



January 10, 2023

Dear Friends of Classis Niagara,

**Calvin University Trustees:**

Rosanne Lopers continues to serve as a Canada East Regional Trustee on the Calvin University Board of Trustees and is now joined by Tony Kamphuis who is just getting started in this role.

There are four key items we want to draw to your attention:

**Item #1: New Calvin University President**

In October, the university inaugurated Dr. Wiebe Boer as its 12th president, marking his official introduction to the university — though he has been serving in the role since July 2022.

Dr. Boer was born and raised in Nigeria as the son of Dutch-Canadian CRC missionary parents. He is a '97 Calvin alum and earned his Ph.D. and two master's degrees from Yale. What is notable is Dr. Boer's deep commitment to the Christian Reformed Church and his desire to see the Reformed vision it stewards, thrive.

In his inaugural remarks, Dr. Boer outlined a vision for Calvin to renew its call to the global good. "In a world more polarized than ever, divided by arguments — some pertinent and some petty, we need to be laser-focused in our mission of equipping students to think deeply, act justly, and live wholeheartedly as Christ's agents of renewal," he said. The inauguration ceremony is available to be viewed [online](#).

**Item #2: Renewed Commitment to Work Closely with CRC**

As part of the inauguration and Board meetings, Calvin University's leadership renewed its commitment to work closely with the CRC.

Dr. Boer addressed this commitment in his inaugural address, pledging to "...recommit to our engagement in our own church and our own community, showing that our mission is not just abstract but put into action for the welfare of the CRC, the city of Grand Rapids, and communities around the world."

He and the Board are united in our commitment to engage and collaborate with the CRC as Calvin U finds new ways to support the denomination.

**Item #3: The Missing Middle**

The Calvin University community has been well served throughout its 150-year history by having diverse viewpoints among its faculty *and* remaining committed to upholding the confessional standards of the CRC. Synod has historically supported the university's approach to both confessional commitment and academic freedom.

The university's Professional Status Committee (PSC) reviewed the established procedures approved by Faculty Senate, the Board, and in some cases, Synod to address times of theological disagreement and determined that they were well-constructed to provide a path forward as we hold firmly to our principles against those who would push us to one extreme or the other. Calvin U will work firmly in the "missing middle" in a time of division and discord.

The Board supported this approach, finding it “respectful of the university’s covenantal partnership with the CRC, consistent with confessional commitments, congruent with existing policies and procedures, supportive of academic freedom, and reflective of constructive engagement.”

**Item #4: Calvin Needs More Canada**

Did you know that CRC churches have a designated Calvin University Sunday in which each church can signal its support for “their” university – a university that grows out of the same Biblical worldview as our churches?

How did your church mark Calvin University Sunday – Dec 4<sup>th</sup>, 2022?

Calvin is committed to nurturing its Canadian connection. Here is how:

- a. Canadian students who are CRC will receive a Legacy Scholarship of \$4,000 USD.
- b. Canadian students are awarded the Mosaic Scholarship of \$4,000 USD.
- c. Canadian Students who visit Calvin through the *Calvin Discover Day* program (or through 2 virtual visits) will receive an additional [\\$1,000 visit grant](#) each year towards their Calvin undergraduate education.
- d. Calvin has launched the [Canadian Exchange Rate Grant](#) to help students pay their US tuition bill in Canadian Dollars.
- e. Calvin’s athletic expansion plan is exploring significant expansion of the hockey program, adding to our existing championship-level hockey program. And the first ever Calvin Knights Football team is about to kick-off!

Your classis and your churches should support and promote the unique opportunities your Calvin University provides by: lifting up its leadership in prayer; taking every opportunity to speak in support of our world-class, Biblically-based, Christ-centred, post-secondary educational institution; providing financial support as it works out its mission; and urging young people to consider a Calvin education so that the precious legacy of a thoughtful, articulate Reformed Christian education can continue to influence our world to the glory of God.

In Christ,

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