



Covenant

CANADIAN REFORMED TEACHERS COLLEGE

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

APRIL 2018



CCRTC NEWS

SPRING 2018

www.covenantteacherscollege.com



from the PRINCIPAL CHRISTINE VAN HALEN-FABER

Catching the final whirl of winter flurries while snowdrops make a fragile appearance and daffodils carefully peek through the soil, we know that Spring is just around the corner. We praise our faithful God who is always true to his Word!

Covenant Canadian Reformed Teachers College has been a busy place, even during the weeks our students were away on practicum placements. The Annual General Meeting (AGM) typically creates its own buzz of activities, and it is wonderful to see (and hear) governors interact around the business of ensuring that Covenant Canadian Reformed Teachers College continues to meet the standard of excellence we have set for ourselves. It is 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*, and the purpose of CCRTC as 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 now present the college in their respective communities.

Typically, at this time of year, the college bulletin board and CCRTC website is filled with advertisements for available teaching positions across the country.

This year forms no exception as the positions far outnumber what CCRTC can provide. Schools are expanding, and the need for teachers continues to make itself painfully obvious. Yet what is becoming equally obvious is that the teaching profession appears to be waning as a “profession of choice” within our Reformed Christian community. Our schools are schools that strive for both faithfulness and excellence. More than ever before we need men and women who are able and willing to prepare and train themselves to tell the next generation of elementary and high school students about God’s great deeds, and to prepare them for a life of service using the gifts God has given them. Please consider seriously if *you* (or your son, daughter, nephew, niece, friend, etc.) are called to be a teacher or educational leader. Teaching is an amazing profession. Just ask any local educator, and he or she will be happy to tell you all about it!

In the midst of all the regular work of teaching and learning, we continue to make steady progress in the preparation of the accreditation application. Having conducted a successful fundraising campaign; having met with Ontario politicians (MPs, MPPs) and Ministry officials; having garnered written support from CCRTC member school boards, principals, alumni, politicians etc., and having prepared the evidential documentation, we are now focused on completing the two-part (Organization

and Program) application using the standards, benchmarks, and evidence guidelines prescribed by the Postsecondary Education Quality Assessment Board (PEQAB). As per Ministry requirement, the application will be paperless, and that is a good thing: At last count, the board and committee handbooks alone stood at a page count of 718! Throughout the entire application document, we appeal to the freedom of association granted to all Canadians by means of the Charter of Rights and Freedoms. We identify how CCRTC is anchored in a vision that is shared by others. We explain how CCRTC is associated through membership with Canadian Reformed school societies, which in turn are associated with the federation of Canadian Reformed Churches. We illustrate how this association manifests itself through adherence to Scripture as confessed in the historical ecumenical creeds and the Three Forms of Unity. We then demonstrate how such association directly impacts the program offered, as well as the governance of the college, its faculty and staff hiring policies, student admissions, and conduct. In other words, we celebrate how together with our member schools we share a unique educational identity. In this challenging yet beautiful work, we continue to covet your prayerful support, as we continue to do what the LORD asks of us: *To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with our God.* (Micah 6:8b)



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WASHINGTON:

- MRS. DEBBIE JOHNSON
Cornerstone Christian School, Lynden

You are
cordially
invited to the
**graduation
celebration**
of the Class
of 2018.

When: May 25, 2018 8:15 p.m.

Where: Cornerstone Canadian
Reformed Church, HAMILTON, ON

*Please reserve the
date and watch for
additional details.*



from the CHAIRMAN **RICHARD FEENSTRA**

Another year, another Annual General Meeting (AGM) completed, all with much to say. A slight changing of the guard—who might fill the college board vacancies? When is this big elephant called accreditation ever going to get submitted? How are the schools going to fill so many teaching vacancies? So many questions and so many possible outcomes to consider. How is it then that we governors could go home with smiles on our faces and a spring in our steps?

The first evening of the AGM was extra crowded as all full-time and most sessional faculty were present. A special welcome was extended to the newest teacher, Mr. Menco Wieske and his wife, Janice. His duties do not commence until August, but their presence was most welcome particularly since the AGM is the one opportunity for many governors to come to Hamilton and meet the faculty in person. CCRTC is blessed to have a core group of dedicated sessional faculty members who complement the work of the full-time faculty in providing our students with a high quality academic and professional education.

To mark his pending retirement, Mr. Gunnink made a presentation entitled, “A Bowl of Rice” sharing some thoughts of a man about to retire after 45 years of teaching (see Before Signing Off in this issue). It was an excellent speech that certainly gave us many solid ideas to consider. Allard, may God bless you in your last year of teaching and we thank you for your years of service. We wish you and your wife healthy, enjoyable years in your retirement.

Saturday morning the proverbial accreditation elephant walked into the room. What a wonderful exposé Dr. Christine van Halen-Faber presented, breaking down all the steps to date and those left to complete before the application can be submitted. Please encourage your local governor to share this information with you. Truly this project has been far more rigorous than first expected. With so much accomplished already, as governors, faculty, and staff we are very eager to see the submission completed before the summer election in Ontario. After submission we anticipate it will still take two to three years for the review process to complete and even then, there is no guarantee we will achieve the results we seek. That said, there is an urgent need for many more teachers. We encourage students, high school and post-secondary, to consider earning their university degree. We would then have students ready to enter the program, should we be awarded accreditation, potentially as early as the fall semester of 2020.

This AGM was the last meeting for two seasoned members. Both Mr. Gerrit Bos and Mr. Frank Ludwig have served many years, both as chairman and past chair, and Gerrit even as returning governor. They have both contributed much and we are most thankful for their service. Much gratitude is to be extended to Mr. Ken Stel as well. He, with two more years to serve as past chair, has also made strong contributions. He refreshed the discussion on CCRTC’s vision and strategic planning, while stimulating ideas on five-year targets and led us in a delicate discussion regarding the role of governor and how it might best be structured going forward. There is still considerable work to be done here. It was most beautiful to see and hear the different challenges between east and west and yet how unified we are in seeking to help and support each other in our service to God. We have so much to be thankful for.

Indeed, much is happening at CCRTC! Five students hope to graduate this coming spring, and all have already been hired. The Lord willing, we will have ten graduates in each of the two years following and it seems like these numbers will hardly put a dent in all the vacancies posted and projected. Yet the training goes on and the faculty, committees, and governors remain hard at work. May God continue to bless all these efforts. May we as parents never lose sight of the freedom and obligation we have to instruct our children in the fear of his name.

INTRODUCING

MR. Menco WIESKE



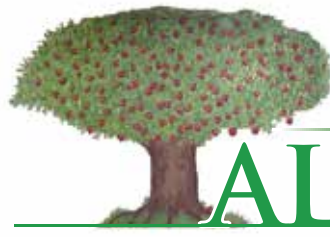
At its January 2018 meeting, the CCRTC Board of Governors appointed Mr. Menco Wieske as full-time faculty member effective the 2018-2019 academic year.

Currently, Mr. Wieske is principal at Cornerstone Christian School in Guelph. He is on schedule to complete his Master of Arts in Leadership degree at the University of Guelph this spring and plans to enrol in a suitable doctoral program in due time.

CCRTC is deeply grateful and excited about this appointment. Not only are prayers answered in being able to fill a vacancy upon Mr. Allard Gunnink's pending retirement, but the appointment marks a 'coming of age' moment in the history of the college: Menco is the first alumnus to become a full-time faculty member!

We anticipate that Mr. Wieske will be a good fit for the CCRTC programs as far as his interests and abilities go. We also are excited about the possibilities to expand the services the college can offer in terms of leadership seminars and courses in the future.

We wish Mr. Wieske, his wife Janice, and their children God's blessings as they look forward to this new and exciting opportunity and challenge.



CCRTC

ALUMNINEWS

how it was and how it is

Jessica VanSydenborgh CLASS OF 2006

While it is usually the first few verses of Psalm 22 with which we are quite familiar, during a recent dinner time reading of the psalm it was the last verses that received our attention, especially verse 31: "They will proclaim his righteousness to a people yet unborn - for he has done it." While this text fits into a broader context, for our purposes we limited it to our home. My husband and I explained to our young children our important task to teach them SO well who the Lord is and who they are, that they can also do the same for their children, the Lord willing. What we thought was a serious teaching moment quickly turned into a round of giggles. Thinking about being parents

(who would they marry?) and having their own children was just too much for our eight-year-olds and younger. For the rest of us "older" people it is an important thought. Whether we are parents or not, as mature brothers and sisters in the household of faith, we are all to be engaged in telling the next generation the praiseworthy deeds of the Lord. That becomes especially important to a classroom teacher who assists parents in their telling role.



It is that idea that stands out as I reflect on my time spent at Covenant Canadian Reformed Teachers College. In all the practical work of lesson planning, forming learning objectives to reach the cognitive and affective domains, sharpening our storytelling skills, prepping experiments, and more, we were reminded so many times of our task: telling the next generation. This is our God. This is your God. Here is the great God we have!! Our lessons are to be calls to praise Him.

Another concept that left an impression was the view of the student. Naturally, there was the view of the student as learner with all his/her different intelligences. Perhaps most helpful was the time spent

reflecting together on the student as a brother/sister in the Lord. This truth brings with it several implications, especially with regards to discipline in the classroom.

After I completed my studies in 2006, I happily accepted the Grade 6 position at John Calvin

School in Smithville. The few years in Grade 6, followed by a couple of years in Grade 2 flew by (time flies when you are having fun!) and ended somewhat abruptly when we adopted twins into our family. So began the teaching at home. Several years and a few additions to our family later, I now thoroughly enjoy a part-time position in Grade 2 at the same school. I am thankful for the rich blessing of teaching and learning with little people.



When I started my teaching career 45 years ago in grades 3-4 in the Johannes Fontanus School in Harderwijk, the Netherlands, I did not dream that I would end it in Canada in Covenant Canadian Reformed Teachers College in Hamilton. It would not be difficult to use the whole newsletter to outline my journey from elementary to high school teacher and from teacher to principal and from principal to instructor. But who would be interested in such a story?

Reformed Education

The most frequently asked question is what changes or developments I have observed and what challenges I see for Reformed education. There have been positive developments in Reformed education. A highlight was the formulation of the four markers of Reformed education, which united Reformed schools across the country. Reformed education is confessional, covenantal, and antithetical in character and it is characterized by unity of purpose of home, church, and school. These markers provide a solid foundation. As a rule, Reformed schools are only attended by children of Christian parents. Teachers must be members of a Reformed church and must teach within the parameters of the Reformed confessions. For parents these principles are guarantees that their children are taught in a Reformed environment.

However, are these markers too theological? Where is the link to education? One of the recurring questions over the years has been: how do Reformed schools prepare students for living as God's children in this world? Are they ready to face the secular music

after having been sheltered for over 12 years? Do they know what to say if fellow students in universities and colleges or fellow workers in the workforce challenge them in what they believe?

I submit to you to add a fifth marker: Reformed education is characterized by open windows to the world. Does this phrase capture it?

Supporters of Reformed education must promote Reformed education and explain the value to the next generation of parents. Do not take for granted that all parents will send their children to a Reformed school. There are other options: home schooling or the Christian school that is close by or the Christian school that offers an excellent music or sports program.

In discussions with parents we recognize that the school is not a divinely-ordained institution. The Lord ordained three institutions in his Word, namely family, church, and government. School is not one of them. When their children were baptized, parents promised to instruct their child and to have him/her instructed in 'this doctrine' (of the church). The Bible

OFF...

BY ALLARD GUNNINK

teaches that the parents are responsible that their children are taught in the fear of the Lord. Make the case to parents that a Reformed school is the best choice to carry out that responsibility.

Reflections

I should write something about my experiences at CCRTC, which needs to be done selectively. There is so much to tell. When I was appointed, I did not really understand the full extent of the task that was waiting. That is fine. One realizes what the task is by doing it. As faculty member of a small college I taught a variety of subjects such as educational psychology, social studies, ethics, and teaching studies (also history of education and math methods for a few years). The challenge was to stay up-to-date in developments in these subjects.

Over the years I have experienced a 'coming of age' of CCRTC. This development was noticeable in the new logo, the new vision statement for CCRTC, *to be the definitive source for Reformed teacher training*, and the new website. When the preparation for accreditation got underway, all the aspects

of the college were examined and changed/updated. Many policies were developed, and practicum guidelines for associate teachers and teacher candidates, as well as the academic calendar, were updated to be in line with the standards set by the provincial government, departments of education, and the Ontario College of Teachers.

In my teaching I was always aware of the saying attributed to Confucius: "Give a bowl of rice to a man and you will feed him for a day. Teach him how to grow his own rice and you will save his life." After all, if you spoon feed students, in the long run it teaches them nothing but the shape of the spoon. (E.M.Forster). Students at all levels and, for that matter, children of all ages, must learn to think. I should rewrite that sentence. Students must learn to become critical thinkers which means that they apply the criteria of the Word of God to the issues of the day.

Three other questions guided my approach to teaching at CCRTC. The first question is: How do I foster curiosity? Being curious is an important aptitude for future teachers. What is going on in the world? What interesting developments are there in science? What are snow dogs? How do potholes form? It is the 'Did you know that...' questions that drive the curiosity.

The second question is: Are students willing to take risks in my classroom? Are they willing to give a reply that may be wrong? All teachers must establish an atmosphere in the classroom where students will take risks, whether it is in discussions or in papers they write or in opinions they voice.

Finally, how do I teach students to think Christianly? It is a vital component of teaching future teachers who, in turn, must guide their students to think Christianly. There is no program nor one way of doing it. My basic premise is the awareness of letting the light of God's Word shine whenever possible and not let an opportunity pass by.

With these reflections I sign off.



Many thanks to our representatives across the country...we appreciate your time and effort! We would also like to take this opportunity to send out a note of thanks to Alina Noot for so capably being our treasurer for the last number of years!

- Burlington Fellowship Anjelynn Helder
- Burlington Ebenezer Grace Hulleman
- Burlington Rehoboth Susanne Hutten
- Ottawa Elizabeth Smith
- Attercliffe Diane Feenstra
- Dunnville Dianna Kelly
- Grassie Aaryn Nicholson
- Lincoln Adria Stulp
- Spring Creek Theresa Heemskerk
- Smithville Beth Stel
- Brampton Gertie Vanluik
- Elora Jackie Deboer
- Fergus North Amy Lodder
- Fergus Marantha Natasha Huijgen
- Grand Valley Fran Penninga
- Guelph Emmanuel Robin Westrik
- Guelph Living Word Henrietta Groeneveld
- Owen Sound Glenda Kapetyn
- Ancaster Chandra Vanderboom
- Chatham Jennifer Vanderveen
- Glanbrook Jessica Aasman
- Blessings Deb Alkema
- Hamilton Providence Monica Riemer
- Hamilton Cornerstone Val Alkema
- Kerwood Mary Lenting
- London Michelle Temple
- Carmen West Angela Blok
- Winnipeg Grace Sarah Welch
- Winnipeg Redeemer Melanie Beijes
- Coaldale Erin Becker
- Aldergrove Lisa Vanderven
- Lynden Debbie Johnson & Stephanie Bareman
- Cloverdale Rachel Vandersluis
- Houston Arlene Leffers
- Langley Yvonne Jacobi
- Smithers Hetty VanderGaag
- Surrey Michelle Faber

from the treasurer NATHAN HELDER

With thankfulness to the LORD, Covenant Canadian Reformed Teachers College continues to be blessed financially. We can report that we are meeting our budgeted revenue and most of the expenses are in line with the budget. However, over the past few months we have seen a slight dip in overall donation revenues.

By this time, you will have received your donation receipts. Thank you for your continued support. You may be wondering, "What happens to the money that I donate?" or, "Where does CCRTC's revenue come from?" The breakdown is in the charts below.

While the first task of training new Reformed teachers continues, the matter of seeking accreditation is first and foremost on the minds of the many individuals directly involved with CCRTC. This year much effort has been focused on preparing the

submission package to obtain accreditation. Your ongoing support is vital to this submission.

As the pie charts indicate, CCRTC receives about 58% of its revenue from individual and business donations, 22% from student tuition, 14% from member school societies, 4% from bequests, and 2% from workshops. On the expenses side, you will notice that CCRTC operates very efficiently with 77% for payroll expenses, 8% for administration, 5% for building, 5% for programs & PR, 4% for library, and 1% for miscellaneous expenses.

At the recent Annual General Meeting in March, the budget for 2018-19 was approved, and the recommended contribution level of \$40/month maintained. SB Partners has been reappointed as accountants for the upcoming fiscal year ending August 31, 2019.

Once again, we sincerely thank you and we hope that we may count on your continued support throughout the spring and summer of 2018.



CCRTC 2016-2017 INCOME (ACTUALS)

- Bequests \$31,000
- Member School Society Revenue \$95,000
- Student Tuition \$148,000
- Other \$10,000
- Contributions/Donations \$379,000

CCRTC 2016-2017 EXPENSES (ACTUALS)

- Misc \$5,600
- Admin \$56,000
- Building \$33,000
- Programs \$30,000
- Library Department \$25,000
- Payroll \$489,000



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

✂ Please detach and use the postage paid envelope enclosed or mail to: **CCRTC • 410 Crerar Drive • Hamilton, ON • L9A 5K3**

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 (optional) _____

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 agree with the conditions in the application and 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.