

410 Crerar Drive, Hamilton, Ontario, L9A 5K3

Website: lcrss.ca

(905)979-3975

What is the League?



The League of Canadian Reformed School Societies (LCRSS) is an organization whose purpose is to support member schools by providing organizational, administrative, and educational resource assistance. Membership currently includes 13 elementary schools and 3 secondary schools. These schools range in size from 21 students to just over 400. The different sizes of the institutions make the need for assistance diverse. Regardless, what schools hold in common, and enact through League, is the desire to assist other Canadian Reformed and sister church communities in fulfilling baptismal vows with the academic education of covenant children.

The League is a result of the willingness to assist others in the establishment and maintenance of schools with a Reformed Christian philosophy. This has been the case since the very first LCRSS meeting. On September 11, 1965, delegates from four different Canadian Reformed school societies met to explore ways of being a hand and a foot to each other, even though only two of the societies were actually operating schools at the time. Since then, LCRSS member schools have endeavored to achieve the goal of helping schools maintain a Reformed identity in their curriculum, staff and policy, and to provide support for other communities who wish to establish new Reformed Christian schools.

Understanding that **Reformed Christian schools need to be Reformed in more than just the name**, the LCRSS has established organizations and committees to help develop and maintain a robust Reformed philosophy of education and teacher training. It was through the work of the LCRSS member schools that Covenant Canadian Reformed Teachers College was established to train teachers in the craft of instructing from a Reformed perspective. And, to support ongoing investment into quality curriculum with a Reformed perspective for in-service teachers, a curriculum committee was established and supported.

The CARE (Curriculum Assistance for Reformed Educators) committee has developed a program of study for Church History and Bible. They have also written numerous curriculum frameworks which help teachers understand how other subjects, like Social Studies and Physical Health and Education, are best taught from a Reformed world view. The LCRSS has also established the ASC (Assisting the Special Child) committee to help parents and schools understand the needs of children with learning disabilities and other educational challenges.

In addition to these educational aids, the LCRSS has established committees to advise the organizational and administrative aspects of running a Reformed Christian school. The tasks of these committees include: setting a recommended salary grid and compensation package, establishing and monitoring a pension program, maintaining contact with government organizations, recommending and promoting professional development for teachers, and providing a process by which a school's operations could be reviewed through a school evaluation.

To help with the organization and coordination of the activities of these committees the LCRSS hired a fulltime staff member in the summer of 2015. The task of the League Coordinator is to assist the various committees in their respective functions, work with schools who are LCRSS members move toward a common curriculum, and establish an organizational presence for the LCRSS in the public square.

Finally, **the LCRSS is a place where school board members are able to meet with colleagues from other Reformed school societies.** The LCRSS meeting is a place to ask questions, share items of interest and speak about best practices.

The Lord has used this forum for over 50 years to provide resources and support for schools affiliated with the Canadian Reformed Churches. We pray with confidence that he will continue to do so in the years ahead.

Jason Heemskerk

League Coordinator:

Jason Heemskerk
jason@lcrss.ca

A Chapter of Geography



One of the themes that underlies the Church History program developed by the League's curriculum committee, CARE, is that the Lord uses people from all times and places to work His purpose in the world. The Chapter of Geography Project is inspired by this theme, and the knowledge that this has not only happened in the past, but it works in the present, and it will continue as long as the world exists.

The Chapter of Geography project is the result of a combined effort from the League's CARE committee and the Canadian Reformed World Relief Fund (CRWRF). It works to combine the vision of an aid organization with a Reformed Christian take on senior grade learning objectives for Geography.

The CRWRF is a non-government organization (NGO) whose purpose is to provide resources that address material needs of people suffering the effects of poverty and raise the quality of life in an area using Christian partners and messaging.

One of the key components of the Grade 8 section in the 2013 Ontario Social Studies Curriculum document is to teach students about different ways aid organizations help improve the quality of life around the world. Since the CRWRF does this work, and our students are familiar with the organization, a group of educators, under the direction of CARE

and with the support of the CRWRF, is meeting during the summer of 2016 to write a chapter for senior grade Geography.

This chapter focuses on how the Lord uses a Canadian Reformed NGO in His work with His world. It will also provide a context for the skills required for Geography in the Ontario curriculum using the work being done by the CRWRF. Specifically, this is the work the Lord is doing through them in Kentucky, Nepal, South Africa and Syria.

Lord willing, there will be a busy week of writing in July, and the project will be available for LCRSS Education Committee review early in the next school year.



League Treasurer Needed

The League of Canadian Reformed School Societies Inc. is a service organization dedicated to benefit its member school societies by providing organizational, administrative, and educational resource assistance (more info at lcrss.ca). We meet 5 times per year in the Covenant Canadian Reformed Teacher's College building. Our organization is looking for an individual who is willing to serve our schools by taking on **bookkeeping duties** regarding the health benefit and RRSP plans for the teachers in our member schools, as well as handling sub-committee and League Coordinator financial tasks.

The time commitment is approx. 10 hours per month, not including meetings, and proximity to our office in Hamilton is an asset but not required. We are also looking for a commitment of 3 years. For more information or to volunteer your services, **please contact Amy Hoogstad** at amyhoogstad@gmail.com or 905.385.7851

League of Canadian Reformed School Societies Inc. Committees:

Assistance for the Special Child (ASC)

Compensation Committee

Curriculum Assistance for Reformed Educators (CARE)

Government Contact Committee (GCC)

Pension Committee

Professional Development Committee (PDC)

League of Canadian Reformed Schools Inc. Executive:

Gerald Boot,
Chair
John Vanlperen
Vice-Chair
Leanne Van Bostelen
Recording Secretary
Amy Hoogstad
Treasurer