Dear Members of Classis Region 4 for Calvin Theological Seminary,

As members of the Board of Trustees, Pastor Mark Verbruggen & Brian Verheul, we are delighted to provide you with an update from Calvin Theological Seminary.  Please take a few minutes to read through the themes of the new strategic plan and the introduction of "The Forum", a new communication tool to help CTS respond to the needs of the global church.

The CTS Board of Trustees in May 2024 approved a strategic plan and set out goals to help guide us into the next 150 years of service to the church.  We distill this plan into four major themes:

**Compelling Invitation** – We focus intentionally on our Reformed heritage and identity not only through scholarship, but also in student formation and societal engagement.  We want to share our distinctiveness in bold, create and clear ways that are compellingly invitational and winsome.

**Holistic Learning Journeys** – We focus on serving students, ensuring the best learning experiences and mentorship by not only equipping staff and faculty appropriately and adequately, but also meeting student expectations for contextual curriculum and multifaceted learning opportunities.

**Organizational Excellence** – We foster an ethos of organizational excellence where trust, accountability, respect and mutuality around a shared vision are embodied, where individual and collective contributions are valued and celebrated, and where everyone who comes into contact with CTS will experience purpose, fulfillment, care and ultimately a communal experience of our unity in Christ.

**Cultivating Abundance** – With gratitude to God for His providence, we are encouraged by and appreciate a community of generous supporters through whom our student body will continue to grow and expand, and through whom the mission of CTS is realized.  We will promote this missional invitation to ensure a solid fiscal base for the ongoing work of Reformed theological education, formation and scholarship.

**Introduction of The New FORUM Platform -**[**http://theforum.calvinseminary.edu/**](http://theforum.calvinseminary.edu/)

As a tool by which to meet the goals of the Strategic Plan, we recently developed and launched The Forum platform, a website that is the intersection of faith, culture, and Scripture. With the platform, the Seminary continues to respond to the needs of the global church, upholding the authority of Scripture, the centrality of Christ in the world's story, and the world's desperate need for God's grace. We seek to serve the church by building upon the foundation of The Forum Magazine. We invite responses and reflections from all who pursue their call while wrestling with the enduring questions of mercy, justice, faith, and formation.

Calvin Theological Seminary plans to continue publishing The Forum Magazine in printed and digital formats. On the Forum platform, we’ll provide additional content from our partners that include retreats, continuing education, and written and video resources. The platform is for those working in church ministry, seeking to live out their faith in their daily life, pursuing answers to vexing questions, or simply pursuing a deeper knowledge of God.

Please continue to uphold the Students, Faculty and Staff of Calvin Theological Seminary in prayer.  We remain grateful for your faithful partnership and support.

Sincerely,

Pastor Mark Verbruggen

Brian Verheul