



IRTC

INTERNATIONAL
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THEOLOGICAL
COLLEGE

MARCH 2020

The IRTC Welcomes New President

Oil and perfume make the heart glad, and the sweetness of a friend comes from his earnest counsel. —Proverbs 27:9

The Lord is awesome, and we praise His name. We rejoice in Him who is our best friend, who despite being infinitely great, loves us and provides everything we need. We don't understand why He chose us; we simply surrender to His wonderful grace. The Lord's care for us, seen in the smallest details, is also shown in the major changes that will occur throughout this year at the IRTC.

After years of dedicated work by **Rev. Ralph Boersema**, the IRTC's president for two decades, the College has finally found someone to replace him in his administrative duties. These were times of fervent prayer: as physical and personal difficulties intensified, the need for rest and recovery for Rev. Boersema and his family became increasingly evident.

Therefore, we rejoice to see Rev. Boersema's work grow, take shape, and by God's gracious provision, receive yet another dedicated and pious servant, who joins us in our efforts. **Rev. Ulisses Horta Simões**, B.S., Th.B., Th.M., from Belo Horizonte, Brazil, minister of the Word of the Presbyterian Church of Brazil, took office on March 21st. We have now entered a transition period, during which Rev. Boersema will remain active, assisting and advising Rev. Simões in his responsibilities.

The following paragraphs contain the official announcement made by IRTC's Board of Directors, informing the change of office, highlighting the utmost value of the service provided by Rev. Ralph, and expressing the IRTC's gratitude for his work for the kingdom of Christ:

It is with immense joy and intense gratitude to the Triune God that the Board of Directors presents to you the Rev. Ulisses Horta Simões of Belo Horizonte, MG, Brazil, a minister of the Word in the Presbyterian Church of Brazil (IPB) as the new president of the IRTC. The Rev. Ulisses (using the first name is the customary practice in Portuguese) has excellent qualifications for serving as the president of our College, for he served on the faculty of the Presbyterian seminary in Belo Horizonte

since 1988 and served as its director in the last four years. The Rev. Ulisses knows the IRTC well. He was a member of the founding committee, was on the Board for many years, served as its chairman for some time, and even was the academic vice president for a time. Consequently, the IRTC also knows him well.

The replacement of the Rev. Ralph as president of the IRTC is in no way due to any dissatisfaction on the part of the Board with the performance of our current president, quite the contrary. The Rev. Ralph was not only one of the group of founders of the IRTC and an instructor for 20 years, but also dedicated himself fully to directing the theological institution and to its well-being, in spite of serious limitations due to increasing visual impairment and, eventually, total loss of vision. The Rev. Ralph has expressed his desire to be relieved of the presidency for several years. We all knew that it would not be easy to find a replacement. We understand that it was not easy for the Rev. Ulisses to say, "Yes," to the Board's invitation. To replace a founder of an entity, its "soul," in a manner of speaking, is never easy. We believe, however, that it was God himself who gave the Rev. Ulisses the conviction that he has been called to be the new president of the IRTC.

It is appropriate to make clear to the IRTC community that the Rev. Ulisses will not replace our academic vice president, Dr. Leandro de Lima, who will continue in his position, as will our



Rev. Ralph Boersema and Rev. Ulisses Horta Simões

vice president for student affairs, Brother David Portela. The Board desires to express how happy and thankful it is for all the services these brothers render.

Rev. Ulisses has expressed the desire to not receive remuneration for the work he is to do during 2020. The Board respects this desire and is thankful for this unselfish posture, just as it thanks other personnel for donations of time and service given to the College.

It is also important to emphasize that the Rev. Ralph is not leaving the IRTC. He will continue to serve as an honorary president and additional advisor for the insti-

tution. As a matter of fact, this is an express desire of the Rev. Ulisses.

The Board asks for the prayers of all the students, instructors, other personnel, friends and supporters, that God may bless the Rev. Ulisses and his family, and that he may continue to bless the Rev. Ralph and Sister Lucille (treasurer), and that there may be a fruitful transition of the leadership of the IRTC.

For the Board,
Pieter K. Meijer,
Chairman



Support IRTC

Donations in Canada can be made through the IRTC Society's Web site (http://irtcsociety.ca/?page_id=93) or by cheque. Cheques should be made out to the "International Reformed Theological College Society" and sent to:

International Reformed Theological College Society
221-2626 Countess Street
Abbotsford, BC V2T 5P3
Canada

US & International donations in US\$ can be made by PayPal through our site (<https://irtc.online/donations/>) or by check. Checks should be made out to the "International Reformed Theological College Society" and sent to:

International Reformed Theological College
70 Pace Dr.
Bristol, VA 24201
USA

Donor Update

We are grateful because amid the global pandemic, God has kept us and allowed us to fully function even under confinement and quarantine. Some students have already been using the extra time to catch up on their studies. We have found no reason yet to change our calendar for this year. In fact, our teachers will probably have more time to dedicate to their courses, and certainly everyone's need for income will be greater. As can be seen in the chart below, our expenses are slightly under what we have budgeted until this month. **However, we still have a significant amount that we need to raise by the end of the year, in order not to exhaust our reserves: \$88,363. Unlike many brick-and-mortar institutions, the IRTC is operating at full speed and still needs your support to continue.** Please continue to pray and contribute to this ministry, as we find ourselves in a unique moment to bring Reformed theological teaching to many people who are suddenly discovering the benefits of distance education.

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Please send all feedback, questions, comments and ideas regarding this newsletter to newsletter@irtc.online.

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