



CELEBRATING  
**40** YEARS  
OF GOD'S FAITHFULNESS



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

PSALM 78:4



Wishing you a  
*blessed*  
**CHRISTMAS**  
and a  
*happy*  
**NEW YEAR!**

CCRTC NEWS  
**WINTER 2021**





## from the principal CHRISTINE VAN HALEN-FABER

The first part of the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary year of Covenant Canadian Reformed Teachers College (CCRTC) has come and gone. School communities joined us in celebrating and several school membership meetings were able to reconnect with the College by way of a presentation by our public relations team, Mr. James Meinen and Mrs. Jackie DeBoer. We thank them for their willingness and look forward to many more presentations in the future. We also thank the many alumni who completed the Alumni Anniversary Survey. It was good to hear from you.

At the time of writing, the College is eerily quiet and empty classrooms eagerly await the return of students after their Fall Semester practicum placements. We are thankful that in-person teaching and learning can take place unhindered and look forward to the final stretch of the semester: finishing courses, finalizing papers and major assignments, and preparing, writing, and grading exams.

Faculty members were able to utilize the practicum weeks in a variety of ways. Visiting and evaluating our teacher candidates as they connect theory to classroom practice is always a wonderful

aspect of our task. Not only do we get to see young men and women hard at work under the thoughtful and professional guidance of associate teachers, but we also have the opportunity to interact with Principals and colleagues, including CCRTC graduates.

In addition, the faculty made good use of the practicum weeks in developing the contents for the Ontario College of Teachers' application template. We continue to covet your prayers for seeking God's blessings on this professional accreditation process. Barring unforeseen circumstances, we anticipate a full review in the spring of 2022.

However, we'll first celebrate winter and as we make preparations for the Winter Semester we look forward to welcoming our sessional instructors: Mrs. Esther Van Middelkoop (French) and Mr. Tim Wildeboer (Phys.Ed.), in addition to Rev. Douwe Agema and Dr. Ben Faber who will be returning.

One of the core values stemming from CCRTC's vision of *striving to be the definitive source for Reformed teacher training* relates to what the College can contribute to Reformed Christian education internationally. Recently, members of the faculty have engaged in weekly conversations with Mr. Kwangyoung Park. Mr. Park is a member

of the Kosin churches in South Korea and is a PhD student in the Practical Theology program at McMaster University. He intends to research the theological foundation and practical application of Reformed education and its potential for the Korean context. We are excited about these conversations and pray that they may serve as a mutual blessing.

In conclusion, as we look back on the first half of our 40th anniversary year, we do so with deep gratitude. As we look forward to the second half of the year, we are filled with steadfast hope. May our God continue to bless our work, so it may stand to his glory (Ps. 90).

## INTRODUCING CCRTC'S NEWEST FACULTY MEMBER: MR. MARK DEN HOLLANDER

With deep gratitude and great delight, the Board of Covenant Canadian Reformed Teachers College announces the appointment of Mr. Mark den Hollander as a full-time faculty member at the College, effective August 1, 2022.

Mark was born in Winnipeg and grew up in the respective manses of Orangeville and Toronto. After graduating from Guido de Brès Christian High School, Mark completed an honours Bachelor of Arts degree in History at York University in Toronto. He then obtained his Bachelor of Education degree at Brock University, St. Catharines.

In 2008, friendly Manitoba beckoned

and Mark returned to take up a Grade 4 teaching position at Immanuel Christian School (ICS) in Winnipeg. The rest is history, they say: Mark continued his task at ICS, serving as a high school teacher, vice-principal and student services coordinator, and presently is the Principal while teaching History and Reformed Studies at the high school. He is active within the congregation, serves on the Board of Directors of the Manitoba Federation of Independent Schools, and found time and energy to complete a Master of Education degree at the University of Manitoba.

Mark is married to Eleanor (née Boot) and they are blessed with five children. We wish the family a good period of transition and trust that they will be welcomed warmly in Ontario.

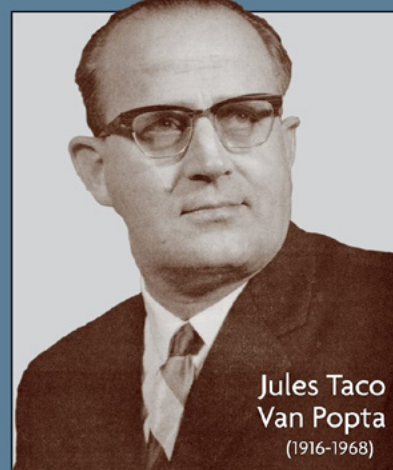
As we share our excitement with you, we also recognize that one institution's gain



is another institution's loss. We pray that God will bless the efforts of the Immanuel Christian School community as it seeks to fill the vacancy that now exists due to this appointment.

We covet your continued prayerful support as Mark den Hollander transitions into his new position. May our collective efforts in providing faithful covenantal education be a blessing for Christ's church.

## Man of the First Hour — A Son's Story —



Jules Taco Van Popta  
(1916-1968)

GEORGE VAN POPTA

## A LIBRARY GEM

The library holds a very special place in the heart of CCRTC. Thanks to the tireless efforts of our librarian, Mrs. Eleanor Boeringa, our collections are well maintained and serve to support the teaching and learning at the College. From time to time an extra-special book appears on the shelves and is happily added to a list of course readings. In this vein, we showcase *Man of the First Hour* by Rev. George Van Popta. This warmly written biography of Rev. Jules Taco Van Popta is now added to the reading list of the Church History course dealing with developments in North American church history. Alongside other immigration stories that illustrate the early developments of the Canadian Reformed Churches, the book is yet another beautiful example of the pioneers of a previous generation, their deep roots, their love for family, their courage, and their desire to be faithful to the Lord and his Church.

**REQUEST: If your family has a collection of stories to share, we would love to hear from you!**





# INTRODUCING THE CCRTC STUDENT COUNCIL 2021-2022

HANNAH MEDEMBLIK

With much excitement, we announce that the CCRTC Student Council is up and running! This year, we had the pleasure of experiencing a formal presidential campaign in which the finalists, Makayla Kruisselbrink and Hannah Medemblik, regaled the student body (and faculty) with their speeches. After a duly constituted election, Ms. Hannah Medemblik was proclaimed the President. The members of the 2021-2022 CCRTC Student Council are Makayla Kruisselbrink, Tonya Bartels, Patricia Bouwman, and Stephen Redwood. Mr.

M. Wieske serves as faculty liaison.

The Student Council wasted no time reviewing its mandate, which includes as one of the goals: “to foster a vibrant, engaged, and connected student community”. The members discussed what each of these descriptors mean and how they will show in the work we plan to do this year:

1. Being *vibrant* this year means bringing joy to school days and weeks by way of scheduled events, meals, activities, etc.
2. Being *engaged* means the student body is more than a collection of individual students who come to school, take in

information, and leave for the night. We will support students as they reflect the purpose of the College.

3. Being *connected* means we are together as one student body during our 2 or 3 years of attendance. We will create ways of mentoring, encouraging, and helping each other.

In conclusion, the CCRTC Student Council seeks to represent not just a group of students, but brothers and sisters in Christ who form a covenant community of determined, enthusiastic, and dedicated (future) teachers.

**If you have not had a chance yet to make a donation in support of Covenant Canadian Reformed Teachers College, it's not too late to do so. Donations received before December 31, 2021 will be reflected in the 2021 tax receipts. We thank you for your continued support.**

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)

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