploma of Teaching. She is a graduate of Guido de Brès Christian High School. She accepted a Grade 7 teaching position at Bellstone Christian School, Mount Hope, ON.

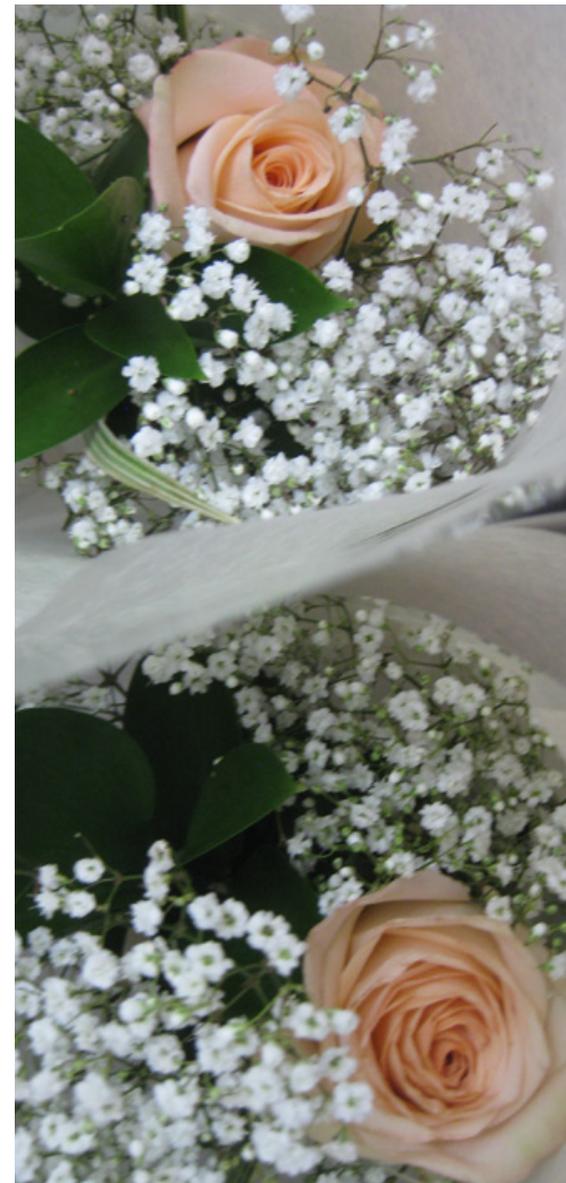
Sydney Koning received the Diploma of Teaching, previously having graduated from the Guido de Brès Christian High School in Hamilton. In September she will be teaching Grade 7 at Maranatha Christian School in Fergus, ON.

Esther Langendoen is a graduate of Heritage Christian School in Jordan. Having successfully completed the three-year program, she received the Diploma of Teaching. She has been appointed to teach Grade 6 at the Rehoboth Christian School in Copetown, ON.

Maria Ravensbergen obtained the Diploma of Teaching. She previously graduated from the Guido de Brès Christian High School in Hamilton and has accepted a Grade 3 teaching position at Bellstone Christian School in Mount Hope, ON.

Tarissa Tenhage graduated with the Diploma of Teaching, having successfully completed her three years of study at CCRTC. She graduated from the Guido de Brès Christian High School in Hamilton and looks forward to teaching Grade 3 at Attercliffe Canadian Reformed Elementary School in Attercliffe, ON.

“...being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.” PHILIPPIANS 1:6





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## from the treasurer **DAN WITTEN**



It is with great thankfulness that we could again witness the closing of another year for Covenant Canadian Reformed Teachers College (CCRTC), even though we were once more unable to hold a graduation event in the manner we have all grown accustomed to. However, despite the many changes that CCRTC, and the community as whole, has undergone, we can continue to see God's guiding hand through all things.

Looking back over the past year we can once again be thankful for the way in which the College, including its Board and committees, could function. CCRTC's member schools are formally represented in the person of a local Governor and in addition many individuals serve as members on committees. This includes the finance committee. From experience I can assure you that it is a great way to get to know the College better, to appreciate its organization, and to stand amazed at the work that goes on there.

Also on the finance committee we experience the retirement of committee members whose terms have ended. Therefore we are always looking for new names to be added to the list of possible candidates, either now or in the future. If you like working with numbers, appreciate the direction provided in a well-developed Handbook, enjoy developing financial strategies and fiscal policy, don't mind reviewing financial

statements from the comfort of your home and, most importantly, seek to serve our educational community with your particular skillset – why not contact me?

The LORD has continued to supply CCRTC with the funds required to operate the College. What a marvelous blessing it is to see the ongoing financial support for the education of covenantal teachers.

Historically, financial support tends to decline throughout the summer months. We earnestly ask everyone to remember CCRTC in their charitable giving. The students may be away, but there is still much work going on within the College.

We pray that the students and faculty will enjoy a much needed and deserved break over the summer and also pray that the LORD continues to richly bless CCRTC in its role of Reformed teacher training.

Yours in Christ,

Dan Witten

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