



Presidential Survey Executive Summary

Dear members and friends of Calvin Theological Seminary, Thank you to the 650 people who responded to the presidential search survey. Alumni, students, faculty, staff, board members, administrators, and friends of the Seminary took time to tell us what they value about CTS and what they hope for in its next president. On behalf of the Presidential Nominating Committee, I am grateful for your candor and care.

Your responses expressed deep appreciation for CTS's Reformed theological heritage, academic strength, and commitment to preparing people for ministry. Many also described the value of its caring community, international student body, and efforts to make theological education accessible in different settings.

The survey also brought important priorities into focus. Across respondent groups, the three highest-ranked priorities were a compelling vision for the Seminary, stronger teamwork among faculty, staff, and administration, and careful decisions about where to focus programs and resources. Written responses called for clear communication, trust, and strong preparation for ministry in the local church.

We heard differing views about how CTS should navigate its relationship with the Christian Reformed Church in North America, its confessional commitments, and thoughtful theological engagement. Those differences deserve careful attention. They also underscore the need for a president who can lead with conviction, listen well, and build trust across the Seminary community.

When asked what matters most in the next president, respondents ranked deep personal Christian faith and demonstrated spiritual leadership first, followed by experience leading in a seminary or higher education setting and the ability to build and lead an effective team. Written comments added a desire for humility, integrity, theological depth, and a strong connection to the Church.

The survey is one part of the Presidential Nominating Committee's discernment. We will use it alongside listening conversations to shape the Opportunity Profile and guide our evaluation of candidates. We look forward to sharing the public search materials when they are ready. Thank you again for investing in CTS's future. Please continue to pray for the Seminary and for wisdom throughout this search.

With appreciation,

Tom Nobel

Chair, Presidential Nominating Committee