



## CLASSIS NIAGARA OF THE CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH



Website: [classisniagara.ca](http://classisniagara.ca); e-mail: [statedclerk@classisniagara.ca](mailto:statedclerk@classisniagara.ca)

84<sup>th</sup> session (1<sup>st</sup> session: September 24, 1986)

Wednesday, May 25, **9:30 A.M.**

Grace Christian Reformed Church, Welland, ON

**Chairman:** Rev. Ryan Braam; **Vice-chairman:** Rev. Derek Bouma; **Stated Clerk:** John TeBrake

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### DELEGATES, PLEASE NOTE:

1. Please bring your Classical Credentials with you to the meeting.
2. If this is your first time as a delegate to a Classis Niagara session, please read and sign the Form of Subscription **prior to the meeting**.

There will be a designated table for both the above

**Voting:** Classis Niagara, along with Classes Huron, Hamilton, and Chatham, make up Region 4 of the CRCNA. Generally, each region provides delegates to the boards of the various CRCNA ministries. Delegates become members of these boards by voting by the various classes in each region, with the highest total votes among the classes designating the board member. We are asked at this meeting of our Classis to vote for a delegate from Region 4 to the board of Calvin Theological Seminary. The number of our votes will be added to those of the other three classes to determine the representative from Region 4. The slate of nominees for **Calvin Theological Seminary** (Vote for one nominee.) is as follows:

**Rev. Craig Hoekema** is the pastor of Living Hope CRC in Sarnia, Ontario. He has committee experience working on outreach, worship, education and pastoral care, as well as experience serving his local classis. He graduated from Calvin Theological Seminary with an M.Div. degree.

**Rev. Jeff Klingenberg** is a pastor at Ancaster CRC in Ancaster, Ontario where he serves as director of youth and young adult ministry. He has a master's degree in pastoral counseling and also graduated from Calvin Theological Seminary with an M.Div. degree. Rev. Klingenberg presently serves on the McMaster University Chaplaincy Committee for Classis Hamilton. He has formerly served as a pastor at Bradenton CRC in Bradenton, Florida and as a youth director at West Leonard CRC in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

### AGENDA

1. **Welcome and opening devotions**
2. **Constitution of Classis** by the Chairman, Rev. Ryan Braam
  - Credentials/roll call presented by the host church, Grace CRC
  - Acknowledgment of signing of first-time delegates.
  - Declare Classis constituted
3. **Time schedule:**
  - Gathering, fellowship: 9:00 to 9:30 AM
  - **Meeting commences at 9:30 AM.**
  - Lunch is planned to be from 12:00 noon to approximately 1:15 PM.
  - An afternoon break will be scheduled at the call of the Chairman.
  - Scheduled speakers during the classis session include: Rev. Derek Bouma re Christian Reformed World Missions

**4. Committee appointment confirmations:**

- 4.1 Credentials: Bethany (to chair) and Fruitland
- 4.2 Advisory re overtures: Covenant (to chair) and Jubilee Fellowship (No overtures have been received as of due date)
- 4.3 Advisory re Ad-hoc Financial Review Committee Report: Maranatha (to chair) and Trinity

**5. Classical Administrative Committee Reports**

- 5.1 Executive Committee (*page 3*)
- 5.2 Stated Clerk / correspondence (*pages 3-6*)
- 5.3 Treasurer's report
- 5.4 Classis Ministry Leadership Team
- 5.5 Classical Nominating Committee
- 5.6 Safe Church Team
- 5.7 Church Counselor reports: Rev. David Tigchelaar, re Fruitland; Rev. Greg Fluit, re Mountainview; Rev. Ryan Braam, re Jubilee Fellowship
- 5.8 Regional Pastors' report: Rev. David Tigchelaar and/or Rev. Rudy Ouwehand
- 5.9 Report of the Ad-hoc Financial Review Committee Advisory Committee

**6. Classical Ministries Committee Report**

**7. Brock University Chaplain's Report** (*pages 6-8*)

**8. Shalom Manor Chaplain's Report** (*pages 8-9*)

**9. Church visitor reports:**

- Rev. John Heidinga, Elder George Lunshof – Smithville, Bethany, Fruitland
- Rev. Jim Dekker, Elder Bill Thies – Jubilee Fellowship, Maranatha, Grace
- Rev. Rich Loerop, Elder Cor VanSoelen – Rehoboth, Mountainview, Covenant, Bethel
- Rev. Rudy Ouwehand, Elder Lowell Witvoet – Providence, Riverside, Trinity

**10. Report of Credentials Committee**

- The committee is comprised of delegates from Bethany (to chair) and Fruitland.

**11. Report of Overture Advisory Committee:**

- The committee is comprised of delegates from Covenant (to chair) and Jubilee Fellowship. (no overtures have been received as of agenda distribution date)

**12. Denominational and Other Reports**

- 12.1 Denominational reports
- 12.2 Redeemer University College (*pages 9-10*)

**13. Next meeting:**

- Date:* October 19, 2011
- Agenda Deadline:* September 1, 2011
- Location:* Bethel CRC, Dunnville
- Chairman:* Rev. Derek Bouma
- Vice-chairman:* Rev. Steven deBoer
- Credentials:* Mountainview (to chair) and Rehoboth
- Overture Advisory:* Smithville (to chair) and Grace

*Following meetings:* February 15, May 16 and October 17, 2012

**14. Closing devotions**

**AGENDA ITEM 5.1: REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

Executive Committee – April 14, 2011

**Present:** Rev. Rudy Ouwehand; Rev. Steven deBoer; Pastor Frank Engelage; Stated Clerk John TeBrake

1. Opening: Rev. Rudy Ouwehand
2. **Correspondence** to April 14 was reviewed.
3. **Agenda for the May 25 meeting of Classis** was presented by the Stated Clerk and was approved by the Executive Committee.
4. **Financial report for the year 2010** was reviewed with notes from Treasurer Ms. Emma Winter, who was not able to be present. We are expecting that the accounting firm Partridge Iggulden will complete their review of the financial records prior to the May 25 meeting of Classis. The Executive Committee will recommend the financial statements for approval.
5. **Church visitor teams** were reviewed. There are at least two elders who have served a long time and who wish to be relieved of their function as church visitor. We will leave this to our fall 2011 meeting to organize new teams. Councils are asked to consider which elders (presently serving or those who have previously served) among them would be gifted and willing to serve as church visitors, and forward their names to the Stated Clerk (John TeBrake).
6. **Diaconal ministries Canada** presently has three developers (e.g. resources for local diaconates) for our region of whom two are ending their terms. The Classical Ministries Coordinator requests that councils consider which deacons (presently serving or those who have previously served) among them would be gifted and willing to serve as diaconal developers, and forward their names to the Classical Ministries Coordinator (Pastor Frank Engelage)
7. **Fund for future church plants:** A request from Home Missions to provide for a fund for future church plants is planned to be presented at the May 25 meeting of Classis for consideration at a future meeting, as part of the Classical Ministries Committee report.
8. Next meeting: is planned for May 12, at 9:30 AM
9. Closing: Rev. Steven deBoer

**AGENDA ITEM 5.2: REPORT OF THE STATED CLERK/CORRESPONDENCE**

Summary of correspondence from previous meeting of Classis Niagara to April 14, 2011:

	<i>Date</i>	<i>Item</i>	<i>Action</i>
1	Feb 23	To Ms. Dee Recker, Director of Synodical Services CRCNA, credentials for Synod 2011	RFI
2	Feb 23	To Classis Niagara delegates to Synod 2011, confirming their elections/appointment and providing documentation for them to complete and submit as delegates	RFI

3	Feb 22	To Roger Regnerus, Fred Schat, and Nelly Westerhoff, to confirm their appointments as members of the Brock University Chaplaincy Committee	RFI
4	Feb 15, 22	From Peter & Evelyn Heida (Maranatha CRC) expressing concerns about the February Banner article “Calvin Profs say Evolution Evidence Conflicts with Reformed Creeds”	Responded that Dr. W. van Dijk, of the Calvin Board of Directors, had attended the February meeting of Classis and had indicated that Calvin is following a new resolution process in situations such as this and that recommendations about this issue would be delivered to the Board before the end of May 2011
5	Feb 23	To four churches in our classis which were (are??) behind in submitting their records to the CRCNA archives in Grand Rapids, to remind them of their obligations and provide the contact in Grand Rapids	RFI
6	March 2	From Rev. Walt Brouwer, Classical Consultant, Classis Alberta North, his <i>A Pastoral Evaluation Manual: Mutual Accountability through Transparency</i> . Also received in e-form (April 13) and forwarded to Regional Pastors and Clerks in Classis Niagara (cc'd to pastors)	RFI
7	March 8	From Rev. Greg Fluit, as chair of the Brock University Chaplaincy Committee, and with respect to the request from Covenant CRC at the February meeting of Classis Niagara, that “ <i>Classis Niagara ... approve a contract with Dr. André Basson for preaching and critical pastoral responsibilities during Pastor J. Dekker's sabbatical from mid-May until mid-August 2011, pending the approval of the Brock University Chaplaincy Committee</i> ”, confirmation that the committee approves the request	RFI
8	March 10	From Ms. Dee Recker, highlights of the meeting of the Board of Trustees of the CRCNA, Feb 24-25	RFI; forwarded to clerks of councils
9	March 18	From Dr. Hubert Krygsman, President, Redeemer University College, that the first term of Mr. Peter Van Berkel (Trinity CRC) on Redeemer's Board of Governors will end September 2011. Redeemer requests that this name be brought forward for a second, three-year term	RFI; forwarded to Nominating Committee for its recommendation
10	March 18	To all clerks of councils in Classis Niagara, cc'd to pastors, etc., the report of the ad-hoc financial review committee	RFI

11	March 22	From Ms Monica deRegt, introducing herself as the new Banner correspondent for our (and neighboring) classis, asking to be included in future distribution of agendas and minutes of Classis	RFI; her name has been included in the distribution list, and she has been invited to attend our meetings from to time
12	March 28	From Ms. Emma Winter, Treasurer for our Classis, that Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) requires a letter stating that she is authorized as a contact on behalf of Classis Niagara, having to do with our re-organization resulting in having two CRA numbers which we have asked to be consolidated into one	Submitted a letter to CRA confirming that Ms. Winter is authorized to conduct banking and CRA business on behalf of Classis Niagara
13	March 29	From Ms.Katie Henry, Ministers' Pension and Retirement Office, document re proposed Pension Plan Changes	Forwarded to pastors; the document contains contact information to address questions/needs for assistance
14	March 31	From Ms. Judy De Wit, presenting as a member of the Faith CRC, Brighton, MN, offering training on <i>Understanding Abuse and its Effects</i> , and requesting that this be forwarded to all churches, safe church teams, etc	Forwarded to Ms. Karen van Dijk, chair, and Rev. Ryan Braam, minister member, of the Classis Niagara Safe Church Team
15	April 12	From Rev. James Dekker, requesting "classical endorsement of my pre-retirement in-service pension distribution. I plan to continue working until age 65, but will no longer be contributing in the Ministers' Pension Plan as I will be an inactive member effective June 30, 2011."	RFI; <b>Executive Committee recommends classis' endorsement</b>
16	April 13	From CRCNA, May Denominational Ministry Report	Forwarded to clerks of councils, asking that in particular they provide copies to delegates to the May meeting of Classis
17	April 13	From Mr. Henry Hess, Director of Communication, CRCNA, and at the request of the Stated Clerk, a copy of the communication sent to pastors and churches re the resignation of Rev. Gerard Dykstra as Executive Director of the CRCNA	RFI; asked that Stated Clerks be included in these kinds of communications in the future
18	April 13	From Ms. Elizabeth Guillaume-Koene, Classis Coach, Classis Renewal Ministry Team (CRCNA) a survey re status of classis' ministry plans.	Forwarded to Mr. Frank Engelage, Classical Ministries Coordinator (who had already received and responded to the survey)
19	April 13	From Leadership Exchange, CRCNA, information with respect to a Leadership Development seminar for 2011 synodical delegates.	Forwarded to clerks of Classis (with cc's to pastors) requesting that they forward this to any delegates in their churches.
20	April 6	From the Council of the Rehoboth CRC, requesting that Classis endorse for Rev. Rudy Ouwehand, a pre-retirement in-service pension distribution and that he become inactive in the Minsters' Pension Plan as of June 30, 2011	RFI; <b>Executive Committee recommends classis' endorsement</b>

21	March 28	From Mr. Hans Kater, Diaconal Ministries of Canada, that Mr. Peter Kralt (Mountainview CRC) will replace Mr. Mark Bassie as a Board Director for Diaconal Ministries Canada	RFI
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## AGENDA ITEM 7: BROCK UNIVERSITY CHAPLAIN'S REPORT

### Report to Classis Niagara: April 2011

Yet another academic year is slowly winding down at Brock. It's been an amazing year, but not without its challenges. Recently, M., an international student from Korea, asked me to set up a ministry that would reach out to the more than two thousand students from abroad who study at Brock every year. Over pizza one night, he gave me a glimpse into the life of these students who, for a number of reasons, often feel isolated from the rest of the student community or are just plain homesick. As a result, one of Brock CRC Campus Ministry's new initiatives in the fall will aim to connect with international students and to provide in both their material and spiritual needs.

Our approach to connecting with the vast majority of students on the Brock campus who are not Christian has been to build personal relationships. I can't even begin to count the number of students with whom, over the past year, I've had the most amazing conversations concerning their life journey, students who wouldn't set foot inside a church or even come to my office, but who always seem to want to talk to the chaplain about the many issues they have to deal with in their life. It is truly heartbreaking that so many of these young men and women have no one else to turn to. Their parents are either too far away (both literally and figuratively sometimes) or part of the problem, and their friends are too busy fighting demons of their own.

It's truly gratifying to see how, over the years, the CRC chaplaincy has been able to build up a close rapport with faculty and especially staff. Oh, the hours I spent this past year early in the morning when it's still quiet on campus or late in the evening with someone from the cleaning staff who happened to be in the neighbourhood of my office and decided to drop by to share a piece of good news with the chaplain (who always seems to be in his office!) or to find some comfort after a personal tragedy.

E. is a student who was sent by one of her professors for personal counselling not to counselling services, but to the CRC chaplain whose reputation as someone who listens and cares continues to grow on campus. What is perhaps even more remarkable is that the professor in question has a strong bias against any form of organized religion. E. still meets with me every week. When she stepped into my office the first time and I heard her story, my heart sank. Her problems seemed insurmountable. But all that has changed dramatically since our first meeting. Although her problems are by no means over, she is now almost a completely different person and well on the way to emotional and spiritual wellness.

If only E. were the only troubled student on campus! Unfortunately, she is probably only one of hundreds. Every year, I am just astounded by how completely unprepared many students are – emotionally, intellectually, and spiritually – to face the many challenges of life on campus and beyond. Unable to cope and with the university's counseling services overworked and understaffed, many of these students end up making decisions and picking up habits that will handicap them for life. It is here that I believe the CRC Campus Ministry at Brock has a critical role to play. Therefore, in the fall, we will be launching a comprehensive program to help students develop a personal strategy to deal with and overcome at least some of the spiritual, emotional, or intellectual problems that may come their way. For Christian students in particular, we will be using similar programs that have already been put into practice with great success at a number of Christian colleges and universities across North America. I anticipate that adapting these programs to the particular needs of Brock students – both Christian and non-Christian – will require extensive reading and writing throughout the summer.

But one particularly rewarding aspect of the ministry at Brock I need to mention is the very warm and generous relations with the two Christian clubs on campus (Campus for Christ and Brock Christian

Fellowship), both representing a total of anywhere between three and four hundred students! This year, both have personally invited the CRC Chaplain to their end-of-the-year banquets in recognition of his generous support of their many events and activities, but also – I suspect - because they have come to look to him as a kind of Reformed theologian in residence who may not know all the answers, but can at least help them articulate the questions! There is every reason to believe that this relationship will only continue to grow in the years to come. In fact, on April 2, the CRC Chaplain will be leading a Lenten retreat and stations-of-the-Cross hike in Decew woods just off campus for students of Campus for Christ!

It goes almost without saying that students who arrive on a university campus the first time are often disoriented and feel lonely. To help them overcome this problem, we have been in touch with the three CRC churches closest to Brock, i.e. Trinity, Jubilee, and The Village Church, in order to set up an informal mentoring program involving married couples of each of these three churches who will be willing to invite two or three students at a time for coffee or dinner now and then. It will require no major effort since most students will be more than content with a home cooked meal, a listening ear, and genuine interest in their well-being. Brock Campus Ministry is currently working on an official proposal to present to the councils of each of these churches before the end of April. The proposal will also include a request for a more formal arrangement to provide regular transport for students who wish to attend worship services at any of these churches.

The Brock Campus Ministry Team is presently also in the process of casting a new vision that will help us to be more focused in our efforts to witness more effectively to Christ on campus. We are already developing some definite strategies to reach more first year students, especially during their first few weeks on campus. Here we also hope to involve the three churches mentioned above. We anticipate that before the end of the year we could have more than two hundred new students (Christian as well as non-Christian) involved in the ministry in some way or another. As in the past, the CRC Campus Minister will be on campus every weekday of summer to receive incoming first-year students and their parents and introduce them to the CRC's ministry on campus as part of Brock's annual *Smart Start Program*. This is always a wonderful opportunity to meet these students personally and welcome them on campus.

In the fall, Brock's CRC and Ecumenical Chaplaincies introduced their first toonie suppers. Since the aim is to establish relationships, we have deliberately kept the numbers small and intimate. As a result, the number of students attending the bi-weekly event has seldom exceeded twenty. It was also decided that the Ecumenical Chaplaincy will be responsible for the six meals of the winter term (January to April). It is hoped that at least some churches of Classis Niagara will agree to help provide meals for the six toonie suppers scheduled for the fall term (September to December). The CRC Chaplaincy will be more than willing to pay for the meals and even help in the preparation, if congregations will provide the expertise.

A regular highlight of the Brock CRC Campus Ministry's weekly events has been the student discussions that have been a variety of topics, including *Is there a Right Way and a Wrong Way of Reading the Bible?* and *Taking Jesus to the Movies ... Viewer Discretion is Advised*. Without exception, the discussions were very lively, but revealed once again to what extent this generation of students has a postmodern outlook even when it comes to their faith. For many of them, absolute truth is not as absolute as it used to be for their parents. However, I wouldn't miss these discussions for the world because they have made me realize that they are above all an opportunity for me to help my students as they struggle to articulate their faith and relate it to their everyday life.

At the same time, some of these students have been involved in local social justice projects. Once again they have been asked to help renovate facilities of the YWCA in downtown St. Catharines. In May 2012, Brock's CRC Campus Ministry will be taking a group of students abroad to participate in a faith-based social justice program in Africa. It's hard to overestimate the value of these programs. Countless students who have participated in the past have come back either with their faith reinvigorated or with a faith they didn't have when they first went! In the fall, Brock's Ecumenical and CRC Chaplaincies will also work together on a series of discussions for faculty and staff that will be focused on contemporary issues in theology and religion. At the end of April, Brock CRC Campus Ministry's three student leaders and the Campus Minister will be attending the annual Christian Reformed Campus Ministry Association

Conference in Halifax. The three students' air fare and accomatation will be paid for partly by the CRCMA and partly out of the Campus Minister's remuneration for teaching.

Finally, on behalf all the students who have been involved in the ministry this past year, I would like to express our gratitude for the continued support – financially and in prayer – of Classis Niagara. Please be assured that it is appreciated and that we will continue to work hard to be the good stewards of God's gifts you trust us to be.

In Christ,

Dr. André F. Basson  
CRC Campus Minister  
Brock University

## **AGENDA ITEM 8: SHALOM MANOR CHAPLAIN'S REPORT**

### ***Chaplain's Winter Report for Classes Hamilton & Niagara***

As many of you now know, Shalom Manor & Gardens is presently being administered by an interim CEO and an interim DOC (Director of Care.) The Board of Directors is actively seeking out new persons to fill these two vital positions. Who becomes the next CEO and who becomes the next DOC will greatly influence what Shalom Manor & Gardens will look like in the future. The Board has asked that I hold this situation before our Lord in my personal and public prayers. I ask that you as delegates and a Classis do the same.

As chaplain, I am interested that the persons who fill these positions have a holistic vision of the deliverance of health care that includes a developed awareness of a person's spiritual dimension. It cannot be taken for granted that every candidate has this awareness. I am interested in this because the future CEO's and DOC's vision of holistic health care and its delivery will significantly affect the spiritual wellbeing of the residents. And besides, the spiritual, Christian character of Shalom Manor & Gardens defines who she is. I would like it to stay this way. I talked about this to the interim CEO. She was very receptive. She requested that I write a number of questions focused on spiritual care, which I did. These questions were written to allow the candidate to disclose and enable the interviewing committee to discern the candidate's strengths/weaknesses in this area. Ultimately, I hope that they will enable those responsible to make a good, informed decision.

Bit by bit, my chaplaincy is becoming integrated into the delivery of care at Shalom Manor & Gardens. I am now a participant in Care Conferences. Participants in a Care Conference are representatives from the dietary, recreation, nursing, sometimes environmental services departments and members of the resident's family. A Care Conference is scheduled approximately six weeks after a resident moves in and after that, once a year. Being a participant of the Care Conference gives me an opportunity to meet the resident's family. Previously, often I first met the family when their loved one was dying. It also offers an opportunity for the family members to tell me their family and loved one's story.

This is important. Let me give an example. Not that long ago, a resident was admitted who was not of Dutch ethnic background and who was nominally Anglican. Religious rituals played no role in her life. I visited with her a number of times, careful not to push prayer or Scripture reading. (This already happens before and after every meal time!) During this resident's Care Conference, I asked her daughter about their family's religious history, about her mother's attitude toward God, church, worship. I asked if her mother would be offended if I prayed with her. She said that her mother would not. During my next visit with this resident, she talked about something that frightened her. She expressed concerns about two of her grandchildren. Before I left, I asked if I could pray with her. She gave me permission. In my prayer I mentioned her name, her daughter's name, the names of her two

granddaughters. I don't think she had ever heard her name and the names of those who she loved named in a prayer! When I said amen, she had a laugh of delight on her face and said, "Is that what you do here??!! You can come back anytime!!" Walking out of her room, I had a laugh of delight on my face.

Visiting with residents is a large part of my ministry. To help me make contacts with residents and in response to a number of requests from residents, I will be leading a number of small, group Bible discussion in February. I am doing this together with the Recreational department. We envision three groups; two groups of women and one group of men. I am curious to see how this goes and am looking forward to participating in these groups.

Submitted by Rev. Fred VanderBerg, Chaplain

## AGENDA ITEM 12.2: REDEEMER UNIVERSITY COLLEGE REPORT

REDEEMER UNIVERSITY COLLEGE ~ Spring 2011



Greetings once again from Redeemer University College. In this Lenten Easter season, we trust that you will know the grace and hope that we have in the resurrection of our Saviour and Lord Jesus Christ.

It is amazing to realize that we are near the end of another academic year. Redeemer has been truly blessed with an outstanding year. With record enrolment, our classrooms and residences have been full and lively. And with the help of generous donors, including outstanding support this year from the CRC classes, we are on track to finish 2010-11 with a balanced budget, and we are planning for another balanced budget in 2011-12.

Many special events on campus have made Redeemer a vibrant place and become an increasingly influential leader of Christian learning in Canada. Some examples: Dr. Steven Garber as speaker for our "*The World and Our Calling*" Lecture; a "*Theo Plantinga Festschrift*" book launch in memory of the work of former Redeemer Philosophy professor, Dr. Theo Plantinga; our "*Faith and Social Justice*" conference with Greg Paul as keynote speaker; and in collaboration with the Paideia Centre, Dr. Jonathan Chaplin for the launch of his new book on Herman Dooyeweerd; Christian Philosopher of State and Civil Society. We also hosted the Annual Ministers' Conference with Rev. Wesley Granberg-Michaelson, Secretary of the Reformed Church of America, as speaker and with excellent participation of pastors from many denominations. Our community has also enjoyed several art exhibits, choir concerts and plays at Redeemer.

Our CLEAR program offerings for Winter and Spring were featured in a full page ad in the Hamilton Spectator with follow up ads each week promoting weekly lecture and workshop startups. We hope to offer courses across the province in Ottawa, Ancaster, and Windsor for the Summer Institute for Continuing Teacher Education.

Our students have been very active both in their courses and outside of classes. During our February Reading Break, student teams served on mission trips to down-town Hamilton, Amsterdam, and Mexico, and in many other ways demonstrated our commitment as hands and feet of Christ's body. Student-athletes at Redeemer have been working extremely hard this semester and the results have been positive. Our Badminton team advanced to the Provincial Championships in 3 events out of 5. The Men's Volleyball won the Silver Medal at the Provincial OCAA championships, doing so with a beautiful demonstration of Christian sportsmanship. Planning is underway to incorporate the new soccer dome into both varsity and campus recreation programming.

Our KIP and RInC projects remain ongoing and preparations for installing the roof-top solar panels continue. Construction of the soccer complex also continues and we are grateful for the extended deadlines from March 31 to October 31, 2011 from the federal and provincial governments for completion of KIP and RInC projects.

We are encouraged and hopeful in our planning for next year. New student interest continues to be very strong and we hope to have enrolments next year at or above this year's record levels. This winter for the first time, our Recruitment staff attended transfer fairs at community colleges and visited with youth pastors at a number of churches.

We also thank God for bringing excellent new faculty to fill vacant positions at Redeemer. So far, we have appointed Ms Laura Luchies in Psychology, Mr Philip Teeuwsen in Education, and Mr. Ben Dunson for a two-year sessional position in Religion and Theology. We also are interviewing for a tenure stream position in English and a sessional position in French.

We have started a Succession Planning Process to prepare for searches to replace our Vice President Administration and Finance and Vice President, Advancement, who will retire in June 2012, and our Vice President, Academic, who will retire in June 2013.

As we work to complete the tasks for the 2010-11 academic year, we thank God for the many ways that He is blessing us with strong enrolment, gifted and committed faculty and staff, and dedicated and generous donors. We are especially grateful for the support of our churches – please convey our thanks to your congregations for their prayers and financial support of Redeemer. Their partnership is crucial as we pursue our mission of lifting up the Name of Christ in university education through teaching, scholarship and service.

Our theme for the year, "*Pray Without Ceasing*", reminds us that we depend on God's faithful and loving hand, and that we are called to live out of the reality of His kingdom. We have indeed seen God at work throughout this academic year. May He continue to bless, guide, and encourage your church congregations and Redeemer in our faithfulness and service together.

*Dr Hubert R. Krygsman, President*