
KUYERS INSTITUTE FOR CHRISTIAN TEACHING AND LEARNING (KIGB)

GOVERNING BOARD

CENTER DIRECTOR: DAVID SMITH | BOARD CHAIR: JIM VANDEN BOSCH

A. Major issues addressed by the board during the 2010–2011 year

1. Publications

- The Institute continues to cosponsor the *Journal of Education and Christian Belief*, of which David Smith became senior editor in 2008. A special book issue (14, no. 2 [Autumn 2010]) comprises essays from an institute-funded workshop for directors of honors programs at Christian colleges and is coedited by workshop leaders Ken Bratt and Jennifer Holberg.
- In conjunction with the Van Lunen Center, the Kuyers Institute has produced *Mission-Directed Governance: Leading the Christian School with Vision, Unity, and Accountability*, by Len Stob (principal at Ontario Christian School, CA) and published by Calvin College Press.
- The institute funded *Practice and Profile: Christian Formation for Vocation*, by Margaret Edgell, Johan Hegeman, and Henk Jochemsen (Wipf & Stock), which focuses on moral formation in the professional disciplines in Christian higher education.

2. Scholarship and Faculty Projects

- *A Shared Space: Learning from the Mustard Seed School*. This documentary film by Brian Fuller, cofunded by the Kuyers Institute and the Mustard Seed School, was completed in the summer of 2010 and has premiered in Hoboken, at Calvin College, and at Covenant College, with over 1,200 people seeing the film. It has been designated an official selection by the 6th Hoboken International Film Festival and has won a Telly Award. Once the festival phase of the film's publication is complete, the film will be made available to a general audience on DVD. Web-based ancillary materials are also available
- *Teaching and Christian Practices: Reshaping Faith and Learning*. A book resulting from the institute's three-year project on social practices and Christian pedagogy, coedited by David Smith and James Smith, will be published in October by Eerdmans.
- The Institute is cofunding part of a national research project initiated by CARDUS and based at the University of Notre Dame. The project has studied perceptions of the outcomes of Christian schooling among recent alumni of Christian schools. The initial report has recently been released at www.cardus.ca/research/education/publications/.
- *Imagining the Christian Classroom: A Christian Iconography of Teaching and Learning*. A team project working toward a book on how Christians have used biblical and theological imagery to think about teaching and learning, has progressed slowly in the past year. It behind schedule but still moving towards completion.

3. Programs

- *Bible-Shaped Teaching*. Publication of David Smith and John Shortt, *The Bible and the Task of Teaching* in 2002 was followed by interest in a simplified version, accessible to a wider range of teachers. John Shortt undertook the task of writing this, initially for an Eastern European market in conjunction with ACSI. This year, the Kuyers Institute set up a focus group made up of local Christian and public school educators to offer suggestions for adapting the manuscript for US publication.
 - *Whatifteaching.com*. The institute is in the final phase of a project cofunded with the Transforming Lives Project in the United Kingdom to develop a new online resource giving Christian P–12 teachers a practical process for reconsidering their teaching strategies in the light of a Christian framework. Trialing with groups of teachers in several countries has produced very positive feedback. The website is undergoing final editing and will be launched in 2012.
 - Under the leadership of Bruce Hekman, the institute’s international work with Christian educators in Central America, Eastern Europe, and West Africa continued.
4. Events and Workshops
- On September 28–29, 2010, the Kuyers Institute hosted a team of film makers and educators responsible for the documentary film *Traces of the Trade*, which focuses on the history of involvement in the slave trade by the northern US states. The two-day teacher workshop proved difficult to recruit for; in the end a small group of 12 took part, though their feedback was very positive. Three Calvin graduate students who took part in the workshop continued work on the theme as an Independent Study for graduate credit. An evening showing of the film was attended by 30–40 people, including members of the wider community, and gave rise to a long and vigorous discussion afterwards. An afternoon lecture was attended by over 50 students and other Calvin people, and was also well-received.
 - The institute sponsored a one-week workshop for educators, led by David Smith, entitled “Teaching as a Christian Practice,” in July 2011. The workshop was oversubscribed and capped at 20 participants; evaluations were very positive.
 - With funding from the Calvin institute for Christian Worship, the Institute sponsored a two-week summer seminar on reflective pedagogy and Christian practices. The seminar was oversubscribed. 16 faculty attended; half were practical theologians and the other half were drawn from a range of other disciplines. The seminar produced rich interaction around the intersection between philosophical, theological, educational, and sociological accounts of Christian practices and questions of pedagogy in Christian higher education. Participants have book grants available to continue the conversation in reading groups on their own campuses during 2011–2012.
 - The institute director led workshops for teachers in Vancouver, Oslo, Bergen, Trondheim, Suwon, Melbourne, and Hoboken.

B. Actions the board brought before Faculty Senate (if any)

None

C. Other actions, not involving Faculty Senate, that the committee initiated or implemented

None

D. Issues that will continue to be before the board next year

Several projects are ongoing and will continue into 2011-2012.