

# 21 | Annual Report

# 22

INSTITUTE FOR CHRISTIAN STUDIES



# ICS Faculty, Staff,

## SENIOR MEMBERS

### **NIK ANSELL**

Associate Professor of Theology

### **DOUG BLOMBERG**

Emeritus

### **RONALD A. KUIPERS**

Professor of Philosophy of Religion

### **JAMES OLTHUIS**

Emeritus

### **CALVIN SEERVELD**

Emeritus

### **REBEKAH SMICK**

Associate Professor of Philosophy of Arts & Culture

### **GIDEON STRAUSS**

Associate Professor of Leadership & Worldview Studies

### **BOB SWEETMAN**

H. Evan Runner Chair in the History of Philosophy

### **EDITH VAN DER BOOM**

Associate Professor of Philosophy of Education & Practice of Pedagogy

### **LAMBERT ZUIDERVAART**

Emeritus

## CROSS-APPOINTED FACULTY FROM THE KING'S UNIVERSITY

### **MICHAEL DEMOOR**

Associate Professor of Theology

### **NEAL DEROO**

Associate Professor of Theology

### **JEFFREY DUDIAK**

Associate Professor of Theology

## ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

### **RONALD A. KUIPERS**

President, Director of the CPRSE

### **GIDEON STRAUSS**

Academic Dean

### **HÉCTOR ACERO FERRER**

Associate Director of the CPRSE

### **ELIZABET ARAS**

Registrar & Student Services Coordinator

### **HARLEY DEKKER**

Director of Finance

### **PETER GORMAN**

Librarian

### **ANDREW TEBBUTT**

CPRSE Postdoctoral Research Associate

### **PATRICIA WEBB**

Director of Advancement

# and Senate Members

## ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF, CONT.

**BRENNA WEHRLE**  
Recruitment Coordinator

**VIDYA WILLIAMS**  
Manager of Donor Relations

**EDITH VAN DER BOOM**  
Director of MA-EL Program

**DANIELLE YETT**  
Communications Coordinator

## EXTERNAL SENATE MEMBERS

**ARON REPPMANN**  
Trinity Christian College (Chair)

**BETH GREEN**  
Tyndale University College & Seminary  
(Vice Chair)

**PAMELA BEATTIE**  
University of Louisville

**JOHN CARUANA**  
Toronto Metropolitan University

**KRISTIN KOBES DU MEZ**  
Calvin University

**JANEL KRAGT BAKKER**  
Memphis Theological Seminary

**HENRY LUTTIKHUIZEN**  
Calvin University

**MARGIE PATRICK**  
The King's University

## INTERNAL SENATE MEMBERS

**GIDEON STRAUSS**  
ICS Academic Dean (Secretary)

**RONALD A. KUIPERS**  
ICS President

**NIK ANSELL**  
ICS Senior Member

**EDITH VAN DER BOOM**  
ICS Senior Member

**DAVE LEE**  
ICS Junior Member

**RICHARD PETERS**  
ICS Junior Member

# Hope in God's Faithfulness:



*“Let us hold fast to the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who has promised is faithful.”*

*—Hebrews 10:23*

The author of Hebrews offers us a simple reminder to trust God in all things. Yet trusting God, the above passage tells us, also means “holding fast to the confession of our hope without wavering,” and that can be a tall order for us, especially in troubling times. At ICS, we strive to encourage everyone with whom we interact to meet the challenge of these difficult times by holding fast to the hope inspired by God’s promise of cosmic redemption in Christ. In this way, we seek to remain faithful to our mission to be a graduate school where “the gospel’s message of renewal shapes our pursuit of wisdom.”

Looking back at 2021–22 at ICS gives us the opportunity to notice God’s faithfulness to our community, to be grateful for that faithfulness, and to return to our mission with renewed, unwavering confidence that God has blessed and will continue to bless our efforts. This report gives me a wonderful opportunity, then, to “count our blessings” with you, our community of support—and there are indeed many blessings to count!

From a financial perspective, ICS was blessed in 2021–22 with a level of voluntary donations far greater than we had anticipated in that year’s budget (67% over budget, in fact!). As you can glean from ICS’s audited financial statements, the bulk of this increase is due mainly to an influx of large gift bequests that are difficult to plan for when preparing budgets, but we remain grateful for our Maker’s providence all the same. Market volatility during this same period also meant that our investment portfolio sustained a loss, and as a result our financial position compared to the previous year is down. You may recall that the previous year (2020–21), due largely to strong market performance, ICS ran a budgetary surplus of approximately \$94,000.00. This year, we are reporting an overall loss of approximately \$110,000, which amounts to a loss of approximately \$16,000 over the two-year period combined. Finally, in order to meet our expenses for the year, we only needed to withdraw \$100,000.00 from our investments, far less than the budget projection of \$393,000. One more blessing to be grateful for!

# A Report from the President

As we continue to pursue a strategic plan that will strengthen the financial sustainability of ICS, we are again asking our membership to affirm our 2022-23 budgetary commitments. These commitments allow us to invest in key operational areas, so that we may improve our service to the entire realm of Christian education—by training Christian teachers and principals in innovative leadership skills, and providing keen graduate students with the opportunity to pursue their studies in a context that welcomes the integration of personal faith and academic learning.

In 2021-22, ICS held its first in-person Convocation since the onset of the pandemic. On this joyous occasion we lauded the excellent work of many students as we conferred upon them their MA, PhD, and MWS degrees. This group of students also included the first two graduates of the Educational Leadership stream of our Master's program (the MA-EL)! This program continues to develop in exciting ways, providing excellent leadership training to Christian K-12 teachers and administrators. During the Convocation ceremony, ICS also awarded Dr. Barbara Carvill (Emeritus Professor of Education, Calvin University) an honorary doctorate for her years of volunteer service to ICS, as well as for her significant intellectual contribution as a Christian scholar to the field of education.

This year we also continued to pursue our institutional conversation about the destructive impact of racism and colonization, which many Christian communities and institutions

historically supported. ICS Faculty considered different ways to add diversity to the seminars we offer, and this work included a new Interdisciplinary Seminar on 'Race, Colonization, and What it Means to be Human' led by Gideon Strauss, Nik Ansell, and myself. Through this ongoing exploration, we as an institution hope to learn more about the lingering presence of systemic racism and injustice in our own practices as well as those of the larger academy, and to encourage our faculty and students to support efforts to recognize truth, lament suffering, seek forgiveness, and work toward authentic forms of reconciliation with people who have endured the harmful effects of colonization and systemic racism.

In all these things, we continue to rely on God's faithfulness, and on our community of support for being the hands and feet of Jesus Messiah in helping us pursue our important work. You are "the good stewards of the manifold grace of God," who, we are told in 1 Peter 4:10, "serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received." Thank you, friends, for the role you played in helping ICS deliver on its unique academic mission in 2021-22—through your financial gifts, by praying with us each month as we bring our prayer requests to you, and for all your kind words of encouragement along the way! *Shalom!*

**RONALD A. KUIPERS**  
*President*

# Celebrations of Learning:



**I**resonate with Ron Kuipers' observation in his report that looking back to the academic year 2021-2022 affords us "the opportunity to notice God's faithfulness to our community, to be grateful for that faithfulness, and to return to our mission with renewed, unwavering confidence that God has blessed and will continue to bless our efforts."

As Ron also mentions in his report, after several years of the COVID-19 pandemic during which it was not possible for ICS to gather in celebration of students who had completed their programs of study, it was a pleasure and a privilege to return to our practice of annual convocations on June 3, 2022. Ron has already mentioned our honouring of Barbara Carvill with an honorary doctorate, and the conferral of degrees on the first two graduates from the Educational Leadership stream in our MA program (a.k.a. the MA-EL). I want to celebrate ICS's Junior Members with reference to the research topics of those on whom degrees were conferred at this convocation.

## IN THE MA PROGRAM

Karin Boonstra created a project titled *Shared Agency and Classroom Culture: Equipping Students to Speak into Their Own and Others' Learning*

Grace Carhart wrote a thesis titled *Acedia, Despair, Nihilism, and the Chronic Human Condition of Self-Separation: What We Can Learn from a Tradition of Fear and Failure*

David Grills created a project titled *Flourishing: the Better Bible Instruction Podcast*

Abbigail Hofstede wrote a thesis titled *Free Indeed? A Critical Comparison of Goudzwaard and Hayek on Human Agency in Economic Life*

Theoren Tolsma wrote a thesis titled *Attuning: Heidegger and Anxiety, Irigiray and Love*

Fred VanderBerg wrote a thesis titled *God's Indwelling in the Face of Redemptive Violence: A Conversation with René Girard, Dorothe Soelle, and N.T. Wright*

Danielle Yett wrote a thesis titled *Making Sense: An Expansive Study of Imagination, Structural Metaphor, and Aesthetic Normativity with Calvin Seerveld*

Grace, Theoren, and Danielle also received the Dean's Award.

# A Report from the Dean

## IN THE PHD PROGRAM

Jon Andreas wrote a dissertation titled *Education for Re-Indigenization: Toward an Econormative Philosophy of Education*

Shane Cudney wrote a dissertation titled *Where the Truth Lies: Pseudonymity, Complicity, and Critique in Fear and Trembling*

Dean Dettloff wrote a dissertation titled *Christwreck: An Accidentology of Christianity*

Joshua Harris wrote a dissertation titled *Neither Solitary Nor Diverse: Transcendental Multiplicity in Thomas Aquinas*

Benjamin Shank wrote a dissertation titled *Resounding Empathy: A Critical Exploration of Ricoeur's Theory of Discourse, to Clarify the Self's Reliance on Relationships with Other Persons*

Dean and Joshua also received the Dean's Award.

(cont.)

## JUNIOR & SENIOR MEMBER FACTS & FIGURES

6

GRADUATES FROM 2022



6

SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED TO



14

RECIPIENTS

32

ACTIVE JUNIOR MEMBERS

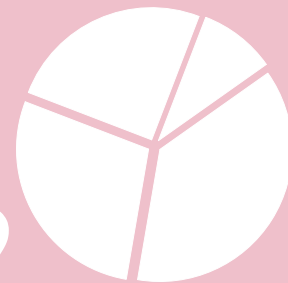


8

PHD

3

MWS



9

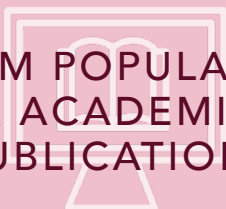
MA

12

MA-EL

8

JM POPULAR & ACADEMIC PUBLICATIONS



23

JM TALKS & PRESENTATIONS



12

UNDERGRAD COURSES TAUGHT BY JMs





# Celebrations of Learning

## IN THE CLASSROOM

In addition to supervising the research of Junior Members and conducting their own research, ICS's Senior Members contributed to the academic life of our school in their teaching. So I want to celebrate ICS's Senior Members with reference to the courses we taught during 2021-2022.

**Nik Ansell** taught *Biblical Foundations: Narrative, Wisdom, and the Art of Interpretation*, and *The Divine (at) Risk: Open Theism, Classical Theism and Beyond*, and co-taught the interdisciplinary seminar *Colonization, Racial Identity, and What It Means to be Human*.

**Ron Kuipers** taught *Pragmatism, Race, and Religion: Du Bois, West, and Glaude* and co-taught the interdisciplinary seminar *Colonization, Racial Identity, and What It Means to be Human*. Ron also supervised a guided reading with Junior Members on Wittgenstein.

Senior Member emeritus **Jim Olthuis** taught *The Radical Theopoetics of John D. Caputo*.

**Rebekah Smick** taught *With/Out Reason: Art and Imagination in the Western Tradition* and supervised a guided reading on Dostoevsky.

I taught *The Observant Participant: Applying Research Craft to Professional Practice*; *How to Govern a School: Board Governance, Decision-Making, and Community Engagement*; and *Lead From Where*

*You Are: Making a Difference in the Face of Tough Problems, Big Questions, and Organizational Politics*; and co-taught the interdisciplinary seminar *Colonization, Racial Identity, and What It Means to be Human*.

**Bob Sweetman** taught *Religion, Life, and Society: Reformational Philosophy and Individuality in the Franciscan Thought of John Duns Scotus and William of Ockham*. Bob also supervised a guided reading.

And **Edith van der Boom** taught *Cultivating Learning Communities of Grace* (in the Fall 2021 term and again in the Summer 2022 term) and *Deeper Learning: From Wonder to Inquiry to Practice*.

It is worth mentioning that the ICS academic year currently consists of three terms: Fall, Winter, and Summer. Under the supervision of Nik Ansell, ICS PhD candidate **Mark Standish** taught *Biblical Foundations: Narrative, Wisdom, and the Art of Interpretation* during Summer 2022.

ICS also offered a course during 2021-2022 taught by the then-Postdoctoral Research Associate at our Center for Philosophy, Religion, and Social Ethics (CPRSE), **Andrew Tebbutt**: *The Visible, the Invisible, and the Revealed: Phenomenology and Christianity*.

Some Junior Members also took a course from an adjunct faculty member, at the time cross-appointed from



2020-22 PROGRAM GRADUATES, HONOURARY DEGREE RECIPIENT BARBARA CARVILL, SENIOR MEMBERS, BOARD CHAIR JOHN JOOSSE, AND CHANCELLOR ARON REPPMANN AT THIS YEAR'S CONVOCATION.

The King's University in Edmonton, **Neal DeRoo** titled *Foundations and Implications of Phenomenology*.

The scholarship of our Senior Members and Junior Members is supported by the diligent work of the ICS Academic Office and Library, and I want to celebrate my staff colleagues. When I became Academic Dean in Fall 2018, Elizabeth Aras was already serving as the ICS Academic Registrar, and Elizabeth continues to be both an extraordinary administrator and a welcoming and caring friend to our Junior Members, from her management of the admissions process through her organization of the annual Orientation Week and Fall and Spring Retreats to her organization of the Convocation. Elizabeth is also invaluable in the support that the Academic Office offers the ICS Senate and Academic Council, and the Academic Council's committees, including the standing Education Policy Committee. During 2021-2022 a significant part of Elizabeth's time was invested in a transition of our ICS student database to the AmpEducator platform. Another outstanding part of Elizabeth's contribution to the work of the Academic Office is her annual preparation for and hosting of a government inspection for the International Student Program (ISP), which

allows foreign nationals to study at Designated Learning Institutions in Canada, such as ICS.

As I mentioned in my report last year, late in the 2019-2020 academic year we established an ICS Recruitment Crew, asking five staff members to invest significant time coordinating the student recruitment efforts at ICS. At the recommendation of the Recruitment Crew, Ron Kuipers approved the appointment of a Recruitment Coordinator, and early during 2021-2022 that position was filled by Brenna Wehrle. The collaboration between Brenna and the Recruitment Crew has added meaningfully to ICS's capacity to identify and attract students who can benefit from an ICS education.

Also new to our ICS staff during 2021-2022 is our Librarian, Peter Gorman. Peter has quickly endeared himself to us as his colleagues with his competent support of our research and teaching, with workshops that familiarize us with the ever-improving library resources available for our scholarship, and with his friendly presence at ICS events.

A significant part of my work as Academic Dean is done in support of the academic governance provided

# Celebrations of Learning

to ICS by our Senate, Academic Council, and the Academic Council's committees, including the standing Education Policy Committee. During 2021-2022, the Senate initiated three new regular practices: changing the format of annual faculty reviews to reflective practice conversations, requiring an annual academic policy compliance report from the Academic Dean, and requiring a rolling three-year academic plan from the Academic Dean. The reflective practice conversations afford Senior Members an opportunity to reflect and report on their teaching, research, and community service qualitatively, with particular attention to how what they have learned during the year under consideration is affecting both maintenance and innovation in their scholarship. The compliance report allows the Senate to evaluate the extent to which ICS is aligning its academic practices with its academic policies, and thus with its mission and educational creed. The rolling academic plan nudges the ICS community towards a more strategic

stance in our academic practices, and affords the Senate a regular opportunity to advise on the direction of scholarship at ICS.

I want to conclude this report with my heartfelt thanks to Aron Reppmann, who stepped down as Chair of the Senate and Chancellor at the end of the 2021-2022 academic year. Aron was an extraordinarily capable facilitator of Senate meetings in his position as Chair, an insightful and trusted advisor to ICS in his position as Senator, and a kind, generous, and competent collaborator with me in our shared work.

I add my thanks to that of Ron Kuipers, to you, for the encouragement you offer those of us called to serve God and neighbour in scholarly love, for your financial support of ICS's unique academic mission, and for your prayers.

**GIDEON STRAUSS**  
*Academic Dean*

## JUNIOR & SENIOR MEMBER FACTS & FIGURES

> 21

ICS COURSES  
& GUIDED  
READINGS



122

INDIVIDUAL  
COURSE  
REGISTRATIONS



10

SM POPULAR  
& ACADEMIC  
PUBLICATIONS



21

SM TALKS,  
PRESENTATIONS  
& WORKSHOPS





# Interrogating Our Tradition:



## LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT

“Today, we recognize that we must acknowledge our failures to live up to the agreements we have entered into with Indigenous peoples across Turtle Island, both in our relationships with those peoples and in our relationship to their land. Likewise, we acknowledge the physical, spiritual, and mental damage that we have inflicted on Indigenous peoples in these failures. Finally, we commit personally and institutionally to interrogating our privileged understandings of Indigenous peoples and our relationship to the land that we now share.”

**MARK STANDISH**  
ICS JUNIOR MEMBER

**A**cknowledge, recognize, interrogate. It is with these words that ICS Junior Members have challenged the CPRSE to re-examine its academic programming and public outreach in light of the reality of systemic oppression that continues to impact our communities today.

**ACKNOWLEDGE.** In the preceding land acknowledgement, which was presented at one of the CPRSE’s colloquia, Junior Member Mark Standish expressed the need to attend to the ancestral lands on which our institution operates.

**RECOGNIZE.** Voicing the call to action on behalf of our Junior Members, Mark reminded us that acknowledging the land is only the first step in recognizing our institutional responsibility in the damage inflicted on Indigenous peoples and beyond.

**INTERROGATE.** According to our Junior Members, ICS’s contribution to bringing about the kingdom of *shalom* heralded by the Christian scriptures is to philosophically interrogate and challenge the systems of thought that have supported colonization, oppression, and marginalization.

This call to acknowledge, recognize, and interrogate has shaped the activities of the CPRSE throughout the 2021–22 academic year. Starting with our immediate academic community—and gradually including other ICS stakeholders—the CPRSE curated events and publications geared at wrestling with the impact of the philosophical discipline, and that of Christian institutions, in the troubling history of colonization. The work of the

# A Report from the CPRSE

Centre followed two main thrusts: (1) ‘difficult conversations,’ highlighted by our colloquia and symposia; and (2) ‘difficult journeys,’ featured in two of our *Ground Motive* blog series. In June 2022, these foci intersected at the ICS Summer Community Conference, “Difficult Conversations, Difficult Journeys, Difficult Justice,” which served as a milestone in our year of reflections. This conference was an opportunity to share with the public some of the self-examination that had been undertaken by Junior and Senior Members throughout the year.

Back in the fall of 2021, we launched our ‘difficult conversations’ program with the in-house colloquium “Philosophy Otherwise: Re-learning the Philosophical Craft.” Here, we invited four leading female scholars to discuss how their academic work has been reshaped by considerations of diversity, equity, and inclusion. In a series of presentations and moderated conversations, Dr. Maria del Rosario Acosta (University of California, Riverside), Ntandoyenkosi Mlambo (University of Stellenbosch), Dr. Lori-Anne Dolloff (University of Toronto), and Dr. Elisabeth Paquette (University of North Carolina) challenged our community to reconsider which voices are included in philosophical reflection, who is expected to carry forward the task of philosophy, and what are the future alternatives for philosophy as a global discipline.

We accompanied the fall colloquium with a public *Scripture, Faith, and Scholarship Symposium*, in which the CPRSE invited as a guest speaker Jonathan Hamilton-Diabo, the June

Callwood Professor in Social Justice and Special Advisor on Indigenous Issues at Emmanuel and Victoria Colleges. In his presentation, “Fill the Earth and Subdue: Exploring Relationships with Land,” Hamilton-Diabo explored the use of Indigenous stories, experiences, and worldviews in the creation of a renewed relationship to the land. Hamilton-Diabo’s presentation offered an opportunity to continue ICS’s ongoing reflection on how to acknowledge Turtle Island’s traditional territories in the context of an institution dedicated to interdisciplinary philosophy, a process that concluded with the drafting of “Creating Land Acknowledgements at ICS,” a summative document presented to Academic Council in the spring of 2022.

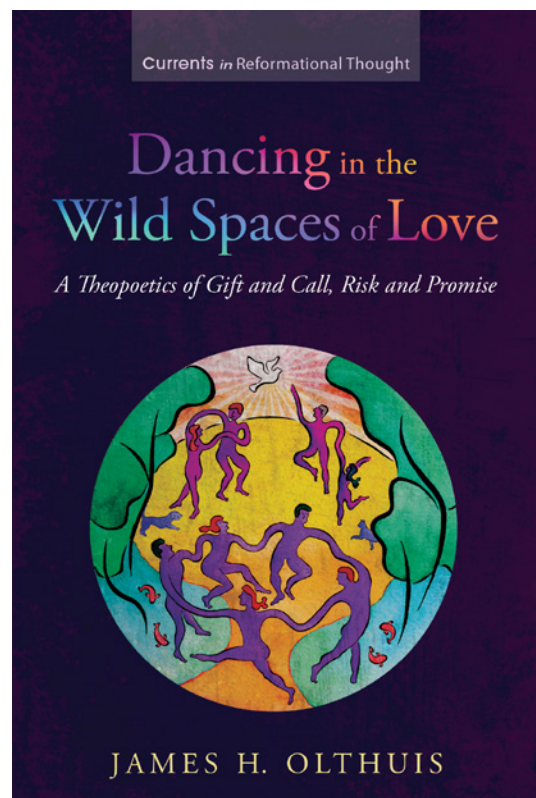
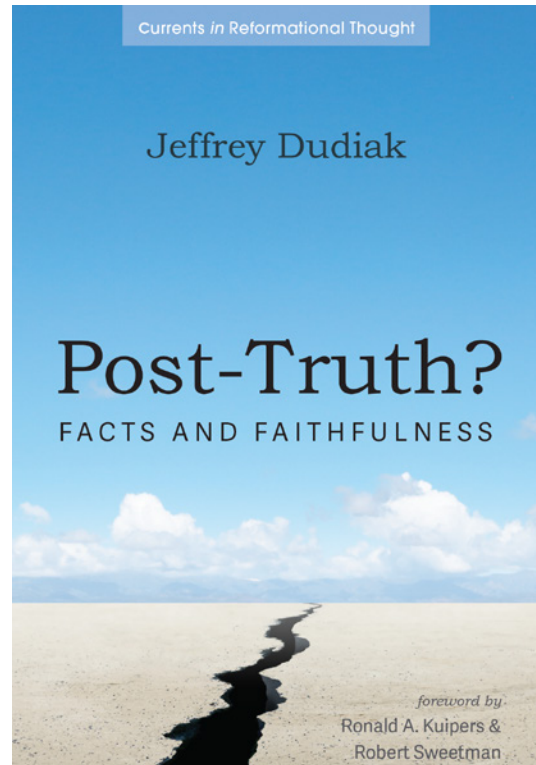
The challenging conversations that took place throughout the year demonstrated a willingness of the ICS community to listen to voices that have been marginalized *by* and *in* our discipline, to question the tradition that has grounded our scholarly and pedagogical practices, and to imagine alternative ways to honour the Christian scriptures’ call to act justly. These ‘difficult journeys’ embarked by ICS Senior and Junior Members, staff, alums, and supporters, have been documented in the *Ground Motive* blog series “Uprooting Racism” and “Philosophy Otherwise: Knowledge Reconsidered, Learning Reimagined.” Here, diverse members of our community articulated to the public their efforts to think critically about the impact of the scholarly discipline upon the lived realities of alternative ways of meaning, being, and knowing.

# Interrogating Our Tradition

In addition to its programming on systemic oppression, the CPRSE continued to bolster Reformational scholarship through its publications and outreach. During 2021-22, the CPRSE added two volumes to its Currents in Reformational Thought series: *Post-Truth? Facts and Faithfulness* (Wipf & Stock 2021), by ICS Adjunct Faculty and The King's University Philosophy Professor Dr. Jeffrey Dudiak, and *Dancing in the Wild Spaces of Love: A Theopoetics of Gift and Call, Risk and Promise* (Wipf & Stock 2021), by ICS Emeritus Faculty Dr. James Olthuis. The CPRSE also invited two scholars within the Reformational philosophy tradition to speak about their most recent publications. In October 2021, Dr. Jonathan Chaplin presented his book *Faith in Democracy: Framing a Politics of Deep Diversity* (SCM Press 2021). In April 2022, Dr. Adrienne Dengerink Chaplin presented her new book *The Philosophy of Susanne Langer: Embodied Meaning in Logic, Art and Feeling* (Bloomsbury 2019).

It was a fruitful year for the Centre for Philosophy, Religion, and Social Ethics, as we offered our community a space for deep contemplation, reflection, and conversation. We look forward to continuing our work to support all ICS stakeholders as they envision new paths for our rich and dynamic tradition of thought in the face of challenging realities!

**HÉCTOR ACERO FERRER**  
*Associate Director, CPRSE*

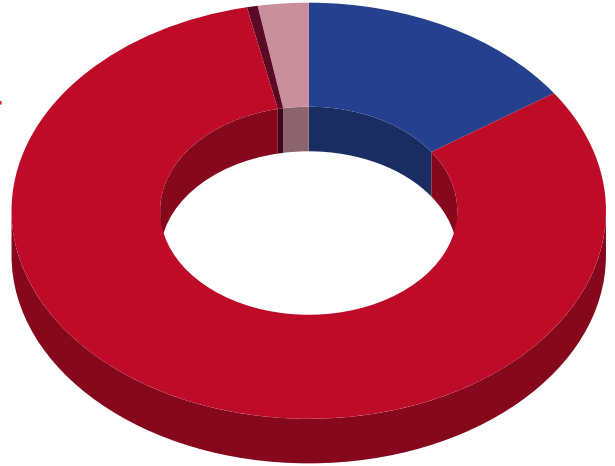




# Financial & Operations Reports

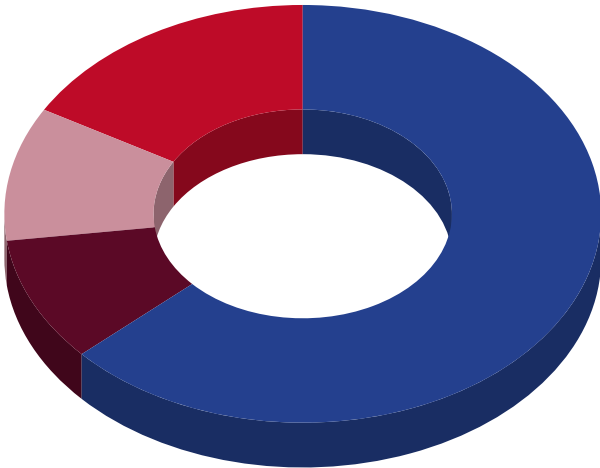
## REVENUES

- Donation Income \$819,634
- Tuition & Fees \$155,829
- Investment Income (loss) (\$61,967)
- Oikia Fund & Reinders Bursary \$27,776
- Other Income \$878



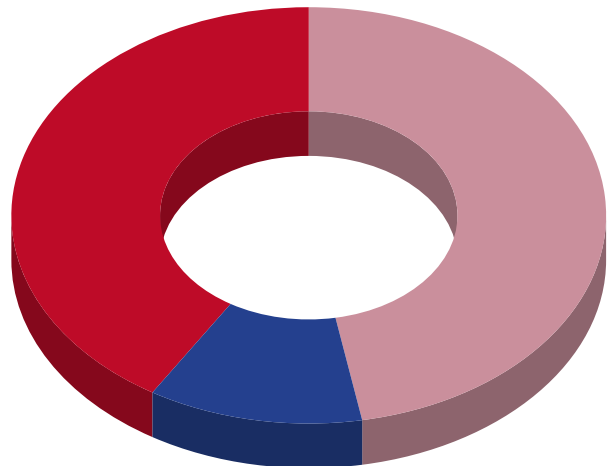
## EXPENDITURES

- Academic \$679,860
- Administration \$111,034
- Advancement \$157,567
- Research Centre \$103,621



## DONATION INCOME

- General Donations \$386,471
- Church Contributions \$95,708
- Bequests \$337,455



	<b>2022</b>	<b>2021</b>
<b>ASSETS</b>	\$2,675,478	\$2,815,362
<b>LIABILITIES</b>	\$77,730	\$83,215
<b>FUND BALANCES</b>	\$2,597,748	\$2,732,147
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; FUND BALANCES</b>	\$2,675,478	\$2,815,362
<b>FUND BALANCES REPRESENTED BY</b>		
GENERAL FUND	\$1,963,026	\$2,073,018
RESTRICTED FUND	\$536,136	\$523,689
FIXED ASSET FUND	\$98,586	\$135,440
<b>TOTAL FUND BALANCES</b>	\$2,597,748	\$2,732,147

*Note: Complete financial statements are available upon request.*

# Next Steps on the Journey:



## *Greetings in Christ from the Board of Trustees of the Institute for Christian Studies.*

Since this will be my last report on behalf of the ICS Board of Trustees as Chair, I would like to say that it has been a great honour and privilege to serve on the board and work with other board members, Senior Members, and staff as we prayerfully continued to witness, explore, and share together the redemptive power of Jesus Christ in the area of academics. It has also been a special opportunity in a personal way because ICS was very dear to my father, James Joosse Sr., both as a concept and as an institution, and he also played leadership roles at ICS in its earlier years.

During the past 6 years of my tenure, we have witnessed the sale of ICS's shares in the building at 229 College Street, and the move from there to our present location at Knox College. We were also privileged to honour the work of past president, Doug Blomberg, celebrate his retirement, and to hire and welcome Ron Kuipers as the current president. In conversation with the ICS Leadership Team, we also established a strategic plan for movement toward long-term financial sustainability, which is, with God's blessing, producing positive results so far.

President Ron Kuipers and the ICS Leadership Team, along with faculty and staff, worked very hard again

this past year to maintain and grow a strong, sustainable voice for Reformational academics and contribute to important developments in Christian scholarship. Coming out of the Covid-19 pandemic continues to provide some complications and special challenges, but also continues to create opportunities as it has pushed us all to be creative and innovative in carrying on the essential work and witness of ICS.

I am very happy to report again that over the last year we are making progress to becoming more financially stable, due in large part to some significant bequests and donations. We continue to be encouraged by the growth in financial support shown by the ICS community. And I'd like to give a special thanks to our finance team—Hans Speelman, Sandra Tang, Ray Vander Zaag, and of course ICS Director of Finance Harley Dekker—for all their efforts in this regard.

Our new board members Dan Beerens from Zeeland, Michigan, Kevin Huinink from Smithville, Ontario, Mario Matos from Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, and Sandra Tang from Toronto have all fit in well during their first year, and have been more than willing to share their extensive experience and expertise in various aspects of board and committee work—to our great benefit.

# A Letter from the Board

Myself included, four board members will conclude their terms at the end of this calendar year. We are very grateful for the contributions made by each of them. Diane Stronks has contributed her exceptional leadership skills in roles as Vice Chair of the board and Chair of the Presidential Relations Committee. Hilda Buisman has done very important work as a member and Chair of the Governance Committee. Ray Vander Zaag stepped up as Chair of the Finance Committee and provided exceptional leadership when it was sorely needed. And yours truly was honoured to be able to contribute as a board member, Chair of the Board Recruitment and Development Committee, and Board Chair. We wish all well, after their departure from the board.

We are also very grateful to Aron Reppmann, Chancellor of the Senate for the past number of years. We benefited much from his exceptional skills as Senate chair and also from his insights as a Christian scholar. We are grateful that Senate member Pamela Beattie has agreed to fill Aron's shoes as Chancellor, and we know she will also provide great leadership, wisdom, and insight.

We are also grateful to Danielle Yett and Héctor Acero Ferrer, who faithfully produce quality monthly updates for the ICS community as well as the semi-annual *Perspective*, and for the insightful and inspiring contributions made to those publications by Junior and Senior Members.

We are most grateful to our Creator God who faithfully continues to provide for the maintenance and growth of ICS, and also to our faithful supporters in Canada, the United States, and around the world. With

this kind of ongoing support, ICS will continue, by God's grace, to be a voice for love, justice, peace, and understanding in testifying to the coming of Christ's Kingdom in all areas of human activity.

**JOHN JOOSSE**  
*Board Chair*

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES

**John Josse** (*Chair*)  
**Marci Frederick** (*Vice Chair*)  
**Ray Vander Zaag** (*Treasurer*)  
**Dan Beerens**  
**Hilda Buisman**  
**Ian DeWaard**  
**Kevin Huinink**  
**Scott Macklin**  
**Mario Matos**  
**Lynnette Postuma**  
**Hans Speelman**  
**Diane Stronks**  
**Sandra Tang**

## FRIENDS OF ICS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**Barbara Carvill** (*President*)  
**Brad Breems** (*Secretary*)  
**Emily Scharnowski** (*Treasurer*)  
**Matt Bonzo**  
**Emily Brinks**  
**Marci Frederick**  
**Case Hoogendoorn**  
**Yvana Mols**  
**Tim Postuma**  
**Luke Seerveld**

# The Gift of a Legacy

As we reflect on this past year, we have been particularly struck by the faithfulness of our supporting community. And not just in the way that our donors have generously responded to our communications about the work that goes on here, but also by those who gave forethought as to how they could continue to partner with us for the long term.

It has been both humbling and deeply heartening for all of us this year to hear again and again the news that one of our donors has thought of ICS and its long term needs by making the provision in their will for a legacy gift. *Words cannot express how much this has blessed us and will continue to bless us for a long time!*

This, and the many other ways you as a community have shared your gifts with us, is a profound and abiding encouragement. Day after day you have strengthened us with your belief in ICS and its ability to continue to fulfill the educational mission that God has given us through your prayers, your inspiring notes, and your financial gifts. With your help and support we were

able to move forward in a stronger and surer way toward accomplishing the goals we had set so that we could continue to nurture and improve how we pursue our educational calling. *Thank you for standing with us and for partnering with us—it means a lot!*

On a personal note...

In June, I retired as Director of Advancement at ICS, and I wanted to take this opportunity in my last Annual Report letter to express my thanks to our ICS community. In the seven-and-a-half years that I have been part of this institution, I have been deeply blessed by all of you—not just by the way you so steadfastly support our work, but how you as a community have personally inspired and encouraged me. My times with you have more deeply confirmed for me the importance of the educational calling that ICS has, and walking together with you in this mission has been a real joy. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to be a part of this journey!

**PAT WEBB**

*Director of Advancement*

**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