

CALVIN THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY MISSION STATEMENT AND CORE VALUES

MISSION STATEMENT

Calvin Theological Seminary exists to serve the Christian Reformed Church in North America and wider constituencies by preparing persons for biblically faithful and contextually effective ministry of the Word and by offering Reformed theological scholarship and counsel.

VISION STATEMENT

In the 21st century, it will be increasingly evident that Calvin Theological Seminary is making a positive difference in the church and the world as God blesses the fulfillment of its mission.

As a result, Calvin Theological Seminary will be a more widely recognized center of Reformed theological scholarship, creative leadership and evangelistic vision. Calvin Theological Seminary will be readily trusted for counsel within the Christian Reformed Church in North America, and naturally chosen by Christian Reformed students and others for graduate professional ministry preparation.

CORE VALUES

As an agency of the CRCNA, Calvin Theological Seminary confesses that:

- the triune God has given his people his written Word--a gospel of grace and the only infallible rule for faith and life--and he calls them to proclaim and defend it across the world;
- Jesus Christ is God's incarnate Son, the world's only Savior and Lord, and the life-giving center of the Christian church;
- Christ calls his church through his Word and Spirit to be a primary witness, agent, and model of the Kingdom of God;
- the creedal standards of the CRCNA faithfully represent the Word of God and generate a truthful Reformed theology and view of the world.

As the theological school of the CRCNA, Calvin Theological Seminary commits itself to serve the denomination and the broader church by:

- drawing students of the Word through a classical theological curriculum toward culturally effective ministry in the contemporary world;
- offering theological scholarship and teaching that is both faithful and creative, promoting truth and opposing error;
- integrating its mission and vision with those of other CRCNA agencies;
- honoring the policy and synodical decisions of the CRCNA.

As a Christian community, Calvin Theological Seminary covenants to:

- express the unity of the church by offering ready hospitality to men and women of various races and cultures;
- promote the holiness of the church by encouraging spiritual health within seminary life;
- demonstrate the catholicity of the church by serving and respecting Christian students and traditions beyond the CRCNA;
- reflect the apostolicity of the church by praying and educating for the church's mission in the world.

Expectations of Trustees Calvin Theological Seminary

Introduction:

Trustees are responsible for setting the policies that enhance the effectiveness of Calvin Theological Seminary as is consistent with the bylaws of the Seminary and the Ministry Plan of the Christian Reformed Church in North America.

Term:

Appointments to the board (other than those necessitated by unexpected vacancies) shall be for staggered three (3) year terms, so that the terms of approximately one-third (1/3) of the trustees shall expire each year as of July 1. Regional trustees shall not serve more than two (2) consecutive terms and shall alternate between clergy and non-clergy.

Expectations:

1. **Prayer**
Remember in prayer the ministry and personnel of Calvin Seminary.
2. **Regional Representation**
Regional trustees are responsible to advocate the mission of the Seminary among the churches (including attending, at least annually, a meeting of each classis in his/her region, or, in regions that have two representatives on the board, dividing this responsibility with the other representative), be active in the recruitment of students and promote financial giving to the Seminary. The trustees are responsible for cultivating good relations between Seminary and churches by reporting board actions to the churches and by providing information to the churches.
3. **Governance**
Trustees shall be familiar with CTS policies and involved in the policy making process in order to enhance the mission of Calvin Theological Seminary.
4. **Governance/Management Distinction**
The Board of Trustees is responsible for setting policy; the administration is responsible for administering that policy. Individual trustees are to exercise care in offering opinions to staff members or becoming unduly involved in administrative oversight matters. Concerns are to be addressed to the administration for resolution.
5. **Attendance**
Trustees are expected to attend all board and assigned committee meetings unless prevented by unusual circumstances, in which case the trustee shall communicate this to the president of the board as soon as possible. Meetings of the board shall normally be held in October, February and May of each year or at such time as may be fixed by the president of the board.
6. **Preparation for Meetings**
Trustees are to become acquainted with issues on the agenda for the board meetings by thoroughly reading all distributed materials and clarifying any questions prior to board meetings.
7. **Creative Thinking**
Trustees are to think creatively about the ministry of CTS and make suggestions to the board and/or administration regarding ideas which will enhance the mission of the Seminary.
8. **Support**
Trustees are expected to encourage and support members of the administration, faculty and staff as well as to provide financial resources at a level commensurate with income and in keeping with other personal financial responsibilities.

Calvin Seminary Vision Frame

Mission *WHAT are we doing?*

As a learning community in the Reformed Christian tradition that forms church leaders who cultivate communities of disciples of Jesus Christ, Calvin Theological Seminary serves the Christian Reformed Church in North America and wider constituencies by preparing individuals for biblically faithful and contextually effective ministry of the Word and by offering Reformed theological scholarship and counsel.

Values *WHY are we doing it?*

Reformed Theology – All our teaching and formation grow from a shared understanding of God's Word as articulated in the Reformed confessions.

The Church – We are formed by and serve the church, God's agent of hope for the world.

Cultural Context – We give our students tools to sow the gospel in a multicultural world. We challenge one another to have hearts that engage the broader world God so loves

The Whole Person – We cultivate meaningful relationships with our students to foster personal and spiritual growth throughout our learning community.

Strategy *HOW are we doing it?*

Through the power of the Holy Spirit:

We are known for **academic excellence and scholarship**.

We provide **innovative learning environments**.

We pursue **synergy with our graduates and other ministry leaders**.

We nurture a **community of hospitality**.

We enrich the student experience through **vital partnerships**.

Measures *WHEN are we successful?*

When graduates of Calvin Seminary:

- Preach and teach the Bible [message]
- Grow in their pastoral identity [person]
- Discern and engage ministry contexts [context]
- Cultivate and lead communities of disciples [goal]
- Equip the church to renew communities for the glory of God [purpose]

Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, as clear as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb down the middle of the great street of the city. On each side of the river stood the tree of life, bearing twelve crops of fruit, yielding its fruit every month. And the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations. – Revelation 22:1-2