



CELEBRATING  
**40** YEARS  
OF GOD'S FAITHFULNESS



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

PSALM 78:4



CCRTC NEWS  
**SUMMER 2022**



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

For educators and anyone else connected in some way with teaching and learning, the month of June is often filled with many mixed emotions.

Some stress and anxiety blended with relief and celebration. For Covenant Canadian Reformed Teachers College (CCRTC) this holds true as well. Our typical year-end activities that bring an academic year to a successful conclusion

include exams, final papers, and the graduation. We congratulate Stephen Redwood, Adrian VanGameren, Patricia Bouwman, Joanna Kapteyn, Hannah Medemblik, and Tineke Treur with the successful completion of their respective programs and pray that the LORD will bless them richly as they begin their teaching career.

This academic year saw an extra-special conclusion: the conclusion of the 40th Anniversary of the College. As we review the past year, and the past 40 years, we do so with a deep sense of gratitude to our

Triune God who guided us day by day with his constant love and faithfulness.

As we look towards the summer we do so with a sense of anticipation. In addition to acclimatizing to a change of pace while enjoying time of relaxation, we also aim to finalize the Ontario College of Teachers accreditation application. In this regard, your continued prayerful support is very much appreciated!

On behalf of CCRTC I thank all of you for your support and wish you a relaxing and safe summer.





## MARKING MORE MILESTONES

After nine years at the College, **Mr. Keith Sikkema has retired from teaching.** We thank him for the dedication with which he taught courses in curriculum theory and practice, church history, and storytelling. Mr. Sikkema began his teaching career in 1977, and may look back over many years of teaching God's children in different capacities and in different continents, countries, and settings - in The Netherlands, in Chatham, in Sentani (Papua/Irian Jaya, Indonesia), in Smithville, Grand Rapids MI, back in Smithville, then in Laurel/Orangeville, and finally during the past 9 years at CCRTC. We owe him a debt of gratitude for his tireless efforts in applying his gifts and talents to educate the covenant youth of Christ's Church. We simply thank Keith for who he is and we wish him God's continued blessings as he enters a new phase in his life.

Changes will also be occurring in the administrative office. At the end of the

summer we will bid our farewell to Karen VanVeen who has served the College as its Controller and member of the Finance Committee for the past 10 years. Karen, we thank you for your work and your financial expertise. We wish you God's blessings in your future tasks.

**Lastly, after 35 years, Donna Van Huisstede will be retiring.** During these years she has served, supported, and enriched the College with her many gifts and with her deep commitment, dedication, and determination. As the Office Administrator, Donna was one of the central cogs in the wheel that makes our organization turn. Over time, she became the institutional memory of the College and for many of us she has been the "go to" person on countless occasions.

We pray that the LORD will allow Donna to enjoy many years of good health together with her husband, children, and

grandchildren - and without CCRTC on your mind.

As we bid our "fare-well" to Keith, Karen, and Donna, we do it by giving thanks to our Covenant God for what he has given to us in them. We know that "the Lord is good and his love endures forever; his faithfulness continues through all generations." (Psalm 100:5)

Yes, there are some big changes happening in and around CCRTC. As familiar faces leave, new faces take their place. We look forward to welcoming Mr. Mark den Hollander as a full-time faculty member in due time and are confident that he will find his stride quickly. In the administrative office, Mrs. Jo-anne van Leeuwen will embrace the role of Office Administrator, capably assisted by a new face in the person of Mrs. Alisha Ravensbergen. Alisha, we warmly welcome you as you take up your task as Administrative Assistant. May God bless you in this new role.

## CCRTC NEEDS YOU!

As a robust postsecondary organization, the College is always seeking volunteers who are willing to serve the cause of Reformed Christian teacher education with their skillset and time.

Currently the College is seeking to fill positions on the Executive Committee (e.g., vice-chairman; secretary) as well as on the Governance Review, Human Resources, and Finance Committees.

You don't have to live close to the College, given a hybrid of in-person and online meeting formats. If you are interested in receiving more information, please contact Mary DeBoer at [boardsecretary@covenantteacherscollege.com](mailto:boardsecretary@covenantteacherscollege.com)

**We can guarantee one thing: You will find it an enlightening and rewarding experience!**

## 1968-1977

The League of Canadian Reformed School Societies recognizes the need for Reformed teacher training.

## 1981

### JANUARY



Mr. Tony VanderVen begins his task as principal of the Canadian Reformed Teachers College (CRTC).

### SEPTEMBER

The College opens in the basement of Hamilton's Cornerstone church building with Mr. Tony VanderVen (1981-1999) and Mr. Bill Horsman (1981-2004) as the two full-time faculty, with the support of several sessional faculty. The College offers two diplomas: a one-year Diploma of Education and a three-year Diploma of Teaching. Six students are enrolled in the three-year program.



## 1991

### MARCH

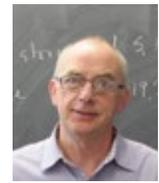
The College is incorporated under Letters Patent, with the Ontario Ministry of Consumer and Commercial Relations. Its new legal name is: Covenant Canadian Reformed Teachers' College

## 1993

Mrs. Christine van Halen-Faber, already a part-time lecturer, is appointed as a full-time faculty member.



## 2004



Mr. Allard Gunnink (2004 - 2018) is appointed as a full-time faculty member.

Dr. Christine van Halen-Faber obtains her PhD from the University of Toronto.

## 1998

The College moves to its current location at 410 Crerar Drive. The library now contains 12,000 items and moves into its own spacious room.



## 1978

The steering committee morphs into the first Board which includes members from Ontario as well as all the western provinces.



## 1987

Mrs. Donna Van Huisstede (1987-2022) joins the team as the College Administrator.



## 1997

The College celebrates its 100th graduate.

The Timothy Christian School building is purchased and, through a carefully executed renovation, becomes a most suitable location for a post-secondary institution.



## 1983

The College celebrates its first graduate: Mr. Ronn VanAndel.

The full-time faculty grows with the addition of Mr. Art Witten (1983-1992).



## 1988



Mrs. Eleanor Boeringa (1988 - present) is hired to attend to the College's library which is housed in a closet in the church basement.

The College moves to Mohawk Road West, enjoying its own facilities for the first time. The library moves out of the closet into a basement.



## 1999

Mr. Tony VanderVen leaves the College and Mrs. Christine van Halen-Faber takes up the reins as principal.



2006

The College celebrates 25 years!  
The College introduces its new logo.



*Milestones as Stepping Stones* is published for all who love Reformed education – past, present and future.



Mrs. Judy Kingma (2006-2020), already a part-time lecturer, becomes a full-time faculty member.

2019

NOVEMBER

The College submits an application to the Ministry of Colleges and Universities requesting consent to award a Bachelor of Education degree to those who complete its two-year program.



# CELEBRATING 40 YEARS

OF GOD'S FAITHFULNESS

In the year of our LORD, 2022, the College continues striving to be the definitive source for Reformed teacher training. Today, after 40 exciting years, we celebrate God's goodness shown to CCRTC. His faithfulness provides us with "strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow" as we continue to tell the next generation.



40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Open House

2011

The College's vision and purpose is further defined to guide the Board in its strategic planning.

2015

Mr. Jack Huizenga (2015 - present) is appointed as a faculty member.



2018

Mr. Menco Wieske (2018 - present) is appointed as a faculty member.



2021

OCTOBER

Dr. Jack Huizenga obtains his PhD from Brock University.

2022

285 teacher candidates have graduated from the College.

Mr. Mark den Hollander (2022 - present) is appointed as a faculty member.



2010

200 teacher candidates have graduated from the College!



2013

Mr. Keith Sikkema (2013-2022) is appointed as a faculty member.



2017

Mrs. Jo-anne van Leeuwen is hired as the Administrative Assistant.



2020

NOVEMBER

The College receives news that Ministerial Consent is granted to CCRTC's two-year Diploma of Education program pending a successful review by the Ontario College of Teachers (OCT).





## GRADUATION 2022 **BETH STEL**

On Friday, May 27th, the six persons forming the class of 2022 could formally graduate from Covenant Canadian Reformed Teachers College (CCRTC). The excitement was tangible as this was the first time since Graduation 2019 that family, friends and supporters could gather in person.

The evening began with a processional of the capped and gowned graduands. The Chairman of the Board, Mr. Bert Poort, formally opened the evening and after a few words of welcome with special mention of the College's 40th anniversary, introduced the keynote speaker, Dr. Art Witten, whose involvement with the College goes back to its beginning as a member of the founding board. His address was titled, "From one generation to another - then and now." Forty years ago - two generations - a single student graduated from CCRTC. In an

overview, Dr. Witten emphasized the faith commitment from all those who gave of time and talents to develop CCRTC. He spoke of the covenant reality within our communities. The name "Covenant" highlights the relationship between God and those working and studying there but also the relationship the graduands will have with the people in their new community as they go on to their own classrooms. The students in front of them in September have received the covenant promises from God in their baptisms. The theme text of the College, "Tell the next generation..." (Ps. 78), is now the calling of these graduands to equip their students to fulfill their own calling as prophet, priest and king. He urged the graduands to be involved in their school communities and to motivate their students to do the same. The theme text becomes reality when covenant children are taught by God's Word to recognize the battle lines between the seed of the serpent

and of the woman. The LORD "extends His promises to frail people, who are made strong in Christ and are therefore, equipped to fulfill their obligation." He concluded by encouraging the graduands to rely on God who is the same yesterday, today and tomorrow.

Then, Dr. Christine van Halen-Faber spoke of privilege, defining it as "being endowed with a special right, with grace and with power; [it] is a gift." A public graduation ceremony is a privilege. It is a privilege to attend an institution of higher learning where God's name is central. The graduands are privileged to receive teaching appointments for the upcoming school year, DV. A lot is required of teachers to fulfill their commitment. But they are not alone. God provides His grace and strength plus colleagues and a community for support.

Mr. Keith Sikkema introduced each of the graduands prior to receiving their diploma. Receiving the Diploma of Education were





Stephen Redwood (in absentia) and Adrian VanGameren while Patricia Bouwman, Joanna Kapetyn, Hannah Medemblik and Tineke Treur received the Diploma of Teaching.

Patricia Bouwman and Joanna Kapetyn entertained us with their valedictory address. Through various anecdotes and memories, they gave the audience a brief peek into College life and into the characters of each of the graduates.

Next, Women Assisting the Teachers College in Hamilton (W.A.T.C.H.) presented the College with a cheque for

\$10,000.00! Two retirements were also celebrated. Mr. Sikkema is retiring after many years of teaching, the last nine of which were at the College. Mrs. Donna Van Huisstede is retiring after 35 years of office administration at the College! Dr. van Halen-Faber expressed thanks to each for their service.

The evening closed with prayer and the singing of our national anthem. Mr. John VanIperen accompanied the ceremony with musical selections reflecting joy and thankfulness to our covenant God from whom all blessings flow!



## GREETINGS FROM W.A.T.C.H.!

Once again, it is time to provide you with our annual update. We would like to express our deep thankfulness to each of our local reps for their dedication and creativity in holding fundraisers again this past year. In honour of the College's 40th anniversary, we were delighted to be able to present a cheque for \$10,000.00 at

this year's graduation ceremony! We thank all of you for your continued support, and above all, we thank our heavenly Father for His continued blessings!

The W.A.T.C.H. Committee,  
Beth Stel (President)

Chandra Vanderboom (Treasurer)  
JoAnn VanIperen (Secretary)  
Monica Riemer (Member-at-Large)  
Eleanor Boeringa (CCRTC Liaison)





# THANK YOU FOR COMING! **HENRIETTA GROENEVELD**

Saturday, June 4th, 2022, was a beautiful day spent reminiscing with alumni, governors, faculty of Covenant Canadian Reformed Teachers College (CCRTC), and others who joined us in a celebration at Guido de Brès Christian High School, followed by an open house at the College. We were grateful to spend time in song and prayer to our LORD who in his goodness has given us 40 years of offering Reformed teacher training. Our Master of Ceremonies, Henrietta Groeneveld, shared comments from an alumni survey to reflect on their experience at CCRTC. Dr. Christine van Halen-Faber gave a bird's-eye view presentation starting with the first days of the College, back in 1981, until our current year 2022.

She reflected on God's faithfulness at various points in CCRTC's growth. The current students at the College had prepared a video to provide a glimpse into life at CCRTC. We thank the various individuals, including one of the first Board members, a past Chairman, and our present Chairman, Mr. Bert Poort, who used the open mic to share their thoughts. A letter was received from the Board of our next-door neighbour, Guido de Brès Christian High School, congratulating us on 40 years of operation. We gave special attention to our secretary, Donna Van Huisstede, on her retirement. We sincerely thank you, Donna, for the work you have done here. Over the past 35 years you have truly blessed many people's lives in your daily interactions at the school.

We were glad to have our first graduate, Mr. Ronn VanAndel, present in celebration. Guests were wowed by the delicacies provided by Corinne Gelms, who went above and beyond in preparing for and serving our crowd. We thank the first-year students and other volunteers for also helping to make this time together memorable. The afternoon concluded with the faculty welcoming visitors into the classrooms at CCRTC where they could learn about the daily happenings of our students. Timeline photos of the last 40 years were on display for guests.

It's truly beautiful to witness first hand the work of our LORD in members and supporters of CCRTC. May he always be given the praise!



## ARE YOU A "FRIEND OF CCRTC"?



Do you want others to know? Do you want to show it by wearing a unique CCRTC item? You'll be happy to know that there are many different ways of doing so!

Visit our "CCRTC Store" at: [ccrtc.entripyshops.com](http://ccrtc.entripyshops.com) or scan the QR Code.

