



Calvin Theological Seminary CANADIAN Church-Relations Liaison

Report to Classis

Calvin Theological Seminary (CTS) has always had a deep commitment to Canadian churches and ministries but, for the first time in its 144 year history, it has called a Canadian pastor – living and serving in Canada! – to be an ambassador on its behalf north of the 49th parallel.

As CTS' *Canadian Church Relations Liaison* (CCRL), my role is to build and strengthen bridges between the seminary, you, your congregation, and the ministries of your classis. CTS has always been a community rich with resources for ministry! My desire is to see those resources shared broadly with the church in Canada so that congregations and Canadian ministries can further live into the mission God has given them.

I began my role in January 2020 and already God is opening doors of possibility! We've begun exploring with the Canadian Church Planting Institute (an initiative of several CRC classes in Ontario and Eastern Canada) how we might partner with them to further equip church planters. We've also had some initial conversations with the Christian Reformed Campus Ministry Association about possibly providing continuing education opportunities for our campus pastors and/or their staff and volunteer leaders.

Several other new initiatives to serve the church are already firmly in place. For instance:

- In the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, CTS (through the Calvin Institute for Christian Worship) has already gathered several hundred articles and other resources to help churches cope with the new reality churches face in Canada and around the world. Additional resources are added daily! To explore what's available, go to <https://worship.calvin.edu/resources/resource-library/covid-19-and-worship-resources-for-churches-adapting-to-social-isolation> and to their partner site <https://preachingandworship.org/search/COVID-19>
- A new *Certificate in Bible Instruction* is now being offered for K-12 teachers who teach Bible classes in Christian schools or churches. The certificate will equip teachers at all grade levels to teach Bible classes steeped in solid theology, excellent pedagogy, and a passion for God's Word. The courses are offered online and designed to fit a teacher's schedule. Partnering with Christian School's International and Calvin University's Master of Education degree program, those who enroll in the course can receive graduate level certification.
- The new Doctor of Ministry (DMin) program at CTS is for ministry leaders who want to develop advanced ministry leadership skills and spiritual formation. Designed to fit a pastor's or ministry leader's life and ministry, the program empowers students to bring their ministry driven questions and congregational initiatives to bear within a community of learners.

How else might we serve? I'm eager to have conversations with you to determine other ways we might partner with you in your local congregations and classis. How might I help your Student Fund Committee, for instance (or classical Candidacy Committee, or Leadership Ministry team)? What workshops might I host in your classis that would benefit you and other local ministry leaders? What training resources does your congregation or council need? Is there a topic or issue that you'd like to have a speaker from CTS address in your congregation? In short, CTS is your seminary and we welcome opportunities to serve!

I'm looking forward to the partnerships we build together!

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CTS FAST FACTS:

- 295 degree seeking students
- Students from 27 denominations
- 26 countries represented in the student body
- \$1.5 in scholarship money available to students annually
- New financial initiatives have resulted in almost 60% of graduates completing their degree with no seminary debt