



Faithful in Little, Faithful in Much: ICS Faculty, Staff, and Senate

Faculty (Senior Members)

NIK ANSELL
Associate Professor of Theology

DOUG BLOMBERG
Professor of Philosophy of Education

HENDRIK HART
Emeritus

RONALD A. KUIPERS
*Associate Professor of
Philosophy of Religion*

JAMES OLTHUIS
Emeritus

CALVIN SEERVELD
Emeritus

REBEKAH SMICK
Associate Professor of Arts & Culture

GIDEON STRAUSS
Associate Professor of Worldview Studies

ROBERT SWEETMAN
*H. Evan Runner Chair
in the History of Philosophy*

LAMBERT ZUIDERVAART
Emeritus

Cross-Appointed Faculty from The King's University

MICHAEL DEMOOR
Social Philosophy

NEAL DEROO
Philosophy

JEFFREY DUDIAK
Philosophy

Administrative Staff

RONALD A. KUIPERS
President, Director of the CPRSE

ROBERT SWEETMAN
Academic Dean

HÉCTOR ACERO FERRER
CPRSE

PATRICIA WEBB
Advancement

HARLEY DEKKER
Finance and Administration

VIDYA WILLIAMS
Donor Relations

ELIZABET ARAS
Registrar/Student Services Coordinator

HILARY BARLOW
Associate Librarian

KATHY LYNCH
Administrative Assistant

DOUG BLOMBERG
President
(July 2017 – October 2017)

JEFFREY HOCKING
Registrar/Student Services Coordinator
(July 2017 – March 2018)

Senate

JOHN KOK
Dordt College (Chair)

ARON REPPMANN
Trinity Christian College (Vice Chair)

ROBERT SWEETMAN
ICS Academic Dean (Secretary)

PAMELA BEATTIE
University of Louisville

JOHN CARUANA
Ryerson University

HEATHER LOOY
The King's University College

HENRY LUTTIKHUIZEN
Calvin College

CARLA NELSON
*Tyndale University College
and Seminary*

JOHN VALK
University of New Brunswick

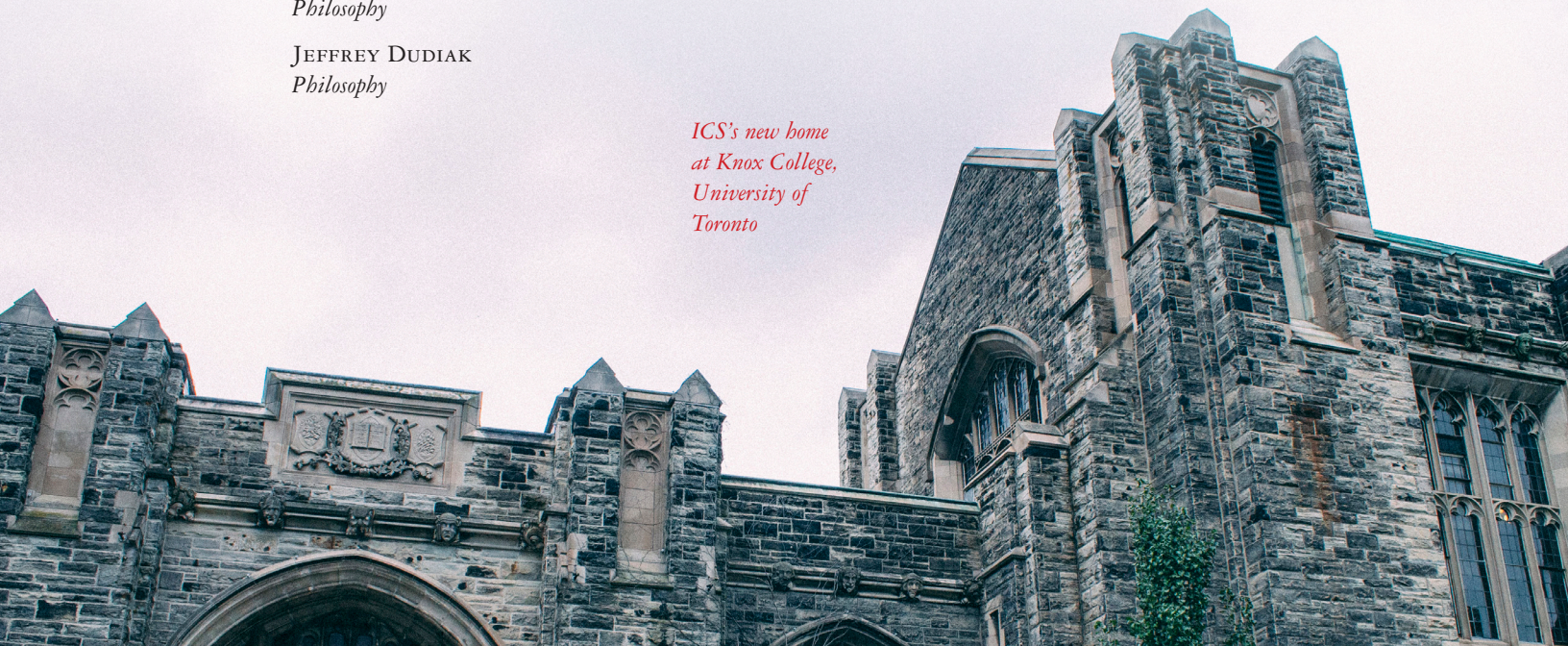
RONALD A. KUIPERS
ICS President

NIK ANSELL
ICS Senior Member

GRACE CARHART
ICS Junior Member

DANIELLE YETT
ICS Junior Member

*ICS's new home
at Knox College,
University of
Toronto*



Sowing Seeds: A Report from the President

WHAT A YEAR OF CHALLENGE, blessing, and transition it has been! During the academic year 2017-18, ICS celebrated its Golden Jubilee, bid farewell to one President and welcomed another, finalized terms of a 5-year lease to move to new premises at Knox College, all while continuing to provide integrally Christian graduate education that prepares faithful leaders to serve both the Academy and wider society.

At our 2018 Convocation, I was installed as ICS's tenth President (if one counts the two Acting Presidents, Morris Greidanus and Robert Sweetman, which I do), giving an inaugural address entitled "Something We Don't See: ICS and the Training of a Messianic Imagination." In that address I suggested that, at its best, ICS trains students to imagine redemptive possibilities that our society currently has trouble envisioning. As the descending dove in our logo symbolizes, we at ICS believe that Christ's Holy Spirit empowers us to become covenant partners in God's healing and transforming work. We thus strive to train imaginations and desires on God's coming Kingdom of justice and shalom.

This educational work is the hopeful work of sowing seeds, trusting that in so doing, "something we don't see" will, through our Maker's ongoing creating and sustaining presence, burst forth into being. Our hope and prayer is that when we look back on this year from the not-too-distant future, we will be able to see that God has indeed blessed our faithful labour, that the seeds we are now planting have flowered and borne fruit.

The sale of our remaining 27% ownership share of the building at 229 College and the resulting move to Knox College is one such seed. We pray that the invested funds and the decreased rental costs will greatly enhance ICS's fiscal stability, and free our talented yet small administrative staff to focus on ICS's core mission in Christian higher education.

The first partnership steps we took this year with The King's University (TKU) represent another seed. This year ICS cross-appointed three TKU Professors, and next May I will be co-teaching a seminar with one of these, Jeffrey Dudiak, on the turn to Paul in contemporary political philosophy. This course is the first course in ICS history that may be taken for credit by students of either institution, and we plan to create an affordable opportunity for TKU students to have a unique educational experience in Toronto as part of their degree program.

Finally, the MA (Philosophy) in Leadership we launched this year, in partnership with the Teachers' Academy of Edvance Christian Schools Association, is yet another seed. This innovative program promises to allow educational leaders of Christian schools to develop

a project-based learning paradigm that challenges students to understand the integrity of God's good creation, and to discern the covenantal role they are called to play in our Maker's ongoing work of healing and redemption.

As Christ's parable of the sower illustrates, not every seed a sower scatters will grow into a hearty sustainable plant, bringing forth grain a hundredfold. Yet we continue to sow these seeds, in faith, trusting that God can and will use our labour when it is infused with his spirit, and shaped by his *agape*. Pray that the seeds we are currently sowing will bear fruit, even and especially in ways that may yet come to surprise us!

RONALD A. KUIPERS
President



Board Chair John Valk, Ronald A. Kuipers, and Senate Vice Chair Aron Reppmann at Kuipers' installment as ICS President in May 2018.

From Far and Wide: A Profile of Our Students

A Glance at Programming and Achievements

OVER THE COURSE OF THIS YEAR, ICS carried forward 26 Junior Members in its various programmes: 2 MWS students, 7 MA students, 8 PhD candidates, and 15 external PhD candidates. We offered 18 courses in Fall, Winter, and Summer terms and garnered 79 course registrations. Those registrations include students participating in the ART in Orvieto programme, TST students attending ICS courses, and students registered through ICS's new partnership with the Toronto Centre for Psychotherapy and Counselling Education (TCPCE).

ICS was able to award 5 scholarships to Junior Members this year in response to both need and merit. Junior Members also engaged in a number of academic pursuits beyond the walls of ICS, publishing 3 scholarly publications, writing 4 popular pieces, a number of magazine articles, and publishing a regular podcast series. Junior Members also made 11 public academic presentations, and one of our Junior Members received a major award from the Order of Saint Lazarus commemorating 10 years of service to interfaith dialogue.

Promise in Small Packages

WHILE ICS, LIKE MANY similar educational institutions, has had to contend in the last number of years against historically low student enrolments in its degree programmes, ICS's concentrated efforts to initiate, build, and maintain various partnership programmes with other institutions are drawing more students to single courses, leading to an overall increase in course registrations.

With regard to overall numbers this year, partnerships forged with TST and TCPCE proved especially fruitful in terms of student registrations. Institutionally, this has been felt as a promising development, and might be seen as impetus to continue intentionally pursuing our partnerships in an effort to bolster and extend ICS's capacities.



Lifelong Leaders and Learners: Launching the MA (Phil) in Educational Leadership

THE SMALL PIONEER COHORT of students in the first year of ICS's MA (Phil) in Educational Leadership are investing themselves as seedlings in an endeavour that promises a rich harvest in the lives of thousands of children in Christian schools. Each of them is already an experienced educator, and representative of the fields in which this new endeavour will best flourish: a Christian school principal, a high school English teacher and guidance counsellor, and a high school Bible teacher.

These pioneers are collaborating with ICS, Edvance, Edifide, and the Christian Teachers Academy to shape a bespoke program that will uniquely respond to what Ontario Christian school leaders and innovators need. The MA (Phil) in Educational Leadership is the result of several years of conversation initiated by Diane Stronks (of the former Edifide) and Justin Cook (in his role with the Christian Teachers Academy) and picked up by Bob Sweetman (as Academic Dean of ICS). It responds to the experience of new principals and classroom innovators who tried to gain the skills they needed through MED and MBA programs but found these programs either too theoretical or inadequately focused on the education sector. It grows out of the success of the Christian Teachers Academy in applying Project Based Learning to the context of Christian schools. And it is oriented towards the good news of God's love embodied in the person of Jesus.

The MA (Phil) in Educational Leadership is designed to provide participants with:

- Project Based Learning (PBL) skill development
- An education in leadership and innovation
- Deeper integration of these practical skills into a joyful Christian approach to education
- Portable academic credentialing that would meaningfully advance their own careers
- Opportunities to make an *immediate* real world difference in their classrooms and schools with the projects they take on for this program

The program has a hybrid format, combining:

- Immersive experiences
- In-person workshops
- Online learning

If this experiment receives the support that it deserves, this degree program will become the best graduate school choice for teachers who want to lead, who want to innovate, and who want to scale up the difference they make in the lives of the next generation.

GIDEON STRAUSS
Academic Dean



*Senior and Junior Members participating
in a pilot ICS Vocational Wayfinding class*

A Look at Our Graduates

A Call to Spirit-Filled Scholarship

On May 11, 2018, the ICS community gathered for the convocation of its graduates. Dissertation and thesis topics ranged from Tanzanian influence on social and political systems to the mystery of goodness in the face of naturalism; from the articulation of an aesthetics of grammar to an exploration of Christology and incarnational humanism. The work put forward by this small group of graduates was indeed mighty!

This was also the occasion for the installation of ICS's new President Ronald A. Kuipers. In his inaugural address,

President Kuipers reflected on the ways ICS might be called to be a transformative voice in the world of Christian education in new and imaginative ways—ways not yet evident to us.

2018 Graduates

JULIA DE BOER, MA (Philosophy)

JOSEPH KIRBY, PhD (Philosophy)

GODFREY NKONGOLO, MA (Philosophy)

MARK NOVAK, MA (Philosophy)



Recent Graduate Updates

JULIA DE BOER has begun her PhD studies at ICS in the field of philosophy of grammar. Her interests find further outlet in her job as a grade 7-11 Latin teacher at Westminster Classical Christian School.

DEAN DETTLOFF (MA 2016) is in the midst of pursuing his PhD at ICS in the area of philosophy and media studies. Dean has also recently joined *America Magazine* as their Toronto correspondent on topics concerning the intersection of faith and politics.

JOSHUA HARRIS has been appointed Assistant Professor of Philosophy at The King's University in Edmonton. He and his wife, Sarah, and son, Rowan, moved there last July so he could begin teaching in this position last September.

RACHEL MCGUIRE (PhD 2016) is currently developing two new organizations: Community Learning Systems LLC, a socially-focused tech company, and Innovative Models for Community Learning Inc., a not-for-profit focused on building cross-community and field-wide grassroots learning projects.

GODFREY NKONGOLO has passed his comprehensive exams and has begun pursuing the second year of his Political Science PhD studies at Carleton University in Ottawa. He plans to begin writing his dissertation soon.

MARK NOVAK is pursuing his PhD in religious studies at McMaster University in Hamilton. He is working in the area of contemporary continental philosophy of religion, especially themes of incarnation, embodiment, flesh, desire, and eschatology.

Forging New Ties: Faculty Report

A Fruitful and Faithful Faculty

In a year full of transitions, the dedication of ICS's Senior Members did not flag. They continued to pursue their respective research interests and see projects through to being made publicly available. Senior Members authored 7 articles and book chapters, participated and led 9 presentations and panel discussions, and were granted 2 scholarly awards.

Senior Members regularly go above and beyond expectation in a way that numbers cannot fully reflect. In addition to these more tangible fruits of academic labour, Senior Members also provided guidance for students through 18 different courses and engaged in at least 50 ongoing student mentorships, thesis and dissertation supervisions, and committee memberships. Such relationships are often where Senior Members direct the lion's share of their energies and have the deepest impact on individual students.

Affiliation Brings New Partnership Possibilities

On September 30, 2017, after a long process and a number of discussions, representatives from ICS and The King's University in Edmonton, AB signed a Memorandum of Understanding that allows these two institutions to collectively explore affiliation. Together, ICS and King's are working to build on this initial move in pursuit of a shared vision: that of offering undergraduate and graduate students a Christian education in the Reformational tradition from campuses in both Edmonton and Toronto.

And while we eagerly anticipate the budding opportunities between both institutions, one significant step toward making this more of a reality has been the cross-appointment of three King's faculty to ICS: Michael DeMoor, Neal DeRoo, and Jeffrey Dudiak. Each of these faculty have existing ties to ICS and are more than competent scholars in their own right who, together, go some way toward filling the gaps in our curriculum caused by the reductions of past years. The prospect of strengthening these ties and of forging new ties is a source of hope for the future of this affiliation.

Cross-Appointed Faculty Spotlight

MICHAEL DEMOOR

Michael is an ICS and VU alumnus, and is currently Associate Professor of Social Philosophy in Politics, History, and Economics at King's. He has been at King's since 2009 and teaches courses on (inter alia) human rights, markets and society, the history of political thought, democracy, and war and peace. His research currently focuses on how different conceptions of human rationality do and should shape how we make and justify public policy. In his spare time (such as it is) he enjoys birding, hiking, and arguing with people about hockey.



NEAL DEROO

Neal DeRoo is an ICS alumnus and former ICS board member. He is the Canada Research Chair in Phenomenology and Philosophy of Religion and an Associate Professor of Philosophy at The King's University. He is the author of *Futurity in Phenomenology: Promise and Method in Husserl, Levinas and Derrida* (Fordham University Press, 2013), and the co-editor of four books at the intersection of phenomenology and philosophy of religion. He is the author of over 20 journal articles and book chapters, and has given more than 40 academic presentations on phenomenology and religious topics around the world. He has previously had teaching positions at Brock University and Dordt College (Sioux Center, USA), and has also served as the director for the Andreas Center for Reformed Scholarship and Service and as the Founding Editor of *in all things*.



JEFFREY DUDIAK

Jeffrey Dudiak is Professor of Philosophy at The King's University, where he has taught since 1999. He is a graduate of both the M.Phil. program at the ICS, and of the co-joint Ph.D. program between the ICS and the VU in Amsterdam. He specializes in Continental Philosophy (particularly in the Philosophy of Religion and Ethics), and also devotes a good deal of his research and writing to work in Quaker religious thought. Most recently, Jeff was the speaker at The King's University Interdisciplinary Studies conference where he addressed the student body, faculty, and guests on the theme of "Post-truth: Facts and Faithfulness."



Research in and for the World: The Centre for Philosophy, Religion and Social Ethics

WHAT IS THE ROLE of Christian scholarship in today's world? How can Christian researchers contribute to address the most pressing issues of our time? These are some of the guiding questions for our activities at ICS's *Centre for Philosophy, Religion, and Social Ethics* (CPRSE).

At CPRSE, our experience has revealed that an effective method to fulfil our mission involves escaping the protective boundaries of our academic institution, thus entering into direct exchange with the larger community. Our research partnerships have taught us new ways in which to lead Christian scholarship. Our close interaction with Senior and Junior Members has encouraged us to stay attentive to new philosophical currents. Our community outreach initiatives have brought greater awareness of the ever-changing landscape of information technology and communication. Nurturing these exchanges has allowed CPRSE to uphold its mandate—"to promote philosophically primed and religiously attuned interdisciplinary research"—in innovative and responsible ways.

In responding to its call, CPRSE has undertaken activities on a number of fronts, connecting members of our community with academics, activists, people of faith, and many others. In the fall of 2017, CPRSE launched its podcast entitled *Critical Faith*. Envisioned as a space for ICS members to share their work and interact with scholars and practitioners, *Critical Faith* has become an important platform for intellectual dialogue about faith's role in society.

The 2017-18 academic year saw the culmination of the SSHRC-funded research collaboration *Faith and Settlement Partnerships: Setting Immigrants and Canada Up for Success*. CPRSE actively participated in this year (Year 2) of research activities, surrounding knowledge creation and mobilization. We co-authored the project's Facilitator's Guide, led a webinar series, and have disseminated key findings through outreach events to faith communities, settlement agencies, Sponsorship Agreement Holders, and other community stakeholders.

CPRSE continues to expand its network of partners by pursuing new interdisciplinary research projects, this time with the participation of *Shalem Mental Health Network*, *Theatre of the Beat*, and the *Centre for Community-Based Research* (our long-standing research partner). Through this initiative, we hope to explore the concept of restorative justice as applied to building healthy relationships in faith communities. Stay tuned for further information about the development in this exciting project!

Through these projects, CPRSE has been instrumental in maintaining and bolstering ICS's historical mission, promoting the diverse initiatives of our Junior and Senior Members, and connecting our institution with its numerous community partners. CPRSE, through its research, publications, and community outreach, will continue to grow with ICS as it reimagines its role in Christian higher education.

HÉCTOR ACERO FERRER
Associate Director, CPRSE

CPRSE

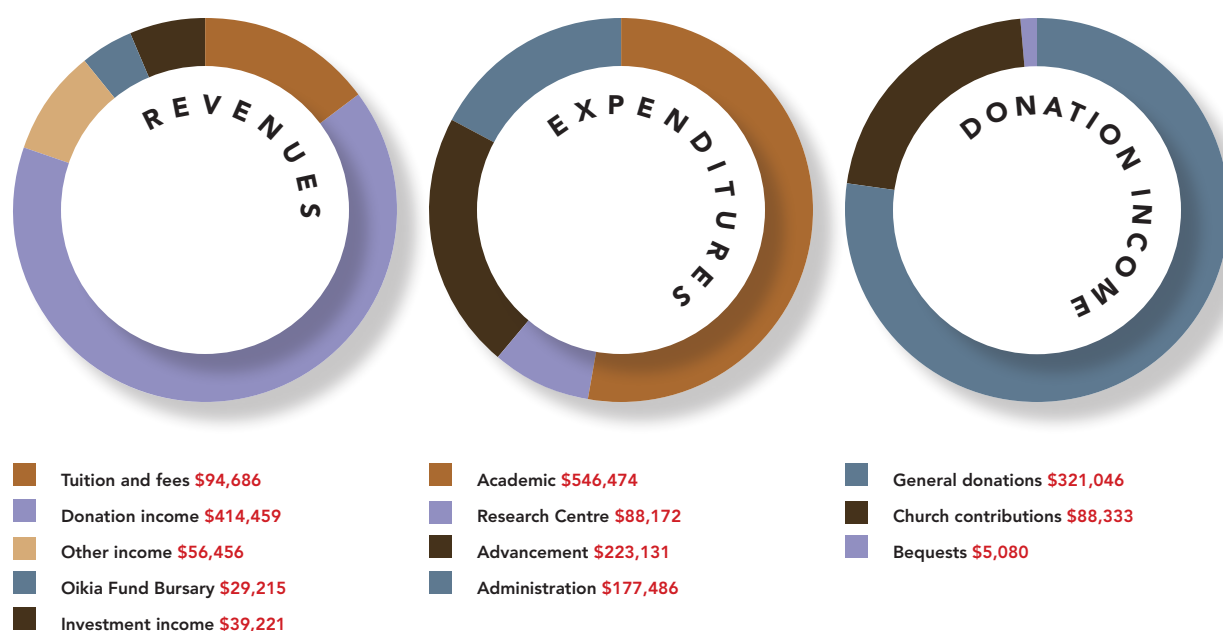
CPRSE Director Ronald A. Kuipers and Associate Director Héctor Acero Ferrer with their research partners from the Centre for Community Based Research, World Renew, Peel Newcomer Strategy Group, and the Interfaith Council of Peel



Financial and Operations Reports

	2018	2017
Assets	\$ 3,324,029	\$ 3,799,715
Liabilities	\$ 49,858	\$ 48,391
Fund Balances	3,284,171	3,751,324
Total Liabilities and Fund Balances	\$ 3,334,029	\$ 3,799,715
Fund Balances Represented by		
General Fund	\$ 2,729,335	\$ 3,142,380
Restricted Fund	510,785	574,066
Fixed Assets	44,051	34,878
Total Fund Balances	\$ 3,284,171	\$ 3,751,324

Note: Complete financial statements are available upon request.



A Message from the Board

WE BEGAN THE 50TH YEAR of the Institute for Christian Studies with celebrations, and to reflect on God's rich blessings, faculty endeavours, staff dedication, student learning, and donor generosity. It has been a remarkable half-century journey of a very small academic institution, yet one that has punched far above its weight. There is much for which we can give thanks. Now as we continue the journey we see more of God's blessings.

This year has again seen major transitions. Some have come with challenges and difficulties. Yet others have created new opportunities and new possibilities for ICS.

The Board had to make some difficult budgetary decisions last year, some of which are still in effect today. Faculty and staff are still experiencing the effects of salary cuts, and we hope soon to be able to restore them to earlier levels. Winding operations down at 229 College and renovating the new space at Knox College in the heart of the University of Toronto came with some higher than anticipated costs. Yet, with planning aimed at a balanced budget, some of the earlier dark financial clouds are beginning to lift, and reveal some solid glimmers of light.

Faculty and staff vacated 229 College in the summer months. While shutting the doors for the final time, and closing this chapter of ICS's journey was not easy, the move to the new facilities of Knox College brings with it measured yet distinct excitement. With renovations complete, office and classroom furniture placed, book stacks filled, and new phone and internet equipment installed; faculty, staff, and students are acclimatizing to their new facilities with an air of hope and opportunity. The move significantly reduces operating costs, affords important student recruitment possibilities, creates opportunities for partnering on academic programming

with the Toronto School of Theology, and now places ICS in the midst of a much larger academic context. This is a strategic advantage for ICS.

ICS continues its affiliation journey with The King's University. While things slowed down somewhat during the past number of months due to the time and energy required to make the move to Knox College, affiliation opportunities are unfolding. A joint seminar has been set up that involves faculty and students from both institutions and for which students from both institutions can gain academic credit.

Again on the academic front, an MA (Philosophy) in Educational Leadership program has had a "soft launch" and is being promoted through the Edvance Christian Schools Association and the Christian Schools Canada Conference (Ottawa). The Wayfinding program continues to be promoted and greater interest is being shown in it. Further, the number of Toronto School of Theology students attending ICS courses is also increasing.

The ICS is in good hands with Dr. Ronald A. Kuipers at the helm as president. He has worked hard in making this year of transition as smooth as possible on many fronts: academic programming, advancement, affiliation, and the move to new facilities. His leadership style, energy, insight, and collaboration with faculty and staff has steered ICS on a new course, one that brings new opportunity, hope, and anticipation. For all of this we are thankful.

My tenure as Member of the ICS Board of Trustees, and its Chair for the past two years, comes to an end at the conclusion of the Annual General Meeting on November 30, 2018. John Kamphof will serve as the new Chair and John Joosse will serve as Vice-Chair. We have a well-functioning Board of Trustees that consists of devoted members who bring with them a wealth of abilities and insights.

It has been my distinct pleasure to serve in the capacity of Board Member and Board Chair, and to see ICS through some important transitions. I wish the Board, and its new Chair and Vice-Chair, all the best as they continue to give oversight to the vision and mission of the Institute for Christian Studies.

Thank you for continuing to journey with ICS. May God richly bless the work of ICS as it continues into the future.

JOHN VALK
Chair

Board of Trustees

John Valk (Chair)
John Kamphof (Vice-Chair)
Christina Belcher (Secretary)
Ray Vander Zaag (Treasurer)
Elaine Brouwer
Hilda Buisman
Carmine Ferrone
Marci Frederick
Marg Hoogland
John Joosse
Lynette Postuma
Hans Spielman
Diane Stronks
Rick VanManen

Friends of ICS Board of Directors

Morris Greidanus † (Chair)
Peter Borgdorff † (Secretary)
Harley Dekker (Treasurer)
Brad Breems
Luke Seerveld
John Kok
Tim Postuma
Barbara Carvill
Marci Frederick
Case Hoogendoorn

† We hold in memory our brothers
Morris and Peter. We thank God for
the years of life granted to them and
for the service and support they whole-
heartedly granted to ICS.

Jubilee! A Thank You to Our Donors

ICS Celebrates Its 50th Anniversary!

On November 11, 2017, the ICS community gathered from far and wide to celebrate together at King's Christian Collegiate in Oakville, ON, the birth of the Institute for Christian Studies in the fall of 1967.

The day began at 11:00 am with a Thanksgiving service of worship through prayer, scripture readings, and singing, ending with a meditation by Cal Seerveld tracing the 50-year journey of what he called this "*Kingdom of God endeavour by a small band of people of God.*"

Following this moving service, a Gala Luncheon was served in the beautiful atrium to over 160 people, making it one of the largest gatherings of the ICS community in one place. There was lots of good fun and fellowship as we reminisced together over the delicious meal about the amazing journey of the ICS.

A formal program followed, emceed by Doug Blomberg, included "Stories along the way" by Senior Members, Junior Members, board members, and friends interspersed with a video presentation by Luke Seerveld entitled *ICS at 50: An Anecdotal History* and musical interludes.

The program ended with some final thoughts by Fred Reinders, closing remarks by Ron Kuipers, and an ICS community favourite song: "O Sing a New Song unto the Lord."

This 50th Anniversary day of celebration was not only a memorable time of reflecting on the past—it was also a time of renewed engagement and excitement about the future! We thank God for his sustaining grace and unfailing love for this small, free-standing graduate institution.

The Impossible Has Been Made Possible Through Your Support!

Over this past year, we have watched with thanksgiving God touching the hearts of our ICS community to give freely and generously to support the important ministry of demonstrating leadership in Christian higher education. Your partnership with us has made possible more than we could ever hope or imagine.

Because of your remarkable contribution, we can now look forward to many more years of sharpening our antennae for God's new thing, picking up the signs of the coming kingdom of justice and peace that are all around us. With your help, we grow in confidence that God will continue to sustain us as we enter into this exciting new era in ICS's history—one that we believe will reposition ICS to continue to carry out its historic mission in Christian Higher education for many years to come.

Thank you for working together with us in the faith that we are called to be covenant partners in our Maker's healing work. Thank you for your committed support which has turned *the impossible into the possible!*

THE STAFF, FACULTY AND JUNIOR MEMBERS OF ICS



ICS Makes Its Move!



**Institute for
Christian Studies**

59 St. George Street
Toronto ON Canada M5S 2E6

416-979-2331 *telephone*
888-326-5347 *toll free*

info@icscanada.edu
www.icscanada.edu

FRIENDS OF ICS (FICS)

info@friendsofics.org
www.friendsofics.org