



Covenant

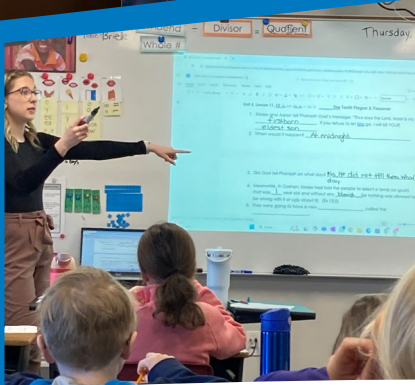
CANADIAN REFORMED TEACHERS COLLEGE



CCRTC NEWS SUMMER 2025

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

PSALM 78:4



from the principal

CHRISTINE VAN HALEN-FABER



Striving to be the definitive source for Reformed teacher training.

Looking back on the 2024-2025 academic year leads us to conclude that it was yet another year filled with many rich blessings. Day to day, week to week, and month to month we could experience God's goodness in all aspects of the operation of the College. We thank the volunteers who serve on the Board and its committees for their work during the past year. We also thank you, our readers, for your financial and prayerful support.

The past few months were filled with many different activities and events: We completed practicum placements. We welcomed Rev. Paulin Bédard, who gave an informative talk about the history of the L'Église réformée du Québec (ERQ). We hosted elementary students on their

field trips. We engaged in various year-end Student Council events as we bade our farewell to the graduating class and each other. We conducted course evaluations. We wrote and marked final exams and prepared final transcripts. We celebrated a wonderful graduation of seven teacher candidates . . . the list continues.

One item that is worth an extra-special mention is the progress made in seeking full accreditation from the Ontario College of Teachers (OCT). At the end of March, the draft application was submitted for review by the program officers of the OCT Accreditation Unit. Their review was substantial, critical, detailed, and very helpful for us in preparing the final application submitted on June 9th. The next step involves public consultation and feedback (June 19-July 21). We appreciate your participation in this process.

OCT has appointed a review panel that will

begin its work during the summer and will conduct on-site visits and conversations on September 23-24.

We are very thankful for the progress that could finally be made and deeply appreciate the excellent professional and cordial support we receive from the OCT program officers. We solicit your prayerful support, not only for God's blessings on a favourable outcome, but also on the work of the program officers and the review panel. May their efforts ultimately serve to the praise of his glory.

In conclusion, we may look back on another wonderful academic year. As we do so, we also look forward to a refreshing break and then to the start of a new academic year on September 2nd - knowing that the beautiful task of "... telling the next generation" continues until the day of Christ's return in glory.

Praise God from whom all blessings flow!

W.A.T.C.H. Report



Greetings once again from your W.A.T.C.H. committee!

Writing this annual submission for the newsletter is a sure sign that summer is near. This year, Chandra Vanderboom, our treasurer, represented the committee at the College's graduation ceremony. She offered congratulations to the graduates and then spoke briefly on W.A.T.C.H.'s goal of fundraising to support CCRTC with items that are outside of the regular budget. The aim is to have a local representative in every congregation who will carry out the

fundraising. The LORD has richly blessed these efforts, and Chandra was able to present Dr. Christine van Halen-Faber with a cheque for \$10,000 - praise God!! In accepting the cheque, Dr. van Halen shared that these monies will be earmarked for a new, improved sound system for the large assembly room. This will allow better functionality for meetings and other gatherings, particularly those with virtual attendees.

At this time, we have a number of congregations who do not have a local

W.A.T.C.H. representative. If yours is one of these, and you are able to help us out in this way, please get in touch with either the College itself or your local Governor and they will help you to connect with us. In closing, we wish everyone an enjoyable and restful summer!

The W.A.T.C.H. Committee,
Beth Stel, President
Chandra Vanderboom, Treasurer
JoAnn Van Iperen, Secretary
Monica Riemer, Member-at-Large
Eleanor Boeringa, CCRTC Liaison

grad report

LYNDA SCHOUTEN

As is tradition, the Covenant Canadian Reformed Teachers College (CCRTC) community gathered

on the third Wednesday in May at Cornerstone Canadian Reformed Church to joyfully mark the end of the 2024/25 school year and celebrate God's faithfulness. Board chairman, Bill Buist, opened the evening with a warm welcome, prayer, and Scripture reading, highlighting the graduates' chosen theme: *"Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful"* (Hebrews 10:23). He then introduced the keynote speaker, Rev. D.G.J. Agema.

Rev. Agema addressed the graduands with a speech entitled *"Confidence in Teaching"*. He reminded them that while confidence is essential for every teacher, it is just as important to help students grow in confidence—rooted not in themselves, but in the Lord. True confidence is grounded in who God is and the unchanging promises of the *Triune God* which were extended to them and their students at their baptism. Rev. Agema also highlighted the power of memory work as a tool to nurture spiritual confidence in students, enabling them to express and respond to life's challenges in a Scriptural way. True hope is connected to certainty. We hold fast to the confession of our hope. The church has formulated a confession of this hope in her creeds and confessions. He addressed the graduands to seek their hope outside of themselves:

"Keep God as the subject of your teaching and when you anchor your teaching in the Triune God, you nurture confidence. In an anxious world, hold on to His Word and hold it out. Live from it, show it to your students. Remind them that: 'I am not my own but belong to Jesus Christ.'"

Dr. Christine van Halen-Faber then gave a reflection on the past academic year. She noted it was Lennart de Visser's first year and congratulated Menco Wieske on completing his Doctor of Education degree. She praised God's goodness in Menco's recovery from serious illness earlier in the year. Gratitude was expressed to Joanne van Leeuwen for her faithful work as administrator, and a warm welcome was given to Nancy Vandebos as she prepares to step into that role. Dr. van Halen-Faber also shared that a final decision regarding CCRTC's accreditation is expected in November, following the final application submission and site visit.

Turning to the graduating class—affectionately referred to as "the group of seven"—Dr. van Halen-Faber praised their servant-hearted leadership and confidently promoted them from graduands to graduates.

Mr. Mark den Hollander introduced the graduates and the Principal, with the Chairman, presented the diplomas and a commemorative book. Ben Kampen received the Diploma of Education, and the Diploma of Teaching was awarded to Kendra Brouwer, Claire DeVries,

Marissa Lof, Karlana Penninga, Annelies Schouten, and Rosanna Vandenberg. It was announced with gratitude that all graduates have accepted teaching positions in local Reformed schools. Although Kendra Brouwer will not be entering the classroom, she looks forward, God willing, to becoming a mother this fall.

Kendra also gave the valedictorian speech, thanking all those who supported the graduates on their journey. She offered a personal glimpse into each graduate's character and called on her peers to continue holding fast to the confession of their hope.

The evening continued with a presentation from W.A.T.C.H. representative Chandra Vanderboom, who generously gifted \$10,000 toward upgrading the College's conference sound system—a valuable contribution to both the College and the wider community who use its facilities.

In a special moment, with deep gratitude, the principal and board chairman presented Rev. and Mrs. Agema with a gift in honour of Rev. Agema's retirement after a fruitful 33 years of service as Bible instructor. He has instilled a love for studying God's Word which has left a lasting impact on CCRTC graduates who now faithfully pass it on to the next generation within our schools.

To close the evening, Mr. Anthony Kampen, father of graduate Ben Kampen, offered a prayer of thanksgiving, giving all praise to our gracious and faithful God.



Reflections . . .



“My first year at CCRTC was enlightening!”

Over the course of their studies, teacher candidates at CCRTC become very familiar with the expression, “The teacher as a reflective practitioner” as they are frequently asked to think critically about the what, the how, and the why of their own learning.

This year saw the largest intake class in CCRTC’s history when eighteen teacher candidates entered their respective programs in September 2024. Here are some of their reflections on the highlights of the past year:

“My first year at CCRTC was amazing. I’ll never forget walking into Room 0 on day 1 and looking at a sea of unfamiliar faces. In just a short time, those faces changed from strangers to wonderful friends and peers.”

“Something that stood out to me was the huge support from the communion of saints. Our teachers genuinely care about each one of us. Teachers, principals, and members in the schools that I was placed in were incredibly hospitable and looked out for my best interests. Members of my church kept the Teachers College in their prayers often, and people that I had only just met provided heartfelt words of encouragement. The communion of saints surrounds the students at CCRTC and it is a huge blessing to be a part of it.”

“I’ll never forget getting my first taste of teaching on practicum. That was when I knew I chose the right profession!”

“Some of the highlights of first year included the spontaneous hymn sings and Starbucks trips that are part of life at the College :) I hope these continue next year!”

“I will never forget my first practicum placement and the students in that class.”

“One highlight from CCRTC is that it is very small and close-knit, so you are able to form many new friendships.”

“I’ll never forget the students on my placements.”

“One of the blessings that this year brought was the opportunity to meet so many other young women with the same dream of being a teacher and bond over our practicum experiences, work and life, and everything in between.”

“My first and second practicums were two of the highlights of my first year at CCRTC.”

“My first year at CCRTC was filled with many positive experiences and memories.”

“My first year at CCRTC was a time of growth, going from knowing about teaching to learning how best to support and teach students in their educational journeys.”

“Something that stood out to me was how big of a difference being distinctly Reformed makes on this College. It is ingrained into both the hidden and the explicit curriculum. It truly is the banana baked into banana bread, unable to be separated.”

“I’ll never forget Dr. Wieske referring to all of us as his daughters during a field trip during the second week of school.”

“Some highlights I’ll remember are juggling in the hallway and singing hymns in the piano room.”

“I love the way the whole College community comes together to start every day with devotions.”

“Some things that stand out for me are the great relationships I made with people who were strangers to me.”



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

“I can’t wait to enjoy two more years of learning, fellowship, and laughter found at CCRTC!”