

***Foundation for Superannuation
of the
Canadian Reformed Churches***

c/o C. Baarda, Secretary
5074 219A Street
Langley, B.C. V3A 8P8

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Mr. Chairman; brothers.

Once again the members of the Foundation have come together in a Tri-Annual meeting. In 2013 it was in Carman, Manitoba; this time the meeting, the nineteenth, is held here in Dunnville, Ontario. For me, as secretary, this is the sixth time that I am able to provide an update on some of the activities of the Foundation.

Since the meeting in 2013 to the end of 2015, the Lord has taken to Himself two of our retired ministers as well as the widow of the late Rev. P. Kingma. On September 23rd 2013 the Reverend W.W.J. VanOene was taken away. He was the oldest of our retired ministers and he was active until right near the end of his life. Mrs. H. Kingma passed away on Aug.18, 2015, and the Reverend M. VanBeveren died at the age of 94 in October 2015. Last of all, the Lord took to himself the Rev. K. Stam at the very beginning of 2016.

We listed four retirements at the meeting held in Carman. Since the Carman meeting five ministers have retired. In July 2013 Reverend J. DeGelder retired from the church at Flamborough. In September of the same year Rev. B. Nederveen retired from the Ebenezer church in Burlington. In 2014 the only minister to retire was Reverend W. Slomp who served the Immanuel church in Edmonton. There were two further retirements in the year 2015; the first was Rev. J. Kalkman from the church in Calgary, Alberta. He retired in the month of May and he was followed in October by Rev. J. Moesker who served the church located In Owen Sound, Ontario.

One church has joined the FSA in the last three years: Blessings Christian Church of Hamilton was instituted on Jan.4, 2015.

At the last tri-annual meeting of the Foundation held in Carman, Manitoba, the review committee that had been struck at the meeting held in Burlington, Ontario, in 2010, presented its report. The report had been sent to the members well in advance of the meeting, so that they would have adequate time to prepare for the discussion of the report at the Carman meeting. Brother K. Veldkamp introduced the report and indicated that the review committee and the Foundation board agree on most major issues. The ensuing discussion dealt with the areas where the Board and the Review committee differed. In the end it became clear that more time would be needed to sort out the differences, and the review committee was asked to continue in place so that it could be consulted in the process of arriving at the changes needed to have a constitution and bylaws that would prove to be a document that would be complete and not in need of changes on a tri-annual basis. Three years have passed and the hoped-for new constitution is not yet ready for this meeting

of the member churches. We will attempt to offer a brief explanation for the reason why the document has not been sent to the churches prior to this meeting. Br. Veldkamp, a lawyer, agreed to help the board by providing it with a first draft of the revised constitution and bylaws which could then be reviewed by the board and sent back to the review committee with suggestions for further changes, until a satisfactory document could be sent to the members. Unfortunately, between work and health issues, br.Veldkamp was not able to complete his work until February 2 of this year. By that time the board had worked on another template, but after an initial review of both documents, it was decided that br. Veldkamp's version merited further study and might well provide a suitable base for a revised constitution. However, if we were to use br. Veldkamp's version as a base, there were still a number of changes that needed to be made before the document could be sent to the members for review. The board reluctantly decided that there was not enough time to make the changes, consult the committee, and still get the document to the members in advance of the meeting to be held in Dunnville today.

The plan now is that a finished draft document will be sent to the members later this year and we would then have the members review it and either inform the board that it is satisfactory, or propose suggestions for improvements. After reviewing the suggestions, the board would complete the document and send a new draft to the members for further input or for ratification.

This year, 2016, marks the final year for the 10% annual increase in assessments that began in 2012. The projected increase for the years 2017 to 2019 is 3% and 2% thereafter. The investment returns for the past three years have been quite consistent, averaging 11.5% per year. This leaves the fund with an increase in assets in excess of over \$400,000 since the end of 2012.

Again this year, as in the past, we give thanks to our Heavenly Father who has provided for our needs in so many ways and Who has also provided the Foundation with the means to carry out its mandate, *which is to assist its members in fulfilling their financial responsibilities with respect to ministers, missionaries, professors, and toward their widows, children or orphans, as the case may be, insofar they result from the provisions of Article 13 of the Church Order.*

Respectfully submitted

Chester Baarda, CPA, CMA
Secretary