



## CLASSIS NIAGARA OF THE CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH



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

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

Wednesday, October 20, 2010; 2:00 P.M.

Meeting location: Shalom Manor, Grimsby; convened by Rehoboth CRC

**Chairman:** Rev. Richard Loerop; **Vice-chairman:** Rev. Gregory Fluit; **Stated Clerk:** John TeBrake

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### PRIOR TO MEETING, Delegates:

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

There will be a designated table for both the above

### NOTE:

1. During the evening session of this meeting it is planned to conduct an examination of Candidate for Ministry in the CRCNA, Christopher de Winter, who has accepted a call from the Trinity CRC. Examiners are Rev. Ryan Braam (Practical); Rev. John Heidinga (Biblical and Theological); and Rev. Jim Dekker and Rev. George VanArragon (Sermon Evaluation). Synodical Deputies from Classes Toronto, Chatham, and Huron have been asked to be present.
2. Classis will be asked: (1) to nominate a member to represent our Classis to the Board of Trustees of the CRCNA. Ms. Lisa Heuving has resigned, and we are invited to submit the names of non-clergy people as nominees to replace her; (2) to nominate a clergy representative for Region 4 (Classes Hamilton, Chatham, Niagara, Huron) for the Board of the Calvin Theological Seminary to replace Rev. James Poelman whose second three-year term has ended; and (3) to confirm the re-appointment of a second three-year term for Rev. Derek Bouma as the Region 4 representative to the Board of Christian Reformed World Missions. Please see the separate NOMINATIONS document attached.
3. There are two separate and additional documents that form part of this agenda:
  - (i) The Denominational Ministry Report, September 2010
  - (ii) The Denominational Ministries Nominating Information

## AGENDA

1. **Welcome and opening devotions**
2. **Constitution of Classis** by the Chairman, Rev. Richard Loerop
  - Credentials/roll call presented by the host church, Rehoboth CRC
  - Acknowledgment of signing of first-time delegates.
  - Declare Classis constituted
3. **Time schedule:** meeting will **commence at 2:00 P.M.** Dinner is planned to be from 6:00 to approximately 7:15 P.M. Breaks will be scheduled at the call of the Chairman. Scheduled speakers include:
  - Rev. Derek Bouma, Region 4 member of the Christian Reformed World Missions Board
  - Dr. Hubert Krygsman, President, Redeemer University College
  - Ms. Carol Sybenga, Program Manager, ServiceLink
  - Rev. Bruce Adema, Director of Canadian Ministries, CRCNA; among other items, Rev. Adema will address the issue raised at a previous Classis Niagara meeting, about reporting accurate membership numbers while being challenged to pay full denominational ministry shares, and how churches are asked to deal with that as per Synod 2009 Communal Covenantal Commitment Task Force report.

**4. Committee appointment confirmations:**

- 4.1 Credentials: Grace (to chair) and Riverside – **PLEASE NOTE CHANGE**
- 4.2 Advisory re overtures: Bethany (to chair) and Fruitland (No overtures have been received as of due date)

**5. Classical Administrative Committee Reports**

- 5.1 Executive Committee (*page 3*)
- 5.2 Stated Clerk / correspondence (*pages 4, 5*)
- 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. Steven deBoer, re Trinity; 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

**6. Classical Ministries Committee Report**

**7. Brock University Chaplain's Report** (*pages 5-7*)

**8. Shalom Manor Chaplain's Report** (*pages 7, 8*)

**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**

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

- Overture Advisory Committee (Bethany and Fruitland); no overtures received as of due date

**12. Denominational and Other Reports**

- 12.1 Denominational reports: *provided as a separate document*; Calvin College (*pages 8, 9*)
- 12.2 Redeemer University College (*pages 9, 10*) Please note that Dr. Hubert Krygsman, the new President of Redeemer, plans to make a brief presentation to Classis.

**13. Next meeting:**

- Date:* February 16, 2011
- Agenda Deadline:* January 3, 2011
- Location:* Mountainview CRC
- Chairman:* Rev. Greg Fluit
- Vice-chairman:* Rev. Ryan Braam
- Credentials:* Providence (to chair) and Bethel
- Overture Advisory:* Mountainview (to chair) and Rehoboth

*Following meetings:* May 25, 2011, (Grace CRC), date to be confirmed; Oct.19, 2011

**14. Expressions of thanks and closing devotions**

## AGENDA ITEM 5.1: REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Report of the Executive Committee of the Classical Ministries Committee, August 26, 2010

**Present:** Rev. Rudy Ouwehand, Rev. Steven deBoer, Pastor Frank Engelage, John TeBrake

1. Rev. Ouwehand agreed to serve as Chair of the Executive Committee. He led in an opening prayer.
2. Budget for 2011: was not available for this meeting. It is expected to be ready over the next while and we will plan to develop a proposed budget to be included in the October 20 agenda.
3. Auditors: The financial records of the Treasurer on behalf of Classis Niagara have not been audited for some years now. The Executive Committee **recommends** that Classis' financial statements and records be formally audited each year. Grounds:
  1. For the security of the Treasurer
  2. Classis can have objective validation of the financial status
  3. The Corporations Act requires that auditors are appointed annually.We will ask the Treasurer to obtain quotations from (hopefully) three firms to be presented to Classis for approval. Based on the bids received, the Executive Committee plans to propose auditors and cost to Classis at the October meeting.
4. Ad-hoc financial review committee: In February 2009 Classis decided that an ad-hoc task force should be appointed by the Executive Committee to "evaluate the ministries and expenses of Classis with the intent of reducing classical shares to enable churches to use these funds for local ministry initiatives". This task force was to report at the October 2009 meeting. However a report has not been presented as yet. We agreed that Rev. de Boer would contact the chair of the task force to ask if the report can be committed to by our February 2011 meeting. If that commitment cannot be provided we will ask the three churches that submitted the original overture to either confirm their appointees or designate others to serve as members of the ad-hoc committee. The three churches are Providence, Mountainview, and Smithville. In addition there are two members at large appointed by the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee **recommends** that this item be tabled to the February 2011 meeting of Classis.
5. Correspondence: was dealt with; see item 5.2 below
6. Agenda for October 20 was reviewed. We planned the examination for Candidate Christopher de Winter who has accepted a call from the Trinity CRC.
6. Next meeting: with the Chair and Vice-chair of the October 20 meeting. It is scheduled for Wednesday, October 6, at 9:30 a.m.
7. Closing by Rev. deBoer

## AGENDA ITEM 5.2: STATED CLERK / CORRESPONDENCE

Summary of correspondence to September 7, 2010

**Note: all items will be available at the meeting of Classis, or can be made available beforehand**  
**From other Classes, for information:** Agendas and minutes from various neighboring Classes

**Correspondence:**

	<i>Date</i>	<i>Item</i>	<i>Action</i>
1	May 14	From Rev. Duane VanderLaan of the Jubilee Fellowship CRC, stating that he had accepted a call from the Drayton Reformed Church	RFI; Rev. VanderLaan will remain in the CRCNA under Church Order Art. 8-b; and Jubilee Fellowship will retain his credentials
2	May 21	From Ms. Dee Recker, Director of Synodical Services, CRCNA, that Classis Rocky Mountain on March 2, 2010, approved the release of Mark Tidd as minister of the Word in the CRCNA, per CO Article 14-b.	Forwarded to churches; RFI
3	June 16	From Covenant CRC, that Tom Venema is their Safe Church Team representative	Forwarded to nominating committee to include in its report
4	June 23	To newly appointed members to Classis committees, confirming their appointment; and to committee members whose terms were completed, thanks and appreciation	RFI
5	July 1	From Jubilee Fellowship CRC, requesting that Rev. Ryan Braam be appointed as their Counselor during their vacancy	The CMC Executive Committee has appointed Rev. Braam
6	July 12	From Ms. Alida van Dijk, Admin. assistant to Rev. Bruce Adema, Director of Canadian Ministries, outlining procedures for ministers to obtain licenses to officially solemnize marriages, and asking us to direct ministers new to Ontario to his office to initiate the application	Already in place; RFI
7	July 12	From Jake Snieder, member of the Brock University Chaplaincy Committee, informing of his resignation due to relocation to Chatham	RFI; forwarded to chair of nominating committee
8	July 14	From Ms. Dee Recker, a summary of the decisions of Synod 2010	RFI
9	July 26	From Ms. Dee Recker, that Rev. Timothy D. Kauffman was released from the office of minister of the Word in the CRCNA, as per CO Article 17-c	RFI; forwarded to clerks of councils in Classis Niagara
10	July 27	From Trinity CRC, that Candidate Christopher deWinter has accepted their call, and requesting an examination at our October 20 meeting	Examination has been placed on the agenda.
11	July 27	From Ms. Dee Recker, an encouragement to classes to ensure representations of affected groups when issues are studied and discussed. This is in response to the Migrations of Workers Report (Synod 2010).	RFI; forwarded to clerks of councils in Classis Niagara
12	August 2	From Ms. Dee Recker, requesting nominations from Classis Niagara for the BOT; Region 4 for Board of CTS; and confirm 2 <sup>nd</sup> term for Rev. D. Bouma as Region 4 Rep to CRWM	Churches will be asked to forward nominations. See separate Denominational Ministries Nominating Information

13	August 12	From the Pastors' and Spouses' Retreat Committee: 1. informing of the planned date of May 17-19, 2011 and requesting Classis Niagara to adjust its planned meeting date of May 18; 2. requesting financial contribution of \$1,000 from Classis Niagara (this is up from the \$750 from the past number of years; a follow-up explaining the increase was also received)	The Executive Committee <b>recommends:</b> 1. the date of the May 2011 meeting be changed to May 25; 2. approval of the request for a \$1,000 contribution
14	August 17	To Mr. Ed Meyer, and at his request, written confirmation that Classis Niagara at its May 26, 2010 meeting had not sustained his appeal. (Mr. Meyer had been verbally informed of this decision at that meeting of Classis)	RFI
15	Sept 7	From Mr. Joel Bootsma (a member of a church in Classis Hamilton), potential candidate for ministry in the CRCNA, offering services as interim pastor or other services to vacant churches between now and June 2011	RFI; forwarded to clerks of councils

#### AGENDA ITEM 7: BROCK UNIVERSITY CHAPLAIN'S REPORT

Dear Members of Classis,

I would like to introduce my report with the story of Matt (not his real name), a student I met quite by accident on campus a few years ago. How we came to meet is a different story altogether. Suffice it to say that at that point in his life, Matt who came from a dyed-in-the-wool CRC family had stopped going to church, although he still thought of himself as a Christian. Instinctively I knew that trying to pressure him into going to church would just alienate him further and probably also mean the end of his involvement in the ministry on campus.

Over time, Matt became a campus ministry stalwart and a regular participant in our annual retreats. At one point, he even got together a whole team of fellow-Christian students to help him in a social justice project in downtown St. Catharines. Even before graduating, Matt began attending church again, but on the quiet and without drawing attention to the fact. After graduating he stayed in touch, although he had moved out of the St. Catharines area. From time to time, he would come for a visit and we would meet at a popular student-hangout downtown. The last time we made arrangements to meet, he casually informed me that it wouldn't be possible during the week because his church had made him a youth leader and he was also coaching the youth soccer team. To crown it all, last year he even joined other members of his church on a mission trip to Central America. When I asked him whether he would ever have believed, when we first met, that one day he would not only return to the church but also become so actively involved, his reply was 'No way!' What changed him, I asked. An important part of the reason, he replied, was that I had never pressured him and that the way we do ministry on campus gave him a very different perspective on faith and on the church.

Summer is usually pretty quiet on any North American university campus. But this makes it the best time of the year for the campus minister to initiate or strengthen personal relationships with faculty and staff who are not on vacation, and with students who remain in the St. Catharines area.

It is now an established fact that strong personal relationships are crucial to any kind of meaningful ministry, and this is especially true of a campus ministry that intentionally seeks to be incarnational in connecting with non-Christians. But building trust and nurturing relationships in this kind of ministry takes time, and time is one thing a campus minister usually does not have in abundant supply, especially during the school term. Since the end of school in May, I have connected with more students, faculty and staff than I can mention. A few of them have even become involved in Brock CRC Campus Ministry or are at least interested in what this ministry has to offer. I will never cease to be amazed at just

how showing genuine interest in a person's well-being so often leads to a mutually meaningful and life-changing relationship, especially in the case of students. Far too many of them still honestly believe that Christians are only interested in them as objects of conversion or because they want them to go to church. The number of students, faculty and staff I began to connect with just through a casual conversation and who, as a direct result, are now interested in our initiatives probably runs into a few hundred.

In May, we changed the name of *Brock Campus Ministry* to *Faith and Life Centre*. This is now the umbrella term for the three permanent chaplaincies (CRC, Ecumenical, and Catholic) as well as the three part-time ministries (Muslim, Jewish, and Lutheran). The name change coupled with a very professional advertising campaign has opened many new doors for us all over campus.

At the same time, Brock CRC Campus Ministry reinvented itself to connect more effectively with its two quite distinct constituencies on campus, i.e. non-Christian and Christian. While *ConnectedLife@Brock* aims to serve the former, *Everything-Under-the-Son* expressly wants to help all Christian students on campus grow in their faith through book studies, social justice projects in the community, and informal get-togethers.

For seven weeks during the summer one of my student leaders and I met every afternoon during the week (including a few Saturdays) with a different group of incoming first year students and their parents. At the end of the seven weeks, we had close to one hundred and fifty students already signed up for our various activities. This is in addition to the forty students, many of them key leaders on campus, who had already signed up by the end of April! On September 2, the same student leader and I will be at the Residence Life Programming Fair where we expect to meet with the seventy seven student leaders of all the residences on campus. They will be our direct link to the approximately two thousand five hundred first year students in the residences this year. On Labour Day, three of my student leaders and I will be part of a whole team helping first year students move into the residences. The following week, we will be at the Vendor Fair – a two day annual event at which Brock students have the opportunity to connect with the various student clubs. On September 14, I will be promoting the ministry's various activities to all the new graduate students. All in all, my team and I anticipate a ministry that will comprise close to three hundred students minimum on various levels of involvement and we hope to be blessed with even more growth in the years to come. What is particularly noteworthy is that the vast majority of students this ministry is now reaching through these initiatives are students who by their own admission are, at best, indifferent to or, at worst, quite hostile towards any form of organized religion, let alone Christianity!

I am particularly pleased to report to Classis that this ministry continues to be blessed year after year with a team of enthusiastic and inspired Christian student leaders, from whom I have learned more than they have probably learned from me. I cannot even begin to count the many hours we have spent together in the past year discussing how best we can serve God through this ministry on the Brock campus. This year I anticipate having at least four student leaders on the team, each one responsible for a different kind of ministry according to his or her gifts. All of them offered to come on board only after many months – and in some cases even years - getting to know the campus minister as a friend who is interested in them not primarily for what they can do for the ministry but for what the ministry can do to help them live their faith on campus.

For some time now, Brock CRC Campus Ministry has been in negotiation with the Village Church about collaborating in a number of community projects in the Thorold area. Since so many Brock students live in Thorold, we've also been looking at other opportunities for Brock students to become involved with the Village Church. A former Brock student who is currently a member of the Village Church, James Symons, has been appointed coordinator of this effort.

For most of the summer, I have also been preaching almost every Sunday in Classis Niagara. I also preached once in Forestview Community Church (Grimsby) and in First Mennonite (Vineland). In July, I officiated at the wedding of a former student and in September I will be officiating at the wedding of another student in Aylmer. Soon after school starts, I will be responsible for a memorial on campus for a student who was killed in a motor vehicle accident in April.

Once again, I have been asked to teach the first year course in the Medieval and Renaissance Studies Program. Enrollment in the course this year is even higher than last year. As a matter of fact, the course is already full and the names of students who still want to enroll, have been placed on a waiting list. Apart from ministry work, research, lecture preparation, and catching up on reading, a small part of the summer has also gone into working with colleagues from History, English, and the Brock Library on

finalizing an academic article on the 13<sup>th</sup> century document found in the Brock library. The article has been submitted for publication in *Florilegium*, a highly regarded North American journal of Medieval Studies.

In short, all indications are that the new year will be even more exceptional than any of the previous ones. But this will not be possible without God's love laying it upon the hearts of the churches of Classis Niagara to continue their generous support of His ministry on this campus. Please also continue to pray for this ministry and for the amazing work God is doing through this ministry at Brock.

Submitted in Christ

André F. Basson  
CRC Campus Minister  
Brock University

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

It was Sunday morning, September 5. I had returned from camping, seeing the sights of and experiencing the city of Montreal and doing overdue chores at home. I had been vacationing. It had been three weeks since I had last lead worship at Shalom Manor and Gardens. As I do every Sunday morning, I was greeting the worshippers. The residents welcomed me back, inquired about my vacation. Some remarked that it was a well deserved vacation. I was wrapped in their love and felt the communion of the saints. It was good and I was glad to be back.

The worship service went well. It was well attended by residents and guests. Even though I was away for three weeks, everything was in place: volunteers were porting residents to the auditorium, visiting offices bearers were handing out bulletins, bulletins – small and large – were printed, the sound system was set up and the accompanist's fingers were dancing over the keys! I am thankful for the co-operation that I receive from the staff of Shalom Manor and Gardens, for the churches who sent visiting office bearers on Sunday mornings, for all the volunteers and for those who skillfully play music for our worship services. Thank you!

It's September. For churches and pastors, this is a time for new beginnings: worship teams start practicing again, liturgy committees and Councils start meeting again. Programs start again. This is not true at Shalom Manor and Gardens. There is no youth kick-off night. There are no GEM and Cadet programs. Yet, it feels like the beginning of a new year. The adrenalin that used to flow through me at the beginning of a new church year, flows through me now too. This flow of adrenalin is caused by a renewed commitment to utter a word of comfort or encouragement to a person who is in need of one or the other, to put my arm around a person's shoulder and say, "You're alright.", to be the presence of Christ to the residents in Shalom Manor and Gardens. I hope that the adrenalin is used by the Spirit to produce good fruit.

This leads me into the topic of bearing fruit. Over the past three months, Shalom Manor and Gardens has been going through a review process. This extensive review was conducted by an independent consulting firm. In their conclusions, the two people who conducted the review envision an expanded and more central role for the chaplain. They envision a chaplain who is active in shaping the moral of the work force and who is present at the table where policy and care decisions are made. They envision the chaplain raising the spiritual implications of potential policy and care decisions at the respective tables of power. To a great extent, this is not part of my present ministry. This added dimension to my ministry is being or will be discussed at the Chaplaincy Committee and at the Board. I am excited about these possible changes.

Submitted by Rev. Fred VanderBerg  
Chaplain, Shalom Manor

## AGENDA ITEM 12.1: DENOMINATIONAL REPORTS

- (a) The regular denominational Ministry Report is provided as a separate document
- (b) A special report from Calvin College is provided here:

### Calvin College Board of Trustee Report *Classis Representative: Peter Schuurman*

July, 2010

Dear Classis:

I am writing you as your out-going representative on the Board of Trustees of Calvin College. My time of service is now ending after six years in this position; upon reflection, it has been a pledge, a pleasure, and a privilege.

I say it is a **pledge** because it is no small commitment of time, attention, and commuting. But the **pleasure** comes in being part of such a deeply passionate Reformed team run with a Christian professionalism that honours its volunteers. So this responsibility to guard, guide and guarantee the vision of Calvin College is truly a **privilege**.

On a personal note, I do believe I was the youngest member of the BOT during my term, and the learning curve was steep. Still, I was well-groomed by orientation sessions and an appointed mentor and I dove into discussions with enthusiasm. My relative youth also put me at a different location in the general family life cycle from other board members. In these six years of service I've switched jobs (from campus ministry to a Ph.D. program) and have been blessed with three children (the third is actually due this Reformation Day!)

I nevertheless strove to be involved with Trustee work as much as I was able. I visited some classes and interviewed some professors up for promotion. I stood on the Professional Status Committee when I was co-incidentally in Grand Rapids. Probably the most significant additional work came in my participation on the **Task Force on Reformed Identity and Mission**.

This special committee, including denominational and seminary reps, was mandated to pursue two basic questions:

- *What ought to be the confessional, philosophical and practical characteristics and features that constitute the Reformed identity and mission of Calvin College?*
- *What should Calvin do to strengthen and maintain its Reformed identity and mission?*

These are deeply significant questions regarding the vision of the college. The committee has been at work for two years and is winding down this summer. We have debated such issues as the faculty requirements (signing the form of subscription, sending their children to Christian schools, and participating in a local CRC-related church) and will be issuing some statements soon.

Calvin College is truly a rich and remarkable Christian learning centre. If you saw your June 2010 *Banner* you will have read about the “exemplary teacher” Jim Vanden Bosch, who magically makes learning grammar an exciting experience. You may also have noticed the column describing a Muslim student named Anika Farhan from Bangladesh. She came to the college fully aware that she would be learning in a Christian community, and her presence has brought an added richness and wonder to the campus.

Administration at Calvin often makes reference to “**the Reformed project**”—which is a great way to draw attention to the on-going adventure of living out our spiritual heritage. The term “project” suggests it is not a finished product: it may even be vulnerable to dissolution and decline. So we need to energetically pursue further experimentation in the context of faithful memory.

Another gem of a teacher at Calvin who highlights this “project” quality of Reformed institutions is philosophy professor Jamie Smith. He won a *Christianity Today* award for his book last year entitled *Desiring the Kingdom* (Baker, 2009). In this text he challenges Christian educators to see that worldview may not be the primary locus of learning; in fact, faith is nurtured not first of all with the head, but with the heart, and the heart is primarily shaped by everyday routines. ***This is a significant book that pushes the classical educational paradigm and it is worth the attention of all CRC leadership.***

Overall, Calvin is an international bustling hive of Christian academic activity, and its gifts are blessing communities all around the globe. The college has weathered the recession fairly well, all things considered. If there was one area of concern it would be small decline in enrollment. Numerous variables are converging to create this trend, one of which is that children of alumni, the best single predictor of enrollment, are not maintaining as strong numbers. I suspect that CRC families are shrinking, and that affects our schools.

I regret I will not be able to attend classis in person. Dr. Wytse van Dijk officially begins his term as your representative this October and I hope you will meet him soon. He is a colleague of mine at Redeemer who brings a wealth of experience to the position.

Thank you for this pleasure and privilege to serve.

For Christ our King,  
Peter Schuurman; Guelph, Ontario

## AGENDA ITEM 12.2: REDEEMER UNIVERSITY COLLEGE REPORT

REDEEMER UNIVERSITY COLLEGE ~ Summer 2010

Greetings from Redeemer University College! We trust that God has blessed and refreshed you during the summer. This year will be my first year as President of Redeemer University College. Already I am very excited to see the many wonderful ways that God is providing for and using Redeemer.

As September approaches, our new student application numbers remain well ahead of last year. We now project more than 890 full-time students and more than 420 students in residence for fall 2010. These record numbers are a tribute to the good work of our team of University Representatives, the high quality of Redeemer’s academic programs, and the positive response of growing numbers of students and their families to our calling to provide comprehensive Christian higher education.

God also has blessed us with gifted faculty and staff to lead in providing this education. We are pleased to announce that Dr. Karen Cornies has been appointed as Dean of Students to replace Fred Schat who has retired. We look forward to Karen’s leadership of our student community. We have also appointed two new tenure-track faculty, Dr. Adam Barkman in Philosophy and Dr. Gwynn Park in Psychology. Unfortunately it will not be possible to get the government authorization required to allow Dr. Gwynn Park to immigrate to Canada, which is a great disappointment to our Psychology Department and to Dr. Park. We have appointed Dr John Bertone to a one-year sessional in Religion & Theology to replace Dr Ryan O’Dowd. Dr. David Zietsma has been appointed Dean of the Arts and Foundations divisions to replace Dr Doug Loney who has carried out the responsibilities of Dean for more than a decade with great ability.

God also has blessed us with resources to improve our campus facilities. The Academic Complex Renewal project, with funds from the federal government’s Knowledge Infrastructure Program (KIP), has

enabled us to renovate our administrative offices, and we hope to move into our new offices by the end of August. Construction has started on the soccer complex project, which will include the refurbishment of the existing field and installation of a new field, including a field-house and a dome. We have also received a special donation for the First Nations Garden, which will be located west of the soccer dome.

We are planning for many exciting events this year at Redeemer. Our C.L.E.A.R. program, begun last year, will again introduce many fascinating topics to all interested (see <http://www.redeemer.ca/clear>). Our Worship Conference will take place on September 25, 2010 with Dr Syd Hielema as the key note speaker (register at [www.redeemer.ca/worship](http://www.redeemer.ca/worship)). During November 4-6, in collaboration with our Reformed sister colleges, we will host an ARIHE (Association of Reformed Institutions of Higher Education) symposium on Spiritual Formation with Dr. Jamie Smith as plenary speaker. This symposium will coincide with events of our presidential inauguration weekend, including a Faculty Artists Concert and Redeemer Sinfonia on Friday, November 5 at 7:30 pm in the Auditorium, Redeemer's Annual General Membership meeting on Saturday, November 6 at 4:00 pm, and the inauguration ceremony on Saturday, November 6 at 7:30 pm. Please reserve these dates. Our 24<sup>th</sup> annual Ministers' Conference will be on Tuesday, March 1, 2011, with Rev. Wesley Granberg-Michaelson, general secretary of the Reformed Church of America, as our guest speaker (to register, e-mail [advancement@redeemer.ca](mailto:advancement@redeemer.ca), subject line: Minister). Please check our website at [www.redeemer.ca](http://www.redeemer.ca) for updates about these and other events, lectures, and concerts.

We are thankful to the Lord for His continued provision and for your continuing support of Redeemer through prayer and financial giving. Christian Reformed churches gave \$772,482 in the past fiscal year, a slight decrease from 2008/2009. While we recognize these gifts as a tremendous blessing, we still have work to do with a number of churches in encouraging them to adopt the giving guidelines set out by Synod. These gifts are essential for our student financial aid program and make a Christian university education accessible to more students.

We praise God for His faithfulness and wonderful blessings, and we pray that we may continue to provide a powerful witness in His service.

Dr Hubert R. Krygsman, President