Dear Students:

This brief letter is written to all Calvin students, though it is intended particularly for those students eligible for and considering the possibility of living off-campus for the 2011-12 academic year. Christmas break is often a good time for you to talk with your friends and family about your future housing plans.

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.

This letter is to remind everyone that the college continues to work in partnership with our “neighbors” and with students residing off-campus 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 you are planning to live off-campus in the city of Grand Rapids for the 2011-12 academic year, make sure you do not have more than four unrelated people in your housing unit. Unless landlords have applied for and received a zoning variance, they are not allowed to make exceptions to this ordinance, and are not authorized to allow tenants to violate this.

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.

We hope your exams went well and trust you will have a blessed and restful Christmas break.

Sincerely,

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