



# Covenant

CANADIAN REFORMED TEACHERS COLLEGE

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

OCTOBER 2017



## CCRTC NEWS FALL 2017

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





## from the principal CHRISTINE VAN HALEN-FABER

### Shared Purposes and Common Goals

At the time of writing, the unseasonably (but lovely) warm temperatures have given way to a more common autumnal sight and feel. The 2017-2018 academic year is in full swing with 25 students, staff, and ten full and part-time faculty busily at work.

“And what does the LORD require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.

— MICAH 6:8B

Looking ahead, we know that this is the last year Mr. Allard Gunnink will serve Covenant Canadian Reformed Teachers College (CCRTC) as a full-time instructor. As we will be sure to savour his many contributions, we also know that his position will need to be filled. We invite anyone who is interested and qualified to join the faculty, to get in touch with us.

Looking back, we might say that the summer of 2017 could be categorized as the summer of “shared purposes and common goals”. As we continued the preparatory work for the accreditation application submission, the board and all its committees, as well as the faculty, worked diligently at preparing the final versions of their respective handbooks. A common thread that runs through all handbooks is the articulation of CCRTC’s vision and how it takes shape in the strategic planning, all aspects of the college as reflected in its governance, its policies and procedures, its annual board and committee calendars, and its practicum placement guidelines. The amazingly patient and meticulous administrative staff can attest to the tediousness of making sure everything is cross-referenced properly. In the end, it was most gratifying to see it all converge under the umbrella of Covenant Canadian Reformed Teachers College vision *to be the definitive source for Reformed teacher training.*

At the teaching-learning front, shared purposes and common goals were exemplified in the Foundations of Reformed Curriculum summer course, facilitated by Mr. Keith Sikkema and attended by thirteen practicing teachers in British Columbia. Likewise, the teachers at Covenant Christian School in London Ontario prepared themselves for another year of teaching as they worked together under the guidance of Rev. Douwe Agema in exploring the place, purpose, and character of Bible instruction in a Reformed Christian school. At CCRTC we welcome the opportunities to assist member schools in ensuring ongoing teacher development and growth.

The theme of shared purposes and common goals also resonated in the preparations for a new academic year, including the admission of new students. We were pleased to be able to admit ten new students. Five of these are members of the Canadian Reformed Churches, two are members of the United Reformed Churches, and three are members of the Netherlands Reformed Congregation. As you may know, CCRTC does not ask its students to sign a “life and conduct code,” but we do ask for a pastoral reference in addition to academic and character references. For Reformed Christian students who are not members of a Canadian Reformed church, the admission process includes a personal interview or conversation in which CCRTC explains its



foundation and purpose as expressed in its vision. In turn, the prospective student is invited to share his or her motivation to attend CCRTC. Without exception, these conversations are meaningful and enriching for all who are involved.

On September 5, the 2017-2018 academic year started as students, staff, and faculty were formally introduced to one another as part of the orientation activities. Also in these conversations, the goals for a new year of teaching and learning at CCRTC were placed in the context of the covenant relationship we may enjoy together: By binding himself in grace to each one of us, the LORD also binds us to one another. And so it seems fitting that our shared purposes and common goals are expressions of what the LORD demands from us, his children. It also seems fitting that this is captured in the theme text chosen for this year: *And what does the LORD require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.* (Micah 6:8b)

As CCRTC community, we will endeavour to do just that at all levels of the college, from the board room to the classroom to the offices. We will do so prayerfully and in full dependence on our faithful Triune God. To the praise of his glory.



**Covenant**  
CANADIAN REFORMED TEACHERS COLLEGE

The vision of the CCRTC board is *to be the definitive source for Reformed teacher training*, and includes planning for succession, distance education, and in-service support. To this end, and in anticipation of pending retirement of current faculty members over the next several years, we are looking to expand the full-time instructional team for the 2018-2019 academic year and beyond.

If you are interested in exploring joining the faculty as a

## FULL-TIME FACULTY MEMBER

we invite you to contact us as soon as possible to discuss 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, and display a healthy level of intellectual curiosity within biblical bounds (Prov. 1:5).

Candidates will be communicant members in good standing 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, or both, elementary or secondary school settings. Support in the completion of post-graduate studies is open to discussion.

### FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION CONTACT:

Dr. Christine van Halen-Faber PRINCIPAL  
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(905) 385-0634

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## from the CHAIRman KEN STEL

Now that the new school year has begun it seems appropriate to spend a little time sharing with you some of the activities that have gone on around CCRTC's operations. It has been a busy and eventful summer with reason for a great deal of thankfulness as the LORD, as always, has provided for our college in manifold ways.

Since the process of seeking accreditation is the “elephant in the room,” I’ll begin there. As you may be aware, the actual campaign to raise the projected funds for this process has wrapped up. When we embarked upon this we did so with some trepidation, knowing we were embarking on something unknown, at least for CCRTC. Though we have had our doubts and worries, the LORD has provided abundantly through our (his) community. We are truly humbled by the response and clear show of support. The goal of the campaign has been met and even exceeded by a considerable amount! We also would be remiss not to mention the notes and cards of encouragement that have accompanied some of the donations. Thank you all, both for your monetary support but also for the prayers of support that have been offered before the throne of our Father who hears and responds. As we look ahead to our final documentation being submitted, we ask that you continue to remember the efforts of CCRTC in your prayers. Pray that the hearts of government officials may be made favourable to our submission and that it may smoothly make its way through the various levels.

Almost one and a half years ago it was determined that in order to support the efforts toward accreditation, but also just generally with the workload in the office, we should hire an Administrative Assistant. We are very pleased and excited with the addition of one member to our administrative team in the person of Jo-anne van Iperen. Jo-anne joined Donna in the office and in very short time has made a very

positive impression, adding her skills to the preparation of the documentation required for submission to the ministry, among other things.

A famous figure once spoke of so few having done so much for so many, and in some ways, this might be said of the efforts that have been put forward to date in preparing our submission. We are very thankful for the work of Martha DeGelder, Christine van Halen-Faber, Donna Van Huisstede, Mary Deboer, and Jo-anne van Iperen. Together, each filling a vital role in this, they have written, edited, re-edited and re-written all the various committee handbooks. This summer for them has been, “the summer of the handbook.” We are already starting to reap the rewards of their excellent work as each committee now has a very thorough handbook to assist and guide them through their operations.

A program offered by CCRTC that may be less well known is the Certificate of Reformed Education (CREP) program. This is a for-credit, professional development program for the teachers in our schools. Typically, various members of the faculty travel to our schools to offer specific courses that are a part of this program. This past summer has been no different, with sessional and full-time faculty members travelling to host these courses. Thankfully the Lord has provided all with travelling mercies and the courses were successfully held.

Having a Board of Governors that is made up of representatives of all the schools





across Canada is an interesting challenge. Particularly, it has been a challenge to make sure that all can attend meetings via electronic means. In the past, a large component of our table has been filled with “virtual attendees” as governors from distant locales have connected using Skype. Unfortunately, this often was not without its technical challenges. However, for our last meeting we have been able to reap some rewards from the work of our IT Committee. For the first time, we have been able to have a much more seamless meeting experience with governors successfully connecting and being able to take part in the meeting without all the attendant issues of poor connections. This is something that should bode well for our ability to work together and perhaps even have our governors from farther afield involved in some of our committee work.

Finally, we have a member of our faculty who is in his last year and has, some time ago, let the board know his intention to retire after the 2017-2018 school year. Mr. Allard Gunnink has been a very dedicated and capable part of our faculty for a number of years. We wish him a very enjoyable last year at CCRTC with all the related blessings that only our LORD can provide. If all goes according to plan, under God’s guidance we hope to be able to introduce a new faculty member to replace him, prior to the next school year. Our Faculty Search Committee is diligently working to pursue and connect with those in our teaching community who may be interested in filling this position.

# BOARD OF GOVERNORS 2017

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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**MR. ED HOOGERDYK**  
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**MRS. DEBBIE JOHNSON**  
 Cornerstone Christian School, Lynden

“The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky above proclaims his handiwork.” – PSALM 19:1

# TOWARDS SCIENTIFIC LITERACY

JACK HUIZENGA

Pick up a newspaper or watch the evening news and you can expect to see some report that relies on science. From the ongoing debate about global warming, to the technological tools used to track hurricanes, we are confronted with the language and process of science. Yet in terms of public attention, science education places a distant third behind language arts and mathematics.

For example, around this time of year it is not too hard to find articles in the media about the performance of Ontario students in mathematics based upon provincial and international standardized assessments (e.g., EQAO, PISA). In Canada, it was not until the 1980s that science and technology education was recognized as an essential element in the preparation of students for citizenship in an increasingly technological world. As the twentieth century came to a close, this sentiment was captured in the term ‘scientific literacy’ which was defined as follows:

Scientific literacy is an evolving combination of the science-related attitudes, skills, and knowledge students need to develop inquiry, problem-solving, and decision-making abilities, to become lifelong learners, and to maintain a sense of wonder about the world around them. (Pan-Canadian Protocol, 1997)

There is a lot packed into this quote, certainly more than can be treated in this article, but it does provide a window into some of the learning outcomes associated with the Science and Technology methods

course taught at Covenant Canadian Reformed Teachers College (CCRTC).

Students in the first year of the diploma of education program, or the third year of the diploma of teaching program are introduced to the current and historical context of science and technology education. We spend a fair amount of time reviewing concepts from the various strands of the Ontario curriculum: Earth and space systems, life systems, matter and energy, and structures and mechanisms. However, we spend an equal amount of time thinking about how to teach these concepts and the related skills to covenant children. How do we instill *a sense of wonder about the world around them* so that they see that “The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky above proclaims his handiwork.” (Ps. 19:1)? Teachers who teach science and technology will impart knowledge about organ systems and the solar system. They will help students develop skills operating a microscope or engineering a bridge. But scientifically literate students will also need *science-related attitudes* to help them *develop inquiry, problem-solving, and decision-making abilities to become lifelong learners*.





This past winter, our Science and Technology methods class took a class trip to John Calvin School (JCS) in Smithville. Here we were able to observe an inquiry-based approach to teaching and learning science. The grade 8 class, under the direction of Mr. M. Joosse, Mr. K. Bergsma, and Mr. G. Hofsink, were engaged in a cross-curricular project to bring awareness of Lyme Disease to the public. Working in teams, students were busy creating computer games, a website, information pamphlets, and a presentation. As these teams encountered challenges, they were encouraged to identify the problems, make decisions, and solve the problems together. The college students served as an authentic audience by listening and asking questions so that the JCS students could describe and explain their progress. After our visit, CCRTC students wrote a report in which they analyzed the experience as an illustration of the inquiry method of teaching science and technology. Many observed that the JCS students were actively engaged in solving problems and finding answers to their questions. Moreover, there was zeal in their effort since they were responsible for the final product. Exploring an element of God's creation and using their talents in service to others were reflective of a Christian worldview. Towards the end of the school year, the entire Grade 8 class visited the college and presented the final projects to all students and faculty. For CCRTC students in the Science and Technology methods course, the experience was an opportunity to witness the development of scientific literacy in covenant youth. It was also an opportunity to begin to envision how they might develop *science-related attitudes, skills, and knowledge* within their own students one day.



# AT CCRTC VISITORS ARE WELCOME!

On a regular basis, the faculty, staff, and students at the college enjoy the privilege of hosting visitors to Covenant Canadian Reformed Teachers College in Hamilton.

Typically these visitors are young women and men who are interested in exploring a career in education, and want to experience “a typical day at CCRTC.” Such a visit is often arranged in collaboration with a high school career counsellor. Under the guidance of the recruitment officer, Mr. Keith Sikkema, visitors receive a schedule of classes and discussion times, and are invited to join the students in their activities. It is good to see that many of these visitors return in due time, to become students themselves.

Visitors can also include students and faculty of the neighbouring Canadian Reformed Theological Seminary. At times, CCRTC hosts an event that may be of interest to the CRTS and an invitation is extended. Most recently, ARPA was

found willing to put on a presentation on Freedom of Speech to such a combined audience.

Occasionally CCRTC hosts extra-special visitors. Not too long ago, the residents and staff of The Lighthouse in Fergus came to have a look. We explored the books in the library. After that it did not take very long until the student lounge was abuzz with conversation as together we tried to figure out the familiar

names on the apple trees featuring college graduates. It was wonderful to have these extra-special visitors in our college building.

Most recently, several delegates attending the ninth International Conference of Reformed Churches, held in Jordan Ontario, made a side trip to the college under the expert guidance of Mr. and Mrs. Gerry Nordeman, Mr. Henry Homan, and Mr. John Homan. It meant that in addition to international visitors, there also were two founding CCRTC Board members and one current CCRTC governor present, making this visit extra-special as well! Together we reviewed the programs offered at CCRTC, and explored ways in which we might be able to share information going forward. One of the most significant aspects of the exchange was the affirmation that we have so much in common despite geographical distances. It is a testament to the faithfulness of our God that in countries such as Uganda, Indonesia, and South Africa the desire to teach God’s children in the fear of his Name is as strong as it is here in Canada.

In conclusion: We love having visitors as it allows us to share with them the blessings CCRTC enjoys. So, if you’re in the area please feel free to drop in. We look forward to having you too!







*Thank you LIGHTHOUSE for the visit!*



*Visiting delegates from the International Conference of Reformed Churches*



*ARPA presentation*





# ORIENTATION DAY



## INTRODUCING CCRTC STAFF...

One might ask “Who makes the college tick?”  
In every organization there are people who do  
significant work to make things work smoothly.  
Allow me to introduce you to four of them:

Eleanor Boeringa, CCRTC Librarian, has been with the college for many years and has seen her environment change steadily. She has gone from developing and maintaining a card index and catalogue to entering digital data and exploring full text databases. Today Eleanor is significantly involved in working with students and faculty directly as she instructs and supports students in their research.

Karen VanVeen, CCRTC Comptroller, looks after the finances of the college. In an effort to centralize these services, she works at the college one half-day per week.

Donna Van Huisstede, CCRTC Administrator and the stalwart force behind all things administrative, celebrated her 30th anniversary at the college last year. In many ways, Donna serves as the “institutional memory” of the college. The board, faculty, students, and anyone remotely connected to the college stand in amazement at what Donna is able to do in the two days she is physically present.

Jo-anne van Iperen, CCRTC Administrative Assistant, is the latest addition to the front office. As we prepare the accreditation application, we deeply appreciate what she is able to bring to the college administration especially in the area of design and technology. We pray for the LORD’s blessing on her pending marriage, and will soon get used to using her new name, Jo-anne van Leeuwen!





# W.A.T.C.H. REPORT

“One generation shall commend your works to another, and shall declare your mighty acts”

— PSALM 145:4

Greetings from W.A.T.C.H. With thankfulness to God, who alone makes all these things possible, we are thrilled to be able to tell you that we have had another successful year fundraising for the “extras” at Covenant Canadian Reformed Teachers College. From what we have been told, the students and faculty alike have been immensely enjoying the new furniture in the student lounge, purchased with last year’s donations! We would like to extend a hearty thank you to all our representatives across the country, who took the time to fundraise in their local congregations. At the same time, many thanks to all

those who have contributed to our yearly fundraiser! It is our prayer that God will continue to bless our efforts.

As a side note, we are currently looking for a new volunteer to join our committee as treasurer. We are very grateful to Alina Noot for serving capably as our treasurer for several years. She will be missed! If you are interested in joining our committee, please feel free to contact us at: watchhamilton1@gmail.com.

From the W.A.T.C.H. committee,  
Janet Van Vliet, Eleanor Boeringa, JoAnn Van Iperen, Beth Stel



*Thank you W.A.T.C.H. for the science equipment!*



## ADMISSIONS SEPTEMBER 2018

The Board of Covenant Canadian Reformed Teachers College in Hamilton, Ontario, invites applications from prospective students for the 2018-2019 academic year.

### ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS:

**For the Two-Year Diploma of Education Program:**  
a suitable university degree

**For the Three-Year Diploma of Teaching Program:**  
a grade 12 diploma with university entrance equivalence

Prospective candidates are invited to contact the college for more information and/or to obtain an application package.

### APPLICATION DEADLINE: FEBRUARY 1, 2018.

*Those who plan to seek admission in the year 2019-2020 are also encouraged to contact the college as soon as possible.*

### FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION CONTACT:

COVENANT CANADIAN REFORMED TEACHERS COLLEGE  
410 Crerar Drive Hamilton, ON L9A 5K3 (905) 385-0634 Fax: (905)-385-8409

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

# from the treasurer

NATHAN HELDER

With much thankfulness to the Lord, we can report that Covenant Canadian Reformed Teachers College had a good financial year.

As you read this report, we are in the midst of completing the year end financial statements. With the preliminary numbers in, we have managed to keep expenses slightly below our budget and finished ahead by approximately \$32,000. Praise God! Once again, he has shown to us to trust in him!

Overall there was a 7.3% increase in donations over the previous fiscal year. The number of pre-authorized payment contributions also increased to approximately \$9,000.00 per month. In 2013, this number was \$5,000.00 per month, which is an 80% increase in just four years!

The Finance and Fundraising Committee continues to meet and is active with various activities. This past year we updated

our donation software tracking program. This has allowed us to produce better reports for the governors. The committee also has spent time developing and updating its handbook, policies, and procedures.

As with any committee, volunteer terms begin and end. If anyone is interested in hearing more or in joining the Finance and Fundraising Committee, please contact me directly at [nholder@gelderman.com](mailto:nholder@gelderman.com). I would be happy to share more details with you.

The drive to raise funds for the accreditation application was very successful. We are very thankful for the support received from individuals and businesses connected to member school communities across the country.

Again, thank you for your continued financial contributions and prayerful support.

Thank you for your financial commitment; it is very much appreciated!



#### 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.