

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

PSALM 78:4



CCRTC NEWS
SUMMER 2024

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

The highlight of the summer edition of the newsletter of Covenant Canadian Reformed Teachers College is typically a report on the graduation. This year's newsletter forms no exception: We congratulate the five graduates who will join (or have already joined!) the ranks of those who chose teaching as their vocational profession. We bid them a fond farewell and pray for God's blessings on their lives and work.

Indeed, the summer edition of the newsletter signals the end of another year of teaching and learning at CCRTC.

Final exams are behind us, assignments have been completed, final grades have been calculated, and transcripts have been sent out. It is the perfect time for faculty to review course work and to reflect on what went well and what might be improved upon. In a very real way, reflective practice is not only a term that applies to teachers, but it also applies to our College faculty. It is good to be able to look back over a semester in order to look at what lies ahead and as we begin to shape plans for the new academic year, we do so in the anticipation of Mr. Lennart de Visser joining the faculty.

The addition of a faculty member necessitates having to take a close look

at the existing facilities. We are excited about the renovation-adaptation project planned for the summer that will result in additional faculty offices. It will also see the office administrative staff, including the new administrative assistant, Lysie Alkema, move into a bright, 'new' space: the faculty lounge.

The summer edition of the newsletter also reminds us that it is summer, a time for refreshment and relaxation. The recharging of academic batteries is a welcome thought as we joyfully await the arrival of a very large class of first year students, bringing our total number of students well over 30.

Praise God from whom all blessings flow!



GRADUATION 2024 ANNETTE KELLY

For all the promises of God find their Yes in Him. That is why it is through him that we utter our Amen to God for his glory. And it is God who establishes us with you in Christ, and has anointed us, and who has also put his seal on us and given us his Spirit in our hearts as a guarantee.

2 Corinthians 1: 20-22

On May 22, the processional of graduands from Covenant Canadian Reformed Teachers College (CCRTC) was led down the aisle of Cornerstone Canadian Reformed Church by Dr. van Halen-Faber. The Chairman, Mr. Bill Buist, opened the evening with the reading of 2 Corinthians 1: 12-22 and prayer. He welcomed everyone, especially the graduands. The Chairman then introduced the keynote speaker, Rev. Wynia. His speech was entitled, "Through Him, we utter our Amen to God for His glory." All of the promises of God find their "yes" in Jesus Christ. God always answers "yes" to those who put their faith and trust in Him. Our whole life is the "amen"; this is the testimony of believers. God has made promises to you personally in your baptism. He underlined the promises in the Lord's supper. You have experienced the saving power of the gospel. God says "yes". We say "amen". By faith, we have certainty. The

Spirit dwells in our hearts as a guarantee. Rev. Wynia reminded the graduands that as teachers, they are called to teach the children whom God has entrusted to them. The children have been given the same promises of salvation in which they believe. As teachers, they should want to worship God with these children. As they set out to fulfill this calling, they are encouraged to hold this goal before them, to love these children whom God has entrusted to them. Rev. Wynia concluded with saying that we pray that the students will follow their example and that they will see God's promises to those children finding their "yes" in Jesus Christ. And that they will utter their "amen" together with them for His glory.

After the main address, Dr. van Halen-Faber addressed the graduands. She expressed thankfulness for a school year filled with regular activity at the College. She gave a special thanks to the Harvest Foundation. For the first time this year, students could apply for bursary or tuition assistance. She was also thankful for the largest incoming class in the history of the College coming this September and for Mr. Lennart de Visser who has accepted a full-time faculty position. While Mr. Wieske was unable to attend the evening, Dr. van Halen-Faber

read a poem that he had written to the graduands.

Dr. van Halen-Faber declared that the five graduands; Chantal Lof, Hannah Bartels (who entered the college as Hannah Kelly), Kylie Bylsma (who entered the college as Kylie Enter), Makayla Kruisselbrink, and Natalie VanLuik, are cleared to graduate and asked the Chairman and Mr. Mark den Hollander to come forward. Mr. den Hollander introduced each of the graduands prior to receiving their diploma. Receiving the Diploma of Education was Chantal Lof. Hannah Bartels, Kylie Bylsma, Makayla Kruisselbrink, and Natalie VanLuik received the Diploma of Teaching. A gift was presented to the graduates, a book entitled, "God's Timeline: The Big Book of Church History".

Hannah Bartels and Makayla Kruisselbrink gave the Valedictory Address in which they summed up the characters of each graduate. They talked about how they have been a close-knit group. They shared laughter and were known to get off-topic in class at times. They expressed thankfulness to each full-time and part-time faculty member and especially to our covenant Father for all His blessings. Each of the graduates had been blessed with the love of music, and they were often found together in the music





room. Chantal and Natalie played the violin, Makayla played the piano, Hannah and Kylie loved to sing. A special song to them is “I am not my own” by Keith and Kristyn Getty. The rest of the class joined Hannah and Makayla, and they performed this song together. The class then presented the staff with a gift. Dr. van Halen-Faber

had often remarked that this was one of the most musical classes that she ever had. The gift was fitting; it was a sign with the words of Psalm 105: 1,2, which the graduates hoped would be hung in the music room.

The program concluded with a presentation on behalf of W.A.T.C.H. by Beth Stel, who

presented a cheque for \$10,000. Dr. van Halen-Faber expressed her thankfulness for the gift. It will be put to good use to put the finishing touches in the student lounge.

Mr. Rob Enter, the father of Kylie Bylsma, closed the evening with a prayer of thanksgiving to our heavenly Father.

A TRIP DOWN MEMORY LANE

CHANDRA VANDERBOOM

PRESENTED BY BETH STEL AT THE 2024 CCRTC GRADUATION

Although an informal Women's Savings Action group was more or less active since the opening of the College, the current group, “Women Assisting the Teachers College Hamilton”, known as “W.A.T.C.H.”, was formally instituted in the summer of 1997. Its aim was “to involve the sisters of the Canadian Reformed church and school communities in a variety of efforts to raise additional funds for the purpose of purchasing items not normally included in the regular operating budget of the Teachers College” and this goal has remained unchanged for the last 27 years of our group's operation.

At the inception of W.A.T.C.H. in 1997, 57 letters were sent out in search of a representative in each congregation, including churches in the USA and Australia. Although the initial response of only 12 letters in reply was somewhat disappointing, there were 10 ladies who stepped forward to act as representatives in that first year. By 2001, just four years later, we had over 25 ladies from the three countries on board, who together raised \$2400 that year.

Twenty-seven years later, although we no longer have the involvement of Australian representatives, we are still represented by 36 ladies in Canada, and one in the USA. Of their respective congregations, about half fundraise faithfully every year, with others donating on a more sporadic

basis. We are thankful to report that even through challenging years such as we saw in 2020, donations have remained fairly steady, and therefore we are blessed to present to the College tonight, a cheque for \$10,000, as we pray for the Lord's continued blessing on the College and the supporting efforts of W.A.T.C.H.

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)





from the finance committee

Looking back over the past year, we are grateful to our God for his providing care over us, also in the practical and financial sense. He is the One who opens the hearts and minds of his children, enabling them to become cheerful givers to causes that serve his Kingdom.

The College is a robust institution, yet one that remains fiscally responsible. Thanks to the careful teamwork of Michelle Temple as the Financial Administrator and Jo-anne van Leeuwen as the Office Administrator, monthly reports and statements are sent punctually for review by the Finance Committee.

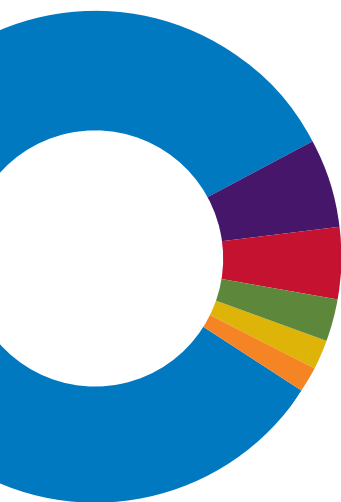
With the blessing of the Canada Revenue Agency, the College is changing its financial year-end date from August 31st to May 31st in order to reflect the academic year and to facilitate any future financial reporting deadlines with the Ministry of Colleges and Universities.

We count on your financial support and

to this end we enclose the 2024-2025 budget breakdown for your information. We encourage you to remain or become a cheerful giver in support of Reformed Christian education through the work of Covenant Canadian Reformed Teachers College. May God continue to bless this institution of higher learning.



To see ways to financially support the College scan the QR Code or visit covenantteacherscollege.com/donate.html



CCRTC 2024-2025 BUDGET

EXPENSES

(TOTAL \$993,344)

- Payroll **83.1%**
- Administration **2.6%**
- Programs **5.9%**
- Library Department **2.2%**
- Building **4.8%**
- Miscellaneous **1.4%**

INCOME

(TOTAL \$993,344)

- Personal and Corporate Donations **54.6%**
- Student Tuition **24%**
- Member School Donations **5.5%**
- Member School Fees **11.5%**
- Investment Income **4%**
- Other **0.4%**



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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 or scan the QR Code.

