



Covenant

CANADIAN REFORMED TEACHERS COLLEGE

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



www.covenantteacherscollege.com



NOVEMBER 2010



from the CHAIR GERRIT BOS



These are exciting times at Covenant. At the beginning of our 30th year of operation, the good things which happen around this time of year are again underway. We have a great group of students, in-course work is going well, the facilities are functioning smoothly, and the practicum opportunities are appreciated by the supporting schools, associate teachers, and our students.



The practicum placements also afford opportunities for direct engagement with the Covenant faculty member supervising the students on practicum, and many school societies have made use of those opportunities as well. We treasure all these good things every year.

In addition, this year as Board we are also in exciting times. We have seen blessings on a number of initiatives after several years of work, often done behind the scenes. We have had a number of successes in our relationships with school societies, and we have two additional school societies confirmed as members. We have made good strides in governance with new bylaws enacted, supporting policies and processes, well working committees, and attentive participation of Governors. We have implemented a number of curriculum changes, as well as investments in IT and library infrastructure. These will all stand us and our students in good stead for the future. We have focused, and continue to explicitly focus, on member and supporter relations. These efforts have already resulted in good feedback and a positive financial result last year. These initiatives have not been random, instead they act like building-blocks that put us in a

position to focus on both the short-term and long-term, and that is exciting.

For the short-term, we are able to move forward in confidence regarding a fourth faculty member, and a number of other initiatives. In the long term, we are in a much better position to tackle increased recognition in a more head-on fashion. From preliminary contact we know that there is a close working relationship between the Ministry of Training Colleges and Universities (MTCU), which approves institutions with programs which are accredited, and the Ontario College of Teachers (OCT) which accredits education programs at approved institutions. As Executive and Board we will spend some time determining the best strategy to move forward so that we both continue to serve the existing needs as they can be met today in Ontario where funding is not related to teacher accreditation, and all other provinces where it is in various forms. This will require a lot of thought, much work, and many prayers from us as Board and committees, but also from all of you as supporters. While it fills us with some trepidation, we go forward in the Lord, continuing to expect all things from Him!

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from the PRINCIPAL

CHRISTINE VAN HALEN-FABER

“As long as the earth endures, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night will never cease.”

GENESIS 8:22

This well-known scripture passage attests to the faithfulness of our Covenant LORD and is so very visible in the rhythm of time as we continue to experience it from day to day. As the panorama of the changing colors of the leaves on trees spreads out before us, we are reminded that we are well into autumn, and therefore well into the first semester of yet another academic year – our 30th year of operation. Our LORD is faithful indeed!

Our enrolment this year stands at 20 fulltime students, distributed as follows: 7 in the one-year program, and 5, 4, and 4 in years 1, 2, and 3 of the three-year program.



These students are members of the Canadian Reformed Churches at Burlington (Ebenezer; Fellowship), Fergus (Maranatha; North), Elora, Grassie, Hamilton (Providence), London,

Smithville, and Yarrow, as well as of the Netherlands Reformed Congregation at Norwich. Although we do not normally introduce students by name, I wish to make one exception by introducing Miss Hyewon Song. She has come to us from one of the churches in Korea with whom we have ecclesiastical fellowship. Hyewon hopes to return to her country after a year at Covenant, in order to promote and practice Reformed education in her

church community. We welcome Hyewon as our first “foreign student” and look forward to learning as much from her as she might from all of us. We wish her the LORD’s blessings!

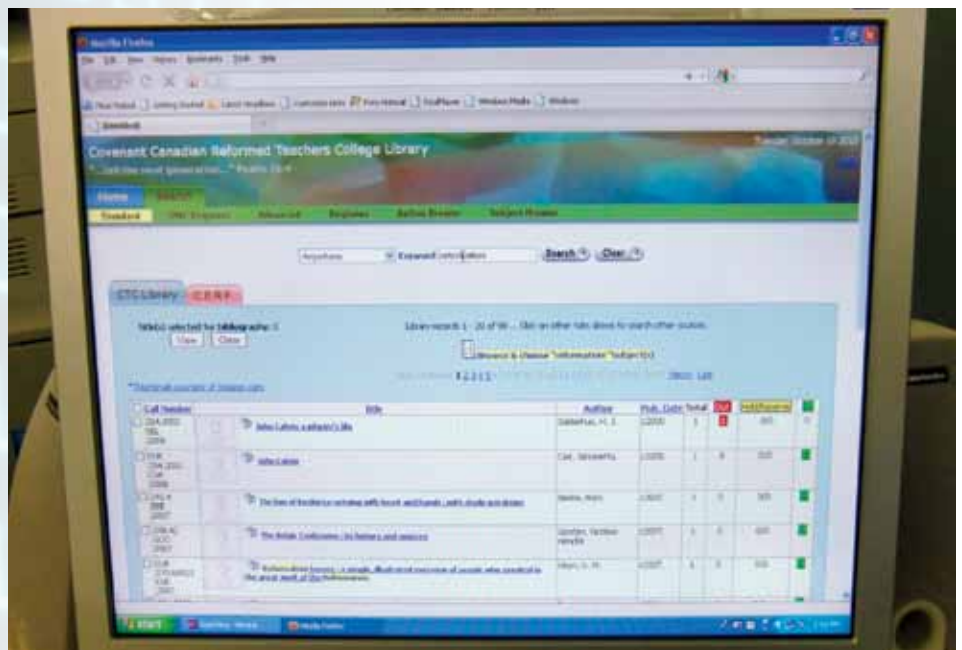
The faculty continues to be engaged in regular teaching tasks as well as professional activities of various kinds. The two-fold mandate of our College is firstly to prepare young men and women to become teachers in Reformed schools, and secondly to promote continued learning for teachers who are already teaching. We are thankful that schools recognize the importance of professional staff development, especially in areas that foster and strengthen the unique distinctiveness of our schools. During the past summer, courses were offered at the Maranatha Christian School in Fergus (ON) and at the Coaldale Christian School in Coaldale (AB). During the course of the year, faculty is professionally involved by means of leading workshops at Canadian Reformed Teachers Conventions (CRTA West and CRTA East), as well as participating in the “Research and Development” sessions at local schools. It is good to see the connections between schools and Covenant College.

Reformed education continues to be an important topic in our community-at-large also. Having Reformed schools is one thing, but maintaining their character in an ever-changing world is quite another. Together as supporting communities

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OUR LIBRARY CATALOGUE IS ONLINE!

The big moment has arrived! Covenant Canadian Reformed Teachers College is pleased and thankful to announce that you can now search our library holdings online via the link to our Online Public Access Catalogue (OPAC).



The last report from the library was published back in the spring of 2008, when we had just received approval from the Board to go ahead with the purchase of a new integrated library system. This report was entitled: The CCRTC Library – A Resource for Everyone! It gave an overview of the types of resources that can be found in our library, and established that there are items in the library of interest to anyone and everyone! The report concluded by stating that our primary goal is to provide our patrons with online access to our library catalogue.

Yes, now that goal has finally been realized! In the summer of 2009, the

College was able to purchase access to an integrated library system called OPALS (OPen-Source Automated Library System). Over the last year we have transferred our records and familiarized ourselves with most of its features.

We are pleased to invite everyone to search our library catalogue from the comfort of your own home, school or office. Just set your browser to <http://ctc.scoolaid.net/> and you will arrive at the library's home page.

It looks like a typical “Google” search, with just one box to fill in, although you may choose different fields from the drop-down box beside “anywhere”. Enter any keyword in the box, click “search” and

see what the library holds on your favorite topic. Or check out the list of our latest acquisitions by clicking on “New Items” from the home page. Scrolling through this list might even give you a tiny peek into curriculum development here at the College!

The rest of the tabs on our home page need further development, and this work is ongoing. Links to a few helpful websites, including the library at the Theological College can be found by clicking “Web Links” on our home page.

If you prefer a more advanced style of searching, just click the green tab that says “Search”, choose the “Advanced” option, and fill in the appropriate fields, being careful to adjust the Boolean terms between the fields.

Like many library systems, OPALS is also geared to the school market, which would explain the Search choices called “OWL Beginner” and “Beginner”. Perhaps the younger members of our community would enjoy searching for project resources, or even works by some of their favorite authors using these options.

Once you have found some items of interest, select them by clicking the small empty box to the left of the item.

In this way you can continue to select more items for your list from subsequent searches. Now scroll to the bottom of the results page and under “Titles selected for bibliography” click “View”. This produces a bibliography of all the items you have selected. You may add a title to your bibliography and notes on the individual titles in the boxes provided, and even “de-select” any item by clicking the checkmark to the left of the title.



“ We remind the reader that anyone can sign up to borrow books or other materials from our library collection.

Decide how to format your list by using the choices at the bottom of the screen. You have an option of printing or emailing your bibliography.

Here is an opportunity to let the librarian know what material you are requesting.

Just type the words “Request from...” and your name into the title box of your bibliography, and simply email it to the address below. We will gather the material, check it out under your name, and have it ready for your arrival. Or perhaps you can persuade a colleague, relative or friend to visit the College and pick up your resources for you.

After all the searching we did to find a program that suits our needs and our

budget, you will understand that this is an exciting development for us, and even more so when you imagine the potential for new patrons! We remind the reader that anyone can sign up to borrow books or other materials from our library collection. Although searching our library from your own space is so convenient and comfortable, we look forward to a lot more activity here in the library as you come in to visit us and check out the material you found in our database. The best times to visit are on Tuesdays during school hours and on Thursday mornings to take

advantage of some personal service. All it takes is a telephone call to Eleanor at 905-385-0634 or a message to eleanorb@covenantteacherscollege.com.





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we must continue to engage each other in edifying discussions on topics that matter. As College community we are thankful for the opportunity to offer a public lecture series this fall. The topics for the four evenings have been organized under the general theme of “Relevance of kingdom and church for Reformed education” and feature four lectures as follows: “Kingdom and Imago Dei” (Dr. Jason Van Vliet), “Kingdom and Culture” (Dr. Nelson Kloosterman), “Kingdom and Education” (Dr. Benne Faber), and “Kingdom and School (Pastor Bill De Jong, with Mr. Hans Van Dooren and Dr. Arjan de Visser as respondents). From the initial feedback we received, the evenings are well-appreciated. The lectures have

been recorded, and those interested are encouraged to contact the College for further information.

In closing this update, I refer to the words we used at the opening of the academic year based on the implications of wanting to become teachers – with a special focus on the two types of wisdom described in James 3: Wisdom which is from God – shown by a walk of life that is good and humble, and made visible by being pure, peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere. Indeed, it is our prayer that also this year all of the work done in and for the College may be to the glory of God: “From him, and through him and to him are all things.” (Rom. 11:36)

BOARD OF GOVERNORS: (NOVEMBER, 2010)

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Jeff Scheper Owen Sound Can. Ref., Owen Sound, ON



Congratulations

At McMaster University on September 9, 2010, Miss Deanna Smid, one of our sessional lecturers (English Literature and Children’s Literature) successfully defended her dissertation entitled “The World in Man’s Heart’: The Faculty of Imagination in Early Modern English Literature.”

We congratulate Dr. Smid, and wish her the LORD’s blessings in all her future endeavours!



What a blessing that the Lord has allowed Covenant Canadian Reformed Teachers College to open its doors for another year. Our Committee is one of many who work behind the scenes to support the College that the Lord has given us. We pray that we can continue to be a blessing in a special way for CCRTC.

In this column we would like to first of all thank our many supporters – your prayers and donations have allowed us to assist the College in a variety of ways. We also would like to thank our WATCH representatives for working behind the scenes in raising awareness and funds!

This year WATCH women have brought in donations by hosting plant sales, concerts, bake sales, or simply by holding a door collection in their local congregations. We continue to aim for a toonie per communicant member to raise funds for non-budgeted items.

We also strive to raise awareness. To assist us in this, we have Eleanor Boeringa, staff liaison, who prepares “Snippets” that keep us informed of day-to-day events. In turn, WATCH reps from each congregation can use these “Snippets” to keep their members informed and to promote Covenant College through word and prayer requests.

It is our intention to continue to expand our representation throughout our Churches across Canada and the US. We currently have almost 30 churches with a rep. However, it is our hope and prayer

that more women may be found willing to support us in this venture.

Connie Stieva has been our capable treasurer for some years now. Her work was very much appreciated and we thank her for her commitment to the task. She has recently moved and we are now in URGENT NEED of finding a replacement. No extra credentials are required for this job – if you have a way with numbers and if this might interest you, please consider contacting us.

We are thankful to report that we have been able to find some new representatives this fall from a few congregations. If

you see that your congregation is not represented, and want to show your appreciation for the work of the

College, please give us a call. It is not a big job but a little work from many of our sisters goes a long way. Some sisters work alone or enjoy pairing up to organize fundraisers; others join forces with the W.S.A. from our Theological College to collect funds at the same time. One of our representatives buys books for the library at Covenant and first showcases them at her Church so that they can “watch” their donation at work for the College.

This past year, the College was able to purchase 2 LCD projectors with WATCH funds. Perhaps some of the photos you

see in this newsletter were taken with the new camera that WATCH financed! We also have \$9000 set aside for a large item that the College is yet looking into.

Once again we do our work relying on our heavenly Father. May we all continue on in His strength, telling the next generation of the praiseworthy deeds of the Lord, His power and the wonders He has done, teaching them to our children so that the next generation would know them (taken from Psalm 73).

WATCH REPRESENTATIVES

Trix Aasman	Burlington Fellowship
Karen Vandeburgt	Burlington Waterdown
Debbie Torenvliet	Ottawa
Amanda DeBoer	Toronto
Ingrid Jansema	Attercliffe
Annette Kelly	Dunnville
Jo-Anne Vanlperen	Grassie
Adria Stulp	Lincoln
Mary Alkema	Tintern
Jeannie Vandervelde	Smithville
Anne-Marie Sikkema	Elora
Wendy Koster	Fergus North
Betsy Kingma	Fergus Maranatha
Kim VanEerde	Grand Valley
Robin Westrik	Guelph
Mrs. Glenda Kapteyn	Owen Sound
Rose Woudenberg	Ancaster
Jennifer Vanderveen	Chatham
Wilma Vanderwoude	Glanbrook
Mrs. J. Pieterman	Kerwood - London
Charlene VandenAkker	Winnipeg Grace
Amanda Poppe	Coaldale
Debbie Johnson	Lynden
Arlene Leffers	Houston
Yvonne Jacobi	Langley - Willoughby Heights
Mrs. Plony Hofsink	Smithers

Important note to our representatives: *If we do not yet have your e-mail addresses, could you please send them to us? It will make our correspondence much easier, especially when we want to send some bulletin notices your way. Thank-you.*

Eleanor Boeringa LIAISON..... 905-304-3912 or eleanorb@covenantteacherscollege.com
Julie DeHaan CHAIR..... 905-957-9184 or wilcoandjulie@gmail.com
Robin Westrik SECRETARY..... 519-763-4397 or rjwestrik@rogers.com

from the finance committee

ARCHIE BAX

In this past year the Lord has blessed us richly, in that we were able to meet budget. While we know that we need to proceed forward in the 'training of teachers' aspect of kingdom work, we as finance committee also have the task of overseeing the financial aspects to ensure we can move forward and meet our obligations. In this regard we have a happy message to share. With the Lords help, the College received total revenue that was about 15% above budget. We thank all those who contributed to this success. In addition, the departments and committees were able to manage their expenditures to 94% of the budget amount. This resulted in a surplus of about \$95,000. This amount will help offset the prior year's shortfall, as well as provide a modest start at building the funds needed for the 4th professor. So we do have much to be thankful for.

The budget revenue and cost estimates for the 2010-2011 budget reflected an increase of slightly over 5%. However, if everyone contributes as they have this past year, we will make budget and a bit more. This is important since the plans are to have the new faculty member start

in September 2011, subject to approval at the Annual General Meeting. It would be good to have the donations at a level that support this new requirement. We recommend that those who are able contribute at a level of \$396 per year. If you contributed below this level, we appreciate your contributions very much. At this time, we ask that you increase your contribution to this annual amount. If you contribute more than

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this amount already please keep up the good work. The \$396 amount seems like a lot, particularly if it is contributed in a lump sum once per year. However there are several alternatives. The one we particularly encourage is to sign up for pre-authorized withdrawals on a monthly basis. This way you have a regular withdrawal from your account in the amount you agree to. For example the \$396 becomes \$33 per month, which is more manageable than a large amount once each year and is less of a bother than

post dated cheques. Please consider this option at the level of contribution you feel you can make.

While one would expect the finance committee to talk about money, and we have so far, we would also note that this is only one of the needs of the college. Increasingly it is difficult to get the "people" capital we need to operate. It seems that those people who are involved, are involved with many other things as well. We need new people to get involved in the committees and lend their talents and get experience. For example the finance committee is looking for a new member so that a current member, who has served for more than six years,

can retire. I am sure there are similar situations in other committees. If you are looking for interesting, rewarding, and skill expanding volunteer possibilities contact us. In the Lord's kingdom there are many opportunities to serve and be enriched. Thanks and God Bless.

We invite you to visit the
CCRTC website at
www.covenantteacherscollege.com

 Please detach and mail to: **CCRTC • South Square RO • P.O. Box 30026 • 1576 Upper James Street • Hamilton, ON • L9B 2Y5**

Yes! I would like to support the 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 hereby authorize Covenant Canadian Reformed Teachers College to withdraw regular monthly payments from my bank account in the amount of and agree to accept annual increases as set by the board.:

- \$33/Month** - Withdrawn on the:
 15th of the month 30th of the month
- \$396/Annually** - 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.