



## Spring Classis Report 2022: Redeemer University

April 4, 2022

What a difference just a few months can make!

This March, the Board of Governors appointed Dr. David Zietsma as the next president of Redeemer University. David is a visionary and a longstanding member of Redeemer's leadership team who brings a wealth of experience and passion to this role. We are extremely blessed to have him lead Redeemer in this next chapter! We want to express our thanks to all of you who held this process up in prayer.

With the provincial government lifting almost all COVID-19 related restrictions in late March, Redeemer University also saw most restrictions lifted on campus as well. The Covid Management Committee has remained principled throughout the pandemic, and implemented policies and restrictions as were required to operate in person. In the same way, they lifted these policies and restrictions when the government no longer required them. However, there has been careful consideration of those who may feel anxious about the loosening of restrictions and the committee has encouraged everyone to continue to show respect and kindness for the personal decisions and comfort levels of others.

In March, Redeemer also launched the newly renamed Albert M. Wolters Centre for Christian Scholarship. Dr. Al Wolters, an important early faculty member of Redeemer and a key figure in Reformed Christian Scholarship around the globe, is renowned for his book *Creation Regained*, which clearly and succinctly explains the Reformed Christian worldview. Dr. Jessica Joustra, who began as director in January, will lead many of the centre's current successful initiatives like the Emerging Public Intellectual Award while debuting some new programs and projects including as the launch of the new faculty fellowship program, which will see three faculty members lead events, readings and discussions in their areas of discipline. We look forward to all the centre will accomplish in the coming years.

On April 1, Redeemer, joined by representatives from all levels of government, held the Grand Opening of the Charis Live and Learn Centre. The centre comprises 170 beds in two-, four-, six-, and eight-student units, each with kitchens and common space, as well as classrooms and breakout space on the lower level. The centre will also encompass the new Centre for Innovation and Entrepreneurship complete with a makerspace.

With the spring weather comes much anticipation and hope of the new season to come. I pray you each feel a renewed energy for the important work you are doing leading your churches. We are grateful for the ongoing support from the Christian Reformed Church as we strive to equip students to live out their faith in all aspects of life to the glory of Jesus Christ.

Hank de Jong  
Associate Vice-President, External Relations