

DENOMINATIONALLY RELATED EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS

Dordt University

Greetings to the synod of the Christian Reformed Church. At Dordt University we are grateful for our close relationship with the CRCNA, which has profoundly shaped our institution's mission and identity. Though we are not the official institution of higher education for the denomination, Dordt is committed to serving the CRC and living out our shared Reformed heritage.

We have witnessed God's continued faithfulness in the 2024-2025 academic year at our institution. Dordt remains steadfast in its mission to provide Christ-centered education, a vision rooted in the principles outlined in Article 71 of the Church Order: encouraging the establishment and sustainability of Christian education in the Reformed tradition. This partnership is demonstrated in the many local churches—within the CRC and other traditions—that serve as church homes for our students. Over 90 percent of our students regularly attend church, and more than 50 percent participate in Bible studies or small group faith-formation activities. This engagement carries into our students' post-graduate lives, with 93 percent of Dordt alumni reporting regular church attendance and many taking on leadership roles in their congregations.

Our faculty members also exemplify this faithfulness. This past year more than 60 faculty and staff read through Calvin's *Institutes*, gathering bi-weekly to discuss and deepen their understanding of Reformed theology. These activities reflect Dordt's enduring commitment to fostering both spiritual and academic growth within the student body as well as among faculty, staff, alumni, friends, and beyond.

Dordt has experienced significant momentum, including record enrollment for four consecutive years. In fall 2024 we welcomed 1,943 students, with 1,581 pursuing undergraduate degrees. Such growth underscores the trust families place in Dordt to provide rigorous academics grounded in a biblical perspective. To accommodate this growth, we continue to expand our campus. The new dining commons and B.J. Haan Auditorium expansion are progressing, with plans to be completed by the 2025-2026 academic year. These spaces will serve our community well into the future.

Academically, Dordt remains a leader in preparing students for kingdom work. New program offerings such as construction management and construction engineering reflect our missional commitment to equip students for "Christ-centered renewal in all aspects of contemporary life," including in the workplace. Dordt graduates are well-prepared for their calling: 99.3 percent of 2024 graduates reported being employed or in graduate school within six months of graduation. Our nursing program demonstrates this excellence as well, with 100 percent of the bachelor of science in nursing students in the class of 2024 passing the NCLEX exam on their first attempt. Our innovative agricultural service technology (diesel technology) program

equips students for kingdom work by combining hands-on technical training, a Christian worldview, and a strong partnership with regional John Deere dealers—all while providing the chance for students to become Deere certified before graduation.

Our students excel outside the classroom as well. The Dordt Wind Symphony received the prestigious invitation to perform at the Iowa Bandmasters Association's Annual Conference in May 2024, showcasing their musical talent. And our athletic teams continue to achieve success regionally and nationally, including women's basketball claiming the program's first-ever NAIA championship in March 2024. This year's program also has a number-one ranking as of this writing in February 2025.

We are grateful for the support of the CRC in helping us carry out our Founders' Vision to provide an educational opportunity "that is Christian not merely in the sense that devotional exercises are appended to the ordinary work of the college, but in the larger and deeper sense that all the class work, all of the students' intellectual, emotional, and imaginative activities shall be permeated with the spirit and teaching of Christianity." Please continue to pray for Dordt's faculty, staff, and students as we pursue this calling. If you have questions or seek further engagement, please contact me or Rev. Todd Zuidema, our director of church relations, whose goal is to strengthen Dordt's connection to CRCNA congregations.

Soli Deo Gloria!

Dordt University
Erik Hoekstra, president

Institute for Christian Studies (ICS)

Greetings:

The Institute for Christian Studies (ICS) has a long and cherished history of holding space for conversations that truly matter. At ICS, facilitating difficult, respectful, and safe conversations about controversial matters is a task we are proud to undertake. We believe it is paramount to foster and defend spaces where Christians can, in good faith, disagree about matters of scriptural interpretation or about where the Holy Spirit is leading the church today. We also believe that, in carefully preparing spaces for these difficult conversations, disagreements can take place in a spirit of communal fellowship and solidarity. These disagreements can, in turn, ultimately become a means of growing in faith together.

Convicted by this spirit, we found our hearts broken as we watched and listened to the past several synods of the Christian Reformed Church in North America (CRCNA) silence parishioners who oppose the CRCNA's adoption of the Human Sexuality Report (HSR) and, by giving it doctrinal status, effectively expel all those whose Christian consciences call them to dissent from the HSR and its conclusions. Because of our concern for these persons as well as for the overall well-being of LGBTQ+ people in the church, we decided that we could not support a denomination that shuts down difficult conversations. For this reason, **on January 15, 2025, the ICS Board of Trustees voted to discontinue ICS's status as a Denominationally Related Educational Institution of the CRCNA.**

Our grief over the CRCNA's decision stems from ICS's deep roots in reformational Christianity. ICS's founding members, several of them prominent CRCNA pastors, sought to create a "University for the People" that would impart a living reformational philosophical tradition as a gift and a call to every person. This tradition traces a "creation-fall-redemption" ground motive through the narrative arc of Scripture, which teaches us that God in Christ is busy restoring a broken creation originally made good, and that, as humans, we are invited to participate in these healing and transformational efforts.

For us, the inclusion of sexual minorities is part and parcel of the healing and transformation God calls us to enact. Scripture gives many examples of God's people dramatically reforming traditional positions in their efforts to be faithful to this same ethical call. In kindred spirit, we strive to honor the image of God in LGBTQ+ persons. We believe that, in so doing, we can help end the needless harm inflicted on persecuted sexual minorities and affirm the blessings these persons bring to the church and wider society.

While our convictions compel us to take this step in faith, we do not believe that this decision marks the end of ICS's role in serving the Reformed community. For years, many Reformed congregations and parishioners have walked alongside us, debated with us, listened to us, and supported us. We still consider our institution to belong to these people. For this reason, we

plan to expand our lifelong learning offerings to serve all who seek a safe place to wrestle with their most pressing moral and spiritual questions.

All are welcome in this place.

Shalom,

Institute for Christian Studies
Ronald A. Kuipers, president
Daniel R. Beerens, chair, Board of Trustees

The King's University

Greetings from The King's University!

This year we've been celebrating our forty-fifth anniversary. We once again experienced an increase in our student enrollment for the 2024/25 academic year. We had a 2 percent increase in the total number of students this year compared to last year. We are grateful for the 835 students who studied at King's this fall. We thank God for his continued provision of students who are eager to engage in a Christian university education at King's.

Construction plans for our new Centre for Excellence in the Sciences are well under way, with detailed designs currently being developed. A portion of the original campus containing primarily administrative and faculty offices is being demolished, and the new three-story facility will be constructed in its place. Construction of the new facility is slated to begin this spring, and we are anticipating the completion of the project by September 2026. The Centre for Excellence in the Sciences will include space for a student lounge, research labs, additional teaching spaces, and faculty and administrative offices. This new building will provide space for us to continue to expand programming in the sciences and will support continued enrollment growth. The building project has been fully funded through charitable gifts from our community, and we are continuing to raise support for program expansion, student scholarships, research funds, and ongoing operational costs. To date, over \$23 million has been donated to make this strategic vision a reality. We are so thankful for the community of supporters who continue to support the Christian university education that King's provides.

This past fall, King's psychology offerings expanded into the human health sciences with the launch of a new bachelor of science (BSc) degree in psychology. The current bachelor of arts (BA) in psychology emphasizes a social sciences perspective. The BSc program attracts students who are more interested in the physiological aspects of the human brain and behavior. Dr. Heather Looy, professor of psychology at King's, says the new undergraduate program adds more depth to the biological side of the field of psychology: "The program includes advanced biology-based courses such as human anatomy, human physiology, neuroscience, and psychopharmacology. These courses provide psychology students with a greater understanding of human health and prepare them for more clinical and research-oriented careers." We are also preparing to offer a new bachelor of kinesiology degree soon to further enhance our health sciences program options.

We are pleased to announce that chemistry professor Dr. Peter Mahaffy is the 2025 recipient of the George C. Pimentel Award in Chemical Education. The award, granted by the American Chemical Society (ACS; [acs.org](https://www.acs.org)), recognizes two key areas of Mahaffy's teaching and research: understanding and relating to chemistry as a human activity and reimagining the teaching

and learning of chemistry by using “systems thinking” tools. Mahaffy’s innovative work as the director of King’s Centre for Visualization in Science (KCVS; kcv.ca) is at the forefront of systems thinking. In collaboration with a team of undergraduate student researchers and a network of international and Edmonton-based experts, KCVS has developed an extensive range of digital resources that teach students to consider how chemical systems connect the world. Educators and students can access these interactive models, visualizations, and curriculum materials for free at kcv.ca.

Thanks to generous gifts from our support community, King’s has launched a new Sustainability Transformation Action and Research (STAR) Hub. Our vision is to become a leader in sustainability transition innovation and research that is guided by our Christian understanding of humanity’s God-given responsibility to steward his creation. The innovation and research hub (to be housed in the Centre for Excellence in the Sciences) will catalyze internal research and action projects related to sustainability transition, become a regional hub for sustainability transitions research, and foster sustainability action, in partnership with local, national, and international academic and nonacademic institutions (faith-based organizations, church networks, NGOs, etc.).

Thank you for your continued prayers for The King’s University and our students. The financial support that we receive from many churches in the western Canadian classes of the CRCNA is key in our efforts to keep a King’s education an affordable option for anyone seeking a university degree grounded in the Christian faith. We are grateful for the vision that members of the Christian Reformed Church have had in establishing King’s and in ensuring that this important option for Christian university education is available for students.

The King’s University
Melanie Humphreys, president

Kuyper College

Greetings from Kuyper College!

This year our theme is *Christ: Our Firm Foundation*, based on Luke 6:46-49. David Kinnaman, president of Barna Group, echoes this theme as he calls college leaders, faculty, and staff to form students to be “resilient disciples” of Jesus Christ. This is a high calling for Christian colleges, for we know only too well the literal and metaphorical storms that are striking the lives of our students, our institutions, and our culture. Living out this theme has been our earnest intent this year, through chapel services, classroom discussions, work placements, one-on-one conversations, service projects, and much more.

Here are some highlights describing how we are fulfilling our mission “to form lifelong learners for purposeful lives of work and service to God and neighbor.”

Purposeful Learning

- We give thanks to God for another year of significant enrollment growth, with the highest undergraduate headcount since 2017. Our niche as a small Bible College and as a federally recognized Work College provides students with an intentional, faith-based community and workplace-ready skills to prepare them for lives of service and ministry.
- In line with our value toward learning outside of the classroom, we partnered with the Grand Rapids Initiative for Leaders and with Bridge Street Ministries to offer two courses in our new Christian community development minor. In addition, this past summer Kuyper professors hosted two off-campus immersive courses: “Leadership in the National Parks” and “Native American Intercultural Ministry.”
- This past fall we established partnerships with (1) Calvin University to provide our undergraduate students with a pathway to careers serving in elementary and secondary education and (2) Northpoint (Bible) College to provide their students access to our business leadership program.
- To fulfill our mission of forming lifelong learners and engaging our broader community, we hosted two on-campus forums: one last fall focused on faith and politics, and one this winter focused on faith and business.

Purposeful Work

- More than 115 students are involved in KuyperWorks, with work placements in every office on campus, and we have plans to offer off-campus work placements next year. In order to help our students

develop KuyperWorks competencies, we implemented weekly professional development sessions in which they hear from industry and ministry leaders.

- Dr. Richelle White, professor of youth ministry, received a grant from the Calvin Institute of Christian Worship for a research project focused on storytelling, community, and healing among an intergenerational group of women.
- This year marks 25 years of teaching by Dr. Dan Kroeze, professor of biblical studies and preaching pastor at Westend Christian Reformed Church in Grand Rapids, Michigan. Prior to his service at Kuyper, his father, Dr. George Kroeze, taught Bible at Kuyper for 25 years. What a legacy of teaching God's Word!
- In February our board of trustees was recognized by the Association for Biblical Higher Education for successfully completing the Board Governance Training Program. In coordination with our designated board governance coach we developed a strategic board governance plan.

Purposeful Service

- Founded on Kuyper's deep commitment to prayer and community-based learning, our student spiritual life team implemented Chapel Groups this year. These groups consist of 8-10 students, staff, and faculty who join together biweekly to discuss one question connected to this year's theme and to spend time in prayer for each other. In addition, our Alumni Relations Committee created an online prayer portal as a pathway to connect alumni and friends of the college with prayer partners on campus.
- In October, four Kuyper students and two Kuyper staff members joined more than 60 students and staff from seven Work Colleges to participate in meaningful, hands-on service in Kentucky communities. Service activities included packing essential supply bags for local schools, clearing trails at an Appalachian park, and preparing a farm for winter.
- In November, "Homecoming: Falling for Kuyper" combined Kuyper's first-ever homecoming event with our annual Fall Fest. Alumni, representing five decades of graduates, along with faculty, staff, and students, enjoyed a variety of community-building events and an exciting women's basketball game.
- Kuyper College is now home to the Divine Servant, a life-size bronze cast statue depicting Jesus washing Peter's feet, based on John 13. This statue was gifted to the college by the Zondervan Publishing Company after being housed in the Zondervan offices for many years. Situated outside the Vos Chapel, the statue provides a space for reflection, and its message aligns with our mission to serve God and others.

In closing, as I reflect on our theme—*Christ: Our Firm Foundation*—I picture rods and rods of rebar set in a concrete foundation giving strength, protection, and stability to a tall building. I also picture a community founded deeply on Jesus Christ and giving support, encouragement, and care to each other. We celebrate this community at Kuyper College, and we are grateful that we can be part of the larger community of the CRCNA. Thanks be to God for the gift of his church!

Kuyper College,
Patricia R. Harris, president

Redeemer University

At Redeemer University, 2024 was a year of increased enrollment, exciting program development, campus renewal, and engaging events. We also laid the groundwork for future initiatives that will help Redeemer remain relevant and affordable for Christian students. We praise God for his faithfulness! Here are some highlights from the past twelve months.

I. Records in student enrollment

An increasing number of students are choosing to integrate their academic journey with their faith. In fall 2024, Redeemer achieved record numbers in incoming class size, total enrollment, and students living on campus; 1,094 students are currently part of the Redeemer community, an increase of 37 percent since 2019!

II. New programs for increased kingdom impact

Recognizing that the needs of students and the marketplace are changing, Redeemer is expanding program offerings in innovative ways. At the undergraduate level, Redeemer announced a new bachelor of health sciences degree and a redesigned music program. Redeemer is also preparing to launch its first master's degree program, a master of education degree, in 2026. More certificates and master's programs are in development. While preserving its in-person, undergraduate foundation, the university has launched church leadership microcredentials and a not-for-profit management certificate program with online delivery.

III. Strategic leadership in business education

Redeemer's School of Business is becoming a national leader in Christian business education. Last summer the university appointed a new dean of business, Dr. Sophia Kusyk, a strategic leader who brings more than 25 years of professional and academic experience to the role. Additionally, Redeemer launched an online certificate program in not-for-profit management, equipping Christian leaders and managers with sound business training integrated with a kingdom perspective.

IV. Prioritizing student wellness

This past year Redeemer invested in additional mental health and wellness staffing to support students. The university also completed the expansion of its Wellness Centre, centralizing health services, mental health triage, and counseling. At an open house, staff, faculty, and students visited the upgraded facility and explored the variety of services offered.

V. Strategizing for the future

Redeemer also completed the process of renewing its mission and vision statements.

Mission: Preparing students to reflect the love of Jesus Christ in every career and calling.

Vision: Minds renewed. Lives transformed. World redeemed.

In addition, Redeemer has adopted six institutional values, core markers that guide how the university community learns and works together: truth, learning, community, excellence, grace, and courage. The university is also working to wrap up the current strategic plan, *Learn. Forward.*, and to launch its next strategic plan—a ten-year vision—in 2025.

VI. Engaging the community

Hundreds of community members visited Redeemer this past year for a number of exciting events. Last May, Redeemer partnered with Christian Legal Fellowship to host its first annual Public Law Lecture. In the fall Redeemer hosted singer-songwriter Elias Dummer as part of his cross-Canada tour. Redeemer also equipped local youth leaders by hosting its first annual ministry forum for youth leaders. And Grammy-nominated musician and hymnwriter Keith Getty came to campus to host a community music workshop. The Redeemer Concert Choir joined Keith and Kristyn Getty on stage at their Hamilton concert.

VII. Platforming Christian scholarship

The Albert M. Wolters Centre for Christian Scholarship hosted a variety of engaging academic initiatives and events to profile and platform outstanding Reformed Christian research. The centre awarded the 2024 Emerging Public Intellectual Award to American political scientist and professor Dr. Jonathan Askonas (Catholic University of America). The centre also welcomed a variety of guest lecturers to Redeemer, including Dr. Lydia Jaeger (Institut Biblique de Nogent), Dr. Dave Warners and Dr. Matthew Heun (Calvin University), and Dr. Fellipe do Vale (Trinity Evangelical Divinity School). In September the centre hosted an academic conference on the life and legacy of J.R.R. Tolkien, featuring a public lecture by Dr. Louis Markos (Houston Christian University).

VIII. Renewing the campus environment

Redeemer invested in a number of campus upgrades in 2024. Founders Hall, Redeemer’s main academic building, received much-needed upgrades to refresh the hallways and classrooms. Additionally, the maintenance area was upgraded and expanded to meet the needs of a growing campus. Many residences also received upgrades, including security enhancements and aesthetic improvements.

IX. Enhancing experiential learning

Redeemer’s Innovation Centre launched a new venture, The Studio, a student-run video production and digital storytelling company. Additionally, the Career Centre team expanded with the addition of a full-time experiential learning coordinator, giving the centre more capacity to facilitate and grow relationships with reputable organizations. Redeemer also joined a program hosted by the Hamilton Chamber of Commerce called Student Talent Connect, which assists local employers in accessing post-secondary student talent.

X. Thank you

We remain grateful for the CRCNA's long-standing, prayerful support. Redeemer's mission of preparing students to reflect the love of Jesus Christ in every career and calling is so needed in the world today. Thank you for helping students discover where God is calling them!

Redeemer University
David Zietsma, president

Trinity Christian College

Greetings from Trinity Christian College. Thank you for the opportunity to provide an update to synod and for your continued partnership in encouraging and training leaders for the church and community through the ministry of Christian higher education.

Over the past year, Trinity Christian College has continued to boldly and strategically pursue a vision of Christian higher education that aims to eliminate students' reliance on loans, enable students to focus on their well-being, and expand our partnerships with local businesses and organizations—all so that Trinity can welcome students as fully as possible into the life-changing experience of Christian higher education.

At the core of Trinity's work has been a vision for partnerships of mutual benefit that connect the gifts of our wider community in ways that are good for students, partners, and the college. We are learning that we can (1) help students access powerful experiential education that supports their vocational growth while also (2) generating student income/debt relief through (3) stipends provided by employment partners who (4) benefit from student work and access to student hiring. This virtuous cycle is helping Trinity move away from the assumption that debt is the economic foundation of higher education in America. This institutional emphasis, open to students in all academic fields, ensures that students get powerful hands-on learning, pursued through a Christian worldview, in ways that allow them to graduate with significantly reduced debt. We see this economic model as a profound expression of our Christian commitments to sound economic stewardship and to seeing the whole-person good of all our students. This approach—our Earn, Network, and Learn Initiative—is generating important regional and national momentum that is beginning to show promise for healthy change inside of higher education as a whole.

Trinity's sponsored nursing degree program with Northwestern Hospital, for example, launched in fall 2024 and will increase in scope next fall. Northwestern pays student tuition in years three and four, trains students in clinical rotations, guarantees a job pursuant to successful completion of the NCLEX Nursing Boards, and asks for a three-year employment commitment. For Northwestern, this partnership reduces hiring costs and—more significantly—provides stability in the nursing workforce, correlating to better community health outcomes. For Trinity students, the partnership provides debt-free education and the promise of meaningful work at a world-class medical facility. This is just the sort of mutuality that underlies Trinity's commitments to students and to its neighbors. The college is working toward a handful of additional sponsored degree programs within education and financial services.

Beyond these sponsored degrees, Trinity has partnered with more than 50 cooperative employers through the Earn, Network, and Learn Initiative, re-

sulting in positive student financial outcomes, exceptional experiential education, and strong outcomes for the employer partners. In addition, we have nearly 100 Community Alliance Program partners—all entrepreneurs from economically underengaged neighborhoods on the south side of Chicago. Tuition grants earned by students through these paid work experiences have more than quadrupled while the number of participating students has grown by 900 percent. Data is showing that students who participate in these programs have average debt loads that are lower than Trinity's overall student body in amounts commensurate with their co-op, Community Alliance Program, or sponsored degree grant amounts. Students are therefore accessing Christian higher education through powerful hands-on learning in ways that reduce or eliminate indebtedness.

It should come as no surprise that student financial well-being is part of a larger picture of student flourishing at Trinity. This spring we are partnering with the Center for Human Flourishing at Harvard to study more deeply the powerful well-being indicators, such as dramatically increased retention and dramatically decreased levels of academic probation, that have accompanied our innovative academic schedule, which features Well-being Wednesday. The openness of that time, which has come with no reduction of course hours, has given students the time they need to focus on spiritual, academic, social, physical, financial, and professional well-being.

Trinity also continues to make key progress on the most significant capital campaign in its history, which aims to enhance numerous aspects of the campus and to help establish the college as a leading voice for change amid the challenged financial and student service model in higher education today. Currently we have raised over two-thirds of the funding toward our campaign goal. We thank God for this record philanthropy, motivated by a transformational approach to Christian higher education.

These structural innovations—all rooted in Trinity's Christian commitments—are designed to improve access to Christian higher education. We know that when students enter academic and professional programs that are shaped by the deep commitments of the gospel of Jesus, profound transformation can ensue. Our commitment at Trinity, located in the second largest county in the United States, is to strive to be a place where any student—regardless of financial background—can experience a Christian vision of life and calling. This is our enduring mission. Every day, we witness God's guiding hand at work in Trinity's community and in our surrounding neighborhoods. We are immensely thankful for the ways in which the support of so many CRCNA classes and partners catalyzes our mission to serve students and neighbors as they encounter the love of Christ in their academic and professional callings. May God continue to bless all institutions working with a Christian vision for education and vocation.

Trinity Christian College
Aaron Kuecker, president