



# Covenant

CANADIAN REFORMED TEACHERS COLLEGE

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

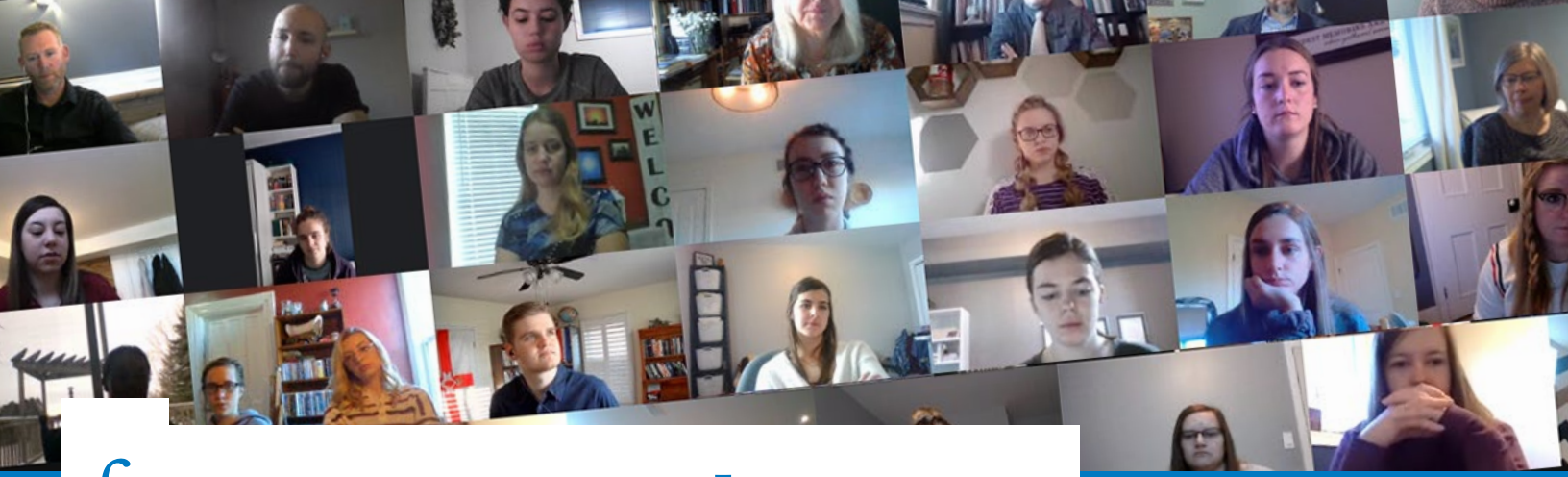
APRIL 2021



CCRTC NEWS  
**SPRING 2021**

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





## from the principal **CHRISTINE VAN HALEN-FABER**

### Tempus fugit – Time flies!

With the month of February behind us, it is hard to believe that the 2020-2021 Winter Semester is rapidly drawing to a close as far as the formal course work is concerned. Having spent most of the semester in the online platform, we were delighted to be able to go back to in-person teaching and learning when Hamilton officially entered into the red zone. Thankful for the technology we have, we maintain that face-to-face (even distanced and masked face-to-face) is key to the instructional process. Relational pedagogy is a topic of regular occurrence in the literature on teacher education and also finds its way into faculty discussions at the College. This really is not all that surprising, for as God's covenant people we are created in relationship: God to us and we to him, and therefore also to each other.

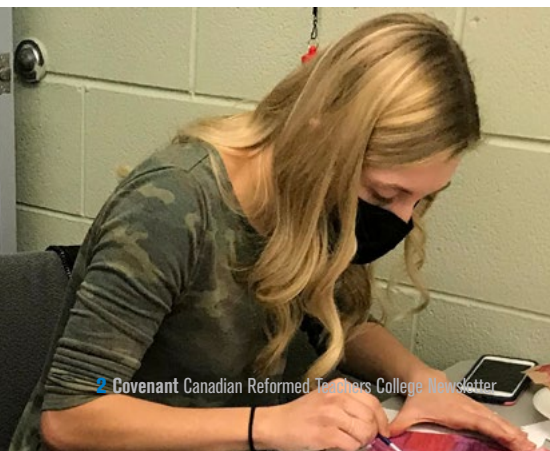
For teacher educators, the past year has offered many new opportunities for exploring alternate forms of teaching and learning. Having experimented with non-synchronous online teaching during the

second half of last year's Winter Semester, we found ourselves working with the synchronous format during the first half of this year's Winter Semester. We were thankful for the team spirit that pervaded the interactions across the board: Faculty made adjustments to the course syllabi to facilitate online course content, and as a class, students were expected to be available at specific times to meet their respective instructors. Despite some typical glitches due to internet connection instability and the nemesis of screen fatigue, the synchronous format allowed us to deliver our courses in a reasonably effective manner. We offer an extra-special "shout-out" to the instructors and students in French and the Visual Arts: Kudos to all of you for being so creative in making these hands-on courses work so well.

February typically also marks the month in which the graduating students are engaged in submitting applications, attending interviews, and considering job offers. We are thankful that the nine teacher candidates who form the "Class of '21" have accepted a teaching position. We pray that the Lord will cause them to be a blessing in their respective future school communities. Our prayers are also with those schools that are still looking to fill current or anticipated staffing vacancies. May many young men and women consider the teaching profession as a worthwhile career option. Our schools need you.

Encouraging teachers and administrators to consider a career in postsecondary education is another topic that continues to have the attention of the CCRTC Board. It does so in keeping with its vision of seeking to be the definitive source for Reformed teacher training. It also does so in light of telling a future generation of teachers what it means to practise the unity of purpose that exists between home, church, and school. The College encourages women and men who are interested in becoming a teacher educator to contact us. Please consider prayerfully if this is a calling you may need to think about.

Indeed, time flies . . . As one year is slowly drawing to a close, we look ahead at the 2021-2022 academic year. Dependent on God's faithful care over the College, its Board and committees, students, staff, and faculty, we go forward in hope and trust for the future: The LORD is God and he is wise and good – always.





#### **CLASSIS CENTRAL ONTARIO**

Blessings - Vacant  
Burlington Ebenezer - Grace Hulleman  
Burlington Fellowship - Anjelynn Helder  
Burlington Waterdown - Suzanne Hutten  
Flamborough - Vacant  
Ottawa - Elizabeth Smith  
Toronto - Vacant

#### **CLASSIS NIAGARA**

Attercliffe - Diane Feenstra  
Dunnville - Diana Kelly  
Grassie - Alaina Linde  
Niagara South - Vacant  
Lincoln - Adria Stulp  
Spring Creek - Theresa Schulenberg  
Smithville - Beth Stel

#### **CLASSIS NORTHERN ONTARIO**

Brampton - Gertie Vanluik  
Elora - Jackie Deboer  
Fergus North - Vacant  
Fergus Maranatha - Vacant  
Grand Valley - Petra Jonker  
Guelph Emmanuel - Vacant  
Guelph Living Word - Lataunya Penninga  
Orangeville - On School Budget  
Owen Sound - Glenda Kapteyn

#### **CLASSIS ONTARIO WEST**

Ancaster - Chandra Vanderboom  
Chatham - Jennifer Vanderveen  
Glanbrook - Vacant  
Hamilton Cornerstone - Vacant  
Hamilton Providence - Monica Riemer  
Kerwood - Vacant  
London - Vacant

#### **CLASSIS MANITOBA**

Carman East - Vacant  
Carman West - Vacant  
Winnipeg Grace - Sarah Welch  
Winnipeg Redeemer - Erica Nienhuis

#### **CLASSIS ALBERTA**

Barrhead - Vacant  
Calgary - Vacant  
Coaldale - Erin Becker  
Devon - Vacant  
Edmonton Immanuel - Vacant  
Edmonton Providence - Vacant  
Neerlandia - Vacant  
St. Albert - Vacant  
Taber - Vacant

#### **CLASSIS PACIFIC EAST**

Abbotstford - Vacant  
Aldergrove - Lisa Vandervan  
Chilliwack - Vacant  
Lynden - Vacant  
Nooksack Valley - Vacant  
Sardis - Vacant  
Vernon - Vacant  
Yarrow - Vacant

#### **CLASSIS PACIFIC WEST**

Cloverdale - Rachel Vandersluis  
Houston - Arlene Leffers  
Langley - Vacant  
Prince George - Vacant  
Smithers - Vacant  
Surrey - Michelle Faber  
Willoughby Heights - Yvonne Jacobi



**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 OUR TEAM?

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

## EXCITED AND INTERESTED? CONTACT:

Dr. Christine van Halen-Faber PRINCIPAL

[cvanhalen@covenantteacherscollege.com](mailto:cvanhalen@covenantteacherscollege.com)

**905.385.0634**



## from the CHAIRMAN **BERT POORT**

### The only consistency in the past year has been change.

The Annual General Meeting (AGM) is typically held on site at Covenant Canadian Reformed Teachers College (CCRTC) in late February each year. Normally, Governors coming to the College from all the supporting schools affords us with an opportunity to spend two days discussing the business of CCRTC as well as set longer term goals for each aspect of the operation. This year we had to move to an online format hosted in three Zoom-style meetings on February 26, 27 and March 11.

The first meeting commenced on Friday night with over thirty attendees listening to a keynote address by James Meinen, principal of Harvest Canadian Reformed Christian School in Owen Sound. Although James did not attend CCRTC, he has always appreciated the Reformed character of the education it provides. His presentation captured how we need to be intentional rather than incidental in teaching Reformed covenant children, as we hear so often quoted from Deuteronomy 6:7, “Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up”. For the schools to assist parents in their baptismal vows, teachers need to be equipped to deliver education permeating all the subject areas with a covenant Christian perspective. A metaphor was given, using a chain to

explain how one generation teaches the next, unless the chain is broken. CCRTC has an important role to play in equipping teachers with the tools needed to provide instruction which is distinctively Reformed across the entire curriculum. The College is not limited to providing instruction to up-and-coming teachers, but also, through professional development, to give support and teacher-training for those already established in the profession. In his parting comments, James reiterated the importance of not breaking the chain of instruction by ensuring our communities fully understand the importance of distinctively Reformed education.

We discussed the upcoming 40th anniversary of CCRTC to be celebrated, Lord willing, in the fall of 2022. A committee of volunteers is working on a way to commemorate this special event. More to follow on this.

In 2019, a survey was sent to supporting schools soliciting input on the College programs as they relate to the current two and three-year programs, as well as the professional development courses being offered. This had our attention in discussions at the 2020 AGM. This year, the results of the survey and the AGM discussions were synthesized into a new long-range planning document, steering the various committees to review the recommendations.

The business of CCRTC also gets much attention at this meeting with the formal appointment of Governors and committee positions. We heard with thankfulness that

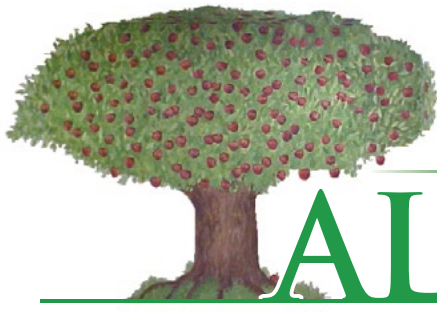
God continued to provide for the College during the past year with faculty and staff in place to permit programs being offered, the financials being in good shape to cover expenses, and infrastructure in place to allow continued operation during lockdowns.

In the final segment of the AGM, we discussed the implications of accreditation and the effects on enrollment and support for CCRTC. The accreditation process will continue to have our regular attention as we move on to the review by the Ontario College of Teachers.

**Remember CCRTC in prayer, that we may continue to be blessed with all that we need to operate, that the Lord will bless our efforts to become accredited, and that we may also continue to support schools with covenantally educated teachers.**

May God bless us all in our task to “tell the next generation” (Ps 78:4).





CCRTC

# ALUMNI NEWS

how it was and how it is

## Erica Holtvlüwer (née Ludwig) CLASS OF 1995

Truthfully, 1995 seems like a very long time ago. I do recall that, having received my diploma from Covenant Canadian Reformed Teachers College (CCRTC) and signing a contract to teach grade five-six in Flamborough, I felt confident and prepared to begin teaching. What I didn't realize was all the learning that would still be taking place!

I am sure I was clearly told at CCRTC that teaching is really so much about ongoing learning but somehow it has taken me 25 years to really begin to grasp this truth. Since graduating, I have taught elementary school for four years and high school for three years. I married Peter Holtvlüwer and together we received six children from the Lord to raise. Over the past quarter century I taught all of my children to read and homeschooled several of them for their kindergarten year. I also recall spending many a Saturday morning on the Manitoba prairies asking my four boys, "Quel temps fait-il?" and "Comment ça va?". And through it all, I think I did the most learning of all.

Teaching often reveals to yourself what you still need to learn. This is what makes the career such a dynamic and exciting one. You are never 'done'! What else should I know about viscosity? How does the work of Calvin connect to the establishment of Presbyterianism in Scotland? Is there a quicker and better way to solve for 'x'? How come the group work didn't produce the results I predicted? Is she really a visual learner after all? Should I assign an essay

or set up a project for a final evaluation? Why was that lesson a complete flop? Self-evaluation and reflection become key tools in your toolbox as you hone your craft. The intellectual virtue of curiosity becomes your closest ally. Colleagues are consulted for feedback, support, and fresh ideas and approaches. Each new day promises growth, development, and opportunity. It doesn't get better than that, does it!

I re-entered the formal classroom again four years ago after spending about 17 years teaching in my home. It was daunting at first because I felt like I had so much to learn myself. What I came to realize afresh is that this is the very best disposition for an effective teacher to have. I am very thankful for the training I received at CCRTC and the preparation it provided for a lifetime of both teaching and learning.

## Lisa Bergsma (née Oosterhoff) CLASS OF 2003

Hello! My name is Lisa Bergsma née Oosterhoff. I graduated from Covenant Canadian Reformed Teachers College (CCRTC) in 2003 with a Diploma of Education. The year I spent at the College was a busy but enjoyable year. I learned a lot about the importance of Reformed education and how to be a Reformed educator. But as we all know, learning never stops! My education in this area continues every day!

Straight after graduation, I started in my new vocation at Covenant Christian School in London, Ontario. I spent seven great years teaching to, and learning from

all my students in the grade one-two classroom. I also had the opportunity to use my B.A. in French by being the French language specialist. My first school and my first students will always have a special spot in my heart! But the Lord had a new path for me.

I met my soon-to-be husband, Eric, who was from Carman, Manitoba. I applied for a position at Dufferin Christian School (DCS) in Carman and was hired. I moved to Carman in July 2010 and started to get ready for a big year of changes! I was hired as the next grade eight teacher, a big difference from a double grade primary position! But once again I could draw on the solid foundational lessons from the College to help me through this transition. Eric and I were married in Ontario on December 18, 2010. We continue to feel God's Almighty presence in our lives each day.

It is the Reformed foundations that are taught at CCRTC that I am truly thankful for. They have given me the knowledge base and trust in all my teaching assignments. I have been able to serve DCS in many ways because of this. I have taught grade eight, grade four, and kindergarten, as well as French as a Second Language (FSL) in the elementary grades. Recently, I had the opportunity to be the high school art teacher, which I also enjoyed immensely!

Thank you to the Lord for blessing me with faithful teachers and colleagues, and for allowing me to be part of the Reformed education network! I look forward to any future adventures the Lord has in store for me and Eric!



# FOUNDATIONS OF REFORMED ETHICS AND STANDARDS OF PRACTICE

MENCO WIESKE

The ethics course at Covenant Canadian Reformed Teachers College (CCRTC) looks with great interest at how the Ontario College of Teachers (OCT) uses the words care, trust, respect, and integrity to set the Ethical Standards for the Teaching Profession in Ontario. As you may know, the OCT is the regulatory college for the teaching profession in Ontario and its mandate is to license, govern, and regulate the practice of teaching. It is also responsible for developing standards of teaching practice, regulating ongoing teacher certification and professional development, and accrediting teacher education programs. In addition, the OCT has the responsibility to investigate claims of misconduct made against teachers.

Teachers and principals employed by publicly funded schools in Ontario are required to be members in good standing of the OCT. OCT membership is not compulsory for teaching in independent schools, but some schools might require it and some of our own teachers are members voluntarily. The OCT maintains a database of teachers and their qualifications, which is available to the public on its website. In order to be able to apply for membership status with the OCT, one needs to graduate with a B.Ed. from

an OCT accredited institution. This is the accreditation that CCRTC is actively working on trying to obtain.

Although we currently do not have this accreditation, a number of our courses interact very directly with the regulatory material that the OCT has in place. We do this very intentionally, not only because we seek accreditation but also because we see our graduates as professionals entering the workforce. As such, we recognize the value of the regulatory contribution the OCT provides. An example of this is the use of those four powerful words that were mentioned earlier. The OCT gives them the following descriptions:\*

**CARE:** The ethical standard of Care includes compassion, acceptance, interest and insight for developing students' potential. Members express their commitment to students' well-being and learning through positive influence, professional judgment and empathy in practice.

**RESPECT:** Intrinsic to the ethical standard of Respect are trust and fair-mindedness. Members honour human dignity, emotional wellness

and cognitive development. In their professional practice, they model respect for spiritual and cultural values, social justice, confidentiality, freedom, democracy and the environment.

**TRUST:** The ethical standard of Trust embodies fairness, openness and honesty. Members' professional relationships with students, colleagues, parents, guardians and the public are based on trust.

**INTEGRITY:** Honesty, reliability and moral action are embodied in the ethical standard of Integrity. Continual reflection assists members in exercising integrity in their professional commitments and responsibilities.

\*<https://www.oct.ca/-/media/PDF/Standards%20Poster/OCTStandardsFlyerENPUBLISH.pdf>

In our ethics course we discuss these four ethical standards in the light of the Ten Commandments. It becomes clear very quickly that these standards form an effective



# REMEMBERING WITH GRATITUDE...

lens with which to look at the various relationships that teachers find themselves in once they enter the teaching profession. As Reformed schools we do well to look at how these four standards might function as an ethical standard for our own schools. I would even argue that as Reformed schools we should probably 'own' these standards to a much higher degree than the public system does.

By asking the question where these four ethical standards that are used by the OCT come from, it becomes clear that, although often criticised as outdated and small-minded, Christian values are clearly recognized as the best way to look at relationships. Over the past five decades there has been an obvious parting of ways between Reformed Christian thought and mainstream society. It is therefore very interesting to see how secular institutions, while on the one hand trying to put as much distance as possible between them and their Christian past, yet on the other hand continue to uphold basic Christian principles by incorporating concepts like care, trust, respect, and integrity in their educational ethical standards of practice. It serves as a reminder that we have a beautiful gift in the direction we receive in the wisdom of God's Word. Wisdom worth sharing with the next generation!

On January 25, it pleased the LORD to take to himself our Dr. Frederika G. Oosterhoff.

We remember with gratitude her years of service to Reformed education, including her many years as an adjunct lecturer at CCRTC.

We remember how over the years her own research and writing shaped the way in which she worked with our students: She had them grapple with the social issues of the day (*Reformed Perspective*), with the rise of postmodernism (*Postmodernism. A Christian Appraisal*) and with the history of ideas (*Ideas Have a History*).

We remember fondly how, her chin resting on her hands, she could look intently at a student present his or her research on an assigned topic. How at exam time she sweetly entered the classroom with the exam papers under one arm and boxes of chocolates under the other. How staffroom discussions were honest 'iron sharpens iron' opportunities, even if they did not always culminate in a common end point.

One thing is very clear: Dr. Oosterhoff walked her talk, aspiring to enable "our students to fulfill their task in life; to

understand, analyse, and criticize the spirit of the age that assaults them; to find meaning and delight in the study and ever-increasing understanding of the inexhaustible treasures of God's work in nature and history; and so to prepare them for their life and work as citizens of the Kingdom. For they are royal children, and they must be educated as such." [F.G. Oosterhoff, *Postmodernism. A Christian Appraisal*. p. 113]

At the College, the legacy of Dr. Oosterhoff's contributions to Reformed education will continue in the form of the "Dr. F.G. Oosterhoff Collection" which was initiated by soliciting donations in honour of her 80th birthday. The collection features books on topics that shaped her "Worldview/History of Ideas" courses at CCRTC. Very recently, we added to this collection several books from her own library and it is our intent to actively maintain this collection in the years to come. See at: [ctc.scoolaid.net/bin/pf/pfView?pfId=18](http://ctc.scoolaid.net/bin/pf/pfView?pfId=18)

As we remember with gratitude our dear friend and colleague, we rejoice in the knowledge that a good and faithful servant has entered into the joy of her Lord and Master.



## from the treasurer DAN WITTEN

Greetings from the Finance and Fundraising Committee and Covenant Canadian Reformed Teachers College (CCRTC). Our Committee continues to busy itself with the financial health of CCRTC. What a blessing it is to see the support of our community, not only financially, but also in the volunteering of time.

In a year of many firsts, CCRTC also had a first in holding its Annual General

Meeting (AGM) online. Traditionally this meeting is held in-person at the College, with Governors flying in from across Canada and the USA. Our AGM is usually a highlight of the year, especially for our Committee, as at this time the new budget gets approved. However, with restrictions still in place, an in-person meeting was not possible. While the fellowship was definitely missed, we were still blessed to be able to deal with the important matters of running CCRTC.

The Committee had to say goodbye to a long-standing member in Jack Kingma. His professionalism and sound advice will be greatly missed and we wish him well in his future endeavours. This does leave a spot open in the Finance and Fundraising Committee and if you are interested in helping out CCRTC in this area, please contact me at [treasurer@covenantteacherscollege.com](mailto:treasurer@covenantteacherscollege.com).

Yours in Christ,  
Dan Witten



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Follow us on Facebook at: [facebook.com/CovenantCRTC](https://facebook.com/CovenantCRTC)

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

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

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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.**