

CALVIN THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY SUPPLEMENT

The Calvin Theological Seminary Board of Trustees presents this supplement of additional matters relating to the seminary from its February and May 2024 meetings.

I. Board of Trustees

At its meeting on May 16-17, 2024, the board elected the following officers for 2024-2025: David Morren, chair; Rev. Scott Greenway, vice chair; Susan Keesen, secretary.

II. Academics

A. Graduates and new programs

This is only the second academic year that we have been able to fully use our remodeled building, which helps us to focus increasingly on community, education, and worship with the use of more technology, better flexibility, and multiple collaborative learning spaces. Synod delegates are invited to an open house the evening of June 18, 2024.

On May 18, 2024, Calvin Theological Seminary (CTS) conducted its commencement ceremony to honor sixty students who completed certificate or degree programs. This number includes those graduating through the Missional Training Center, which is now working in partnership with CTS, as well as the first-ever graduate in our doctor of ministry degree program. That graduate is Colin Percival Watson, Sr., executive director emeritus of the Christian Reformed Church in North America (CRCNA). A viewing of the ceremony can be found at youtube.com/watch?v=Q13Zqp-aqJ8.

Calvin Theological Seminary has been approved by the Association of Theological Schools to begin offering a doctor of ministry (D.Min.) degree, and we are ready to welcome a new cohort this summer. A previous synod asked CTS to investigate this degree program as part of a continuing education report—we are glad for the ongoing support of the church (see calvin-seminary.edu/academics/doctor-of-ministry).

B. Distinguished Alumni Awards – 2024

Dr. Clifford G. Christians was recognized as a Distinguished Alumni Award recipient for 2024. He is a 1964 bachelor of divinity degree graduate of Calvin Theological Seminary. One of the world's leading scholars on ethics in media and in human dialogue, Clifford G. Christians taught at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign after completing his doctoral studies in 1974.

Over the course of his thirty-five-year career at the University of Illinois, Dr. Christians explored the nature and role of ethics and ethical decision making in the worlds of professional media and human dialogue. He also studied the ethical implications for journalism in democratic societies, and he

analyzed how professional programs in advertising, broadcasting, journalism, and public relations teach ethics and the process of ethical decision making to the next generation of professionals.

With graduate degrees in theology and communication, Dr. Christians worked to bring the insights from communication research into organized religion and the field of theology. He was part of both Catholic and Calvinistic groups of scholars working to integrate communication theory and research into the theological framework of their denominations.

Rev. Wilbert (Bill) M. Van Dyk was also recognized as a Distinguished Alumni Award recipient for 2024. He received his bachelor of divinity degree from Calvin Theological Seminary in 1955 and his master of theology degree in 1976.

We highlighted his long-term pastoral ministry at Fourth Roseland CRC, Chicago, Illinois (1955-1959); Lake Worth CRC, Florida (1959-1964); Plymouth Heights CRC, Grand Rapids, Michigan (1964-1986); and his continuing pastoral work as academic dean at CTS from 1986 to 1995.

A generation of students will remember Rev. Van Dyk as an excellent preacher and as a primary teacher of confessional preaching known for his proficiency and clarity of thought in the written and spoken word, including a significant document titled *Belonging: An Introduction to the Faith and Life of the Christian Reformed Church*.

Two videos on the ministries] and testimonies of Dr. Christians and Rev. Van Dyk are available for viewing:

- Dr. Clifford G. Christians: youtu.be/6rzPkbG4FGI
- Rev. Wilbert (Bill) M. Van Dyk: youtu.be/cHfRMbzBSWM

C. Board actions

At its two most recent meetings, the CTS Board of Trustees took the following actions or took note of the following items for information:

1. After presentation and a time of interaction, the board unanimously adopted a motion to authorize the management of Calvin Theological Seminary to proceed with a proposed Burton Street student housing project of 46 units with a current projected completion date of early summer 2025.
2. Noted the approval of the Association of Theological Schools with regard to the Missional Training Center becoming an instructional site of Calvin Theological Seminary. As part of the development and support of this site, CTS approved the following as term-contract faculty: Dr. Michael Goheen as professor of missional theology, Dr. Dave Beldman as associate professor of biblical studies, and Dr. Mark Ryan as associate professor of congregational theology and cultural apologetics.
3. Approved the appointment of Rev. Albert Strydhorst as a ministry partner professor for missions and missiology as he continues his primary

- ministry with Resonate Global Mission and leadership in the Timothy Leadership Training Institute. This appointment recognizes the prior ministry of Rev. Strydhorst at Calvin Seminary as well as the recent Lilly Endowment grant given to the seminary's Institute for Mission, Church, and Culture led by Dr. Cory Willson. The focus of this five-year grant is to support local congregations as they realign their mission and ministries to better serve God's mission in a post-COVID culture.
4. Approved the appointment of Ms. Melissa Bos (currently with Resonate Global Mission) as CTS distinguished missionary in residence for 2024-2025.
 5. Accepted with great appreciation for his ministry the retirement announcement of Dr. Ronald Feenstra as he anticipates that his final year of teaching will be the 2025-2026 academic year.
 6. Approved the formation of a search team for the positions of professor of Old Testament and professor of systematic theology. (There is an ongoing search for a professor of systematic theology in response to a previous retirement announcement from Dr. Mary Vanden Berg anticipating her final year of teaching as the 2024-2025 academic year.)
 7. Noted with appreciation the hosting at Calvin University and Calvin Theological Seminary of the spring Calvin Studies Society colloquium on "Calvin and Global Christianity."
 8. Noted that the Kuyper Prize sponsored by Calvin University and Calvin Theological Seminary was awarded to Sid Jansma, Jr., in April 2024 at the Kuyper Conference. It was announced at this conference that the next Kuyper Conference will take place in Jakarta, Indonesia, March 13-15, 2024.
 9. Met with new full-time staff serving in the areas of communications and academic services. Mr. Phillip Palacios is the new director of communications, and Scott DeYoung is the new director of academic services and registrar.
 10. Heard updates from Rev. Shawn Brix, who continues his work as the Calvin Theological Seminary Canadian church relations liaison, and from Dr. Danjuma Gibson, professor of pastoral theology, care and counseling, who also serves as program director of the master of arts degree in clinical mental health counseling.
 11. Adopted a fiscal budget for 2024-2025 and reviewed plans for a capital campaign while giving thanks for support that has been received above and beyond our annual operating fund budget.
 12. Reviewed a Strategic Planning Overview and Operations document developed with the aid and expertise of Mr. Chis Bosch of Chisel Consulting and outlining significant goals related to our ongoing and deepening relationship with the Christian Reformed Church in North America.

13. Noted the appointment of Mr. Jeff Lash as theological librarian and assistant dean for seminary matters. Mr. Lash came to Calvin from Cornerstone University, where he served as director and theological librarian. He earned an MLIS degree from Valdosta State and a master of arts degree in New Testament from Grand Rapids Theological Seminary. He has also served as an adjunct professor of theological research for Cornerstone Theological Seminary. He has over a decade of experience in both pastoral ministry and academic library science.
14. Noted the continued development of an arrangement for Dr. Young Ahn Kang to teach and serve students (especially in the Th.M. and Ph.D. programs) from South Korea.
15. This spring, CTS congratulated the first master of arts graduates of our competency based program called Empower. Through Empower, students develop and demonstrate proficiency in key ministry competencies through experiential learning and mentoring. Each student has a team of three mentors, including CTS faculty and ministry leaders. This team mentors the student through a customized learning path that takes into account the student's prior experience, strength and growth areas, ministry context, and vocational goals. For more information, visit calvinseminary.edu/empower/.
16. Noted the development of CTS Lifelong Learning's Adaptive Leadership Cohort, designed to support, connect, and equip leaders (see calvinseminary.edu/academics/lifelong-learning/cohorts/).
17. Noted that Calvin University and Calvin Theological Seminary are preparing to celebrate their 150th anniversary in the 2025-2026 academic year. Various plans are being developed for a year-long and global celebration.

D. Board appointments

The board recommends that synod appoint the following nominees to the Calvin Theological Seminary Board of Trustees as regional at-large members for a first term of three years.

Region 8 – at-large

Mr. John Wesslius, a market gardener, Sunday school teacher, elder, and council chair, became interested in theology as part of understanding history, politics, and geography. He was born in Leeuwarden, Friesland, Netherlands, and grew up attending Maranatha CRC in Bowmanville, Ontario. He became an active member in the denomination with his family by serving and teaching at Kitchener (Ont.) CRC; First CRC in Hamilton, Ontario; Bethel CRC in Dunnville, Ontario; and First CRC in Sioux Center, Iowa. He taught for a year at WDCHS in Breslau, Ontario, and went on to serve as a district manager for the Canadian Federation of Independent Business (6 years) and as a consultant for Premier: A

School Specialty Company (12 years). For the past twenty years with his wife, Janna, he has owned and operated The Cornucopia, a market farm following organic and sustainable practices. The farm tells the biblical story of creation, fall, redemption, and new creation. John is passionate about preaching that encourages church members to seek the kingdom of God in their every calling, task, and vocation.

Region 10 – at-large

Dr. Grace Kreulen is a retired nursing professional with a research Ph.D. and a career as a university nursing faculty member, researcher, and international health program consultant with World Renew. With roots in First CRC of Artesia, California, she attended Calvin University and earned degrees from Columbia University NYC (BSN, 1970), Wayne State University (MSN, 1974), and the University of Arizona (Ph.D., 1995). She is a member of Pillar Church in Holland, Michigan. Prior to moving to Holland, she was a member of River Terrace CRC in East Lansing, Michigan, where she served as chair of the missions committee and the elder board. Dr. Kreulen is a board member of several Christian nonprofit organizations, including the Artevel Foundation, Life Focus Communications, and My House Ministry.

Region 11 – at-large

Mr. Tom Nobel is the founder, executive chair, and former president and CEO of Baruch Senior Ministries and the former president and CEO of Leisure Living Management. He is a certified public accountant who served with Ernst and Young for twenty years, the last eight years as a partner. He is a strategic leader who has translated business strategies into a faith-based belief system of dignity and respect for 60 senior communities in Michigan. He has served as a member of council, as consistory president, and as elder at his home congregation, Ada Christian Reformed Church. Among his numerous board and civic experiences, he served on the Calvin University Board of Trustees and as chair of the audit committee and as a member of the administration and finance committee as well as the executive committee. He also served as treasurer of Classis Thornapple Valley for twenty-one years.

III. Recommendation

That synod by way of the ballot appoint Mr. John Wesslius, Dr. Grace Kruelen, and Mr. Tom Nobel as regional at-large members to the Calvin Theological Seminary Board of Trustees for a first term of three years.

Calvin Theological Seminary Board of Trustees
Susan Keesen, secretary