



*"...tell the next generation..."*

PSALM 78:4



CCRTC NEWS  
SPRING 2023





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

“One generation shall commend the LORD’s work to another, and shall declare his mighty acts.” PSALM 145:4

At this time of year, it is not difficult to find evidence of the LORD’s mighty acts, for we only have to look around us to appreciate his hand in “the creation, preservation, and government of the universe; which is before our eyes as a most beautiful book, ...” (*The Belgic Confession*, Art. 2). Whether we observe the slow dance of two mighty planets, Venus and Jupiter, in the evening sky, whether we listen to the joyful song of robins, or whether we can give thanks for daily travelling mercies – one thing is abundantly clear: God’s covenant love is steadfast and firm.

As you read this Newsletter, the 2022-2023 academic year has entered its home stretch. Our teacher candidates could complete their practicum placements in schools in Alberta, Manitoba, and Ontario, and faculty members could evaluate their progress, touch base with teachers, and offer professional development opportunities to local staffs. Visiting schools during the practicum placement period enables us as faculty to experience first-hand the privilege of

faithful, biblical, and excellent education offered in our member schools. It helps us stay grounded, humble, and grateful for the blessed gift of Reformed Christian education.

While our students were away, the College could host the Annual General Meeting of the Board of Governors. It is an event that typically creates its own buzz of activities and after a two-year hiatus it was wonderful to see Governors interact in-person around the business of ensuring that Covenant Canadian Reformed Teachers College (CCRTC) continues to meet the standard of excellence we have set for ourselves. It was good to hear that among all the nitty-gritty details of reports and budget discussions, Governors do not lose sight of the vision, the *raison d’être*, of the College as it seeks to be the definitive source for Reformed teacher training. We thank our Governors for representing the member schools at the table, and encourage them to be ambassadors of excellence as they represent the College in their respective communities.

Upon their return after practicum, the first and second-year students in the Diploma of Teaching program explored the theme, *This city of ours: Hamilton*, by engaging in site visits and focus projects.

It’s fair to say that all of us gained a deeper understanding of how a city, guided by its municipal government, “lives, works, and plays.”

As we are about to bring the semester to a successful conclusion, we look forward to the graduation of four teacher candidates on Wednesday, May 24, D.V. The graduation ceremony will take place in the Cornerstone Canadian Reformed Church in Hamilton and will be followed by a reception. We warmly invite you to join us for this event.

Not surprisingly, the three teacher candidates who are ready to embark on their respective teaching careers had no lack of potential job options. Once again, the job postings were plentiful and many schools find themselves in a challenging position when it comes to filling vacancies. In this regard, CCRTC is closely involved with the endeavours of the League of Canadian Reformed School Societies and the *Teach With Us Canada!* initiative. How might we encourage young men and women to consider teaching as a worthwhile career? How might the College support member schools that, in order to fill their needs, have to resort to appointing individuals who are not fully trained as teachers? How might CCRTC serve member schools by offering professional development opportunities for





teachers to ensure professional excellence? What might be the best way of doing so – Summer courses? Stand-alone modules? Intense sessions over a few days? In-person? Virtual? A combination of the two? Indeed, there are many questions that require careful consideration in order to determine a course of action that will best serve Reformed Christian education. To assist us with this, a survey has been sent to all schools and we look forward to digesting the feedback provided by Boards via their Chairs and Principals.

In the midst of all the regular work of teaching, learning, and planning for the future, we continue to be patient when it comes to actualizing the final step in the accreditation process. Recently we experienced disappointment when we were advised by the Ontario College of Teachers that we need to await the release of revised guidelines and templates before we can submit our application and engage in the review process. We are encouraged that the Director of the accreditation branch has indicated Spring 2024 as a reasonable timeline for their final decision. With that in mind we continue our work under the motto, *Ora et Labora*, praying and working, while trusting that our God will guide every step along the way.



CCRTC

# ALUMNI NEWS

how it was and how it is

## Angela Ludwig (née Ouwersloot)

### CLASS OF 2006

I graduated from Covenant Canadian Reformed Teachers College in 2006 with a Diploma of Education, after completing an honours degree in Mathematics and Statistics at McMaster University. That same year I applied for and accepted a teaching position at Guido de Brès Christian High School in Hamilton, Ont. Starting full-time that September, my main courses were in the Math department with a few Computer courses sprinkled in. After a month of teaching under my maiden name, students came back from the Thanksgiving long weekend having to adjust to calling me by my married name. After three years of working full-time, I took a year of maternity leave as my husband, Mark, and I welcomed our first son in the summer of 2009. After his first birthday, I was able to return to Guido, but this time as a part-time staff member. This pattern repeated itself twice more as we welcomed two more sons, in the summers of 2011 and 2013. Since my oldest was about to begin his own educational journey in September of 2013, I decided to take a break from teaching and focus on my family for a number of years, though I couldn't walk away completely and continued to work as a substitute teacher. Then in 2020 I returned to a more regular teaching position, this time in elementary school, taking on the role as Vice Principal relief in grade 7 at Heritage Christian School in Jordan, Ont. The following year I moved to John Calvin Christian School in Smithville where I currently teach at the grade 8 level.

Working with a unity of purpose with the staff and parents, as was discussed at the College, and felt throughout, has been one of the greatest blessings of my professional career.





# INTERVIEW WITH MARK DEN HOLLANDER

## PLEASE TELL US A BIT ABOUT YOURSELF. (FAMILY, HOBBIES, ETC.)

I am married to Eleanor (Boot). We have been married for almost 15 years and have 6 children ranging in ages from 2 months to 11 years. Spending time with my family takes up the bulk of my time and functions as a hobby. We enjoy being active by going out sledding (not much this winter), skating, walking, hiking, biking, etc. We're very much enjoying living in the Niagara area because it is allowing us a whole new area to discover. For hobbies, Eleanor loves to decorate and fix up the house and so we work on many projects together, although I definitely prefer the outdoor projects. I also enjoy making homemade wine and beer. Other than that, I love a good book, reading the newspaper, and listening to podcasts.

## WHEN DID YOU KNOW YOU WANTED TO BE A TEACHER? HOW DID YOU ACHIEVE THAT GOAL?

When I was little, I either wanted to be a teacher or a minister, perhaps wanting to be just like my dad, or because I enjoyed people and talking. Over time I had people encouraging me to become a teacher, already in elementary school, but also in high school. That

encouragement meant a lot to me. In my later years at Guido de Brès Christian High School in Hamilton, Ont, I came to really enjoy learning, especially in my Philosophy and History classes. After I graduated, I completed a Bachelor of Arts degree in history at York University. After I was finished that, I completed a Bachelor of Education (BEd) degree at Brock University. I chose this path since I was intrigued by the possibility of teaching in the West but also of continuing my studies in the future. During my BEd studies I also was able to visit Covenant Canadian Reformed Teachers College (CCRTC) to get some reading materials to help me consider how Reformed Education is unique. That continues to be a passion of mine. After I was finished my BEd I applied for jobs, and in God's providence I landed in Winnipeg and was grateful to serve in several different capacities there for 14 years. During my time there I was also grateful to receive support from the Board to complete my Master of Education degree at the University of Manitoba.

## NOW YOU ARE AT THE COLLEGE, TEACHING THOSE WHO WANT TO TEACH. WHAT PROMPTED YOU TO MAKE THAT MOVE?

Having lived in Winnipeg for a good while and having served in quite a few

different roles, there was always a question of what comes next. I very much enjoyed serving in administration as Vice Principal and Principal and was not unhappy with my work. The idea of working at CCRTC always intrigued me, but I figured that this would be an opportunity for later in my career. Perhaps word of this idea got back to Dr. van Halen because at the National Principals' Conference each year we would have a little chat, go for a little walk -and so the seed was planted for it. In time, Eleanor and I considered that if we were to make a big change for our family, now might be a good time. Given the need for faculty at the college, and my own interests and passion in this area, it seemed a good fit and I'm thankful to find that although it is very different from serving as a school Principal, I still enjoy it very much. I'm also looking forward to the opportunity to continue my studies by pursuing a PhD, something that would have been very difficult to do while serving as Principal.

## WHAT HAS BEEN THE BIGGEST CHALLENGE OF YOUR NEW POSITION SO FAR? WHAT HAS BEEN THE ASPECT YOU HAVE ENJOYED THE MOST OVER THE PAST YEAR?

The greatest challenge so far is the learning curve. Although I have training in my BEd and my MED, there are vast amounts of





articles and books available regarding education, Christian education, and specifically Reformed Christian education and I had only read or experienced a small fraction of it. Now I'm in catch-up mode but enjoying that very much. There is also an adjustment from teaching high school students to teaching College students, and future teachers at that. My classroom management has improved dramatically. :) I have enjoyed growing in my understanding of Reformed Christian education. I had the privilege to speak at the Teachers' Convention in Ontario and then also to work on some follow-up presentations which are forthcoming, and this was very valuable Professional Development for me. I think I am only scratching the surface so far but am thoroughly enjoying growing in this.

### WHICH OF YOUR OWN EDUCATORS HAVE INFLUENCED YOU THE MOST?

I was blessed to attend three covenant schools. My Kindergarten and Grade one/two teachers stand out as planting in me a love for learning and community. This was only fostered more by several special teachers over the years at Credo Christian School in Woodbridge, Ont. and Guido. Especially at Guido, my Bible, History, and Philosophy teachers gave me a love for learning and shaped my worldview.

Other than that, education was important in my family and was certainly prioritized by my parents and so I also followed three sisters who had become teachers ahead of me. I am

grateful also to have served with exceptional colleagues and educators who shaped my own practice as well.

### IS THERE A PARTICULAR "STAND-OUT" MOMENT YOU CAN SHARE WITH US?

Getting to know the students at CCRTC has been wonderful. It is neat to see how the first-year teacher candidates come in as students, but through the classes you can watch them start to make the transition from student to teacher. In my classes with the students in their final year you see that they can easily be colleagues in the enterprise of covenant education, and that they are ready to serve. Watching our students teach in their practicums has also been a highlight.

### WHAT WOULD YOU SAY TO SOMEONE CONSIDERING TEACHING AS A CAREER?

It is an incredible joy and privilege to teach covenant children. God's covenant with us is all about relationships -God to us, and us with one another. That's a wonderful foundation for our schools and so to spend each day learning with and leading God's covenant children is special. It's hard work but rewarding work and will help you to grow in your own faith. Few careers allow you to spend so much time in God's word, in prayer, in study, and in song. But there is also a real need for teachers and not just in terms of numbers. We need people who are passionate about their faith, about learning and about



children, and if we can recruit more teachers who are well-trained for the profession, it will also elevate our profession and our schools. More importantly, in an increasingly secular world, we need people who can come alongside parents to tell the next generation the praiseworthy deeds of God, our Father, as we get to see them in all areas of the curriculum.

## MARK THE DATE

Help celebrate the  
Class of '23!

#### DATE:

Wednesday,  
May 24, 2023

#### LOCATION:

Cornerstone Church,  
Hamilton ON







# BOARD OF GOVERNORS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING: FEB. 24-25, 2023

RON DE HAAN

Every year the Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Board of Governors is held at this time of year. It was the first time in three years that the Governors could meet in person, and as such was highly anticipated.

Governors from as far away as Smithers, B.C. were excited and grateful to be able to attend this event, which was held at Covenant Canadian Reformed Teachers College (CCRTC).

## OPENING MATTERS

Friday's Chairman, Bert Poort, opened the meeting with the reading of Psalm 73 and prayer. He then welcomed the various delegates from across the country. Welcomes were also extended to Principal/CEO Christine van Halen-Faber and other faculty and staff of the College.

## BUSINESS MATTERS

Roll call was held, as well as the declaring of any potential conflicts of interest. The agenda was reviewed and adopted.

The minutes of the January 2023 meeting were examined and adopted.

## REPORTS

A series of reports were presented, considered, and accepted: Academic Program, Human Resources, Library, W.A.T.C.H., Governance, Property, Public Relations, League, and IT. The Finance Committee presented the 2023-2024 budget which was subsequently approved by the AGM.

## FACULTY PRESENTATION

Mark den Hollander presented some (grateful) perspectives on his work as instructor in Reformed Perspectives at CCRTC. How is the "Hallmark of Reformed Education" demonstrated in the various course offerings at CCRTC? How does our philosophy determine our practices? CCRTC courses are God-centered, student-focused, and teacher-directed.

## HARVEST FOUNDATION

Bernie Kottelenberg was welcomed to the AGM to speak about Harvest. This organization has been supporting Reformed schools, including CCRTC, in Ontario for 15 years. They partner with several organizations and estate donors to benefit school communities (i.e., tuition assistance) which do not receive government funding. The AGM

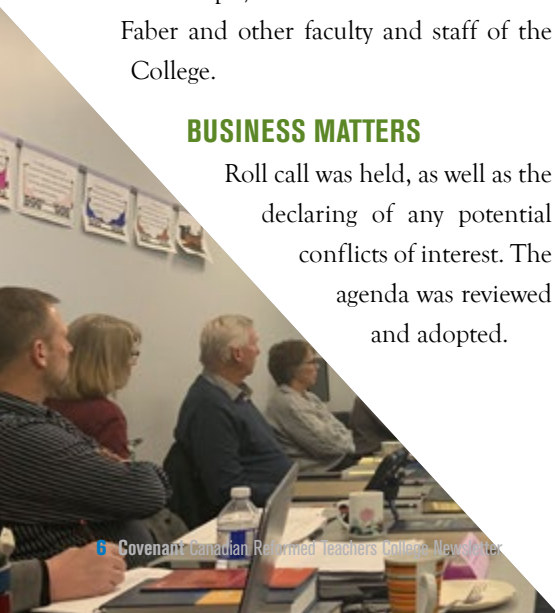
expressed its deep appreciation for the work of Harvest.

## PRINCIPAL'S REPORT AND STRATEGIC PLANNING

Christine van Halen presented the Faculty Report and the 5-year Strategic Plan, in terms of Faculty, Finances, Programs, Partnerships, and Operations. She expressed gratitude for the 40+ years of the CCRTC under God's blessing; she reviewed the present operations, which are going well, including the faculty assignments; she also looked ahead to the 2023-2024 academic year, and beyond, as staffing and leadership will be at the forefront. Finally, she expressed her gratitude for the work done by the Board and faculty, noting that Reformed teacher training is more important than ever.

## ONTARIO COLLEGE OF TEACHERS ACCREDITATION PROCESS

Christine van Halen updated the Governors about the status of the College's (long-time) quest for accreditation. Even though the Ontario government has declared CCRTC to be a "Permitted Institution", it must also be accredited by the Ontario College of Teachers (OCT), which regulates the teaching profession and governs its members. The OCT is revising their regulations and has proposed an application to be submitted in late summer, with a final decision to be



made in Spring 2024. The CCRTC Board and faculty continue to pray for this process and covet the prayers of all its supporters!

### LOCAL MATTERS

Various Governors updated the AGM about local situations: challenges, questions, and suggestions. After much sharing and breakout group interaction, it was clear that many schools are doing very well, despite the ongoing acute need for teachers. The Lord provides!

### TEACH WITH US CANADA! (TWUC)

Given the serious shortage of qualified and certified teachers in our Canadian Reformed schools, TWUC was initiated to attract and retain career teachers.

Several panel discussions were held to consider strategies and goals, and a Steering Committee has been established. Hopefully these efforts will be blessed, and our schools will gain and retain the long-term staffing they need.

### FINAL MATTERS

Several Governance matters were settled, including the Ratification of Executive and Signing Officers, Review of Board Actions, General Question Period, and proposed dates for next year's AGM (Feb. 23-24, 2024, DV).

### CLOSING

Greetings were shared, as Governors made their plans to return to their various school

communities across the country. Several comments around the table reflected on the strong sense of unity felt at this meeting. Chairman Bill Buist thanked all those who made this meeting possible. Above all, we thank our Heavenly Father for His goodness and grace. He has truly blessed the school communities with the work of the College, and we continue to seek His blessings as the work of CCRTC goes forward in faith. The meeting was closed with scripture, song, and prayer.



## W.A.T.C.H. REPRESENTATIVES 2022-2023



### CLASSIS CENTRAL ONTARIO

Burlington Ebenezer ..... Grace Hulleman  
Burlington Fellowship ..... Anjelynn Helder  
Burlington Waterdown ..... Susanne Hutten  
Flamborough ..... Brenda Bartels  
Hamilton Blessings ..... Deb Alkema  
Ottawa ..... Elizabeth Smith  
Toronto ..... Anita Kampen

### CLASSIS NIAGARA

Attercliffe ..... Diane Feenstra  
Dunnville East ..... Diana Kelly  
Grassie ..... Krista Jager  
Grimsby ..... Rachel Vis  
Lincoln ..... Adria Stulp  
Spring Creek ..... Teresa Schulenberg  
Smithville ..... Beth Stel

### CLASSIS NORTHERN ONTARIO

Arthur ..... Carina Bijlsma  
Brampton ..... Gertie Vanluik  
Elora ..... Anne-Marie Sikkema  
Fergus North ..... Amy Lodder  
Fergus Maranatha ..... Natasha Huijgen  
Grand Valley ..... Petra Jonker  
Guelph Emmanuel ..... Robin Westrik  
Guelph Living Word .... Lataunya Penninga  
Orangeville ..... On the School Budget  
Owen Sound ..... Glenda Kapteyn

### CLASSIS ONTARIO WEST

Ancaster ..... Chandra Vanderboom  
Chatham ..... Jennifer Vanderveen  
Hamilton Providence ..... Monica Riemer  
Kerwood ..... Mary Lenting

### CLASSIS MANITOBA

Winnipeg Redeemer ..... Erica Nienhuis

### CLASSIS ALBERTA

Coaldale ..... Erin Becker  
Edmonton Immanuel ..... Elizabeth Saipe

### CLASSIS PACIFIC EAST

Aldergrove ..... Linda Vane  
Lynden ..... Debbie Johnson  
Nooksack Valley ..... Debby Lodder

### CLASSIS PACIFIC WEST

Cloverdale ..... Rachel Vandersluis  
Houston ..... Arlene Leffers  
Smithers ..... Ann Penninga  
Surrey ..... Michelle Faber  
Willoughby Heights ..... Yvonne Jacobi

**DOES YOUR CHURCH  
NOT HAVE A W.A.T.C.H.  
REPRESENTATIVE?**

**ARE YOU INTERESTED  
IN HELPING THE  
W.A.T.C.H. TEAM?**

For more information  
please email:  
[watchhamilton1@gmail.com](mailto:watchhamilton1@gmail.com)

Please note: Only congregations with a W.A.T.C.H. representative are listed.



# from the treasurer

DAN WITTEN

On February 24-25, 2023, CCRTC was once again blessed to hold its Annual General Meeting. This year we could return to our normal format of in-person meeting. What a joy it was to see the smiling faces and giving hearts brighten the halls of the College.

As treasurer, these annual meetings have some extra pressure in that our new budget needs to meet Board approval. After much planning and work, together with various committees and office staff, the budget was prepared and subsequently approved. It is worth giving special note to how fiscally responsible CCRTC remains. Everyone is well aware that the funding we receive is a gift from our Lord and as such we have a calling to use these funds in a manner befitting that blessing.

No doubt everyone is feeling the financial pinch due to increased inflation and CCRTC is also affected by these changes. As CCRTC continues to “strive to be the definitive source of Reformed teacher training”, financial implications of this will continue to increase. Without the support of our donors under God’s blessing, this goal would truly not be obtainable.

Please prayerfully consider CCRTC in your charitable giving and pray that the Lord will continue to guide us in his wisdom and strength to continue to supply Reformed teachers that are so needed in our schools.

Yours in Christ,  
Dan Witten

To see more ways to financially support the College please scan the QR Code or visit [covenantteacherscollege.com/donate.html](https://covenantteacherscollege.com/donate.html)



NOTE: All photos included in this issue are used with permission.

Please detach and mail to: CCRTC • 410 Crerar Drive • Hamilton, ON • L9A 5K3 or visit: [covenantteacherscollege.com/donate.html](https://covenantteacherscollege.com/donate.html)

## ☐ Yes! I would like to support CCRTC!

- ☐ One-Time gift of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (cheque enclosed)  
☐ Monthly by pre-authorized automatic withdrawal

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ PROV \_\_\_\_\_ PC \_\_\_\_\_

CHURCH \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

☐ I prefer to receive my charitable tax receipt by email

## CCRTC 2021-2022 EXPENSES (ACTUALS)

- Administration **\$21,000**
- Miscellaneous **\$6,000**
- Building **\$48,000**
- Programs **\$41,000**
- Library Department **\$9,000**
- Payroll **\$620,000**



## CCRTC 2021-2022 INCOME (ACTUALS)

- Student Tuition **\$135,000**
- Investment Income **\$43,000**
- Member School Revenue **\$128,000**
- Other **\$4,000**
- Direct Deposit Donations **\$123,000**
- Donations **\$333,000**



## 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 understand that I can terminate this agreement at any time.

☐ **\$40/Month** – Withdrawn on the:

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

☐ **\$480/Year** – 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.