

Fall Classis Report 2023: Redeemer University

August 4, 2023

Greetings from Redeemer University!

We are ramping up for the 2023-2024 academic year, and are so excited to once again welcome more than 300 new students to campus. This year's theme is "Learning in Christ," based on Colossians 2:6,7. We pray God will work powerfully in the lives of students through every class, chapel, conversation and experience so that they grow in Him!

I am pleased to announce the appointment of Dr. Peter Neumann as vice president, academic. Dr. Neumann brings a wealth of experience to the position with over 14 years in academic leadership. He has a track record of building collaborative teams, empowering people and engaging in visionary and relational leadership. I am thankful that God has guided him to us during a time when we must strengthen, innovate and further develop the university's programs and degrees, and I am confident he will successfully lead Redeemer's Reformed educational vision for learning and scholarship into its next chapter.

Like many organizations in the post-pandemic context, Redeemer has experienced higher than usual employee turnover. We continually praise God for the amazing and committed faculty and staff he continues to provide to serve Redeemer's mission! I specifically want to highlight the new role of the Faculty Chaplain. Rev. Dr. Bill DeJong '93 will be joining Redeemer on August 21 in this position. We are thankful that God has led him to this role, created to foster spiritual formation among faculty and staff as we desire to live more fully into the fruits of the Spirit, enhancing a culture of care and respectful engagement with one another. Rev. Dr. DeJong is currently a local pastor at Blessings Christian Church in Hamilton, and has been teaching part-time at Redeemer for several years.

As part of the *Learn. Forward.* strategic plan, many campus renewal projects are underway. This summer, we are renovating the Dining Halls and opening them up onto the Commons in Founder's Hall. This will allow for a more communal and relational space for eating meals and for spending non-class hours. The main reception area and student engagement spaces behind reception, are also undergoing renovations, with the goal of better serving guests, prospective students and current students. The Career Centre and Innovation Centre also moved into their new office spaces in the Charis Live and Learn Centre.

We are also excited about the numerous events that will be taking place on campus this fall. In addition to regularly cheering on the Redeemer Royals varsity teams, we will be hosting a variety of student-centered, academic, and institutional events. The Career Centre is hosting the first annual Community Engagement and Volunteer Fair on September 8, where local organizations will be able to talk to students about volunteer, paid or future internship opportunities during the academic year and beyond. Alumni Week is happening the last week of September, where we will be celebrating the 2023

Distinguished Alumni Award winner, Brian Dijkema '04 on September 26, and hosting a number of Royals vs. Alumni Homecoming Games, to name a few. The Wolters Centre is hosting a Social Sciences lecture on November 1, featuring Dr. Jordan Ballor, Director of Research at the Center for Religion, Culture & Democracy. Lastly, we are very excited to announce the Rend Collective Concert on November 3, and we hope your church members can join us that evening.

Redeemer University is thankful for the ongoing prayers, support and financial generosity. Students from the CRC churches represent the largest denominational group on campus and we remain committed to university education from a Reformed Christian perspective. Why? So that the next generation of Christian leaders are prepared to share the hope and love of Jesus wherever he calls them to live and serve! Thank you for your critical support of this Kingdom mission!

In Christ,

David Zietsma, PhD
President