



Covenant

CANADIAN REFORMED TEACHERS COLLEGE

JULY 2020

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



CCRTC NEWS
SUMMER 2020 PART 1
www.covenantteacherscollege.com

from the principal CHRISTINE VAN HALEN-FABER

"And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him."
COLOSSIANS 3:17



With thanks to God the Father we may look back on an academic year in which much teaching and learning at Covenant Canadian Reformed Teachers College (CCRTC) could take place. We thank the Board of Governors and the many committees who committed their abilities and skills voluntarily to provide leadership and direction for the College. In particular we thank Mr. Richard Feenstra for his work as Chairman in which he not only demonstrated deep love for the Lord and for the cause of Reformed education, but also for the wellbeing of those involved at the College. We are grateful for his willingness to serve as Past Chairman as we welcome Mr. Bert Poort as the new Board Chairman. Along with



Thank you!



changes in the Executive, there are also several new governors at the Board table. One thing is sure: The leadership at the Board level remains in very good hands!

The 2020 Winter Semester will likely always be known as the COVID-19 Semester. I thank the faculty for the dedication and hard work shown in their willingness to move from an in-person mode of teaching to an online platform. I also thank the students for helping to make it work. All of us thank the administrative staff for ironing out the glitches and for providing support! Via the weekly updates on the CCRTC website you may have read the various contributions that helped sketch a picture of what it means to do things differently and yet carry on the task at hand. We are very grateful that our students were able



the opportunity for a reunion at a formal graduation. In the meantime it is our prayer that “whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.” (Colossians 3:17)

It seems equally strange not to extend a formal word of appreciation to Mr. Keith Sikkema, at least not quite yet. That, too, will hopefully be done more publicly at a later date. For now, let us mark Mr.

Sikkema’s retirement as a full-time instructor at CCRTC and thank him for his years of service. Having said this, we may also welcome him back as a part-time instructor during the 2020-2021 academic year, and do so with much gratitude.

Now that the 2019-2020 academic year has formally ended, our gaze is directed to the summer as an opportunity for professional development. We are pleased to offer yet another course that leads towards the

CCRTC Certificate of Reformed Education. This year a dozen or so teachers will meet in Langley BC and will be professionally challenged by Dr. Ted Van Raalte who will teach a course entitled Reformed Worldview and Post-Christian Culture: Faith Seeks Understanding. We wish them a wonderful week of collegial “iron sharpening”!

But our gaze extends beyond the summer as we plan for the 2020-2021 academic year. At the time of writing there is still much uncertainty around the impact of the gradual re-opening of post-secondary educational facilities in Ontario. The faculty continues to explore various options of program delivery. We pray for wisdom as we make decisions that reflect adherence to government guidelines and offer the best learning environment for the students, staff, and faculty. In all of our planning we confess our trust in the Triune God.

At the conclusion of this academic year we can only say, “Now thank we all our God, with hearts, and hands, and voices, who wondrous things has done. . . who has blessed us on our way with countless gifts of love, and still is ours today.” (H.85:1, Book of Praise)

to complete their practicum placements, and we thank the schools and associate teachers for their work. Practice teaching is a very important component of a teacher training program, for it allows students to put theory into practice. It is also a component that is difficult to complete virtually!

It seems strange to write a contribution to the CCRTC Summer Newsletter without referencing the graduation. And yet there really is a “Class of ‘20” consisting of seven individuals who have successfully completed all the requirements and are clear to graduate. We congratulate each one of them and wish them God’s blessings as they begin their teaching career: Natalie Breukelman (Hope Reformed Christian School, Paris ON), Adrianna Byers (Mt. Cheam Christian School, Chilliwack BC), Katharine DeJong (Maranatha Christian School, Fergus ON), Tyneesha Petter (Dufferin Christian School, Carman MB), Alexandra VanSydenborgh (Maranatha Christian School, Fergus ON), Karen Veldhuizen (Mt. Cheam Christian School, Chilliwack BC), and Desirae Vellema (Grace Christian School, Millgrove ON). With them we look forward to having



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NEWS FROM

THE ACCREDITATION FRONT

Those of you who have been following us on the path of seeking full accreditation

will know that the process consists of two main components: Seeking Ministerial Consent to confer a B.Ed. degree on those who have successfully completed the Two-Year Diploma of Education program, and seeking professional accreditation by the Ontario College of Teachers (OCT). The first component falls under the Ministry of Colleges and Universities and is administered by the Postsecondary Education Quality Assessment Board (PEQAB), while the second component falls under the Ministry of Education and is administered by the OCT Accreditation Branch.

First things first: The Ministerial Consent. This process consists of two reviews – the Organization Review and the Program Review. In November 2019, the College submitted an application for each of these reviews to PEQAB. On April 23 and 24, the first review was conducted online by a panel appointed by PEQAB. It involved the Executive Committee, administrative staff, the Principal, faculty members, students, and alumni. Needless to say we were all a little nervous! However, in the end it proved to be a wonderful experience. The reviewers were very well-versed with the details of CCRTC's comprehensive application and were intent on setting a tone in which the examination of evidence became a conversation leading to an understanding of the "why, what, and how" of Covenant Canadian Reformed Teachers College. In his closing remarks, the lead reviewer commented on the high level of commitment that

so clearly permeates all aspects of the College – from the commitment to serve God, the students, and the member schools to the commitment of ensuring the responsible and transparent operation of an institution of higher learning.

The reviewers generated an extensive report in which their findings were noted against the PEQAB organizational standards. Their conclusion was that CCRTC met most of the standards and in a few cases "almost" met a standard. In such cases, the reviewers provided recommendations how those standards could be fully met and invited the College to provide a response. The Executive Committee discussed the panel's recommendations in detail and a response was prepared. Subsequently the reviewers' report and CCRTC's response were presented to the PEQAB Board for its final verdict: CCRTC's Organization Review passed.

This leads us to the next step: The Program Review. Again, PEQAB will appoint an expert panel to review CCRTC's Program Application. The College was invited to nominate panelists for the review that likely will take place in July. A successful outcome will clear the way for submitting an application to the Ontario College of Teachers.

Needless to say, we are very thankful for the LORD's guiding hand in this entire process. We praise him for his gift of granting courage and strength as well as patience and stamina. We also continue to covet your continued prayerful and financial support. In other words: Your commitment to CCRTC as it seeks to be "the definitive source for Reformed teacher training".