



# Covenant

CANADIAN REFORMED TEACHERS COLLEGE

JULY 2020

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



CCRTC NEWS

SUMMER 2020 PART 2

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

## from the treasurer DAN WITTEN

There is much to rejoice about as we reflect on the previous months and their effect at Covenant Canadian Reformed Teachers College (CCRTC). During these unique times it was astonishing to see how quickly CCRTC was able to adapt during the COVID-19 pandemic. Committee meetings continued with everyone taking part while in their own homes. The distance was felt, but what a blessing it was to ensure that CCRTC was still able to operate.



CCRTC was also able to continue the work on the accreditation process, having a key meeting with the Postsecondary Education Quality Assessment Board (PEQAB) happening over Zoom. During CCRTC's accreditation review it became apparent that our financial model is different than that of other colleges. The reviewers asked about how heavily CCRTC relies on donations rather than student tuition and if this could be seen as a potential risk for the College moving forward. This gave me time to pause and reflect on the level of support CCRTC receives from the community. It was possible to show the reviewers the CCRTC's continued community support and how COVID-19, or any other historical events over the previous 40 years, did not change this support. What a blessing it was to show others the communion of saints in action. The reviewers were left truly astonished.

On that note, I would like to thank all those who donate to CCRTC. We pray that the LORD will continue to watch over CCRTC and we request your financial support to bring the fiscal year to a strong close.

Yours in Christ, Dan Witten

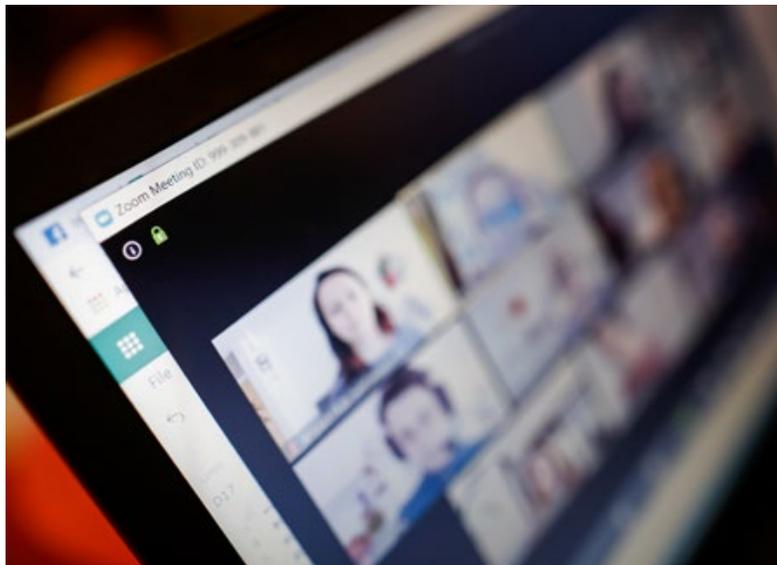
# COVID-19

## WHAT HAVE WE LEARNED?

CHRISTINE VAN HALEN-FABER

Teachers are expected to be reflective practitioners. So as we conclude one academic year and make plans for the next one, we typically look back in order to move ahead. For faculty members this includes a thorough review of courses using student feedback received through course evaluations. This year's review takes on a new dimension: In addition to asking ourselves reflective questions around course contents and context, we decided to focus on course delivery. What have we learned from the COVID-19 course delivery modifications? How might this experience help us in the future? To assist us in this review we invited faculty members and students to complete an anonymous survey. The feedback is worth sharing, and to that end you will find some of the student voices shared in sidebars.

One thing became very clear: The interpersonal dimension of the teaching-learning process is considered more valuable than we had even imagined before COVID-19. Yes, you can do much online. Indeed, technology has allowed us to complete the semester and do it well. Yet, there was a missing dimension that reminded us of the unique character of covenantal education as relational education – rooted in God's relationship to us, his children and our commitment to him, our God. From this flows CCRTC's relational teaching-learning emphasis: Instructors model good teaching practices as they interact with teacher-candidates who in due time will "tell the next generation the praiseworthy deeds of the LORD." (PS 78:4). Reformed Christian education celebrates a unity of purpose and we pray that this may soon be experienced again in person.



### THE GOOD

"Being able to live at home and still attend school!"

"I liked the experience of independent learning and the 'forced' opportunity to explore different online programs which I would not use under normal circumstances."

"I liked that the instructors were very accommodating and easy to work with. I'd rather be in the classroom though..."

"Really great means of communication! It was great to have more flexibility with learning and we had more time to work on assignments."

### THE NOT SO GOOD

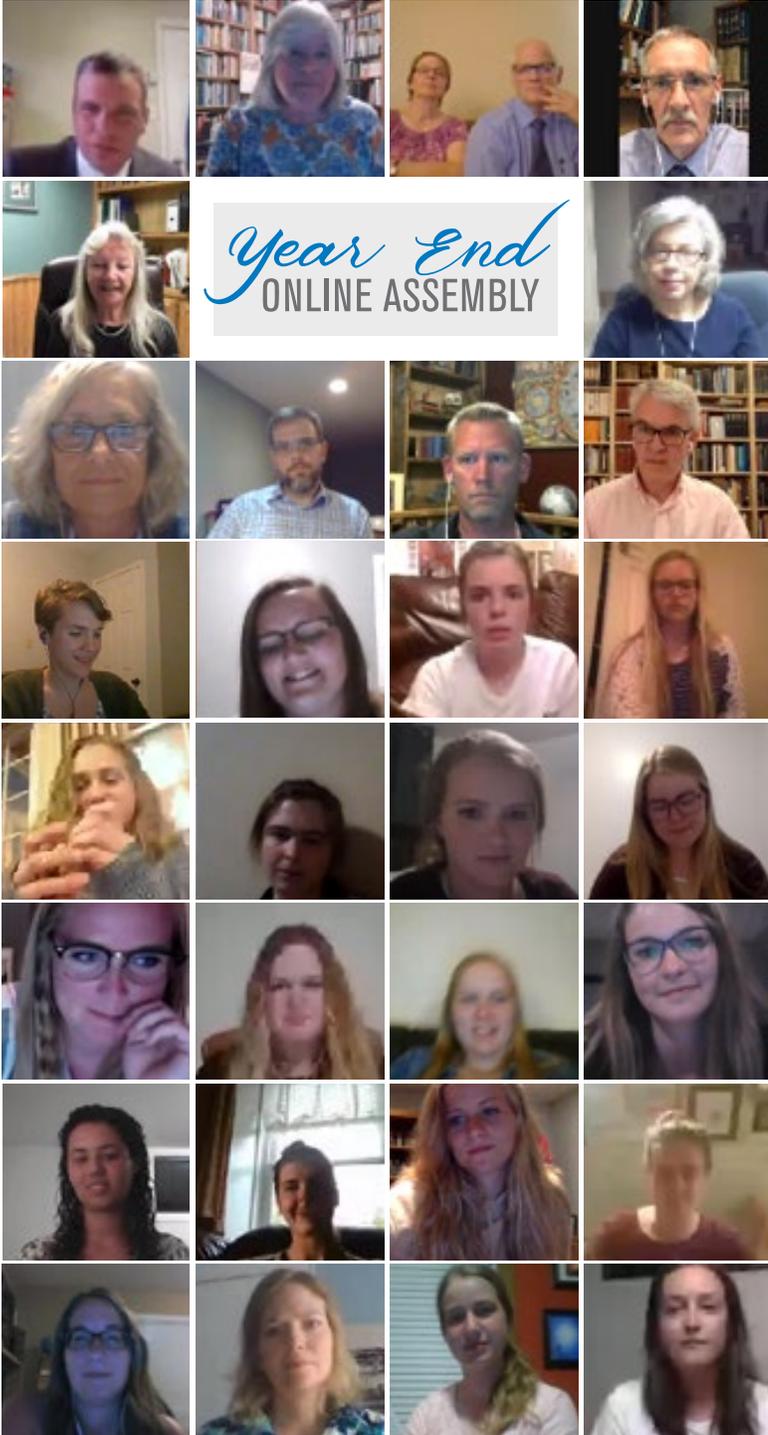
"I missed everyone and especially collaboration and just talking when you take breaks and getting ideas from others and sharing my own thoughts."

"I miss the library - My marks will be taking a hit - The uncertainty."

"Sometimes I felt like I was just an assignment completer and the instructor was just the evaluator which wasn't always the best learning experience."

"Missing the College and friends, real time communication with the teachers and other staff."

"Worst: Trying to stay motivated working from home"



## I'M THANKFUL!

"... that we made it work. It was certainly a learning curve for staff and students. It isn't something that I loved but we got through and I hope we won't have to do it again."

"... for helping us finish, even though it wasn't the way we most enjoyed it I'm thankful we could do it this way"

"... that we were able to finish our year online, and still receive credits, and I am thankful for the teachers who put in the work to make this happen. However, I would not want to go through this type of situation again because I feel as if I cannot learn properly through a computer!"

"... for making the necessary accommodations to make learning online possible and enjoyable. I miss the interactions and conversations but am glad that we could still come to a completion of the year."

"... for the efforts of all the staff. I know it was a tricky and stressful time for you all, so thank you."



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