

CALVIN COLLEGE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Background information for trustee selection
Summer 2018

COLLEGE MISSION

Calvin College's primary mission is to equip students to think deeply, to act justly, and to live wholeheartedly as Christ's agents of renewal in the world. The broader mission of the college's faculty and staff is worked out in three main arenas:

- preparing students for Christian life through a broad educational program based substantially upon the liberal arts;
- producing works of Christian scholarship and engaging in appropriate Christian service; and
- developing Christian community among those who study and work on campus

Calvin College's approach to Christian higher education is set within the tradition of biblical interpretation, worship, and Christian practice expressed in the creeds of the Reformed-Presbyterian churches. As the college with close affiliation to the Christian Reformed Church in North America (CRCNA), Calvin subscribes to the doctrinal standards of the Belgic Confession, the Canons of Dordt, and the Heidelberg Catechism, and we endorse the contemporary statement, "Our World Belongs to God" as a testimony of faith for these times. Together, these four expressions of the Reformed Christian tradition serve as authoritative historic guides to our understanding of Scripture and its claims on our lives.

THE ROLE OF THE BOARD

The Calvin College Board of Trustees' basic function is to ensure that the College accomplishes its mission. The Board does this primarily through its role in the determination of policies, strategies, and budgets. In this process trustees must consider the special mission of Calvin College and be aware of the trends and challenges in higher education in general.

The Board evaluates and sets educational policy by acting upon recommendations of the faculty as brought to the Board by the administration; makes appointments to the College's faculty and administration upon recommendation by the faculty and the President, subject to the ratification of Synod; and determines financial policy by approving the budget and building plans recommended by the administration. The Board of Trustees is a legislative body whose primary responsibility is the determination of policy; it is not an administrative body. The Board articulates policies intended to guide the administration, but it does not itself execute the policies of the College. Calvin trustees are charged with the overall care and direction of the institution, but they do not "run" the school.

The authority of trustees rests in the Board as a whole, not in individual trustees. Trustees may initiate individual action affecting the College only when specifically commissioned to do so by the Board. The Board thus functions as a group, as a corporate body, with a view toward the enhancement of the institution as an educational agent of the church and an effective agency in the Kingdom of God.

CONFESSIONAL REQUIREMENTS

Each trustee of Calvin College shall:

1. be a professing member in good standing of the CRCNA or a church body in ecclesiastical fellowship with the CRCNA, and
2. join Calvin faculty members in signing the *Covenant for Faculty Members* approved for use for Calvin College.

Current or prospective board members who wish to express difficulties with a portion of the confessions should express their concerns in writing to the executive committee of the board. The executive committee shall consult with the president and provost and other experts as necessary to discern how the CRCNA and the college has responded to any similar concern in the past, and shall decide whether the difficulty is sufficiently weighty to disqualify the individual from serving on the board

FUNCTIONAL JOB DESCRIPTION OF BOARD MEMBERS

Members of the Calvin College Board of Trustees can be expected to:

- A. Be committed to the mission and goals of Calvin College and hold the College to them.
- B. Engage in an orientation program and have a lasting curiosity and connection to campus.
- C. Practice confidentiality and professionalism in undertaking their Board duties.
- D. Develop a good working relationship with the College leadership.
- E. Work in assigned board committees according to individual gifts and college needs.
- F. Nurture, evaluate, and (when a vacancy occurs) approve the selection of the President.
- G. Understand and give final approval to, the College's policies, strategies, and budgets.
- H. Link the college to its constituencies, particularly the CRCNA in advocating for the college in classical, regional and synodical discussions.
- I. Review and approve the appointment of regular faculty and senior administrators, subject to ratification by Synod.
- J. Ensure the college's financial solvency and integrity.
- K. Assist in advancement of the College through their own giving, recruitment and stimulation of other financial giving, positive and enthusiastic public relations, and private and public intercession for God's grace and mercy upon the College.
- L. Serve as final arbiter of unresolved internal disputes.
- M. Evaluate and improve the Board as individual members and as a governing body.

TERMS

Appointments to the board (other than those necessitated by unexpected vacancies) shall be for three (3) year terms. On this schedule the relevant terms expire each year on the convening date of the first full board meeting following the meeting of synod. Regional trustees and alumni trustees shall not serve more than two (2) consecutive terms. At large trustees may serve up to three (3) terms.

VACANCIES

Vacancies on the board occurring for any reason, including an increase in the number of trustees, shall be filled by the synod or its designee, according to procedures outlined in the College bylaws and other documents. A trustee appointed to fill a vacancy occurring for any reason, including an increase in the number of trustees, shall hold office until the first of the following occurs: 1) The expiration of the remainder of the term that the trustee he or she replaced was scheduled to serve, or 2) the resignation or removal of such trustee.

RESIGNATION AND REMOVAL

A trustee may resign by written notice to the secretary of the board, which resignation shall be effective upon receipt by the board or at a subsequent time as set forth in the notice. Any trustee may be removed, at any time, without cause, by the synod, or its designee.

MEETINGS

Meetings of the full board shall be held three times per year, usually in October, February, and May, or at such time as may be fixed by the chairman of the board. The secretary of the board shall notify the members of the board of the time and place of the meetings.

COMPENSATION OF TRUSTEES

Trustees shall not be paid for their services as trustees. The board will pay reasonable expenses of attendance at any committee or full board meeting, as well as expenses to attend a classis meeting, should it be determined that a visit is in the best interest of the College.

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