



CELEBRATING
40 YEARS
OF GOD'S FAITHFULNESS



"...tell the next generation..."

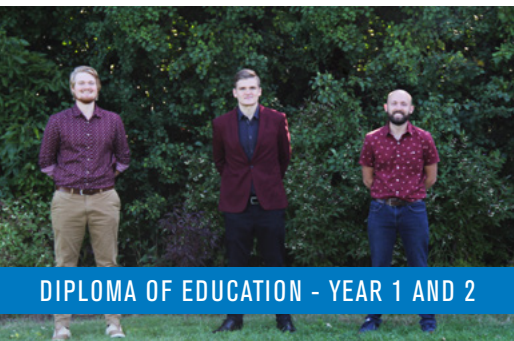
PSALM 78:4



CCRTC NEWS
FALL 2021



from the PRINCIPAL CHRISTINE VAN HELEN-FABER



DIPLOMA OF EDUCATION - YEAR 1 AND 2



DIPLOMA OF TEACHING - YEAR 1



DIPLOMA OF TEACHING - YEAR 2



DIPLOMA OF TEACHING - YEAR 3

By the time the Fall Newsletter reaches your hands or screens

the September 7 Orientation Session, which marked the start of a new academic year, is already an event in the distant past. This year, the start of a new year of teaching and learning coincided with the launch of the 40th Anniversary year of Covenant Canadian Reformed Teachers College (CCRTC). With deep gratitude we mark this anniversary as an opportunity to celebrate God's faithfulness and hope that you will join us in this year-long celebration.

In light of the anniversary, we began our year with the well-known text from Psalm 78, ". . . tell the next generation . . ." - the text that forms part of CCRTC's logo. Together we took a closer look at these words and examined the "what", that is the praiseworthy deeds of the Lord, while also reflecting on the "why" or the purpose: So they should set their hope in God. We then extended this notion of "hope" by connecting it to what we read in Hebrews 10:23, "Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful". This will also serve as our theme text for this year in which we will continue to train young men and women to be teachers of covenant children and youth.

Of special note is the fact that one of our full-time faculty members successfully defended his dissertation and in doing

so completed his doctoral studies: Congratulations Dr. Jack Huizenga! We extend our heartfelt thanks also to the whole Huizenga family for supporting their husband and dad throughout this process.

One highlight at the start of a new year is a steady stream of incoming mail to students and faculty that we share during our daily opening devotions together. This year forms no exception. The nine now-teachers that form the CCRTC "Class of '21" have been in touch to let us know that they are busily engaged in what they prepared themselves for while at the College: Teaching! They are thankful for their new and supportive school communities in which they can employ their God-given talents. We wish them the Lord's rich blessings as they guide their students on a path of discovery of Father's world.

The Fall Semester has seen a busy start: We are blessed in having a very capable and cohesive teaching team at CCRTC consisting of Dr. Jack Huizenga, Mr. Keith Sikkema (part-time), Mr. Menco Wieske, Rev. Douwe Agema (adjunct), Dr. Ben Faber (adjunct), Mrs. Catherine VanderPol (sessional), and Dr. Christine van Halen-Faber (Principal). We are equally blessed in having Mrs. Eleanor Boeringa (Librarian), Mrs. Donna Van Huisstede (Administrator), Mrs. Jo-anne van Leeuwen (Administrative Assistant), and Mrs. Karen VanVeen (Controller) support and assist all of us.

The three full-time faculty members experienced the pleasure of attending the



Covenant
CANADIAN REFORMED TEACHERS COLLEGE

We serve Reformed Christian schools by training the next generation of teachers and are about to enter an exciting period in Covenant Canadian Reformed Teachers College's existence.

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN JOINING THE FACULTY?

If so, you are invited to contact us and explore the possibilities of becoming a

FULL-TIME FACULTY MEMBER

As someone interested in a faculty position you will

- demonstrate a deep love for Reformed education
- be willing to provide educational leadership at multiple levels
- display a healthy level of intellectual curiosity within biblical bounds (Prov. 1:5)

You will be a communicant member in good standing of a Canadian Reformed Church, or of a church with which the federation of Canadian Reformed Churches maintains ecclesiastical fellowship.

You will hold at least a Master's degree preferably in the area of education, are interested in obtaining a terminal degree, and have teaching experience in either elementary or secondary school settings.

Learn more about the CCRTC programs:

www.covenantteacherscollege.com

EXCITED AND INTERESTED? CONTACT:

Dr. Christine van Halen-Faber PRINCIPAL

cvanhalen@covenantteacherscollege.com

905.385.0634

National Principals Conference held in the Huntsville area. In addition to grappling with various pedagogical approaches to teaching Christianly, the personal-collegial interactions with Reformed Christian colleagues is invaluable. We wish all Canadian/American Reformed school communities a blessed year in which faithful instruction remains central at all times. Let us consider ways in which we may encourage each other in a spirit of unity.

I would be remiss if I did not mention the work that is being done in preparation for submitting the application for accreditation by the Ontario College of Teachers. The faculty have familiarized themselves with various elements of the application template and intend to have the template populated later this Fall. We pray for a blessing on this work as we give a good account of "what" we do and "why" we do what we do.

May all of our work stand to the praise of God's glory - as we set our hope in him.





from the CHAIRMAN **BERT POORT**

“...we will tell the next generation the praiseworthy deeds of the LORD, his power, and the wonders he has done.” PSALM 78:4

This fall we begin an exciting year at Covenant Canadian Reformed Teachers College (CCRTC) where we will be celebrating the education of student teachers for the past forty years. There is so much excitement generated by the committee that is putting together events to commemorate this anniversary; and it should be exciting! As we pass this milestone, we see God’s providence in providing for the existence of our small College and the blessing it has been, and continues to be, in our community. In the past forty years there have been 279 graduates who served in Christian education, not only as teachers, but some as principals, and many in the role of local school committee member, board member, or even on the Board of Governors for the College. I have heard past graduates speak with joy about their time at CCRTC and how proud they are to be alumni of this fine establishment. They tell about the benefits of the program here and how it has prepared them to teach God’s covenant children and thereby “tell the next generation”.

On September 7, 2021, I had the privilege of attending the opening exercises at the College and of meeting the first-year students as well as reacquainting myself with the second and third-year students. The energy in the room was quite incredible and you got the idea that they were a very close, cohesive, and welcoming group through their animated introductions of each other. Thankfully we could start the year with in-class instruction again!

In the past year we were also thankful that technology had developed to the point that instruction and meetings could continue through videoconferencing. This has indeed been a blessing to the continued operation of CCRTC, but it is still not the same as being present with each other, together in the same room, in the same building. While the technology is great, the biggest drawback is the lack of interconnection through speech and body language between everyone in attendance, while watching a screen full of smiling faces that are usually muted. Nevertheless, we remain thankful for the technology.

We have come to a period in the accreditation process where we have a conditional letter of approval from the Minister of Colleges and Universities. We are now preparing for the next phase which is a review by the Ontario College of Teachers. This review

has the attention of our faculty and staff who are working hard at preparing the required information. It is with thanks to the principal, faculty, staff, and committee members as they have put a tremendous amount of work into accreditation in a very organized and efficient manner, over and above running the day-to-day operations of the College. Thank you to each of you!

I would like to take the opportunity here to offer our condolences to the CCRTC Treasurer, Dan Witten, and our Secretary, Mary DeBoer, with the passing away of Dan’s mother, and Mary’s sister-in-law. God took Ann Witten home at his appointed time and we wish the Witten and DeBoer families God’s strength during this time of grieving.

In all things we must acknowledge God’s continued providence. We have been blessed with a full complement of talented faculty and staff. We have also been blessed with stable finances and with great support from schools and committee membership across the country. In all these blessings we confess with the psalmist in Psalm 121:2, “My help comes from the LORD, the Maker of heaven and earth”. We really are unable to do anything without His blessing and we take comfort in knowing that God is in control of all things. God bless us in the year to come.



ADMISSIONS SEPTEMBER 2022

The Board of Covenant Canadian Reformed Teachers College in Hamilton, Ontario, invites applications from prospective students for the 2022-2023 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, 2022

Those who plan to seek admission in the year 2023-2024 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

BOARD OF GOVERNORS 2021 - 2022

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

MR. BERT POORTCHAIRMAN
VACANTVICE CHAIRMAN
MR. DAN WITTENTREASURER
VACANTASSISTANT TREASURER
MRS. MARY DEBOERSECRETARY
MR. RICHARD FEENSTRA ..PAST CHAIRMAN

GOVERNORS

ONTARIO:

VACANT
Eben-Ezer Christian School, Chatham, ON
MRS. JACKIE DEBOER
Maranatha Christian School, Fergus, ON
MRS. BEA DENBROEDER
Credo Christian School, Woodbridge, ON
MR. HENK NOBEL
Emmanuel Christian High School, Fergus, ON
MR. JOHN LOF
Attercliffe Canadian Reformed Elementary School,
Attercliffe, ON
MR. KURTIS RIESEBOSCH
John Calvin School, Smithville, ON

MR. ROB SPAN
Dufferin Area Christian School, Amaranth, ON
MRS. EMILY DYKSTRA
Bellstone Christian School, Mount Hope, ON
MR. HENRY VAN IPEREN
Guido de Brès Christian High School, Hamilton, ON
MRS. LATAUNYA PENNINGA
Cornerstone Christian School, Guelph, ON
MRS. ROSE WOUDEBERG
Timothy Christian School, Hamilton, ON
VACANT
Covenant Christian School, London, ON
MRS. ELIZABETH SMITH
Ambassadors Christian School, Ottawa, ON
VACANT
Grace Christian School, Millgrove, ON
MRS. HENRIETTA GROENEVELD
Harvest Canadian Reformed Christian School, Owen Sound,
ON

MANITOBA:

VACANT
Immanuel Christian School, Winnipeg, MB
DR. CHRIS DEBOER
Dufferin Christian School, Carman, MB

ALBERTA:

MR. RICHARD BOUWMAN
Covenant Christian School, Neerlandia, AB
MR. RICHARD VELDKAMP
Parkland Immanuel Christian School, Edmonton, AB
VACANT
Tyndale Christian School, Calgary, AB
VACANT
Coaldale Christian School, Coaldale, AB

BRITISH COLUMBIA:

MRS. JUDY HOFKINK
Ebenezer Canadian Reformed School, Smithers, BC
MRS. HELEN BULTHUIS
Credo Christian Elementary School, Langley, BC
VACANT
John Calvin School, Chilliwack, BC

WASHINGTON:

MRS. STEPHANIE BAREMAN
Cornerstone Christian School, Lynden, WA



LOOKING IN THE MIRROR OF AUTHENTICITY: A SELF-STUDY OF TEACHER EDUCATION PRACTICE

JACK HUIZENGA

Those who have made the transition from classroom teacher to teacher educator describe it as both exciting and yet at times unsettling.

Gone are the familiar classroom routines, curriculum, and proven lessons. In place of these are new courses that challenge us to consider some of the big ideas, theories, and philosophies that shape education. Paradoxically, these new challenges also make the transition exciting, providing an opportunity to learn and grow as an educator while impacting the lives of teacher candidates and their future students.

For my dissertation I examined my own experiences as a novice teacher educator, looking back at the first four or five years that I had been teaching at Covenant Canadian Reformed Teachers College (CCRTC). To do so I employed a familiar concept - authenticity. This concept first intrigued me during my Master of Education (M.Ed.) studies. At that time I wondered how authenticity might inform a vision for Christian education. Following that, I had the opportunity to introduce authenticity to principals and

teachers during professional development sessions where the concept evoked deep discussions about the what, how, and why of Reformed education.

Recognizing the potential of authenticity, I wondered how this concept might inform teaching and learning in teacher education. I chose to work with teacher candidates who were taking a science methods course that I was teaching. As a former high school science teacher, teaching elementary teacher candidates about teaching science was a poignant illustration of the dissonance novice teacher educators can experience. I wondered how an intentional focus on authenticity with these teacher candidates might improve their learning experience.

In recent decades, teacher educators have employed self-study to systematically examine the tensions that arise when they help teacher candidates learn about teaching while questioning the nature of how they themselves teach. To challenge the self-study researcher to look away from themselves and critically examine their developing ideas, dialogue with critical friends becomes an essential element of the coming-to-know process. For my study I had the pleasure of

conversing with three experienced teacher educators, all of whom were Christians. These conversations were also guided by authenticity as we talked about becoming and being a teacher educator.

My findings revealed that as teacher candidates learn to be teachers, their college instructors are learning to be teacher educators. The notion of authenticity compelled us to remember that teaching and learning involve people. Teacher and student are both created in the image of God, blessed by their Creator with meaning and purpose (see Gen. 1: 26-28).

Authentic learning in science means that elementary teachers will direct students' attention to the praiseworthy deeds of the LORD so that they will put their hope in Him. As a teacher educator, an implication of this study is that I must strive to model authentic learning for my students. If we teach authentically as teacher educators, we help teacher candidates experience authentic learning; as teacher candidates reflect on authentic learning they learn to teach authentically.



2021-2022 CCRTC PERSONNEL:

FULL-TIME FACULTY

C. van Halen-Faber, PRINCIPAL, BA; M.ED.; PHD
J. Huizenga, B.SC.; B.ED.; M.ED.; PHD; OCT
M. Wieske, DIP. ED.; MA

ADJUNCT FACULTY

D. G. J. Agema, M. DIV.
B. Faber, BA (HONS); D.PHIL.
K. Sikkema, DUTCH TEACHING CERTIFICATE; BA; M.ED.

SESSIONAL INSTRUCTORS

C. Vanderpol, BA.SC. (HONS); M.ED.
E. VanMiddelkoop, BA; B.ED.

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

E. Boeringa, LIBRARIAN
D. Van Huisstede, ADMINISTRATOR, FINANCIAL AID OFFICER
J. van Leeuwen, ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT, FINANCIAL AID ADMINISTRATOR
K. VanVeen, CONTROLLER



CELEBRATING
40 YEARS
OF GOD'S FAITHFULNESS

CCRTC CELEBRATES!

Thanks to the efforts of an enthusiastic and creative 40th Anniversary Celebrations Committee, we look forward to several special events throughout 2021-2022. Thanks to coordinated efforts, a wonderful start was made at several school opening assemblies during which "Happy Anniversary" wishes were extended and all students received a bookmark. Stay tuned for more special anniversary activities.



from the treasurer

DAN WITTEN

With much thankfulness to the Lord, we can report that Covenant Canadian Reformed Teachers College has been blessed with the community's continued support. As the year-end preliminary financial statements are being prepared, this strong support base has led to CCRTC meeting and exceeding its financial expectations. Currently our sources of income include tuition, personal donations, corporate donations, school memberships, bequests and funds received via the Harvest Foundation. We can see God's providential hand in the financial well-being of CCRTC.

I would once again like to encourage anyone who has a serving heart, to offer up their time to help the Finance and Fundraising Committee. We are currently looking to fill two positions in this Committee. Most meetings are conducted online, so geography is no longer an issue to join. If you are interested or looking for more information, please contact me at treasurer@covenantteacherscollege.com.

We continue to pray earnestly for the well-being of CCRTC and are grateful for receiving the ongoing support of the community.

Yours in Christ,
Dan Witten



LIKE TO STAY CONNECTED WITH
WHAT'S HAPPENING AT CCRTC?

Follow us on Facebook at:
facebook.com/CovenantCRTC

CCRTC FALL

CALL CAMPAIGN

We can't wait to get in touch with some of you!

Have a look at the information in your church mail slot or your inbox and then wait for our call sometime between October 25 - November 19.

If you don't get a call this time around, no worries. We'll catch you later.

Looking forward to our conversation!



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

✂ Please detach and mail to: CCRTC • 410 Crerar Drive • Hamilton, ON • L9A 5K3 or visit: covenantteacherscollege.com/donate.html

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 _____

I agree to receive email updates from CCRTC

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 understand that I 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.