

# Calvin University Supplement

## I. Introduction

The Calvin University Board of Trustees met April 26, 2024, and presents to synod this supplemental report. The board had a successful meeting and completed its scheduled work for committee and plenary sessions. During its April meeting, the board thanked five members whose terms are ending—Ben Ipema, Andrea Karsten, Lois Miller, and Steven Triezenberg—for their diligent work on the board and for their service to Calvin University.

## II. Finance

The Calvin University Board of Trustees approved the 2024-2025 budget proposal.

## III. Academic

The Calvin University Board of Trustees ratified or endorsed curricular program revisions, new courses, course revisions, new faculty appointments, faculty promotions, faculty retirements, and faculty completion of service recognitions. They also approved the faculty handbook revision recommendations from the educational policy committee, the professional status committee, and the faculty senate.

## IV. Board matters

The Calvin University Board of Trustees recommends that synod elect new members, reappoint for subsequent terms, and ratify the results of elections held in classes for membership on the Calvin University Board of Trustees.

### A. Board membership

1. Trustee nominations
  - a. At-large trustee

Steven Triezenberg is completing his third three-year term on the board as an at-large trustee. The board recommends the following nominee to serve a three-year term:

*Heather Van Vugt Ramirez* is an attorney and adjunct professor of law at Marquette University Law School, where she teaches nonprofit law. Heather graduated from Calvin University with honors in political science in 2003. She earned her law degree from the University of Minnesota Law School in 2007. Upon graduation from law school, she practiced corporate law at Davis and Kuelthau in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. She then moved to the nonprofit sector and served as executive director of Centro Legal from 2009-2016. Centro Legal is a nonprofit legal services firm that provides free and low-cost legal representation for families with limited means. In addition to teaching at Marquette University Law School, she serves in leadership roles on several nonprofit boards in the Milwaukee community. She is a member of Fox Point (Wis.) Lutheran Church.

b. Regional at-large trustees

*Region 4*

Ben Ipema is completing a three-year term on the board as a Region 4 at-large trustee. The board recommends the following nominee to serve a three-year term:

*James Zwier* is a 1990 graduate of Calvin University. He lives in Grand Rapids, Michigan. He earned his juris doctorate from the University of Michigan Law School in 1995. He recently retired from Wolverine Worldwide, Inc., as their executive vice president. He has prior board experience with Outdoor Foundation, Art Prize, Grand Action 2.0, and other organizations. He is a member of Cascade Fellowship Christian Reformed Church in Grand Rapids, where he has served as a member of council.

*Region 4*

Lois Miller is completing a three-year term on the board as a Region 4 at-large trustee. The board recommends the following nominee to serve a three-year term:

*Shirley Hoogstra* is a 1978 graduate of Calvin University. She earned her juris doctorate from the University of Connecticut School of Law in 1986. She is the president of the Council for Christian Colleges and Universities in Washington, D.C., and plans to retire in December 2024. She has prior board experience on the board of Calvin University from 1995-1999, served as a deacon at Ridgefield Christian Reformed Church in New Jersey, and served as an elder at First Presbyterian Church in New Haven, Connecticut. She is currently serving on the Trinity Forum board and the National Association of Evangelicals board. She is a member of Encounter Christian Reformed Church in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

*Region 5*

Heather Van Vugt-Ramirez is completing a three-year term on the board as a Region 5 at-large trustee and is transitioning to a three-year term as an at-large trustee. The board recommends the following nominee to serve a three-year term:

*Brian Boomsma* is a 1979 graduate of Calvin University from Schererville, Indiana. He is the president/CEO of Dutch Farms. He currently serves on the council and vision team of Faith Church, Highland, Indiana, where he is a member. His previous board experience includes the Highland Christian School Board and the Foundation Board, The Ravines Retreat Center. He has also served as a deacon and as an elder at First Christian Reformed Church in Highland, Indiana.

## 2. Trustee reappointments

The board recommends the following members for reappointment for the terms noted:

- Region 6: Gary Bos, second term
- Region 6: Kevin Adams, second term
- At-large: Andy Elliot, third term
- At-large: Niala Boodhoo, additional one-year term
- At-large: Jona Eigege, additional one-year term

### *B. Board officers*

The Calvin University Board of Trustees appointed the following officers of the board for 2024-2025: Bruce Los, chair; Mary Tuuk Kuras, vice chair; Gene Miyamoto, secretary; and Dirk Pruis, treasurer (vice president for finance and administration and chief financial officer).

## **V. Other**

The Calvin University Board of Trustees ratified the decision authorizing President Elzinga to grant degrees, honors, and certificates upon those recommended by the faculty at the 2024 commencement ceremonies.

The Calvin University Board of Trustees approved a written comment in response to the Synod 2024 overtures that name Calvin University (see Appendix).

## **VI. Recommendations**

A. That synod elect new members, reappoint for subsequent terms, and ratify the results of elections held in classes for membership on the Calvin University Board of Trustees.

B. The synod ratify the decision of the Calvin University Board of Trustees to approve the written comment in response to the Synod 2024 overtures that name Calvin University (section V; Appendix).

C. That synod grant the privilege of the floor to the interim president, Greg Elzinga, and to the chair of the board, Bruce Los, when matters pertaining to education are discussed.

D. That synod also grant the privilege of the floor to the following persons when matters pertaining to education are discussed: the provost, Noah Toly; the vice chair of the board, Mary Tuuk Kuras; and the trusteeship committee chair, Perrin Rynders.

### *Grounds:*

1. As provost, Toly is the chief academic officer and has primary responsibility to administer expectations related to “faculty status” at Calvin University. This includes all expectations of confessional subscription by those employees who must sign the Covenant for Faculty Members.

2. Toly served as the administrator most directly responsible for administering the process for expressions of confessional difficulty, which is outlined in section 3.5.1.1.1 of Calvin's Handbook for Teaching Faculty.
3. Tuuk Kuras and Rynders serve in roles on the board most likely to lead conversations concerning expectations of confessional subscription for trustees who, like employees with faculty status, must affirm the Covenant for Faculty Members.

Calvin University  
Greg Elzinga, interim president