



Calvin Theological Seminary
Canadian Church Relations Liaison Report
Fall 2022 Classis Meeting

From my home and office just east of Peterborough, ON, it's my privilege to strengthen partnerships between Calvin Seminary and local churches, pastors, and ministries across Canada.

The academic year 2022-23 brings with it several changes that directly impact Canadian students and churches in a variety of ways!



Brand New MDiv Curriculum:

To respond to evolving student needs and the recent revision to ATS standards, we've right-sized our MDiv curriculum at Calvin. As a result, the online degree can now be completed in four years instead of five. This is huge news for Canada since 70% of the seminary's Canadian MDiv students are enrolled in the distance program. Students can now live, work, and serve in Kamloops, Kingston, or Kentville while completing their degree twelve months earlier.

A greater emphasis on digital tools instead of rote memorization means that students are now only required to take one course in Hebrew, and one in Greek. The traditional track of two courses in each biblical language is still available for those who opt for it.

A new competency-based approach to preaching allows students to take mini-courses in areas like structure or delivery so that students can hone particular skills where needed or desired.

Lastly, more electives allow students to tailor their degree to the specific ministry they believe God is calling them to, whether that's leading a non-profit urban ministry in Dartmouth North, serving as chaplain on an Ontario university campus, or shepherding a congregation in Northern Alberta.



New Funding for Canadian Students:

Each year, Calvin Seminary provides over \$1.4 million in student aid in the form of scholarships. Coupled with the generous support each Canadian classis provides their students, almost 90% of our students presently graduate without taking on any additional debt while completing their seminary degree. Desiring to see that figure rise to 100%, generous Canadian donors are making it possible for us to work on a new funding initiative specifically for Canadian students. Expect a major announcement later this year!



Life-Long Learning and Equipping the Church:

Gone are the days when Calvin Seminary thinks of its mission strictly in terms of preparing students to serve as a Minister of the Word. While that remains central to our calling, a new \$1 million grant is also allowing us to serve the church more broadly. Through webinars, cohorts, mini-courses, free online content, conferences, and retreats, Calvin will increasingly begin providing opportunities for pastors to continue to hone their skills, for ministry staff to be further equipped to serve, for elders and deacons to better fulfil their calling, and for other ministry leaders to increasingly grow into their roles.

Many of these regional opportunities will be offered in Canada. If there is opportunity for us to serve your church, classis, or region, please don't hesitate to contact me! Together, we're partners with God in building the Kingdom!

Pastor Shawn Brix

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