

Fall 2009 Newsletter

During the last several months the work of the Harvest Endowment Foundation has carried on and we continue to experience the Lord's blessing in this endeavour. Our vision is to help keep the cost of Reformed education affordable for current and future generations, and this is the focus of all our activities. Some of these activities are quiet and behind the scenes, while others are more public and 'up front'. This edition of the Newsletter gives a summary of the highlights.

Board Meetings:



The Board meets on a regular basis and devotes most of the agenda to three main items:

1. **Relationship with Christian Stewardship Services (CSS).** This organization manages our investments and provides the confidential (and free) estate planning services for any member or our community. It willingly meets with such members in order to explain gift giving options and possibilities. Recently it voluntarily reduced its 'investment management fees' in recognition of the difficult financial times, yet CSS continues to enjoy a better than average return on its (and our) investments. We highly value the services we receive via CSS and appreciate the growing relationship.
2. **Relationship with Partner Schools.** Each of our schools has a member designated as a Liaison to the Harvest Foundation. This local member is to keep the local board and membership updated on the activities and services of Harvest Foundation, and to promote its Vision. In March 2009 we were able to have a meeting with all the Liaisons in conjunction with a presentation by CSS on planned giving and on estate planning services. The meeting was very beneficial for all attendees and made everyone all the more enthusiastic for the work

of Harvest Foundation. These Liaisons are our essential contacts with each partner school.

3. **Donor Contacts.** Ultimately the work of Harvest Foundation is to attract donors to our Vision of financially assisting our Reformed Schools. In addition to the work of our Liaisons, we have recently implemented two programmes:

- A regular promotion advertisement in Clarion to keep the cause of Harvest Foundation front and foremost for our Reformed Community.
- A mailing to all the 'over 50s' in our communities (at least to the extent that we were able to identify them) promoting the Vision of the Foundation and at the same time outlining the estate planning services available (see over).

At this time Harvest Foundation has been the thankful recipient of increasing direct donations as well as increasing mention in wills and bequests.

Visits to Partner Schools:



One of the very pleasant tasks that Harvest Foundation has is to visit our Partner Schools for their Fall Membership Meetings and to distribute any funds that have become available from donations and investments. Again this year we could do so and the gifts were an increase over the previous year. These gifts are meant to be applied to the operating budgets so that tuition payments may be kept lower. At the same time, we use the opportunity of these visits to promote the work and services of Harvest Foundation so that more members will support our Vision.