

**2021 Report of Presbytery's Nominee  
to the Board of Corporators  
of Geneva College**

Dear brothers:

I am reporting to you again as your nominee to Synod to serve on the Board of Corporators of Geneva College. I currently serve as the Board's Secretary and, consequently, upon the Executive Committee of the Board. I continue to serve with two other Corporators from our Presbytery, elected by Synod: Dr. Kenneth de Jong of our Bloomington congregation and Session, and Mr. Scott Reynolds, also of our Bloomington congregation. Dr. de Jong also serves as a Trustee. The current Chair of the Corporators' Board of Trustees is Mr. Joel Silverman of our Southside congregation.

As always, I'll repeat a paragraph that I place in every year's report, because some delegates to Presbytery may not be familiar with the governance of Geneva College. To refresh you, the Board of Corporators has twelve members, all elected by Synod. Each of the North American Presbyteries have nominees to Synod, with Synod's Nominating Committee nominating the others. All must be members in good standing in the RPCNA. We each serve four-year terms. The Corporators are the legal owners of the College. They are the members of the Corporation chartered by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. The Corporators' main tasks, under the Bylaws it originates, are to govern the College through a Board of Trustees it has created and whose members it elects, to elect a President of the College, to steward the Bylaws, and maintain a strong connection to the Synod of the RPCNA. The Board does its governing through the Trustees, who operate the College on the Corporators' behalf. Half of the Corporators serve as Trustees, as well, thus maintaining useful liaison between the Boards and allowing Synod, in effect, to have direct placement of some Trustees. Dr. de Jong is an example of this.

Geneva continues to be affected by Covid. Many restrictions and difficulties of the past two years have been eased, but there seems to be one problem that remains – lower than hoped-for enrollment. With the birthrate going down all over the country, including the main area from which prospective Geneva College students come, and hesitancy to be in classroom environments, despite fine work from the Admissions department, the incoming class appears as though it will be smaller than hoped-for. This impacts the College, due to much of its income being derived from student tuition. There is not a huge endowment, income from which could smooth over metaphorical potholes like this. A little bit of light shone when President Troup said that there is a higher level of inquiries and applications from prospective students than in recent years, now, at this point in the admissions process.

In recent months there have been concerns raised to Corporators and Trustees concerning a lecture, sponsored by the Geneva Visiting Artist and Lecture Series (GVALS), not the College itself, sponsored a speaker who was touted as a woman minister, contrary to the Church's standards and to Scripture. At the recent virtual meeting of the Corporator Board, President Troup apologized for the promotional material, acknowledging it was not done well. The purpose of GVALS is stated on their page at the College website, <http://www.geneva.edu/academics/crossroads/gvals>, stating, "While the

content of guests' lectures and presentations may or may not be congruent with Geneva College's stance on any given issue, the GVALS series seeks to fulfill the [Foundational Concepts](#) principle that "[Students] should not be sheltered from non-Christian viewpoints, but must become able to evaluate all knowledge critically, to gain from that which is true and to discard error."

A hard blow that has been sustained by the College was the sudden death of business professor Gary Vander Plaats. Please pray that a suitable teacher can be found to take his chair in the Business department. President Troup stated that the "Great Resignation" has not particularly hit Geneva in either staff or faculty. God has brought good people when and where needed. So, please pray that God would lead the College to have good faculty "design" to help fulfill the mission of the school.

In his remarks before the Board, Trustees' Chairman Silverman said that the coming year is a pivot point in several ways. There is much work to be done; therefore much wisdom and good people are needed. He said, with thankfulness, that faculty and administration cultures are vastly improved.

The new Strategic Plan is guiding the College well. There are many professedly Christian colleges and universities that claim to integrate faith with their academic disciplines and campus life, but few truly do. Most, at best, have Christianity in conjunction with academia. Geneva seeks better and better actually to integrate.

Synod reelected me to this Board four years ago, so that I am nearly done with this latest term. I have served our Presbytery, our Synod, and our College this way since 1998, and I thank Presbytery for its previous and current nominations.

To remind you, the website for the College is at [www.geneva.edu](http://www.geneva.edu). Much information is there on all sorts of matters pertaining to the College.

I again thank you for your confidence in me. I continue blessed in serving you in this way.

Respectfully submitted,

Philip H. Pockras