

**Canadian Reformed Teachers College
09/2005 to 08/2006 Final Budget - Feb 26, 2005**

	'09/2004 - 08/2005 Budget	'09/2005 - 08/2006 Final Budget
Revenue	387,924.00	386,589.69
Expenses		
Remuneration - Teaching	242,430.00	240,824.00
Fringe Benefits	44,120.00	42,420.26
Prof. Dev. / Princ. Conf.	1,500.00	1,500.00
Research Leave	7,500.00	7,500.00
Fundraising Committee Expenses		
Accreditation Committee Expenses		
Practicum Teaching	5,000.00	7,000.00
Graduation	1,500.00	1,500.00
Library	21,488.00	18,241.00
LCRSS League	100.00	100.00
Building Expenses	26,990.00	27,356.43
Administration	20,796.00	21,648.00
Miscellaneous	16,500.00	18,500.00
Total Expenses	387,924	386,589.69

It truly is a privilege to serve on the Board of Governors of CCRTC. As a Governor you have the opportunity and responsibility to attend to the governance of a very fine institution. I have almost completed four years as representative for the Fergus-Guelph School Society and each year on the last Friday of May we may witness the graduation of another group of students. This year is no exception as we saw four qualified teachers graduate. It is at times like these that it really comes home as to why we support and maintain the college. Graduation is the crowning event on a year's worth of work. Within our circles the connection between home, church and school is strongly promoted. It stands to reason that the three parties must have the same basis if our covenant children are to be effectively trained in the way they should go. Our elementary and secondary schools are in continual need of reformed teachers and, although Covenant College may not be the only way, it certainly is a very good way to provide teachers who hold to the reformed principles. Over these past four years it has become clear to me why dedicated instructors, staff members and volunteers put so much time and effort into the running of the college.

With all this comes the responsibility of properly managing the affairs of the college. Each year at budget time the board examines the expenses with a very fine-tooth comb to ensure that we are

acting in a responsible manner. Throughout the year we monitor the expenses very closely. The past fiscal year (2003-2004) we had a small surplus after three years of operating in a deficit position; even with expenses coming in below the budget. Currently, however, we are in dire straits. Through the efforts of the fund raising committee we hope to see this turn around so we can end this year on another positive note.

As we planned for the future at our latest Annual General Meeting, we committed to carrying on with three full-time instructors. This is necessary in order to meet the demands of a larger student body. Nevertheless, along with this commitment, increased financial support is required. For that reason

we ask for both your prayerful and financial support in order that we may continue in the task of training reformed teachers for the schools our heavenly Father has granted us.

In order to keep you informed about our budget we have included an abbreviated copy of the board-approved budget for the fiscal year September 1, 2005 to August 31, 2006 for your perusal.

Since the official membership of the college is participating school societies (most of which are assessed a small fee), we rely mainly on the generous support from individuals and businesses to meet our budget needs. To that end, the recommended donation for the year 2005-2006 has been set at \$375.00 per donor. It goes without saying that donations of any amount are most welcome! Please send your donation to your local representative or directly to the college using the enclosed self-addressed, postage paid envelope. It would help our comptroller greatly if you enclose the form found on page 7 or include that information on a separate page.

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VOLUME 23 • SUMMER

Seeking Accreditation for the College—An Update

In previous newsletters you have read that due to a renewed interest in investigating the possibility of attaining some form of recognition or accreditation for the college or its courses, the Board of Covenant Canadian Reformed Teachers College, at its Annual General meeting of 2004, appointed a committee to carry out such an investigation. This committee was given the following mandate:

- A. To determine what is required to receive official Ontario recognition of Covenant College as a provider of professional education.**
- B. To determine whether Covenant College can work together with Redeemer University College to help our graduates get provincial certification.**
- C. To report to the Board with recommendations.**

The committee concluded that before making any contacts, several position papers should be developed in order to clarify the need and desirability of seeking accreditation, to clarify our history and identity as a unique institution, and to determine which principles should be maintained in order for Covenant College to remain true to its basis and intent.

An interim report was presented to the Annual General Meeting of the college held in February of this year. This report consisted of two parts. In Part 1 the reasons for seeking recognition or accreditation were discussed. Having outlined some of the effects that a form of recognition or accreditation might have for the college's students and graduates, the school communities served by the college, the Board of Covenant College and the academic programs offered, the report concluded that such a quest would be beneficial.

Upon having reached this conclusion the next step was to draft a paper describing our past and present identity, Part 2 of the report. It addressed the questions how and why did the college get started? This information was garnered from documents which painted a picture of the thinking behind the drive to establish a teachers college approximately 25 years ago. In reviewing our present identity, basis and purpose, the college's mission statement indicates that Covenant College is committed to provide academic teacher training and professional development in accordance with Biblical principles as summarized in the confessions of the Canadian Reformed Churches.

Our Reformed schools were established because the parents believed that their children should be taught in schools that were distinct in character and purpose. This still holds true today: parents continue to expect that the schools

will help them in their God-given task by providing education that is confessional, covenantal and antithetical in character and is further characterized by a unity of purpose that is shared by the home, the school and the

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From the Vice-Chairman's Desk Peter Vandersluis

At the time of writing this year's crop of four graduates have received their diplomas. The Board thanks our Heavenly Father for making this possible and we wish the graduates the blessing of the Lord as they begin their careers as teachers of covenant youth.

The Board of Governors and its many committees continue to work from month to month. The Annual Governors' Meeting took place February 25th and 26th and was well attended with representation from across the country and the USA. As is usual, all facets of governing the college are addressed at this meeting and this year was no exception. Items of note included a very well thought out discussion paper brought forward by the Accreditation Committee. The work being done by this committee is of great interest to our supporting schools everywhere. The discussion paper and an accompanying letter will be forwarded to all the schools very soon.

A newly (re-)created Fund Raising Committee was also established at this meeting. Unfortunately the Board of Governors has to spend a tremendous amount of time discussing financial matters at their meetings. By the grace of our Heavenly Father the college continues to function but the governors are very concerned at this present time. Since the meeting, this committee has been mandated with raising \$100,000.00 just to meet this year's projected operating deficit. At the annual meeting the governors also decided that the recommended donation be raised to \$375.00 per year (up from \$360.00) and that tuition be raised to \$4,950.00 per year.



Staffing for the next instructional season is also discussed and ratified at the annual meeting. Again the Lord has made it possible for the needs of the college to be met and next year D.V. we can expect all of our full-time staff to return. Mr. A. Gunnink will take up a full roster of classes and Miss J. Kingma will return to

teach 80% of her time and continue with her very important work on the Board Handbook 20% of her time. Dr. C. VanHalen-Faber will continue as principal and Mr. W.F. Horsman will move from part-time to sessional.

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The Board Handbook continues in its development primarily due to the efforts of Mrs. M. DeGelder (Board Chairman) and Miss J. Kingma. The latest development is the creation of formal contract language for the staff, which was ratified at the annual meeting. Much work remains to be done. Amongst many other items, this includes developing various policies for leaves of absence and the like, task descriptions for board members, etc. and formalization of various committee mandates.

The Program and Personnel Committee continues its work as well. This committee recently determined that visits should be made with the college's support staff. In May the chairman, vice-chairman, and the treasurer met with our librarian, Mrs. E. Boeringa, our secretary, Mrs. D. VanHuisstede and our comptroller, Mr. F. Lodder. The PPC and the Board are very thankful for the efforts of these individuals and we are pleased to report that they, too, will continue in their respective tasks. This committee also plans to make it a practice to meet with the sessional staff and with the support staff on a bi-annual rotating basis. Full-time staff will continue to receive annual visits. The PPC remains in need of a member-at-large to round out its committee and is active in pursuing an interested person to fill this role.

The other committees all continue to function well. The Building Committee sent delegates to the May governors' meeting to seek approval for the joint paving project with Guido de Brès High School. Over the summer we will be receiving brand new asphalt along with curbs and landscaping—a generous donation from its donor. The Board is truly thankful for this as the project's completion will enable us now to close our building permit. The Public Relations Committee has created and distributed its first Alumni Magazine. The committee is also busy with preparations for the 25th anniversary of the college. Part of this may include developing a new crest for the college.

The Board is thankful to all our supporters and volunteers. Thanks be to our Heavenly Father for providing all things necessary to maintain our college.

We also wish the staff and students an enjoyable, refreshing, and safe summer vacation and we look forward to reuniting next fall.

From the Principal Christine van Halen-Faber

With much gratitude we look back on the 2004-2005 academic year. Under the guidance of our Heavenly Father, we were able to begin and conclude the year in His name and to His honour and glory. On May 28 and in the presence of family and friends, the Covenant College community celebrated the graduation of four students: Carina Ploeger, Julia Schutten, Anne-Marie Van Popta, and Michelle Versteeg.

Mr. H.J. Nobel delivered the graduation address. Using two thought-provoking "futuristic" books as example, he urged the graduands to think about their future as teachers. As teachers we need to provide our students with real opportunities to learn to discern the thoughts of the world in the light of Scripture. Every generation needs opportunities to discover for itself the enduring values and behaviours, based on God's Word which is the source of all wisdom. Mr. Nobel concluded his address by encouraging the graduands to remember always that God will be with them as they travel into that exciting future of their new classrooms with the Living Word.

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Julia Schutten spoke on behalf of the graduating class. She highlighted some of the experiences that served to shape them as they learned how to step from one side to the other side of the desk and become teachers. Full-time and part-time instructors presented a world of teaching and learning from a theoretical perspective, while many associate teachers added the practical applications.

The principal's address, followed by a well-received presentation from the women's savings action and a reception, brought this festive event to its conclusion. We pray that our four graduates may find joy in the work they will do in their respective classrooms in the Guido de Brès High School (Hamilton, ON), Immanuel Christian School (Winnipeg, MB), John Calvin Christian School (Burlington, ON), and Dufferin Christian School (Carman, MB).

The graduation also forms a concluding moment within the academic year. We may look back on a good year in which a spirit of cooperative harmony prevailed among faculty and students.



The year was one in which transitions took place: the arrival of Mr. Allard Gunnink as a full-time lecturer, and of Mr. Bill Horsman joining the ranks of part-time instructors. Miss Judy Kingma added her considerable knowledge and experience on a full-time basis, while others did the same in a part-time capacity (Rev. Agema, Mrs. Dieleman, and Dr. Oosterhoff).

Throughout the year we continued to articulate (or perhaps re-articulate) what Reformed education really means as we considered its continuing importance for the present and the future. As faculty we had the opportunity to address school communities: Mr. Gunnink did so in Manitoba and in Neerlandia, Alberta and Miss Kingma and I travelled to Calgary to speak at the CRTA West Convention. These contacts are valuable reminders of the work we do together in education within the kingdom of God. Our discussions around identity and purpose rippled outward into the broader educational community when we spent five sessions together in discussion (capably facilitated by Dr. Benne Faber) around the work of an influential thinker and educator, Professor Nicholas Wolterstorff.

Also at the level of board and committees, the matter of identity surfaced regularly in the context of examining the possibilities of seeking a form of recognised accreditation. Such discussions provide us with challenging opportunities that will continue to require thoughtfulness, patience, and much prayer on the part of us all.

For the faculty, the arrival of summer ushers in a shift in our teaching routines, and provides an opportunity for engagement in professional activities. Judy Kingma attended the Mission Conference

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PRACTICUM



The spell check function on my computer does not recognize the word practicum, but the students at Covenant College can certainly attest to what “going on practicum” means. The students in the three-year program go into schools for twelve sessions and those in the one-year program for four sessions. It means that our students switch regularly from being a student to being a teacher and back to being a student. The practicum component is an integral part of the college’s programs of preparation for the teaching profession.

The practicum component is only possible with the cooperation of many associate teachers who open their classroom doors to our students. These teachers model their best practices. They demonstrate how to teach lessons effectively and how to manage classrooms filled with lively students. They show how to deal with difficult students and how to offer good education to students who have a wide variety of abilities and interests. Above all, these dedicated teachers show what it is to provide reformed education. And our students take this all in.

In addition to observing master teachers, student-teachers are expected to practice their skills; i.e., to put into practice what they have learned at the college. Their learning curve is shaped by moving from one school to another and from one associate teacher to another. Imagine the variety of models in teaching and styles our students experience!

After every practicum our students return to the college classroom. The experiences of the past week(s) are shared and practice is compared to theory. More theory is added and preparations begin for the next session. Students formulate their own goals for each practicum session in their log book and evaluate to what extent their goals have been met. Additional goals are formulated for next time, and on it goes.

Many associate teachers look at having a student teacher in their classroom as professional development. They must practice (model) what they preach to their visitor. One can not say that a teacher should tell the students what they can expect in a particular lesson and then not practice it oneself. An associate teacher may emphasize, for example, that students learn in different ways. Therefore there should be a variety of teaching and learning activities in one’s lesson. The classroom teacher must then put that into practice. The presence of a student teacher sharpens the associate teacher’s skills and he/she becomes more aware of what is going on in the classroom.

Our students are supervised by college faculty during practicum sessions. This provides us with the opportunity to stay in touch with what happens in real classrooms. There is always a danger that we, as college instructors, become too far removed from where the real action is: the elementary or secondary classroom. Visiting our students also allows us to maintain contact with colleagues and, from time to time, with school communities.



Most Canadian Reformed schools in Ontario participate in the practicum program by having many of their experienced teachers function as associate teachers. Heritage Christian School (Jordan, ON) and Providence Reformed Collegiate (Komoka, ON) participate as well. Two schools in Manitoba (Carman and Winnipeg) have been involved for a number of years and this year, for the first time, Parkland Immanuel Christian School in Edmonton and Covenant Reformed School in Neerlandia opened their doors to our students. This out-of-province participation is truly appreciated. Our students (eight this year from the Year 2 class) speak positively about their experiences in Manitoba and Alberta.

This spreading of our wings into these western provinces is possible because these schools sponsor our students. Thank you!

Students and faculty at the college and associate teachers in the schools understand that we are all working for the same goal: to provide reformed education to our students. As board, faculty, and students, we look forward to the continued cooperation of schools and colleagues across Canada. **by Allard Gunnink**

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Thank you to all teachers and principals who participated in the practicum program as associate teachers and hosting school in the 2004-05 academic year.

NUMBER OF HOSTING SCHOOLS:

- 13 in Ontario
- 2 in Manitoba
- 2 in Alberta

NUMBER OF ASSOCIATE TEACHERS: 50



Four Extra-Special "Thank You's" Christine van Halen-Faber

The Tyndale Christian School community in Calgary, AB dedicated this year's Education Month fundraising events to Covenant Teachers College. Students were involved in a variety of profitable activities ranging from bottle & can collecting to baby sitting and LOTS in between. It all culminated in the grand finale: A Fine Arts & Silent Auction. The classrooms and halls of the school provided ample evidence of busy creative minds and of hands that had been hard at work. Woodworking, embroidery, flower arranging, photography, wine making, baking and cake decorating, knitting, and stencilling were but some of the arts and crafts on display (and for sale).

All evening, the auditorium was filled with music making. Talented members of the community shared their musical gifts in the playing of piano, organ, flute, and saxophone, as well as through singing and band performances. Students participated in poetry recitations, and two very young ladies treated us to a karioke performance. And at the very end of it all, Miss Kingma and I were presented with a huge cheque in the amount of \$1,100.00! Calgary, we thank you for your enthusiastic support for our college.

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We also extend a very special "Thank You" to the donor who made it possible for our driveway and parking lot to be paved this summer. Your generous donation is appreciated by us all. Thanks also to all who contributed to the coinciding landscape project. Your donations of time and materials have added that finishing touch!

The "Class of 2005" presented the college with a growing gift: an apple tree. Anne-Marie, Carina, Julia, and Michelle, we thank you for your "apples for the teachers (and students)." You

will be in our thoughts every time we take a bite of those juicy golden delicious apples!

At the graduation, the W.A.T.C.H. executive committee presented us with \$5,500.00. Mrs. D. Bergsma reminded us that "Women Assist the Teachers College in Hamilton" was set up to collect funds to buy things not covered in the regular operating budget of the college. As well, W.A.T.C.H. aims to increase awareness in the local church and schools communities for the work done at the teachers college. Over the past year, money has been collected for new tables and chairs for the assembly room, a digital camera, carpeting, and partial payment toward an improved photocopier.

We are very thankful for the collection efforts and generous donations from people throughout our church federation. Because of you we have \$5,500.00 available for new purchases this year.

On behalf of the Covenant College community, I thank the W.A.T.C.H. committee for its work. Please rest assured that also these funds will be well spent!

"From The Principal" ...continued from page 3

organized by the Theological College. Allard Gunnink is embarking on studies at Dordt College and plans to conduct in-service seminars in Lynden, WA at the end of August. I attended the Canadian Federation for the Humanities and Social Sciences Congress in London, ON and presented papers for the Canadian Association of Curriculum Studies and the Canadian Association for Teacher Education respectively. In July, all three of us were involved in the one-week C.A.R.E. Curriculum Seminars.

And we may look ahead with confidence and joy to the 2005-06 academic year. The anticipated enrolment of twenty-three new and returning students is a most encouraging sign. We need to remind each other that Covenant Teachers College is not a private hobby practised by a few individuals. Rather, it is an institution of higher learning that forms an important part of the fabric of our schools. Sadly enough, after almost twenty-five years it sometimes seems that the College is taken for granted by the very school communities that eagerly hire our students. We pray that this trend may change, and that school boards and individuals may consciously increase their support of the College in word and deed.

"Seeking Accreditation for the College" ...continued from cover

church. This will have deep rooted implications for teacher training and underlies not only the reason for establishing and maintaining Covenant College but also the development of programs and courses offered at the college.

Thus, keeping in mind the contents of Parts 1 and 2 of the report, it was decided that another paper should be drafted which would clarify what we must maintain if we are to remain true to our *raison d'être*. Such a description would then serve in specific discussions with other institutions.



At the Annual General meeting of 2005, the Board mandated the committee to continue its work. Although contact with the provincial government has not been ruled out, the committee was instructed first of all to continue exploring ways and means of possible relationships with Redeemer University College within the context of the papers provided. It was also resolved that this interim report contained information that should be shared with the boards of Canadian Reformed Schools across Canada

and that they should be asked for their input. In due time, the entire report will be made available to those who are interested.

We ask for your prayers for this endeavour.
For the Accreditation Committee,
Martha De Gelder

Please tear off and send with your donation.

I enclose my donation of \$ _____

I enclose post-dated cheques for a total amount of \$ _____

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Congregation: _____

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