

Deputies Article 19 for Needy Students

Report to Synod Mamelodi 2024

This amendment replaces the previous version of the report, dated July 2024

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Needy Students (Art 19)

In South African Rands

Budget - 2022 to 2025

	Notes	Budget - 2024	Budget - 2025	Budget - 2026	Budget - 2027
Total Income		1 400 000	1 400 000	1 100 000	1 100 000
Income from FRCA (Australia Through DTT)		1 200 000	1 200 000	900 000	900 000
Income from churches		200 000	200 000	200 000	200 000
Expenses		1 354 572	1 151 407	904 877	980 091
Student stipends:		603 960	342 638	331 932	346 869
Jakob Mars		-	-	-	-
Albert Bijker		300 000	25 000	-	-
Christopher Hlongwane		1 500	1 568	1 638	1 712
Sibusiso Sithole		1 500	1 568	1 638	1 712
Possible students	1	300 960	314 503	328 656	343 445
Study cost:		352 940	410 175	348 389	407 660
Jakob Mars		-	-	-	-
Arjan van der Meer		40 000	40 000	-	-
Jonatan Boon		40 000	40 000	-	-
Marco van Renssen		40 000	40 000	-	-
Johann Snijder		-	-	-	-
Albert Bijker		40 000	40 000	40 000	40 000
Arco Klapwijk		40 000	40 000	40 000	40 000
Christopher Hlongwane	3	76 470	82 588	89 195	96 330
Sibusiso Sithole	3	76 470	82 588	89 195	96 330
Possible students	1	-	45 000	90 000	135 000
Travel cost:		325 472	326 393	152 356	153 362
Albert Bijker		85 000	85 000	85 000	85 000
Jakob Mars		-	-	-	-
Arco Klapwijk		45 000	45 000	45 000	45 000
Arjan van der Meer		85 000	85 000	-	-
Jonatan Boon		45 000	45 000	-	-
Marco van Renssen		45 000	45 000	-	-
Christopher Hlongwane		10 236	10 697	11 178	11 681
Sibusiso Sithole		10 236	10 697	11 178	11 681
Possible students		-	-	-	-
Medical insurance:		70 000	70 000	70 000	70 000
Jakob Mars		-	-	-	-
Arco Klapwijk		10 000	10 000	10 000	10 000
Arjan van der Meer		20 000	20 000	20 000	20 000
Jonatan Boon		10 000	10 000	10 000	10 000
Marco van Renssen		10 000	10 000	10 000	10 000
Albert Bijker		20 000	20 000	20 000	20 000
Christopher Hlongwane		-	-	-	-
Sibusiso Sithole		-	-	-	-
Possible students		-	-	-	-
Bank charges		200	200	200	200
Other charges		2 000	2 000	2 000	2 000
Surplus / (shortage)		45 428	248 593	195 123	119 909
Opening Balance Bank Account		-152 644	-107 216	141 378	336 500
Closing Balance Bank Account		-107 216	141 378	336 500	456 409
Cost incurred in Canada	2	575 000	575 000	280 000	280 000
Remaining surplus / (shortage)		620 428	823 593	475 123	399 909

Notes

- Two possible students from 2023 onwards from our mission churches and another two from 2024 onwards.
- This excludes cost currently covered by the FSBF for our students studying at CRTS i.e. living costs in Canada. Interms of our MOU with CRTS and the Foreign bursary fund these costs are covered by our sister churches in Canada as these costs will be
- Study costs for these 2 students include meals and accommodation at MTC

SA Mdiv - R20 000 per year

CRTS - Study cost R40 000 + Books etc R5000 and Travel R40 000 (twice to Canada) per year + TOEFL exam R3 000 + Medical examination + R20 000

Local University - R40 000 per year

Medical insurance R10 000 per year

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Executive summary

This report deals with the financial support to needy theological students in the Free Reformed Churches of South Africa. We praise the Lord that over the past decade He gave us nine brothers who are at various levels of theological training.

This Deputyship is highly necessary in the FRCSA federation, as the cost of training, both undergraduate and at MDiv level, remains expensive for any student. We thank the Lord that He also abundantly provided the resources for the training, both in South Africa and at the CRTS in Canada.

The contributions from the churches in South Africa clearly show that these churches are grateful to the Lord for providing brothers who want to serve as ministers in His kingdom. Already one student is working in the mission congregation of Soshanguve F4.

We are grateful to the Foreign Students Bursary Fund of our Canadian sister-churches which supports our students in Canada, in terms of the Memorandum of Understanding between the CRTS and the Deputies Theological Training of the FRCSA. This MoU largely benefits our students, and therefore us as Deputies Art 19 Needy Students (Addendum C). We are also grateful for the significant financial support that Deputies Art 19 Needy Students, together with Deputies Theological Training, have received from our sister churches in Australia. Without their support we would not be able to sustain the training.

The theological training trajectory for the FRCSA has been established and is functioning well. We envisage that we continue funding in line with this trajectory for the next 5 to 10 years.

This report should be read together with the Report of Deputies for Theological Training, that provides the background to developments and grounds for funding allocations. Deputies Art 19 made contributions to the report by Deputies for Theological Training.

This report is divided into two sections:

- Synod 2021 instructions and results
- Proposed Synod 2024 instructions

Part One: Synod 2021 instructions and results

1 To separate the deputies on the basis that there should be an independent person attending to the needs of needy students, one who is not a curator.

Synod appointed the following persons as members of the Deputyship Art 19:

- Ernst van Vondel, Chair of Deputyship
- Martha Hamming, member of Deputyship Art 19 as well as Treasurer of Deputies Theological Training.

The two Deputies have been working as an independent Deputyship, that held meetings separately from Deputies Theological Training when needed, and that kept separate financial accounts.

The Deputies Art 19 implemented the following mandates:

1.1 To collaborate closely with Deputies Theological Training in order to determine the level of financial support for theological students.

1.1.1 In principle the separation of the two Deputyships is necessary for clean management and protection of separate mandates. In practice the separation is rather artificial, and if strictly adhered to, time-consuming. Students would submit applications for funding to Deputies Art 19, who then request DTT to advise on eligibility and amounts of funding. DTT then discuss merits and alternatives, as well as consequences, and submit recommendations to Deputies Art 19. If questions arise, Deputies Art 19 would have to request further advice from DTT.

1.1.2 The two Deputyships used the following compromise with regard to cooperation:

- a. DTT administration received applications for funding from students on a prescribed application form or on an *ad hoc* basis . These applications were discussed at the next DTT meeting to evaluate their merit. Deputies Art 19 attended the meetings and thus remained informed on students' progress when DTT discussed the students. Under the agenda item Finances/Art 19, the student's application was discussed, and a decision was taken by Deputies Art 19. If no decision could be taken at the meeting, Deputies Art 19 met separately in a follow-up meeting. This seldomly happened.
- b. Where an application was urgent, the same process was followed through email communication organised by the DTT administrator or through a Teams meeting.

1.1.2 As the financial statements in Addendum A show, funding was allocated to the following needs of students:

- a. Undergraduate studies:
 - Tuition fees, as determined by the educational institution at which the student was enrolled.
 - Books, as prescribed by the educational institution, if and where requested by the student.
 - Travel costs, for 4 students.
 - Living cost stipends, for 3 students
- b. MDiv studies:

In terms of the MoU with CRTS, the seminary's Foreign Students Bursary Fund paid for all living costs and accommodation in Hamilton, while Deputies Art 19, in cooperation with Deputies Theological Training, paid for travel costs, visa, insurance, tuition costs and books. Deputies also paid for the Toefl test for three students. This compulsory test is used to assess the student's ability to master the English language. All students passed this test.

1.1.3 Total income and expenditure can be summarised as follows (Addendum A):

	2023	2022	2021
Income	600 965	345 888	593 145
Expenditure	550 885	636 894	441 461
Student stipends	130 000	204 000	176 398
Study costs	257 087	135 516	171 984
Travel costs	163 799	295 277	117 678
Surplus/shortage	50 080	-291 007	151 684

1.2 To levy the churches as follows:

- For 2021: R500 000
- For 2022: R300 000
- For 2023: R300 000
- For 2024: R200 000

Deputies received the following amounts from the churches. We praise the Lord that our brothers and sisters were willing and able to fulfil their obligations:

- For 2021: R493,145
- For 2022: R295,887
- For 2023: R300 965
- For 2024: R200 000 (NB: year not ended)

1.3 Management of funding from our sister-churches abroad in a Biblically responsible way to serve all FRCSA churches

This mandate was not formally determined at Synod 2021 but flows logically from developments in overseas funding of the FRCSA churches between 2021 and 2024. Deputies received the following funding from our Australian sister-churches:

- For 2021: R744,796
- For 2022: R321,819
- For 2023: R1,909,733 (NB: partially for delayed payment in 2022)
- For 2024: R1,200 000

Our Australian sister-churches have funded Deputies Needy Churches of the FRCSA since the 1990s, particularly for the congregation of Bethal. When Rev Breytenbach accepted a call to Pretoria in 2016 with special tasks in theological training and mission work, the FRCA funds could be used for his costs and additional expenditures, such as his pension fund. Funding by the Australian sister-churches as reported in the Deputies' financial statements, accounted for approximately R700,000 to R900,000 per year. Most of the funding was used for the costs of the training in South Africa, and part of the costs for

sending students to CRTS. Annual reports and a synod report were submitted to Deputies Churches Abroad of the FRCA.

The Canadian sister-churches have been funding part of the MDiv studies through the Foreign Students Bursary Fund (FSBF). In 2016 the CRTS/FSBF and the Deputies entered into a Memorandum of Understanding, in which it was agreed that the FSBF would pay for the accommodation and living costs of South African MDiv students in Canada, while the Deputies would pay for travel costs, visa, medical insurance, tuition fees and book costs. This MoU was updated in 2024, and strengthened the collaboration between CRTS and the Deputies (Addendum C). Synod Guelph 2022 of the CanRC approved a request from CRTS to be able to raise funds more widely in the Canadian congregations through a Free Will Giving letter. Deputies Theological Training disseminated a similar letter in some of the FRCSA congregations.

At Synod Belhar 2021 Mission Deputies SA raised the issue of possible funding of mission work in South Africa by the Canadian sister-churches. While the latter fund Khothatsong, Canadian government regulations would make it difficult to extend funding to mission work. At the 2021 synod the possibility was then raised whether the FSBF could extend their funding to include all costs of sending FRCSA students to CRTS, so that this would free Australian funding Deputies receive, for use in the mission field. The possibility of an increase in FSBF funding was discussed with CRTS, but this option could not be realised as it would create an unwanted precedence for other foreign students at CRTS.

In view of the need for more funding for Mission Deputies SA, Deputies Theological Training submitted a proposal to the Australian deputies in 2023, for the latter's approval for Deputies Theological Training to forward unused Australian funds to MDSA.

Synod Darling Downs 2024 acknowledged the request of the FRCSA to be more flexible in the use of the financial support given by the FRCA, to enable them to direct this to the support of mission and not only for theological training.

Synod Darling Downs mandated deputies to

- i. coordinate responses to requests for support from FRCSA deputies regarding needs in areas such as mission, theological training or needy churches; the task of the deputies is not to get involved in this work but only to inform the FRCA of the request and coordinate the response of the churches to this request. This support is a voluntary contribution from the churches, not an assessment or a levy.
- ii. involve the local congregations of the FRCA;
- iii. keep the members of the FRCA informed regarding the FRCSA churches and their activities, both directly to consistories as well as to the broader membership via *Una Sancta*.

From the above initiatives it is clear that there is a need for more coordination between various FRCSA deputyships and their budgets. It is proposed that at least the Deputies Theological Training, Deputies Needy Students, Deputies Needy Churches and Mission

Deputies South Africa strive for better coordination and annual assessment of budgets and funding received, in order to optimise the funding from our sister-churches.

1.4 To submit an interim report for discussion during an Indaba to be held end 2022 or beginning 2023.

Due to the close working relationship between Deputies Theological Training and Deputies Art 19, their reports were submitted as one report for the Indaba.

1.5 To submit a report to the next Synod and formulate recommendations according to Art 10 and 11 of the Synod Rules.

The current report fulfils this mandate.

Part 2: Proposed Synod 2024 instructions

2.1 To function as an independent deputyship that keeps its own accounts and reports independently to Synod

Grounds: In order to ensure sound financial management and independent decision-making on funds that are made available by the churches for needy students, Deputies Art 19 should formally function as an independent deputyship, which is held accountable in terms of its own mandate.

To levy the churches as follows:

- For 2025: R200 000
- For 2026: R200 000
- For 2027: R200 000
- For 2028: R200 000

Ground:

Our bond of churches should take more responsibility for the cost of theological students in partnership with Canadian and Australian churches.

2.2 To collaborate closely with Deputies Theological Training in order to determine the level of financial support for theological students.

Grounds:

- 2.2.1 As Deputies Theological Training largely manage the training programme and requirements, their decisions impact on any funding that can be allocated to needy students. DTT administration has an extensive database on the students, and manage most of the relevant administration and correspondence.
- 2.2.2 In principle the separation of the two Deputyships is necessary for clean management and protection of separate mandates.

- 2.2.3 In practice the separation is rather artificial, and if strictly adhered to, time-consuming. The two Deputyships can apply the following compromise with regard to cooperation:
- a. DTT's administration receives applications for funding from students. These applications are discussed at the next DTT meeting. Deputies Art 19 attend the meeting and thus remain informed on students' progress when DTT discuss the students. Under the agenda item Finances/Art 19, the student's application is discussed, and a decision is taken by Deputies Art 19. If no decision can be taken at the meeting, Deputies Art 19 meet separately in a follow-up meeting.
 - b. Where an application is urgent, the same process is followed through email or a Teams meeting.
- 2.2.4 Synod 2024 appoints the Treasurer of DTT also as a Deputy Art 19 to ensure efficient cooperation. The Treasurer keeps separate financial accounts and books for both Deputyships.

2.3 To manage funding from our sister-churches abroad in a Biblically responsible way to serve the churches

Grounds:

- 2.2.1 DTT receive an average of R900,000 per year from the Australian sister-churches. This is sufficient for the costs of both Deputies Theological Training and Deputies Art 19. In future the number of students may decline, which impacts on the financial needs of both Deputyships.
- 2.2.2 When the financial needs of Deputies Art 19 result in a medium-term surplus on their budgets, surplus funds should be shared with other deputyships, particularly Mission Deputies SA and Deputies Needy Churches.
- 2.2.3 It must be realised that funding of theological students must be based on medium-to-long term planning. A student who has started in the programme must be guaranteed of the funding for his complete study trajectory (7 years). A surplus in one year may be needed in the following year for the next cohort of students.
- 2.2.4 A request has been submitted to the FRCA Synod 2024 to approve our intent to share surplus funds with other deputyships.
- 2.2.5 From the above initiatives it is clear that there is a need for more coordination between various FRCSA deputyships and their budgets. It is proposed that at least the Deputies Theological Training, Deputies Needy Students, Deputies Needy Churches and Mission Deputies South Africa strive for better coordination and annual assessment of budgets and funding received, in order to optimise the funding from our sister-churches.

2.4 To submit an interim report for discussion during an Indaba to be held approximately halfway between Synod 2024 and the next Synod.

Grounds:

The three-year timespan between synods may cover significant developments in the churches. To ensure that all Deputies and churches are informed about these developments,

halfway the three-year period an Indaba will be held, at which Deputies present an interim report on their activities.

2.5 To submit a full report to Synod 2027

Grounds: This submission is in accordance with Synod Rules.

Addendum A: Financial Statements 2021-24

Needy Students (Art 19)

Income and expenses for the period 01.01.2023 until 31.12.2023

	2023	Budget - 2023	2022	2021	2020
Total Income	600 965	300 000	345 888	593 145	304 701
DVN (Netherlands)	-	-	50 000	100 000	70 000
FRCA	300 000				
Income from churches	300 965	300 000	295 888	493 145	234 701
Expenses	550 885	622 200	636 894	441 461	419 645
Student stipends:	130 000	150 000	204 000	176 398	227 112
Albert Bijker	125 000	150 000	-	-	-
Rofhiwa Ramphabana	-	-	64 000	63 408	95 112
Jakob Mars	5 000	-	140 000	112 990	132 000
Study cost:	257 087	200 000	135 516	146 305	171 984
Jacob Mnisi	-	-	-	-	-
Rofhiwa Ramphabana	-	-	-	17 231	45 284
Albert Bijker	35 392	-	-	-	-
Jakob Mars	47 233	40 000	31 217	30 669	42 932
Arjan van der Meer	55 614	40 000	37 082	35 636	25 273
Jonatan Boon	55 106	40 000	33 924	18 386	32 285
Marco van Renssen	63 742	40 000	33 294	-	26 210
Arco Klapwijk	-	40 000	-	44 382	-
Travel cost:	163 799	270 000	295 277	117 678	18 747
Albert Bijker	-	-	-	-	-
Jakob Mars	112 528	105 000	125 579	6 500	6 124
Rofhiwa Ramphabana	-	-	-	111 178	11 423
Arjan van der Meer	12 100	55 000	53 403	-	1 200
Jonatan Boon	13 976	55 000	57 680	-	-
Marco van Renssen	25 196	55 000	58 615	-	-
Johann Snijder	-	-	-	-	-
Bank charges	-	2 200	2 101	1 080	1 802
Surplus / (shortage)	50 080	-322 200	-291 007	151 684	-114 944
01.01. Opening Balance Bank Account	97 277	97 277	388 284	236 599	351 543
31.12. Closing Balance Bank Account	147 356	-224 923	97 277	388 284	236 599

Addendum B: Budget 2024-27

		In South African Rands			
		Budget - 2024	Budget - 2025	Budget - 2026	Budget - 2027
Needy Students (Art 19)					
Budget - 2022 to 2025					
	Notes				
Total Income		1 400 000	1 400 000	1 100 000	1 100 000
	Income from FRCA (Australia Through DTT)	1 200 000	1 200 000	900 000	900 000
	Income from churches	200 000	200 000	200 000	200 000
Expenses		1 354 572	1 151 407	904 877	980 091
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	Possible students	300 960	314 503	328 656	343 445
	1				
Study cost:		352 940	410 175	348 389	407 660
	Jakob Mars	-	-	-	-
	Arjan van der Meer	40 000	40 000	-	-
	Jonatan Boon	40 000	40 000	-	-
	Marco van Renssen	40 000	40 000	-	-
	Johann Snijder	-	-	-	-
	Albert Bijker	40 000	40 000	40 000	40 000
	Arco Klapwijk	40 000	40 000	40 000	40 000
	Christopher Hlongwane	76 470	82 588	89 195	96 330
	3				
	Sibusiso Sithole	76 470	82 588	89 195	96 330
	3				
	Possible students	-	45 000	90 000	135 000
	1				
Travel cost:		325 472	326 393	152 356	153 362
	Albert Bijker	85 000	85 000	85 000	85 000
	Jakob Mars	-	-	-	-
	Arco Klapwijk	45 000	45 000	45 000	45 000
	Arjan van der Meer	85 000	85 000	-	-
	Jonatan Boon	45 000	45 000	-	-
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Medical insurance:		70 000	70 000	70 000	70 000
	Jakob Mars	-	-	-	-
	Arco Klapwijk	10 000	10 000	10 000	10 000
	Arjan van der Meer	20 000	20 000	20 000	20 000
	Jonatan Boon	10 000	10 000	10 000	10 000
	Marco van Renssen	10 000	10 000	10 000	10 000
	Albert Bijker	20 000	20 000	20 000	20 000
	Christopher Hlongwane	-	-	-	-
	Sibusiso Sithole	-	-	-	-
	Possible students	-	-	-	-
	Bank charges	200	200	200	200
	Other charges	2 000	2 000	2 000	2 000
Surplus / (shortage)		45 428	248 593	195 123	119 909
	Opening Balance Bank Account	-152 644	-107 216	141 378	336 500
	Closing Balance Bank Account	-107 216	141 378	336 500	456 409
	Cost incurred in Canada	2	2	2	2
		575 000	575 000	280 000	280 000
	Remaining surplus / (shortage)	620 428	823 593	475 123	399 909

Notes

- Two possible students from 2023 onwards from our mission churches and another two from 2024 onwards.
- This excludes cost currently covered by the FSBF for our students studying at CRTS i.e. living costs in Canada. Interms of our MOU with CRTS and the Foreign bursary fund these costs are covered by our sister churches in Canada as these costs will be
- Study costs for these 2 students include meals and accommodation at MTC

SA Mdiv - R20 000 per year

CRTS - Study cost R40 000 + Books etc R5000 and Travel R40 000 (twice to Canada) per year + TOEFL exam R3 000 + Medical examination + R20 000

Local University - R40 000 per year

Medical insurance R10 000 per year

Addendum C: Memorandum of Understanding between CRTS and Deputies Theological Training of the FRCSA

Memorandum of Understanding

between the
The Board of Governors of the Canadian Reformed Theological Seminary
and
Deputies Theological Training of the Free Reformed Churches in South Africa

This memorandum of understanding pertains to the support of theological education for students of the Free Reformed Churches in South Africa (FRCSA) who plan to come to the Canadian Reformed Theological Seminary (CRTS) for their training for the ministry.

A. Background

1. CRTS understands that the FRCSA have some unique needs concerning theological education which include, but are not limited to, the following: a) their students come from diverse backgrounds, levels of education, and language groups; b) their theological training is pulled together from various “service providers”; c) tertiary education in South Africa does not always have consistent standards. As encouraged by the CanRC synods, Burlington 2010, Carman 2013 and Dunnville 2016, CRTS agrees to give heartfelt assistance to the FRCSA deputies in ways that address their specific needs.
2. The FRCSA deputies understand that CRTS is a seminary that is accredited by ATS, an agency that also has specific regulations concerning extension and distance education programs. The FRCSA deputies agree that when they make requests for assistance they will bear this fact in mind, realizing that as CRTS extends assistance it also has to uphold the integrity of the on-campus educational programs at CRTS and these ATS regulations.
3. CRTS takes note of the FRCSA Synod decisions that students have to follow first a three-year BA degree at a South African university close to their home church, which will be followed by a Master of Divinity degree at the Canadian Reformed Theological Seminary in Hamilton, Canada. However, Synod Belhar 2021 also decided: “In special circumstances, to consider adaptations of this trajectory to fit the particular needs of a student.” As grounds for this decision are mentioned:
 1. It should not be viewed as a ‘one size fits all’ solution to theological training that has to serve the FRCSA in its multicultural and complex socio-economic contexts.
 2. The context of the FRCSA churches requires a solution to the contextual challenges of both churches and students.
 3. Deputies for Theological Training should make sure that the outcome standard of the different programmes should be as equal as possible. Adaptations should therefore aim at enabling students to attain the highest levels.
4. Although CRTS has developed online and hybrid models of training, the FRCSA are in agreement with CRTS’s principle in this regard: in-person training at CRTS as much as possible and online training as much as is necessary.

B. Financial Support of Students

The guiding principle of this agreement is that financial support for students for the ministry from the FRCSA will be a shared responsibility between the FRCSA, as represented by the Deputies, and the Foreign Student Bursary Fund (FSBF) which is administered by a committee appointed by the Board of CRTS. Each party will share in the responsibility according to the circumstances in which the Lord has placed them and the financial blessings he has given to them.

Division of expenses

- a. As a rule, the FRCSA will pay for tuition fees, all travel to and from South Africa, medical insurance, and books.
- b. The FSBF will cover the other cost of living expenses such as housing, utilities, groceries, transportation (excluding the purchase of a vehicle), and other regular expenses listed in the CRTS Cost of Living table on its website. How this is best paid out will be determined by the FSBF committee.
- c. If the FRCSA is able to raise funds for a particular student beyond the commitment outlined above, the first option to consider is whether these funds could be used to reduce the amount of assistance required from the FSBF.
- d. In the event that an FRCSA student owns a home in South Africa, the Deputies are responsible for determining whether (and if so, how) this should factor into the support the student receives. Funds from the FSBF may not be used for any expenses related to housing in South Africa.

2. Application of support

- a. Students from the FRCSA must meet all admission requirements and follow the usual application process as outlined on the CRTS website for admission to CRTS.
- b. Students from the FRCSA seeking support from the FSBF must complete the support application process as laid out by the FSBF committee. This includes a letter of request and a completed budget form.

3 Conditions of support

- a. According to its guidelines (Appendix 1), the FSBF works with the premise that when they complete their studies, foreign students will: a) return to their country of origin and b) begin to serve in the ministry or related service. In such cases *no* repayment to the FSBF is expected. However, in exceptional cases, when the student does not return to his home country or does not enter the ministry, the FSBF reserves the right to seek repayment of the funds given within a five-year period (see item 2.4 in Appendix 1). At the same time, the FSBF understands that it may not always be possible for a student to return to South Africa immediately after his graduation. The vacancies within the FRCSA at that point in time may be such that it is advisable for the student to enter the ministry in a sister church, while at the same time keeping open the option of returning to the FRCSA in the future. If such a situation should arise, this can be discussed between the Deputies and the FSBF committee under provision 2.5 in the mandate (Appendix 1).
- b. In the case that a South African student does not enter the ministry and cannot repay the (full) amount to the FSBF, the Deputies and FSBF committee will discuss how the financial burden of that situation will be shared, in accordance with the guiding principle outlined above.

4. Communication

- a. In order for the relationship between CRTS and the Deputies to succeed, open lines of communication must be maintained, particularly with financial arrangements. Correspondence between parties will be addressed and responded to within a reasonable amount of time.
- b. Annually, the Deputies will communicate to the FSBF committee regarding future students from the FRCSA. They will try, if possible, to give two (2) years advance notice of any theological students from the FRCSA who plan to come to CRTS, including whether he is single or married with children. In this way, if the FSBF needs to top up its balance to support another student, it has adequate time to solicit donations.

C. Faculty Visits to South Africa

1. In order to strengthen the relationship between the FRCSA and CRTS, every three years a professor from CRTS will visit the FRCSA for at least one week and give lectures to the FRCSA and their theological students.
2. The timing for this visit will usually fall between May and August when CRTS is not in session. The exact dates for the visit will be arranged between the deputies and the faculty member whose turn it is to visit.
3. The FRCSA agrees to carry the costs for the faculty member to visit. If the faculty member chooses to bring additional family members, those costs will be borne by the faculty member personally.
4. The FRCSA is not expected to pay any honorariums for the lectures given or worship services led by the faculty member during the visit.

Since this is an agreement between brothers in the Lord, if any circumstances arise that are not covered by this memorandum, we commit to discussing the matter together and working toward a responsible and God-honouring solution.

This memorandum is agreed to on XXX and is valid for three (3) years until XXX.

_____ On behalf of the Board of Governors of the Canadian Reformed Theological Seminary John Louwse – Chairman of the Board

_____ On behalf of the Deputies Theological Training of the Free Reformed Churches in South Africa

Appendix 1 – Excerpt from CH 4.3.4.2 – The Foreign Student Bursary Fund

1. Mandate and Purpose

The Foreign Student Bursary Fund Committee is a sub-committee of the Board of Governors, appointed to administer the Foreign Student Bursary Fund. The purpose of this fund is to provide the necessary financial assistance to qualified foreign students who seek a Reformed theological education who come from federations that are unable to provide sufficient support.

2. Guidelines

- 2.1 Foreign students who have a desire and are prepared to commit to enrol in one of the programs listed in the Seminary Calendar and meet all the admission requirements for the program selected, but who are prevented from enrolling in study at the Theological Seminary for financial reasons, may be eligible for a bursary.
- 2.2 The amount of the bursary is determined by the level of financial need.
 - a. In determining need, the following factors are examples of what is normally considered: the amount of personal resources available, the degree to which support from family can be expected, the degree to which support from churches/federations of which the applicant is a member can be expected.
 - b. In determining need, the following are examples of what are not normally considered as allowable expenses: support of relatives other than spouse or children, schooling for family members, including spouse, travel expenses to and from the country of origin.
- 2.3 The financial need of applicants for the Foreign Student Bursary shall be determined by a Foreign Student Bursary Committee composed of two members of the Senate (Principal and Vice-Principal) along with one member of the Finance and Property Committee.
- 2.4 This Bursary is intended to be a forgivable loan to students who return to their country of origin after their degree is completed and enter into active ministry or related service. Upon completion and return to country of origin, the loan is forgiven at a rate of one year of support per one year of ministry/service in the country of origin. If the recipient decides to leave the ministry or related service or decides to move away from the country of origin then the portion of the loan not forgiven needs to be paid back to the FSBF within 5 years.
- 2.5 In rare cases the loan can be forgiven, in whole or in part, either without the return to the country of origin or in the event of a move away from the country of origin before the loan has been completely forgiven. In such a case, the recipient must prove to the satisfaction of the Foreign Student Bursary Committee that the loan should be forgiven. If convinced, the Foreign Student Bursary Committee will make a recommendation to the Finance and Property Committee, which shall make a decision in the matter. If the whole loan is not forgiven then the portion of the loan not forgiven needs to be paid back to the FSBF within 5 years.