

*Foundation for Superannuation
of the
Canadian Reformed Churches*

c/o C. Baarda, Secretary
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Mr. Chairman; brothers.

Today we meet in a tri-annual meeting for the twentieth time. That means that the Foundation has existed for at least sixty years! The Lord has blessed us and we give Him thanks for that. In 2016 we met in Dunnville, Ontario; this time it is in the Immanuel Canadian Reformed Church in Edmonton. For me, as secretary, this is the seventh time that I am able to provide an update on some of the activities of the Foundation.

Since the meeting in 2016 to the end of 2018, the Lord has taken to Himself two of our retired ministers. Rev. J. Mulder passed away on March 3, 2017 and Professor J. DeJong was taken away on April 17, 2017. Two widows also passed away in the past 3 years. Mrs. D. DeJong died in October 2016 and Mrs W. Faber, widow of Dr. J. Faber, the first principal of the Seminary, passed away in 2018.

Several ministers retired in the last three years. In August 2016, Rev. G. VanPopta retired from the church in Ottawa. Rev. H. Versteeg, who served the church in Toronto as a missionary, retired in September 2017. Rev. J. VanPopta served the church in Burlington Fellowship before he retired in September 2018, and shortly before the end of the year, in October 2018, Rev. R. Aasman retired from the Edmonton Providence church. At the end of 2018 we had 21 churches and the seminary receiving benefits for 27 ministers/widows.

Two churches joined the FSA in the last three years: Neerlandia South was instituted on May 15, 2016, and Nooksack Valley, in the State of Washington, was instituted on July 8, 2018.

At the last tri-annual meeting of the Foundation held in Dunnville, Ontario, we had indicated that that a revised constitution/bylaws document would be sent to the member churches later in 2016. This did not happen, partly because the Board of the Foundation had already met prior to the tri-annual meeting held in Dunnville, but mainly because of consultation with the review committee appointed prior to the meeting in Carman, Manitoba, in 2013, where the committee report was on the agenda and parts of its recommendations were adopted. During this period in 2016 and 2017 discussions took place to ensure that the new constitution/bylaws document was ready to be presented to the Foundation Board when it met for its 2017 meeting. That meeting took place in October 2017 and a number of minor changes were made at the meeting. The completed document was sent to all the member churches early in November 2017 along with a request to submit questions, suggestions for changes, and other issues by January 31, 2018. A number of responses suggesting improvements and other small changes were received before January 31, 2018. A

request was made that the deadline be changed to allow for more input. The deadline then was changed to April 30, 2018. However, only one member church took advantage of the changed deadline to submit a suggestion for changes. The submissions from the churches were carefully examined and, where warranted, further changes were made to the constitution/bylaws document. The Board of the Foundation met again in October 2018 to deal with the usual business issues, as well as to have a final look at the new constitution/bylaws document. The document was approved by the Board to be sent to the member churches for ratification at this tri-annual meeting. When the document is approved, the changes proposed in the new Constitution/Bylaws will be put into effect as soon as it is possible to do so. We already know that the new board will have a number of issues to deal with. Some of these could have a major impact on the operations of the Foundation and therefore will have to be studied carefully.

As a look at the financial statements will show, the Foundation's assets increased by about \$270,000 over the last three years. This is not as much as the \$400,000 reported in the previous three-year period, but is still a good return. The asset base is reviewed by the Foundation Board each year and is determined to be sound at this time.

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, Secretary