

Calvin Theological Seminary Supplement

The Calvin Theological Seminary Board of Trustees presents this supplement of additional matters relating to the seminary from its May 2026 meeting.

I. Academics

A. Graduates

On May 16, 2026, Calvin Theological Seminary conducted its commencement ceremony to honor ninety-eight students who completed certificate or degree programs. This graduate group included students from the following countries: Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Ghana, Guatemala, India, Indonesia, Kenya, Madagascar, Mexico, Nigeria, Peru, South Korea, United States, Ukraine, and Venezuela. A viewing of the ceremony can be found at calvinseminary.edu/commencement.

B. Distinguished Alumni Awards – 2026 – 150th-anniversary year

1. *Rev. Dr. James Allen De Jong* was recognized as a Distinguished Alumni Award recipient for 2026. He served as president of Calvin Theological Seminary from 1983-2001.

A native of Paterson, New Jersey, and the son and grandson of pastors in the Christian Reformed Church, James Allan De Jong graduated from Calvin College (1963), Calvin Theological Seminary (1966), and earned a Th.D. from the Free University of Amsterdam in 1970. He was ordained in 1970 and taught at Trinity Christian College, Palos Heights, Illinois, and later Dordt College, Sioux Center, Iowa. An author and editor, he specialized in church history, particularly the history of Reformed theology and the history of missions.

De Jong's presidency spanned a period in the denomination's history filled with challenges such as academic freedom among seminary faculty, debate about the denomination's place amid a rapidly changing social environment, and the role of women in the church. During his tenure, De Jong focused on theology, stressing commonality—encouraging and guiding, for example, a booklet on women in office titled *A Cause for Division?* authored by CTS Professor John Cooper.

During his presidency the seminary building was enlarged and remodeled, a Ph.D. program was added to the curriculum, student housing facilities were acquired, and a student center was constructed. Dr. De Jong was an architect for developing leaders for global Christianity as especially seen through the beginning of the Ph.D. program in 1992.

2. *Rev. Dr. Cornelius Plantinga, Jr.* was also recognized as a Distinguished Alumni Award recipient for 2026. He served as president of Calvin Theological Seminary from 2001 to 2011.

Dr. Neal Plantinga earned an A.B. degree from Calvin College (1967) and a B.D. from Calvin Theological Seminary (1971) followed by a Ph.D.

from Princeton Theological Seminary in 1982. He was ordained in the Christian Reformed Church in North America in 1971 and served as the pastor of Webster (N.Y.) CRC from 1971 to 1975.

Plantinga is a writer, preacher, and theologian who not only is a president emeritus of Calvin Theological Seminary but is also an emeritus senior research fellow at the Calvin Institute of Christian Worship for his service there following his time as president. His prior roles within the Calvin community include service as professor of systematic theology at Calvin Theological Seminary (1979–1996) and dean of the chapel at Calvin College, now University (1996–2001).

Plantinga is the author of several books, including *Gratitude* (2024), *Under the Wings of God* (2023), *Morning and Evening Prayers* (2021), *Reading for Preaching* (2013), *Engaging God's World* (2002), *Beyond Doubt* (2001), and *Not the Way It's Supposed to Be* (1996).

Plantinga's emphasis on the need for excellence in Reformed preaching led to the formation of the Center for Excellence in Preaching during his time as president. This resource, now led by Rev. Scott Hoezee, has become a global, top-notch Reformed preaching resource.

Videos on the ministries and testimonies of Rev. Dr. James De Jong and Rev. Dr. Neal Plantinga are available for viewing through the CTS website (calvinseminary.edu).

II. Board of Trustees matters

At its meeting on May 14-15, 2026, the board noted that the officers elected in February would continue to serve as officers for 2026-2027: Mr. Hessel Kielstra, chair; Rev. John Lee, vice chair; and Rev. Derek Buikema, secretary.

A. Board actions

At its May meeting, the Calvin Theological Seminary Board of Trustees took the following actions or took note of the following items for information:

1. The Board noted the appointment of Rev. Steve Van Zanen (formerly with Resonate Global Mission) as Distinguished Missionary in Residence for the upcoming (2026-2027) academic year. (This would be the first year of what is limited to a two-year appointment.)
2. The Calvin Theological Seminary Faculty and Board of Trustees interviewed and now recommends that synod interview and approve the appointment of Dr. Christopher Fantuzzo to a teaching position in Old Testament to begin in summer 2026. Dr. Fantuzzo's C.V. is provided in the appendix to this supplemental report.
3. Noted the upcoming retirement of Dr. Ronald Feenstra, acknowledging his years of faithful service to Calvin Theological Seminary (1992-2026), conferred on him the title of professor of systematic and philosophical theology, *emeritus*, effective upon his retirement, and recommends that synod

acknowledge this action with gratitude to God. A link to the “Last Lecture” of Dr. Feenstra can be found at [youtube.com/live/JF-M3yMiYn4?feature=share](https://www.youtube.com/live/JF-M3yMiYn4?feature=share).

4. Noted the upcoming work and self-study report to be developed for an Association for Theological Schools (ATS) re-accreditation visit in March 2028.

5. Noted that as of July 1, 2026, Dr. Danny Daley will serve as dean of the faculty and chief academic officer and Mr. Scott De Young will serve as the dean of academic programs and registrar. The Board of Trustees gave thanks for the three years of service of Dr. Yudha Thianto, who will step down from the chief academic officer role in order to step into the role of director of the Ph.D. program, previously held by Dr. Ronald Feenstra.

6. Adopted a fiscal budget for 2026-2027 and reviewed ongoing plans for the capital campaign while giving thanks for the support that has been received above and beyond our annual operating fund.

7. Received a report on the ongoing development of the Strategic Planning Overview and Operations document. The formation of this 2024-2028 plan contains significant goals related to our ongoing and deepening relationship with the Christian Reformed Church in North America. The focus of this strategic plan is summarized with these themes: compelling invitation, holistic learning journeys, organizational excellence, and cultivating abundance.

8. Discussions have taken place regarding the demonstration of confessional commitment by all CTS board members. It was noted that the current Board of Trustees handbook requires that all CTS board members be members of the Christian Reformed Church in North America.

In addition, the rubric for CTS board membership includes the following affirmation: “As a member in good standing in the CRCNA, I profess faith in God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, acknowledge the divine inspiration and authority of the Word of God, and am committed to the confessional standards of the CRCNA as faithful reflections of the Word of God.”

In keeping with the board’s commitment, the Board of Trustees approved the following statement on May 15, 2026: “All incoming (and current) board members will be asked to sign a statement of confessional commitment.”

9. Received a report from the Professional Service Consultant that included a summary of the PSC mandate and authority, a report on contacts and conversations made to date, and provided input on items for board approval, including a Governance Committee mandate and a Nominating Committee mandate.

10. The board finalized the formation of the CTS Presidential Nominating Committee with an accompanying mandate consistent with the current CTS Board Handbook. Please be in prayer for the work of this committee and the identification of the next president of Calvin Theological Seminary.

11. The board approved the formation of a standing committee to fulfill a calling to provide integrity and wisdom across generations of leadership. The Governance Committee is to ensure that the Board of Trustees governs well and wisely, that trustees are well-prepared, and that governing structures are sound and current as we seek to prepare well for the next president of Calvin Theological Seminary even as we look forward to honoring and celebrating the final year of service (16th year) of President Jul Medenblik.

12. Gave thanks for the various Calvin University and Calvin Theological Seminary events, gatherings, and celebrations for these institutions' 150th anniversary, which in some ways concludes with Synod 2026. (Synod 1876 appointed Rev. Geert Egberts Boer as a leader for a new school that became Calvin.) May we join together in giving thanks to God for his ongoing faithfulness as we enter a 151st year of service!

B. Board appointments

1. Nominees

The board recommends the individuals identified in the Nominations section of the Agenda Supplement for appointment or reappointment to a three-year term on the Calvin Theological Seminary Board of Trustees (see Recommendation C).

2. Concluding service

Concluding service on the CTS Board of Trustees in June 2026 are the following members:

- Scott Greenway (Region 11)
- David Morren (at-large)
- Susan Keesen (at-large)

The CTS board recommends that synod express its gratitude to these members for their faithful service and their significant contributions to the denomination during their tenure on the CTS Board of Trustees (see Recommendation D).

III. Recommendations

A. That synod, with gratitude to God, acknowledge the years of faithful service of Dr. Ronald Feenstra and note the title conferred upon him by the Calvin Theological Seminary Board of Trustees: professor of systematic and philosophical theology, *emeritus*, effective upon his retirement.

B. That synod interview the faculty candidate, Dr. Christopher Fantuzzo, presented by the Calvin Theological Seminary Board of Trustees for approval of their appointment to the faculty in the area of Old Testament. His curriculum vitae is presented in the appendix to this report.

C. That synod by way of the ballot appoint, reappoint, or ratify the election and reelection of trustees from the slates of nominees presented in the Nominations section of this Agenda Supplement.

D. That synod express gratitude to the members concluding service on the Calvin Theological Seminary Board of Trustees.

Calvin Theological Seminary Board of Trustees
Rev. Derek Buikema, secretary

APPENDIX

Curriculum Vitae: Christopher J. Fantuzzo, Ph.D.

Objective: To obtain a full-time academic post in Old Testament. I am prepared to teach courses in the Old and New Testaments and related languages, biblical interpretation, and biblical theology. Service to students and colleagues will be accomplished through a life of humility, integrity, and self-giving love.

Education

Ph.D., Old Testament/Hebrew Bible, 2012, Univ. of Gloucestershire, England (UK)

Supervisors – Prof. J. Gordon McConville, Ph.D., Professor of OT Theology, Univ. of Gloucestershire

Mark J. Boda, Ph.D., Professor of OT, McMaster Univ. and Divinity College

Examiners – Prof. H. G. M. Williamson, Ph.D., Regius Professor of Hebrew, University of Oxford

S. Briggs, Ph.D., Director, Biblical Studies and Hermeneutics, Durham University

Dissertation – *Torah in Servant-Form: Torah, Servant, and Disciples in the Book of Isaiah*

My dissertation addresses a debate in Isaiah scholarship about the nature and role of *torah* in the book of Isaiah. An examination of Isaiah's use of this concept showed a close relationship to the book's central theme regarding the role of an innocent suffering servant (variously conceived as an individual prophetic figure, 'an Israelite servant,' or a collective entity, 'Israel as servant'). I concluded that *torah* does not refer to Mosaic Torah but to prophetic revelation/instruction concerning Israel's servant nature and vocation; hence, its title, *Torah in Servant-Form: Torah, Servant, and Disciples in the Book of Isaiah*. I put forth a construal of what literary critic Umberto Eco has called the *intentio operis*, understood (in this case) as the model author's aim to produce model readers who are servant-disciples.

- Graduate studies toward Ph.D., Hermeneutics and Biblical Interpretation, Westminster Theological Seminary, Philadelphia, Pa.

Supervisors – J. Alan Groves (deceased) and Douglas J. Green.

Grade point average: 3.89

Doctoral Level Coursework: Theological Bibliography and Research Methods; Philosophical Hermeneutics; Interpretation in the Second Temple Period; Hermeneutics in the New Testament Period; History of Interpretation; Critical Methodologies; Hebrew Text-Linguistics; Linguistics and Biblical Hebrew Poetry; Book of Exodus; Deuteronomistic History; Book of Isaiah; Old Testament Motifs; Old Testament Theology; Biblical Theology Seminar; Trinitarian Theology: Ancient and Modern; Readings in New Testament Intro and Theology; Readings in Old Testament Intro and Theology.

- M.Div. (First Honors), 2001, Westminster Theological Seminary
- Graduate Studies, School of Medicine and Dentistry, S.U.N.Y. Buffalo, 1994-1996 Buffalo, N.Y.
- B.A. Biology, University of Rochester, 1994, Rochester, New York
- Webster High School (Regents), 1990, Webster, N.Y.

Teaching Experience

- Lecturer in New Testament, The Wilberforce School, Princeton, N.J., 6-9th grades, spring 2024.
- Adjunct Prof. of Old Testament, Missio Seminary (Bib. Theo. Sem.), Philadelphia, Pa., Spring 2021

Th.M. level: Old Testament Prophets; Prophets Book Study: Isaiah

- Adjunct Prof. of Christian Studies, Eastern University, St. David's, Pa., 2013 – May 2020

Undergraduate level: The Nature and Meaning of the OT; The Nature and Meaning of the NT

- Visiting Prof. of OT, Evangelical Reformed Seminary of Ukraine, Kyiv, June 2018

Graduate level: Old Testament Interpretation: Joshua-Esther (with Russian translator)

- Adjunct Prof. of OT, Redeemer Seminary, Dallas and Austin, Tex., 2015 – 2016

Master's level: Songs and Wisdom; OT Historical Theology II: Joshua-Esther; Prophets and Daniel.

- Lecturer in Old Testament, Westminster Theological Seminary, Philadelphia, Pa., 2009 – 2014

Master's level: Biblical Hebrew 2 and 3; Old Testament Introduction (ANE backgrounds, canon, textual criticism, critical methodologies); Old Testament History and Theology 2 (Deuteronomy-Esther); Prophetic Books and Daniel.

Doctoral level: Book of Isaiah; Book of Lamentations; The Suffering Servant: Innocent Suffering in the OT and Early Judaism; Restoration in Old Testament Interpretation.

- Teaching Fellow, Westminster Theological Seminary, Philadelphia, Pa., 2002 – 2006
Master's Level: The New Testament for Ministry; Biblical Hebrew 1, 2, 3 (ea. 2x/year); New Testament Greek 1, 2, 3.
- Teaching Assistant, Westminster Theological Seminary, Philadelphia, Pa., 2000 – 2005
Master's Level: Prophetic Books and Daniel (M. Kelly); Poetry and Wisdom Books (P. Enns); Biblical Hebrew 1, 2, 3 (P. Enns, D. J. Green, J. Alan Groves); New Testament Greek 1, 2, 3 (A. Smith, S. Taylor)
- High School Teacher, Pembroke Christian School, Pembroke, N.Y., 1996 – 1997
9-12th grade: Earth Science, Biology, Algebra, Trigonometry, and Business Math, chapel once/month.

Ecclesiastical Affiliation and Service

- Ordained teaching elder, Evangelical Presbyterian Church (EPC), 2020 – present.
- Ministerial and Candidates Committee, Presbytery of the East (EPC)
- As ruling elder, 2017 – 2020; as teaching elder, 2024 - present
Helping congregations and supervising and assessing candidates for ministry in the Evangelical Presbyterian Church.
- Pastor, Bellevue Presbyterian Church (EPC)
810 Newport Avenue, Gap, PA 17527,
2024 - present
- Pastor, Living Word Church (RCA/EPC)
21 Pleasant View Drive, North Haledon, NJ 07508,
September 2020 – 2023 (OOB), 2023 - 2024 (church joined EPC)
- Director of Lifetime Discipleship, Oreland (Pa.) Evangelical Presbyterian Church, 2017 – 2020
Discipling, equipping, and supporting the members, leadership, and staff of Oreland EPC to fulfill their callings by building, cultivating, and enhancing the church's ability to provide lifetime Christian education and consistent, reliable, pastoral care.
- Ruling elder, Oreland Evangelical Presbyterian Church (OEPC), Oreland, Pa., 2014 – 2020
Vision Team elder representative, Christian Education Team leader, Discipleship Team leader. Elder liaison to World Outreach and Worship Teams. Activities included regular Sunday school teaching (youth and adult), aiding with Youth Group and its Parent Advisory Team. I also led worship, preached, and officiated at the Lord's Table occasionally (with Session approval). I was a regular delegate to the Presbytery of the East (EPC).

- Pastoral Internship, Park Avenue Community Church (EPC), Somerdale, N.J., 2017

A mission congregation of the EPC with members below poverty level, others struggling with addictions and/or mental illness. I preached sermons from various biblical genres (OT and NT) with weekly assessment by the Rev. Glenn Marshall and the Session.

Academic Service

- Student Representative, Inter-Seminary/Inter-Faith Dialogue 1997-1999

Weekly meetings of student and faculty reps in which papers about aspects of faith and life were presented and discussed from Christian and Jewish faith traditions. Participation included Princeton, Westminster, Lutheran, St. Charles Borromeo, and Moravian Seminaries and the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College.

- Advisor to Students (WTS), 2009-2014
- Hermeneutics Field Committee (eval. Th.M. and Ph.D. students, WTS), 2009-2014
- Referee for Westminster Theological Journal, 2009-2014
- Westminster Academic Assessment Committee (M.Div.), 2010-2014
- Faculty-Student Prayer Group Leader (WTS), 2003-2004; 2009-2014
- Residence Director for International Student Dormitory (WTS), 1998-2003

I served students from over thirty different countries who came to WTS for the M.A.R., M.Div., Th.M., Ph.D., and D.Min. programs. In addition to administration and maintenance, my role involved orientation, coordinating social and educational opportunities, weekly prayer meetings, and advising and counseling.

Languages (professional proficiency)

Biblical Hebrew, Biblical Greek, Biblical and Targumic Aramaic, German, French

Awards

Edward J. Young Memorial Fund (grant for Old Testament research), 2001
Alumni Scholarship, University of Rochester, 1990-1994

Professional memberships

Society of Biblical Literature, 2002-present
Institute for Biblical Research, 2002-2016; 2025-present
Evangelical Theological Society, 2002-2016

Research interests

Isaiah and Prophetic Literature, theology of evil and suffering in the OT and Early Judaism, NT use of the Old

Publications

“True Israel’s ‘Mother and Brothers’: Reflections on the Servant(s) and Servanthood in Isaiah.” Pages 106-24 in *Ears to Hear, Eyes to See: Essays in Memory of J. Alan Groves*. Edited by Peter Enns, Douglas J. Green, and Michael B. Kelly; Philipsburg, N.J.: P & R, 2010.

“Acrostic” Pages 1-4 in *Dictionary of the Old Testament: Wisdom, Poetry, and Writings*. Edited by Tremper Longman III and Peter Enns; Downers Grove, Ill.: Inter Varsity, 2008.

Presentations

“‘Gospel-Centered Community’: The Restoration Vision of Isaiah 56-66.” Five lectures for Trinity Rye, Rivertowns, and Bronx churches, Camp Brookwoods, Alton, N.H., 2016.

“In the Sanctuary with God: Towards Singing Psalm 73 with Jesus.” Redeemer Seminary Fall Lecture, Dallas, Tex., 2015.

“David’s Rise and the Ark Narrative in Chronicles.” Eastern University, OT Historiography Lecture, St. Davids, Pa., 2014.

“‘Out of Mesopotamia I Called My Servant’: Israel’s Abrahamic Identity and Calling in Isaiah 41:8-16.” Institute for Biblical Research/Society of Biblical Literature, Baltimore, Md., 2013.

“‘The Covenantal Womb of Repentance’: Separation Eschatology and the Import of Isaiah 59:21.” Westminster Theological Seminary, Philadelphia, Pa., 2009.

Thesis supervision

Xu, Ying. “From the Lament of David to the Prayer of Christ in his Passion: A Canonical-Process Approach to Psalm 3” (2012, Ph.D., WTS, 2nd reader)

Cook, Greg. “The Process of Vengeance in Nahum” (2014, Ph.D., WTS, 2nd reader)

Park, Duk Joon. “YHWH is a Gardener and Zion His Garden: A Study of the Garden Metaphor in the Book of Isaiah” (2015, WTS, Ph.D., external reader)

Chow, Caleb. “The Legacies of Sargon and Joshua: An Archaeological and Historiographical Comparison” (2012, WTS, Th.M., 2nd reader)

Professional development

- “Challenging Conversations Toolkit” – Christian Reformed Church in North America, Sept 8, 2021.
Training event for helping small groups engage with the Human Sexuality Report of Synod 2021*
- “Worship,” Pathway Learning – John Frame and Steve Childers, June 2021.

Principles and practices needed to help develop biblical, God-honoring private and public worship.

- “The Bible in Light of the Ancient Near East” – Nili Samet, Bar Ilan University, 2020.

An online intro to the cultures of the ancient Near East and the ‘comparative research’ that examines the Bible’s relation to them. (Educational opp. during first summer of COVID-19 pandemic).

- “Get Real! Evangelism Workshop” with the Rev. John Leonard, PhD, October 2018.

The evangelism training tool of Mission to the World (PCA).

- “G.0.1 Seminar (The Go Center),” EPC teaching elder, Bob Stauffer, 8 June 2019, Oreland, Pa.

‘Building Your Church’s Great Commission Matrix” – Missional Visualization and Church Revitalization

- “Transitional Ministry Development Training,” February 22-23, 2019, Bethany EPC

Introduction to Transitional Ministry and Pastor Training. Led by EPC teaching elders Ken Priddy and Bob Stauffer

- “A Guide to Gospel Neighboring,” Redeemer City-to-City, June 5-Aug. 30, 2019

The mandate, magnitude, and call to love neighbors/neighborhoods through personal and corporate prayer, discovery, connecting, serving, partnering with organizations, and justice and mercy ministries, video lessons led by Al Santino, Timothy Keller, and Bryan Stevenson.

- “Historical Geography of the Holy Land,” January 2001, Jerusalem University College

January intensive study in Israel and Jordan, Prof. David Wright

Other experience

Assistant to Robert L. McNeil, Jr.; Executive, McNeil Pharmaceuticals/Venture Capitalist, 2006-2009

Library Reserves Coordinator and Textbook Manager, Westminster Library and Bookstore, 1999-2003

Vice president of Sales, Client Services, and Metex Systems, Inc. (Toronto, Ont.; Buffalo, N.Y.), 1996-1997