



Covenant

CANADIAN REFORMED TEACHERS COLLEGE

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

OCTOBER 2019



CCRTC NEWS
FALL 2019
www.covenantteacherscollege.com





from the PRINCIPAL CHRISTINE VAN HALEN-FABER

Summer seems far away, and yet the memories linger on. Students pursued other interests such as work and some relaxation, as did faculty members. Mr. Keith Sikkema facilitated a professional development course for teachers in British Columbia, while Mr. Jack Huizenga and Mr. Menco Wieske were both engaged in doctoral studies.

The summertime also allowed the Board to finalize the appointments left by retiring sessional faculty members, Mme Teresa Boisvert and Miss Judy Kingma. We welcome as sessional faculty Mrs. Esther VanMiddelkoop (French as a Second Language) and Mrs. Catherine Vanderpol (Language Arts - Writing) for the fall and winter semesters respectively.

Our thoughts and prayers continue to go out to Mr. Allard Gunnink who retired from CCRTC in 2018. In his wisdom it pleased the LORD to take into glory Allard's wife Joanne after a brief and serious illness. We know that Allard, his children, and his grandchildren confess that their hope is in Christ alone, but we also know that Joanne will be deeply missed. May God's rich promises grant you much comfort.

By the time this CCRTC newsletter reaches your mailbox, there may be obvious signs that the fall season is well underway: Early morning frost on roofs and windshields, the shifting and changing hues on the colourful palate of shrubs and trees around us, the absence of hummingbirds, bees, and monarch butterflies and the list goes on. A beautiful summer has given way to a glorious autumn. From CCRTC's perspective, the fall semester is rapidly running its course: Students are embarking on their practicum placements, faculty members are immersed in their courses, and the Board of Governors is reviewing its strategic planning while gradually making preparations for the Annual General Meeting to be held in March 2020.

Some larger projects are in full swing also. If all goes according to plan, the accreditation application will be under review by the Postsecondary Education Quality Assessment Board (PEQAB) at the direction of the Ontario Ministry of Training, Colleges, and Universities. In addition, the College is engaged in its own internal review cycle which includes collecting data from all member school communities by means of a survey. We urge you to participate when invited. Needless to say, there is no lack of activity and CCRTC thanks the many willing and able volunteers that give of their time and energy in support of the core values that undergird Reformed education: *Telling the next generation...*





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

Thinking back to the very start of the fall semester also leads us to the Golden Anniversary events surrounding our “brother” institution, the Canadian Reformed Theological Seminary. The well-researched and beautifully executed anniversary book *Your Word Is Our Light* includes a reference to the cameo role the seminary played in the training of teachers for Reformed Christian schools. As one reads about the history of CRTS, one notices a clear parallel between the Seminary and the College: Within their own unique mandate and purpose, each institution serves the Reformed community in a unifying manner.

We congratulate the Seminary, and we do so in the trust and confidence that our Covenant God will bless the work done in faithfulness when teaching the next generation of preachers and teachers. God’s promises are firm and true. To him be all the glory.

The vision of the Board of Covenant College is to be the *definitive source for Reformed teacher training*. The strategic planning of the Board includes succession planning, in-service course offerings, and distance education. In anticipation of the retirement of one of our full-time faculty members, we are looking to confirm the full-time instructional team for the 2020-2021 academic year and beyond.

If you are interested in exploring joining the faculty as a

FULL-TIME FACULTY MEMBER

we invite you to contact us as soon as possible to discuss options and possibilities.

Persons interested in this position will, among other things, demonstrate a deep love for Reformed education, be willing to provide educational leadership at multiple levels, and display a healthy level of intellectual curiosity within biblical bounds (Prov. 1:5).

Candidates will be communicant members in good standing of a Canadian Reformed Church, or of a church with whom the federation of Canadian Reformed Churches maintains ecclesiastical fellowship, will hold at least a Master’s degree preferably in the area of education, and will have teaching experience in either elementary or secondary school settings.

Support in the completion of postgraduate studies is open to discussion.

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION CONTACT:

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from the CHAIRMAN RICHARD FEENSTRA

“We will tell the next generation the praiseworthy deeds of the LORD, his power, and the wonders he has done.” Psalm 78:4 is the text the College faculty, staff, and students can reflect on this study season. It was a calling given to Israel so long ago, a command still for us today, and one the College could adopt as theme text almost 40 years ago.

Indeed, the glories of the Lord must be taught to our children to teach their children, that those not yet born might rise and tell them to their children so that they should set their hope in God.

When we look back in history, not only 2,000 years ago, but even in the last 500, 75, or even 40 years, we can reflect on so much of God’s faithfulness to us, his people. Neither he nor his commands ever change. Indeed, at the College we can be thankful for God’s constant provision of great faculty and staff, well equipped to teach and manage. Our task of training the next generation has continued, and might I add excelled, for so many years.

There is so much wonder to reflect on, but Psalm 78 takes a twist, and for most of the psalm reflects on the disobedience of the forefathers: turning back in battle and refusing to keep God’s law. They forgot his works and wonders and rebelled again and again. How about us today? Do we reflect on the wonders of God and regularly teach our children to do so as well? Perhaps we get bogged down with daily life or find ourselves, when dealing with our children, concerned mainly with behaviour, chores, schoolwork, etc. Do we look past our own needs and wants, or do we creep like Israel towards a rebellious life of individualism or self centeredness? Do we care about the needs of those around us or the impact of what God’s law is to have on our lives as confessing Christians? Perhaps it is merely self reflection

when I ask, “How often do we really reflect on God’s goodness and his glorious deeds?” or to take it further, “How often do we do so with our children?”

It is also easy to live life in fear. We live in a country with an incredible amount of freedom. Yet as we look back over the past decade, we can see how those freedoms are being subtly eroded, particularly in politics and law. It was only this past year the Alberta government tried to bluntly undermine the freedoms of Christian schools, and it took a new government to restore these privileges. These moments are cause for great concern, and as our imaginations run wild so do our worries for the next generation. But stop there for a moment. Reflect on God’s wonders and faithfulness. Was there ever a time he was not in control? Did he not change the course also in Alberta? We cannot be naive, thinking things will always be good for we know we live in a spiritual battle; one we may not turn from, where the forces of evil will continue to attack God’s people. But neither can we live in fear, for we need only reflect on God’s goodness to remember who is in control.

The College is charting a new course in the confidence that our work is not in vain. By now the accreditation application should have been submitted and we await word as to its review. We trust the need for teachers will continue to grow. If we are to remain faithful, we must continue to reflect on God’s glorious works and must continue



“ Indeed, at the College we can be thankful for God’s constant provision of great faculty and staff, well equipped to teach and manage.

to train our children that they too might teach their children yet unborn. While other colleges and universities might be utilized for specialized training, do not minimize the value of the balanced, faithful training this college provides in teaching the next generation. We can look back on God’s grace in sending his Son, but as we reflect on all his goodness do not forget his faithfulness shown in the fruitful works of this college for us, his people. Truly, how great is our God!

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- VACANT
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2019-2020 CCRTC STAFF LIST:

FULL TIME FACULTY

C. van Halen-Faber,
PRINCIPAL, BA; M.ED.; PHD

J. Huizenga, B.SC.; B.ED.; M.ED.; OCT

K. Sikkema, DUTCH TEACHING
CERTIFICATE; BA; M.ED.

M. Wieske, DIP. ED.; MA

ADJUNCT FACULTY

D. G. J. Agema, M. DIV.

B. Faber, BA (HONS); D. PHIL.

SESSIONAL INSTRUCTORS

S. Sikma, BA (HONS); MA

C. Van Eerden, B.ED.; BA

C. Vanderpol, B.A.S.C. (HONS); M.ED.

E. VanMiddelkoop, BA; B.ED.

T. Wildeboer, B.SC. (KIN); B.ED.; OCT

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FINANCIAL AID OFFICER

J. van Leeuwen,
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT,
FINANCIAL AID ADMINISTRATOR

K. VanVeen,
COMPTROLLER
(MATERNITY LEAVE)



INTRODUCING NEW CCRTC INSTRUCTORS

ESTHER VANMIDDELKOOP (LEFT)
& CATHERINE VANDERPOL (RIGHT)



ADMISSIONS SEPTEMBER 2020

The Board of Covenant Canadian Reformed Teachers College in Hamilton, Ontario, invites applications from prospective students for the 2020-2021 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, 2020

Those who plan to seek admission in the year 2019-2020 are also encouraged to contact the college as soon as possible.

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION CONTACT:

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MATHEMATICS

AT CCRTC

Mathematics education carries a lot of baggage. Every September critical articles are printed in the media regarding the state of affairs of mathematics in Ontario elementary and secondary schools.

Reports are published from the Education Quality and Accountability Office (EQAO) often telling us about how poorly students in Grades 3, 6, and 9 are doing in math. For example, the 2018-2019 results recently released show that 58% of Grade 3 students and 48% of Grade 6 students are at or above the provincial standard. These numbers are consistent with the numbers for the past three years with an ever so slight trend downward. The Grade 9 numbers are better for academic students (84%) but not so for applied students (44%). The media captures the finger pointing and exposes the debate between approaches to mathematics: some advocating a return-to-basics while others promote a discovery-based approach. This is the backdrop for teacher candidates at CCRTC who will enter classrooms and teach mathematics to children of the covenant. As one commentator put it recently: “What matters is what teachers do with the math curriculum.”¹

Recognizing the importance of preparing teacher candidates well for the classroom, the College has two courses dedicated to mathematics. In the first semester of their first year at CCRTC teacher candidates enrol in a curriculum methods studies course in mathematics. Having been a mathematics student for up to 12 years, this course helps teacher candidates begin to think as teachers about math. Before they prepare their first math lesson, teacher candidates will consider why we should study mathematics, how students learn mathematics, and what the key mathematical processes are (e.g., problem solving, communicating). Crafting their first math lesson exposes teacher candidates to pedagogical knowledge such as big ideas, assessment, and differentiating instruction. It becomes

JACK HUIZENGA

self-evident rather quickly that in order to teach mathematics well, teachers need to be able to do mathematics well. In the curriculum methods course, teacher candidates are introduced to the five main topics of mathematics in the Ontario curriculum (e.g., number sense, geometry & spatial sense). However, in the second semester of their second year, teacher candidates are given many more opportunities to do math when they take an educational studies course entitled, *Mathematics for Elementary Teachers*. Throughout this course teacher candidates hone their math skills by doing math, working on problems individually and together, while also anticipating where their students might stumble. Together, these two mathematics courses are intended to provide teacher candidates with the knowledge, skills, and confidence to teach mathematics.

Along with everything we do at CCRTC, an overarching goal that we have in both mathematics courses is to ensure that God receives all of the glory. In that regard, a math lesson should be no different than a church history lesson. Nevertheless, as teachers we tend to leave God out of the classroom when we are teaching mathematics and by doing so communicate to our students that math is independent of God. It is much more challenging – and ever so necessary – to show our students the glory of God in and through mathematics. Remarking on this particular challenge, the Reformed theologian C. VanTil exclaimed: “Ah, how large a portion of the grace of God it requires to be a teacher of the children of the covenant!”² Therefore, confident that the LORD will supply our need, we take up this challenge as we study mathematics at CCRTC so that children of the covenant will see their God.

REFERENCES:

¹ cbc.ca/radio/thecurrent (Aug. 30, 2019)

² Berkhof, L. & Van Til, C. (1990). *Foundations of Christian education: Addresses to Christian teachers*.

from the treasurer

DAN WITTEN



With much thankfulness to the Lord, we can report that Covenant Canadian Reformed Teachers College had a good financial year. As you are reading this report we are in the process of completing the year end financial statements. This year we are taking the extra step of having a full financial audit conducted.

The finance committee was busy over the summer filling a maternity position for our current bookkeeper. We would like to congratulate Karen VanVeen and her husband with the birth of their baby boy. We pray the Lord blesses you and gives you strength with this new covenant child. We are happy to welcome Marietta Linde to CCRTC to take on the role as bookkeeper during Karen's maternity leave.

I would like to personally encourage anyone who is interested in becoming a member of the finance committee to reach out to treasurer@covenantteacherscollege.com. We are always looking for people with a mind for finance and a serving heart. We now have most meetings through video conference, so geography is no longer an issue to join.

With the help of everyone's continued financial contributions and prayerful support, the College will continue the training of Reformed teachers for the benefit of the next generation, and to the honour and glory of our covenant God.

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

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I agree to receive email updates from CCRTC

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 and then wait for our call sometime between October 28 - November 15.

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

Looking forward to our conversation!



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 agree with the conditions in the application and can terminate this agreement at any time.

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