December 14, 2010

Dear Parents:

Greetings from Calvin. This has been a terrific semester and we are privileged to have your son or daughter at Calvin. We desire to communicate well with parents about future conversations you may want to have with your student.

This brief letter is written to all parents of Calvin students, yet it is intended primarily for those whose children are eligible for and considering the possibility of living off-campus for the 2011-12 academic year.

As you may be aware, the college initiated a new off-campus housing policy that went into effect this fall. As background for those of you who are new to the idea, the intent of the policy is to help support our students and our area neighborhoods in seeking the “welfare of the city” (Jer. 29.7). We desire for all Calvin students to live faithfully, wherever they are, while also supporting our neighbors who are eager for our students to contribute to, not detract from, neighborly living. The policy also requires students to provide an accurate, local, off-campus address, as well as a commitment to live in compliance with all housing codes. We are pleased to say that things have gone very well this fall. With very little exception, Calvin students have honored the policy by following city ordinances and by providing their local addresses. We are grateful for our conscientious students.

We wanted to communicate to all Calvin parents, that the college is committed to working in partnership with our “neighbors” and your student on this issue. Hence, we want to be clear to everyone that we expect all of our students to live lovingly and legally, or as our tagline says, “faithfully”, wherever they live. Therefore, if your student is planning to live off-campus in the city of Grand Rapids for the 2011-12 academic year, please underscore the need to make sure s/he does not live with more than four unrelated people unless in a legal duplex or appropriately zoned house. We know that many of our students are already making plans for the future in this regard, which is why we wanted to send this to you now in case you would like to discuss this with your student over the Christmas break.

If you want to read further details about the policy, please refer to this web address: http://www.calvin.edu/admin/housing/neighborhood-living/. If you have other questions regarding this, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Blessings to you and your family during this Advent and Christmas season.

Sincerely,

Shirley V. Hoogstra       C. Robert Crow       John Witte
VP for Student Life      Dean of Student Development  Dean of Residence Life