



Spring 2014 Newsletter

FAREWELL TO BILL BARTELS, GERRY NORDEMAN, AND JOHN VANDERWOUDE

During the last months three of the original founders of Harvest have taken their leave and moved on to other challenges. John was part of the initial exploratory discussions already in 2003 when he served as vice-chairman of Guido de Bres Christian High School. When those discussions evolved into forming an interim foundation in 2005, Bill and Gerry joined us to help lay the ground work and set a solid reformed direction for this fledgling organization. Gerry was especially busy with satisfying the requirements of Revenue Canada for attaining charitable status recognition. Then in December 2006 when Harvest became a legally registered not-for-profit charitable corporation, these brothers were recorded as three of the six founding directors, and they continued to serve to April 2014.

The first years of any organization are always very challenging, especially when it is a charitable endeavour that is only a weak unstructured, but enthusiastic, thought in the minds of a few individuals. A clear vision has to be formulated, and careful procedures and accountability put into place. These brothers were instrumental in setting that vision and in articulating a clear biblical perspective that shaped the direction and organization of Harvest. Their commitment to reformed education, and their wish to see that education continue and flourish in our school societies, was evident in all their substantial contributions. We are thankful to the Lord for allowing them to be part of Harvest Endowment Foundation, and we wish them, and their families, the Lord's indispensable blessing in the years that He allows.

On behalf of the Board
Leo Kampen, Chairman

NEW BOARD MEMBERS

To replace the three retiring board members, the following have been found willing to serve.

1. Will Havenaar

Will is a member of the Flamborough congregation and has been actively involved in our schools for many years. He served as treasurer for Guido de Bres Christian High School and Covenant Christian School. Will takes over the executive director's role from Gerry Nordeman.

2. Kevin Hutchinson

Kevin is a member of the Emmanuel congregation in Guelph, and founder of Balla Machree Inc., a management consulting and IT solutions firm. He has served as chairperson for the Anchor Society and for the combined Maranatha/Emmanuel school societies. He is currently chair of the Emmanuel School Capital Campaign Committee with the mandate to obtain funds for a new high school building.

3. Hans VanDooren

Hans served 40 years in Christian education, including 25 years as principal of Guido de Bres Christian High School before his retirement in July 2012. He is a member of the board of Edu Deo (formerly Worldwide Christian Schools) and continues to provide educational services for schools across Canada.

CURRENT HARVEST BOARD

Everett DeJong
Hank Gelderman, treasurer
Will Havenaar, executive director
Kevin Hutchinson
Leo Kampen, chairman
John Kottelenberg
Hans VanDooren, secretary

Please note our new address and contact numbers below.

YEAR IN REVIEW

During the past year the work of the Harvest Endowment Foundation has carried on and we continue to experience the Lord's blessings in this endeavour. *Our vision is to help keep the cost of Reformed education affordable for current and future generations and this is the focus of all our activities.* We build up investment funds from which we can distribute money to our various schools. The investment funds come mainly from donations and from bequests that people from our supporting community make through their gifts, and wills and testaments.

The Christian Stewardship Services (CSS) continues to manage our investments. When arranged through Harvest, CCS provides the confidential (and free) estate planning service for any member of our community. CCS continues to enjoy a better than average return on our investments. We value the services we receive via CSS and appreciate the growing relationship.

Our executive director has received 9 requests for wills and estate planning during the last three months and each person has agreed to meet with a representative of CSS. Because of new government regulations, our executive director has also been busy with a lawyer to update the Harvest incorporation.

We continue to receive requests for information about Harvest's services from Canadian Reformed schools in other provinces. Our current mandate limits our role to our schools in Ontario who pay Harvest an annual partnership fee of \$2.00 per student.

CONTACT WITH PARTNER SCHOOLS

On November 16, 2013 we met with representatives of the schools in a combined meeting with the League of Canadian Reformed School Societies in Ontario. After presenting a review of what Harvest has been doing in the previous year, we were able to distribute a total of **\$86,714.45** to 16 partner schools.

Increased number of gifts from our community and good investment of our funds by CCS has allowed us to raise our minimum gift per school from \$400 in 2008 to the current \$2000. We are thankful to the Lord for these blessings.

PROMOTION

Because of the turnover of key board members, we have not been able reach out to our community as much as we need to. This is something we want to improve in the future using the following means:

1. Website

Our executive director has reviewed our current website and found it well structured to provide basic information. More time will be spent on keeping the site up to date with current information. If you have not done so, check us out at **harvestfoundation.ca**.

2. Partner Schools

In the past we established a Harvest liaison in each partner school to update the local board and membership on the activities and services of the Harvest foundation, and to promote its vision. It has been difficult to maintain continuity with these liaisons. In the new school year we plan to visit each school at their Fall Membership meeting to update their membership about Harvest and distribute their financial gift for the year. A tentative date of October 18 2014 has been established for a joint meeting of school representatives with the League and with Harvest.

3. Clarion advertisements

Our regular ads have become a standard feature and have given our supporting community increased recognition of what Harvest is doing for our schools.

We want to do more in reaching the increasing number of church members who are willing to financially support the schools that help our parents "...tell the next generation the praiseworthy deeds of the Lord..." (Ps. 78) Praise the Lord from whom all blessings flow!