



# Covenant

CANADIAN REFORMED TEACHERS COLLEGE

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

NOVEMBER 2012



CCRTC NEWS

FALL 2012

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







## from the PRINCIPAL CHRISTINE VAN HALEN-FABER

At the time of writing this contribution to the CCRTC Fall Newsletter, we have already passed the halfway mark of the first term. The glorious autumn colours on the deciduous trees that grace the Hamilton's valleys and its escarpment have peaked and our students have almost completed their first-of-the-year practicum placements in the schools. How time flies!



We invite you to visit the **CCRTC library website** at <http://ctc.scoolaid.net/bin/home>

**“ I will put my laws in their minds and write them on their hearts. I will be their God and they will be my people. –HEBREWS 8: 8B-12**

source of Reformed teacher education. It is this

vision that drives the daily activities and interactions that occur within the walls

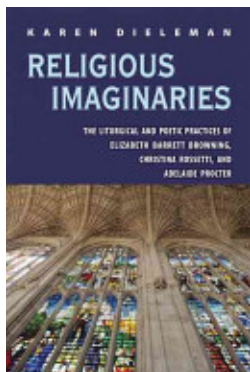
of the College. By the working of the Holy Spirit through the renewal of our minds, our teaching and learning will demonstrate that we offer ourselves as living sacrifices of gratitude to our triune God. We are excited about this and pray that as instructors and students together we may find joy and delight in yet another year of teaching and learning.

Also this year we are blessed with a dedicated and enthusiastic team of instructors: As sessional lecturers we welcome back Rev. Douwe Agema, Mrs. Teresa Boisvert, Dr. Wes Bredenhof, Dr. Ben Faber, Mr. Paul Leistra, Mrs. Annette Smid, Dr. Deanna Smid, Mr. Tim Wildeboer, and Dr. Art Witten. Along with the three full-time lecturers (Mr. Allard Gunnink, Miss Judy Kingma, and Dr. Christine van Halen), the administrator (Mrs. Donna Van Huisstede), and the librarian (Mrs. Eleanor Boeringa) we can honestly say that there is unity within diversity. Each member of the team contributes diligently to what our College has become: A lively community with a big teaching-learning heart!

Speaking of a heart: Our library continues to pulse with excitement and activity. Not only is it the place where we begin our days together, but it is also the hub for our resources. As a rule, I do not mention newly-acquired additions to our ever-growing collection. However, I will make an exception: Earlier this month, we added to our collection a beautiful book



entitled *Religious Imaginaries : the liturgical and poetic practices of Elizabeth Barrett Browning, Christina Rossetti, and Adelaide Procter* by Dr. Karen Dieleman.



We congratulate Karen on the publication of this scholarly work, and are happy to have a book by an alumna (and a former lecturer) on our shelves. Readers, we invite you to make good use of our collections. Please take a moment to visit our library virtually via <http://etc.scoolaid.net/bin/home> and see what is new!

This year marks yet another year in which Covenant College seeks to serve its supporting communities in a variety of ways. In addition to their main task of preparing future teachers for their tasks, faculty members are available for contributing to the development of Reformed Christian education at the local school context. If your community is looking for a speaker or a seminar presenter, don't hesitate to contact one of us. We are here to assist you – for together we seek to retain the identity of faithful educational practice in an ever-challenging secular context. May our collective efforts continue to be blessed.

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## CHAIRMAN'S REPORT FRANK C. LUDWIG

# GROWTH

## — AN ORGANIZATIONAL NECESSITY

Once again it is autumn, wherein the cycle of nature reveals itself so very clearly. The leaves on the trees are falling and the denuded trees set in for their period of rest before the cycle starts all over again.

This puts one in mind of the organic necessity of growth...all living organisms grow, or they stagnate and die. And what is true of organisms, is no less true of organizations. Covenant Canadian Reformed Teachers College is no exception to that rule, and therefore the Board has the responsibility to foster that growth.

Further, it is common to measure and evaluate such growth. In the case of our College, the AGM or Annual General Meeting, when all the governors from across the country gather at the College near the end of February, is a convenient point of reference. At this meeting we evaluate what has been done over the previous year and what our plans are for the year to come. Hopefully that work receives the approbation of this "large" meeting of governors, and the rest of the year the work at the College is conducted and monitored by the more local (Ontario) governors in their bi-monthly meetings. At the most recent AGM a

number of resolutions were passed to help ensure the growth and development of the College. A lot of these had to do with the task of moving forward toward the end of seeking accreditation. Let's see how we're doing.

**“ Is the College important to you? Just check to see how many staff members at YOUR local school are graduates of this institution and judge its worth for yourself.**

To help both the Executive Committee and the Board monitor these items, a "score card" was created with number and colour coding to keep track of progress. This "card" is reviewed at every Committee and Board meeting so that indeed we can see how we're doing and

where and how much prodding is required to keep things moving along.

- ITEM: That the Board confirm the importance of hiring a fourth full-time faculty member.
- ITEM: That the Board develop a process for talent development which includes succession planning.
- Item: That faculty be directed to evaluate current courses with Diploma [Degree] Level Expectations (DLE) for success.
- ITEM: That the Board resurrect the Ad Hoc Accreditation Committee and mandate it to develop an accreditation plan for the next AGM.
- ITEM: That the Board have a goal to have all school societies members of Covenant Teachers' College.

Detailing each of these items, and the list is not nearly complete, would make this article much too long, so suffice it to say that we are at various stages of progress with each of these. It will be clear that all this activity is not only evidence of growth, but that it also REQUIRES growth, especially as it pertains to the support base of the College.

Membership and support of the Teachers' College continues to be a relatively modest \$33.00/month or \$396.00 /year, which our Finance Committee loves to see come in on a Pre-Authorized Direct Withdrawal basis.....but any other way is

*...continued on page 7*

# DR. W. BREDENHOF **CHURCH** HISTORY

## 106-0 – North American Church History

No, at that time I didn't, and I didn't really care at all. It was a subject most of us hated and we often got the impression that the teachers weren't too excited about it either. From talking to some of my students today, I know that this type of bad experience is not uncommon. Enthusiasm for Church History has typically been a rare commodity.

At Covenant College I have the privilege of teaching aspiring teachers about the history of the Church. It's a subject I now love and I hope to inspire them to develop a passionate interest in it too. More importantly, I hope they can enthusiastically teach the coming generation of covenant children about the great deeds of our Saviour in the history of his Church.

The course I teach is entitled "North American Church History." However, the course spends a lot of time first of all in the Netherlands. We look at developments in the Dutch Reformed churches since the beginning of the 1800s. We cover the Secession of 1834, the Doleantie of 1886, the Union of 1892, and the Liberation of 1944. While these events took place in the Netherlands, they have a pivotal role in the development of the Canadian Reformed Churches and therefore it's essential that we have a firm grasp on them.

Eventually, however, we make it across the Atlantic and look at the history of the Canadian Reformed Churches. We also consider our institutions, our ecumenical contacts, our missionary efforts, and our church government. Finally, we also spend time considering the culture of our church federation. As a former missionary, I find it interesting to reflect on what makes our communities tick, so to speak. Students are challenged to think critically about what it means to be a Dutch immigrant sub-culture.

We also consider other aspects of North American Church History. We deal with the history of Presbyterianism, especially that of the Orthodox Presbyterian Church. We examine some contemporary issues in North American Christianity such as the "Young, Restless, Reformed" movement, the emergent movement and American evangelicalism in general. The idea is to build an awareness of our surroundings so as to develop skills in discernment and critical thinking.

One day I came home from school and my grandparents were visiting. They asked me about my day. It hadn't been good. "I hate Church History!" – those were the first words out of my mouth. Opa was horrified and exclaimed, "Vat do you mean, you hate church history?! Don't you understand how important dat is?"

With regard to textbooks, our first semester is spent with Rev. W. W. J. Van Oene's *Inheritance Preserved*. This continues to be the standard work on the history of the Canadian Reformed Churches. In our second semester, we use D. G. Hart and John Muether's *Seeking a Better Country: 300 Years of American Presbyterianism*.

Besides the lectures and readings, students are also expected to write two book reports. One deals with a biography of a figure from North American Church History such as Charles Hodge, John Murray, Jonathan Edwards, or Cornelius Van Til. The other report looks at a book dealing with a topic such as the history of Fuller Seminary or missions among native peoples in North America. The idea is not

**“ Students will tell you that this course is challenging. The content is much more theological than other church history courses.**

only that students report on the content of these books, but also that they engage critically in analyzing the arguments of the authors.

Students will tell you that this course is challenging. The content is much more theological than other church history courses. This is because, as we get into this period, events are determined by theological developments of increasing complexity. For example, as we deal with the theological issues in the Liberation of 1944, we are far beyond the simple *solas* (*sola Scriptura, sola fide*, etc.) that led to the Reformation. For good reason, the material covered in this course is most likely going to be taught in secondary rather than primary classrooms.

In one of his books, Dr. W. Robert Godfrey tells the story of one of his history professors in university. Dr. Lewis Spitz reportedly used to say, "History is so inherently interesting that one has to work very hard to make it boring. Unfortunately, there are many hard working history professors." Church history is fascinating too, and I'm doing my best to keep it that way. I just hope I'm not working too hard!

“ May the LORD make you increase, both you and your children.

May you be blessed by the LORD, the Maker of heaven and earth.”

—PS. 115:14, 15

## REPRESENTATIVES

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 Charlene VandenAkker **WINNIPEG-GRACE**

Yes, the Lord has certainly blessed our federation with growth. We see his almighty, gracious hand as more children are born into covenant families each year. So the need for teachers also continues.

What a blessing, too, to have Covenant Canadian Reformed Teachers' College to enable teachers to pass on the riches of the gospel to our children.

WATCH is pleased to be able to serve the College to meet its goal in training new teachers. We have been able to raise funds for non-budgeted items again this year, as well as keeping congregations aware of the College. Our representatives give little bits of news for the bulletins so that our brothers and sisters do not forget about CCRTC.

With thanks to God, and thanks to the work of all of our reps, we have been able to present the College with \$6400.00 this year. This year the College has been able to purchase items for the kitchen, office chairs, desk chairs, a filing cabinet and a new “smart board”.

Technically the smart board is called an interactive whiteboard. This computer will help to train teachers in using new technology in teaching and learning. Schools wishing to learn more about this technology can also visit the Teachers' College and try it out.

A new member has joined our committee. A hearty welcome is extended to JoAnn Van Iperen!

Thank you for all your support that you have given to WATCH and the College. Please continue to pray for the Lord's blessing on the work done. If you wish to send in a donation, please mail it to Mrs. Alina Noot.

**JULIE DEHAAN (CHAIR)** 905-957-9184

**JANET VAN VLIET (SECRETARY)** 289-286-0695

**ALINA NOOT (TREASURER)** 905-574-0490

**JOANN VAN IPEREN (MEMBER AT LARGE)**

**ELEANOR BOERINGA (CCRTC LIASON)** 905-304-3912





GROWTH – An Organizational Necessity continued...

fine too! Is the College important to you? Just check to see how many staff members at YOUR local school are graduates of this institution and judge its worth for yourself. In some cases the local provincial regulations forestall such direct benefit, yet there are other ones, not to mention the need of your brothers and sisters in parts of the country where there is no support for Christian education from the public purse at all. Let us all examine our blessings and our hearts, and act accordingly.

*P.S. My contribution to this "CCRTC News" would not be complete if no mention was made of our brother Fred Lodder. For the past 20 plus years Fred has fulfilled the task of Comptroller of finance for CCRTC until finally handing it over on Oct. 1st of this year. On behalf of the Board and the larger community of CCRTC supporters, it is my pleasure to also publicly express our appreciation for Fred's work, and his long-time loyalty and faithfulness in fulfilling that very important task. Thank you, Fred, and wishing you well in your "retirement"!*

*At the same time we may welcome Karen VanVeen as his replacement and hope that she will eventually learn to feel comfortable in that very large pair of shoes.*



The vision of the Board of Covenant College is to be the definitive source for Reformed teacher training, and includes planning for succession, distance education, and in-service support. To this end, we are looking to expand the full-time instructional team for the 2013-2014 academic year.

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED  
IN JOINING THE FACULTY AS A

## FULL TIME FACULTY MEMBER

WE INVITE YOU TO CONTACT US TO DISCUSS  
THE OPTIONS AND POSSIBILITIES.

Persons interested in this position will, among other things, demonstrate a **DEEP LOVE FOR REFORMED EDUCATION**, be willing to provide educational leadership at multiple levels, be interested in exploring curriculum theory, and display a healthy level of intellectual curiosity within biblical bounds (Prov. 1:5).

The candidate will be a communicant member of a Canadian Reformed Church, or of a Church with whom we maintain ecclesiastical fellowship, will hold at least a Masters Degree preferably in the area of education, and will have teaching experience in either elementary or secondary school settings.

### FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION, CONTACT:

Dr. Christine van Halen-Faber, PRINCIPAL,  
**(905) 385-0634** or [cvanhalen@covenantteacherscollege.com](mailto:cvanhalen@covenantteacherscollege.com)

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

## WE EXPRESS OUR HEARTFELT THANKS TO THE WATCH COMMITTEE

for the very generous gift of an INTERACTIVE  
WHITE BOARD! Please be assured that this board  
is and will be put to good use!

*The students and faculty of the CCRTC*



# from the finance committee

ARCHIE BAX

For the 2011-2012 operating year we have again been blessed by our Heavenly Father. The College was able to end the year with a small surplus of about \$17,000. This surplus is the difference between all revenue received and the actual expenses incurred. Of special note is the fact that in August we received several large donations, some of which were corporate donations, to a total of about \$77,000 for the month. We thank all those all those who contributed throughout the year to help make this result possible.

As we move forward in the new school year we once again need to appeal to you all to consider your support for the College. Support comes in many varieties. First of all, we depend on your prayers. Pray that this work of preparing teachers for service in teaching the youth of the church in the local Christian Schools may continue with the Lord's blessing and guidance. While the certificates and diplomas presented by the College are not recognized by the Provincial authorities, we as parents and school boards should recognize the importance of having teachers who are trained and qualified to teach the educational subjects and provide the biblical context and content in harmony with our confessions, the preaching in the congregations,

and what we teach in the home. This is invaluable in the longer term and the College's motto to "...tell the next generation" stresses the desire to be faithful in this work. While things like provincial funding are important, we are called to seek after the things that have eternal value. Secondly, we depend on

**I urge those who are not donators or volunteers now to investigate what the College does and seriously consider if you are able and willing to support our College....**

the support of volunteers working for the benefit of the College. The College Board members as well as committee members are all volunteers. It is a continual struggle to find people willing and able to volunteer for the various roles required to operate the College. For example, the Finance and Fund-Raising committees are in need of two committee members. If you are able to serve on this committee please contact me. There are other committees, as well as Board vacancies, that need to be filled. Increasingly the attitude seems to be – let someone else do it. This relates to activities in the church, schools and

also the Teachers College. We all as a communion of saints have a calling to use our talents in the service of the Lord and to share the burdens and the work. Third, we need your help to provide the financial resources to operate the College. The donations received provide over 60% of the revenue required to operate the College. In the coming year steps need to be taken to provide for staff retirement and the Board approved the request to hire a fourth faculty member. This was approved two years ago but a suitable willing applicant has not been found as of yet. A fourth faculty member would increase the expenses by about \$100,000 in round figures. Clearly our past contribution levels would not support this increase.

Considering that the total communicant membership of our churches is about 10,000 and the annual number of people and businesses donating fluctuates in the range of 500 to 600, I urge those who are not donators or volunteers now to investigate what the College does and seriously consider if you are able and willing to support our College now and into the future, monetarily and with your time. You can contact your local representative for more information.

 Please detach and mail to: CCRTC • 410 Crerar Drive • Hamilton, ON • L9A 5K3

## Yes! I would like to support the CCRTC!

- One-Time gift of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (cheque Enclosed)  
 Monthly by pre-authorized Automatic withdrawal

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## 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.