



Fall Classis Report 2021: Redeemer University

With only a few short weeks until the 2021-22 academic year begins, Redeemer's campus is busy with preparations for the arrival of students. While Redeemer will continue to offer dual delivery, a choice of remote learning or in-person studies, we are looking forward to an open campus and a return to many of the pre-pandemic activities that make the Redeemer community such a great place to live and learn. Chapel, clubs, launch weekend, sports, events, internships and many more activities are likely to resume in a way similar to their pre-COVID formats. We look forward to a return to the relational and spiritual vibrancy that characterizes this university.

As you may be aware, Redeemer was denied Canada Summer Jobs funding a few years ago, and we filed a lawsuit against the government. I'm pleased to share that the Federal Court found that the Minister of Employment, Workforce Development and Labour engaged in only a "cursory review" of Redeemer's Canada Summer Jobs program application before denying it funding in 2019 and did not make a reasonable effort to obtain additional information or clarification about concerns it had. The Court also cautioned the government that, in addition to observing procedural fairness, it must treat faith-based institutions in a way that respects their Charter rights. Justice Mosley also issued a rare order that the government pay Redeemer's full legal costs. We are thankful for this outcome and hope the Canada Summer Jobs program can continue to fund student employment opportunities on campus for students. It is also an encouraging win for religious freedom in Canada.

As a result of Redeemer's recent Charter change, 12 Redeemer business grads crossed the virtual stage in June and received Redeemer's first bachelor of business administration (BBA) degrees. Seeing the first cohort of BBA graduates receive their degree is a fulfillment of Redeemer's strategic effort to expand degrees and accreditations in order to ensure student and graduate success. This is a key part of *Learn. Forward. Strategic Plan 2025*. Students in Ontario now have the unique opportunity to study business from a Christian perspective grounded in a liberal arts and sciences approach, and to receive a BBA after successfully doing that. The BBA is more readily recognized as a business degree than a bachelor of arts (BA) by employers, professional associations and graduate schools.

Redeemer's bookstore has long been a staple of campus life. This summer, it's been revitalized with a new name and brand that links to the wider mission of the university, making it unique to Redeemer while still appealing to a larger community interested in merchandise and literature from the Reformed tradition. The store's new name is 21Five, a reference to Revelation 21:5: "He who is seated at the throne said, 'I am making all things new.'" This is fitting for an institution where faculty are engaged in teaching, research and learning that reflects a Christian worldview. Faculty publications are at the heart of the store's new ethos and out of that flows an education that prepares students to be kingdom-centred innovators. An online store has been launched for those who are unable to buy things in person. A notable service it provides is Books on Beds, which will allow students to have their textbooks for the upcoming semester delivered right to their dorms before they move in.



Redeemer
University

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As we ramp up planning and look forward to welcoming students back on campus in the fall, please continue to keep Redeemer in your prayers. Pray that we would be strengthened and steadfast in the mission to prepare students to shine the love and hope of Jesus wherever they are called. Pray also for the Board and the presidential search they are conducting, that they would find the right leader for Redeemer for this season.

We are grateful for your continued financial support and we pray God's blessing on each of you.

Hank de Jong
Associate Vice-President, External Relations