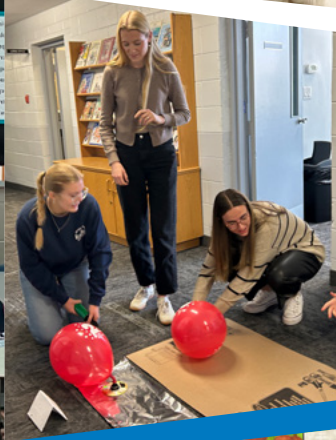




Covenant

CANADIAN REFORMED TEACHERS COLLEGE



CCRTC NEWS SPRING 2025

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

PSALM 78:4



from the principal

CHRISTINE VAN HALEN-FABER

It makes for an interesting experience to write a contribution for a Spring edition of the Newsletter while the snow is still piled high.

Looking back on the start of the Winter Semester at the College we're thankful to report that we only enjoyed one snow day, unlike one of our Ontario member schools that has logged 21 to-date! We are experiencing a true old fashioned winter in all its beauty! And yet, when you stand in the bright sunshine and inhale deeply, you can feel and smell that Spring is on its way: Our covenant God is faithful to his promises – always.

At the time of writing, our teacher candidates are enjoying the practical aspects of their respective programs as they complete their final practicum placement of the year. For the "Class of '25" this placement marks the final one in which they are required to teach a full "solo week" under the watchful eye of the school's principal or delegate. During this independent teaching week the teacher candidate assumes all teaching and non-teaching duties in the classroom. The experience provides a good taste of what it means to be a teacher and affirms that

the teacher candidate is ready to take on a teaching position in a Reformed Christian school. In this regard, we congratulate the students in our graduating class for having accepted a teaching position at Bellstone Christian School in Mount Hope, Hope Reformed Christian School in Paris, John Calvin Christian School in Smithville, or Maranatha Christian School in Fergus respectively.

The Winter Semester at the College also features a Theme Week in which regular instruction is put on pause and those enrolled in the first and second years of the Diploma of Teaching program have an opportunity to explore a topic of general interest. This year the focus was on *Industry and Manufacturing*. The learning goals were two-fold:

- to broaden one's understanding of the manufacturing and industry sectors and related careers by exploring their societal significance, operational processes, and workforce demands
- to reflect on how Reformed Christian schools can prepare students with the knowledge, skills, and attitudes necessary for meaningful employment and faithful service in these fields

Two guest speakers, Mr. Paul Broekema (Walinga Inc.) and Mr. Jake DeJong (Powergroup Resources) highlighted the

importance of developing a clear vision and mission, leading to the articulation of core values. Their introductory remarks prepared us well for visiting a variety of companies and industry partners: Admiral Welding, A+H Custom Machine, Janco Steel, Ontario Metal Products, and Radian Robotics. We thank them all for helping us better understand this important aspect of our society. We appreciate the common emphasis on the importance of developing strong dependable character traits and a strong work ethic. Best of all, we experienced first hand that within these industries, Christians not only have an opportunity to work and provide for their families, but also practice stewardship and innovation to the glory of God.

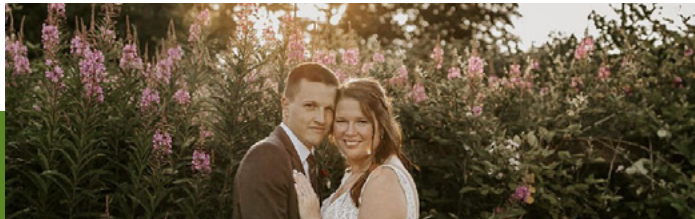
As we look ahead to the remainder of the semester, several noteworthy items come to mind. With regret we accepted Jo-anne van Leeuwen's resignation as the Office Administrator. We thank her for her work and wish her God's blessings on her future endeavours. With gratitude we note that Dr. Menco Wieske hopes to resume his full teaching and administrative tasks when students return from their placements; we are excited about taking next steps in the accreditation process; and we look forward to the graduation of the Class of '25 on Wednesday May 21st, Lord willing.





CCRTC ALUMNI NEWS

how it was and how it is



Diana Jackson (née Nobel)

CLASS OF 2010

My name is Diana Jackson (nee Nobel). I currently reside in Langley, British Columbia and attended Covenant Canadian Reformed Teachers College (CCRTC) 15 years ago! Over the years the Lord has richly blessed me, and I have been able to teach in a couple of our different schools – Timothy Christian School in Hamilton, Ontario, and currently at Credo Christian School here in Langley.

Looking back, I am extremely thankful for the doors and opportunities the Lord provided for me along the way. After attending Wilfrid Laurier University for my undergrad, I was eager to get started with my education at CCRTC. I went through the one-year program and during this time was able to complete a 10-week placement in Gomarus College in Groningen, the Netherlands. What a learning experience for sure! My year at the College gave me a Biblical foundation for entering into this wonderful world of teaching.

After working for four years at Timothy, mostly in the Grade 3 classroom, I went back to school – this time to Brock University, in order to obtain my B.Ed. While I am grateful to have obtained this degree, I couldn't help but notice profound differences between the CCRTC and Brock programs; CCRTC is such a blessing to those entering into this profession!

From Brock, I accepted a teaching position at Credo in Langley. The following summer, I packed up and moved across the country, never dreaming of how God would guide my life here. I have worked at Credo ever since, starting in the Grade 7 classroom. In September of 2021, Credo began a Middle School and I moved up to Grade 8; the following year adding Department Head to my role.

During the summer of 2023, I married Spencer Jackson. This coming summer, we are looking forward to welcoming a baby into our family, meaning September will have a very different feel for me than it has since the year I entered Grade 1! We are grateful for how God has guided our lives and brought us to this point together and we are looking forward to how God will continue to guide us in the future!



Jackie DeBoer (née Reinink)

CLASS OF 2004

I find myself referencing events of life these days in the decades in which they took place. Gone is my youth where life went by in daily or weekly increments, even the stage of planning annually seems to be fading. Growing older, not a gift everyone receives. I would hardly believe it's happening so quickly to myself, but the evidence sits around my table each day, teenage children quickly en route to adulthood. So, I find it a special opportunity to reflect, as an alumni, on Covenant Canadian Reformed Teachers College's (CCRTC's) presence in my life, woven through the decades in various ways.

After graduating I taught grade six at ACRES (Attercliffe) with all the energy and excitement one would expect from a first-year teacher. After that year I returned home and taught at Harvest school (Owen Sound), the school that I credit my introduction and love for teaching to. Marriage relocated me to the Fergus area, and I taught at Maranatha school until God blessed us with children and I spent a decade at home with them. Naturally I served on school committees and supply taught. The Reformed perspective received at CCRTC was a solid foundation for these teaching years but similar to my children memorizing their weekly catechism I look back and realize that I did not fully appreciate the depth and importance of what I was taught at the time. My understanding of Reformed theology, education and community has grown with my experience in it. And like most things, understanding fosters a deep love and gratefulness.

Once all my children were in school, I returned to teaching full time in grade one at Maranatha. This decade coincided with my years serving as a governor at CCRTC. It has been a beautiful stage of supporting Reformed education through student teachers, high school co-op students and PR presentations. I am thankful for these opportunities to serve the community so that not only will my children be able to learn in a Reformed classroom but, Lord willing, so will my generations yet to come.

INTERVIEW WITH LENNART DE VISSER



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

Hannah and I have been married for a little over nine years. We live in Hamilton with our three young boys and, the newest addition, a little dog. Our family activities include going for hikes, swimming at our community pool, and playing in the sandbox. Although I am not a master in any stretch of the imagination, I do enjoy some projects around the house, like building a pergola or installing benches and hooks in the front hall. My personal hobbies include reading, playing chess, and following Premier League soccer/football in England.

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

I had considered being a teacher since elementary school because I loved learning, and my experiences at Campfire! Bible Camp and in leading youth groups made it clear that I loved working with children and teens. Yet it wasn't until the final year of my undergraduate degree at McMaster University that I pursued teaching more directly. I chose not to do a concurrent program at Brock University right out of high school, in part because it allowed me to live at home and save money, but also

because I could study the subject matter I loved: history and philosophy. I considered careers in law and government for a while, even doing a short internship with ARPA. It was a great experience. A job in foreign affairs sounded pretty sweet! But in the end, as Hannah and I thought about marriage and hoped for a family, the idea of being able to be home for supper consistently, having similar vacations to my children, and having more stability, led me (us) to go in the direction of teaching. After McMaster, I completed my B.Ed. at Wilfrid Laurier University.

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

I taught at Providence Reformed Collegiate for nine years, serving as vice principal for the last three years. I grew into a mature adult there: I got married, became a father, and grew in my faith through teaching apologetics and in the life of the congregations where we were members. During those years, I also completed my M.Ed. at Dordt University; this had a highly positive impact on me. As vice principal, I found the work of supporting new staff and thinking deeply about what it means to teach and do schooling in a Christian

way highly meaningful and energizing. I am deeply grateful for my time at PRC, particularly in the blessing of godly, wise, and professional colleagues.

When the position at CCRTC was publicized, some family members prompted me to consider this opportunity. Though I thought of myself as too young and inexperienced for the position, through conversations with Dr. van Halen and a visit to the College, I became excited by the opportunity. The idea of being able to train new teachers and spend even more time thinking about what it means to teach Christianly attracted me. By God's grace, the board hired me and I am very thankful to be here.

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 biggest mental shift for me has been the amount of freedom I have to develop my courses; I don't have curriculum expectations that I'm required to teach. Although there are guidelines and structures to follow, the challenge has simply been in studying and reading up on relevant literature so that I can exercise my duties well.





an encouraging update

CHRISTINE VAN HALEN-FABER, ACCREDITATION COORDINATOR

Thinking about what it means to teach Christianly is exciting for me, and so the work at CCRTC is a joy, especially because I get to work with such experienced colleagues and eager students. As a bonus, it has been a joy to reconnect with five students I had previously taught in high school!

IS THERE A PARTICULAR “STAND-OUT” MOMENT YOU CAN SHARE WITH US?

Since this is my first year, I’ve had the privilege of visiting various LCRSS schools as a way of getting to know the people, the schools, and also the elementary context in the League. A stand-out moment for me was on one such visit to John Calvin Christian School. Students had just come in from lunch recess, and then, as I walked the halls with Mr. Van Iperen, I heard various psalms being sung. This is a useful way for teachers to transition students back to the classroom, but as a father of boys the same age as these students, I was deeply touched by the fact that our children receive this kind of an education, and that it is happening in many schools throughout the province and beyond!



With deep joy we are able to share the good news that after practising much patience we are now in a position to move forward with the submission of the application for initial accreditation by the Ontario College of Teachers (OCT).

During the past months we have been working closely and positively with the OCT Accreditation Unit. This has resulted in the release of very specific timelines and receiving access to the application submission channel. It means that the process of final preparations for the uploading of the application and all supporting documentation has actually begun.

Needless to say that we seek your prayerful support throughout all stages of the process. We also count on your active participation during the public consultation process in June or August and during the site visit in September. Please respond positively when you are contacted by the CCRTC Office.

Under God’s blessings, a favourable decision means that Covenant Canadian Reformed Teachers College is in the position to offer a fully accredited B.Ed. program starting in September 2026.

In the meantime, let us continue to work diligently in faith and trust: *Ora et labora!*

Barring any unforeseen circumstances, some of the timeline highlights include:

March 24

Initial submission of the draft application

April-May

Interactions with OCT staff

May 30

Final submission of the application

June or August

Public submissions are invited

August

The Review Panel begins its work

September 22-26 (TBD)

Site visit by the Review Panel

November 26

Decision Date



Psalm 78 makes clear that the glorious deeds of the LORD show his might and the wonders he has done. The Psalm also makes clear that these glorious deeds have to be told to the next generation so that they may come to know their God and themselves.

Covenant Canadian Reformed Teachers College aims to prepare prospective teachers for this wonderful task. For many years I have been allowed to be involved in this work by teaching the Bible courses. In September 1992 I taught my first lecture. It was in the big room in the building on Mohawk Street. I must admit I was nervous. I was not trained as a teacher and now had to instruct prospective teachers. But the staff and students made me feel right at home. What brought us together was a love for God's Word and Reformed education. It was the beginning of many wonderful years of working together. I have been allowed to work with many faculty members, full-time and sessional, and a staff who supported me in my task. Over these many years I also have come to know many students. Looking back, I can certainly say that it was an enriching experience for me. It gave me a deeper understanding of the breadth, depth and width of God's work of salvation and the riches of his revelation. In this way the teaching benefitted me in my

task to proclaim the whole counsel of God each Lord's Day. I am therefore also thankful that the consistories of the churches where I served allowed me to do this work.

As I reflect on these years of teaching and ask myself what some of the aspects are that stand out in my mind, I go back to the words of Psalm 78, the glorious deeds of the LORD need to be retold to the next generations.

- These glorious deeds are God's deeds and therefore it is important to make him the subject of our retelling. We come to know him more and more as these histories are retold. Therefore, in retelling the work of the Triune God what has to come out is his work of creating and providing, of redeeming and of making a people ready and willing to serve him. To teach this already at a very young age is important. How beautiful it is when already at a very young age children sing "Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty!"
- These glorious deeds show the unity of God's Word and work. It was my task to highlight the themes that underlie the history of salvation. In addition to this, we teach within the community of believers. Because of this unity the retelling will also include what we confess in our Creeds and Confessions.
- To retell these glorious deeds requires faith on the part of the teacher. As a teacher you need to stand in awe of the

grandeur of God's work and Word. Teaching these courses certainly aided me in this.

- These glorious deeds need to be retold. In his wisdom, our God has determined that he works with the spoken word in the hearts of his children, so that they come to know him, love him and serve him. Our God is a speaking God. As teachers we should not underestimate the power of God the Holy Spirit to work with the Word in the hearts of God's children.

Each time when we came to the end of the two-year Bible course, we could reflect on the last words of the book of Acts: The Word of God will go on and out unhindered. The retelling of these glorious deeds is open-ended. The road that we are travelling on with our children and students is a road that leads to a glorious future. He uses people like us to continue his work. The strength doesn't lie in us, but in his Name. How amazing that he wants to use us. May the Lord continue to bless the work at CCRTC and all the work done in our schools.

Having come to the end of this chapter in my life and keeping in mind Psalm 78, what a privilege it is to tell the coming generation the glorious deeds of the Lord, so that they can sojourn onward in the reality of the love of God, the grace of the Lord Jesus and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit. For from him, and in him, and to him are all things. To him be glory.

thank you!!

MENCO WIESKE



Dear Supporters of CCRTC,

I am deeply humbled by the outpouring of prayer and support I received while enduring the effects of Guillain-Barré syndrome. By the grace of God, I can now say that my health has been restored, and

I have taken up my task at the College again. As Scripture teaches us in Proverbs 16:9, "In his heart a man plans his course, but the LORD determines his steps." To Him be all glory, and to you, my heartfelt thanks for your prayerful intercession.

W.A.T.C.H. REPRESENTATIVES 2024-2025

CLASSIS CENTRAL ONTARIO

Burlington Ebenezer Grace Balch
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
Smithville Beth Stel
Spring Creek Teresa Schulenberg

CLASSIS NORTHERN ONTARIO

Arthur Carina Bijlsma
Brampton Kate Olij
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 Grace Jenise Vangoor
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



**W.A.T.C.H. COULD
NOT BE SUCCESSFUL
WITHOUT YOU:**

**WE WARMLY THANK
ALL THOSE WHO HAVE
PARTICIPATED IN THIS
YEAR'S W.A.T.C.H.
FUNDRAISING EFFORTS!**

Please note: Only congregations with a W.A.T.C.H. representative are listed. If your congregation is missing from the list above, and you would like to be a W.A.T.C.H. representative, please contact the College at office@covenantteacherscollege.com and we'll happily connect you.

from the FINANCE COMMITTEE

Did you know that . . .

- Financial stability is one of the pillars on which the operation of the College rests?
 - Careful stewarding of financial resources is important to all of us.
- Financial stability is also an important factor in obtaining and maintaining Ministerial Consent through the Ontario Ministry of Colleges and Universities?
 - Regular and special audit reports will be required, should full accreditation be obtained.
 - The College continues to be blessed through the efforts of the Harvest Foundation
 - To become acquainted with their work, please visit harvestfoundation.ca
- The day-to-day financial affairs of the College are looked after very capably by our Financial Administrator and Office Administrative Staff?
 - Not only does this teamwork provide continuity and accountability, but it also makes the task of the CCRTC Treasurer much, much easier.
- We are always looking for members to join the Finance Committee?
 - Typically, this committee meets online so you can live anywhere in Canada and the USA and still be able to attend.
 - For aspiring CPAs: Volunteer membership on a Finance Committee of a postsecondary institution looks great on your resume!

But, you do know that . . .

- Your prayerful and financial support are much needed and deeply appreciated
- Our dependence in all things fully rests on God's faithfulness and rich blessings: **To him be all glory!**

CCRTC 2025-2026 BUDGET PROJECTIONS

EXPENSES (TOTAL \$970,004)

- Payroll **81.6%**
- Administration **2.8%**
- Programs **6.7%**
- Library Department **2.0%**
- Building **5.4%**
- Miscellaneous **1.5%**



INCOME (TOTAL \$970,004)

- Donations **40.6%**
- Student Tuition **36.8%**
- Member School Donations **5.6%**
- Member School Fees **12.0%**
- Investment Income **4.1%**
- Other **0.9%**



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☐ Yes! I would like to support CCRTC!

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

NAME _____

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CITY _____

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CHURCH _____

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☐ I prefer to receive my charitable tax receipt by email

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.

☐ **\$50/Month** - Withdrawn on the:

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

☐ **\$600/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.