

You add.  
God multiplies.



FYF students are encouraged to seek solitude for personal reflection, journaling, and prayer.

Ben Hoekman took the FYF journey in 2013 and will begin his second year of undergraduate study at Kuyper College this fall. FYF “played an incredible role in helping me discern my calling for ministry,” Hoekman said. “I am incredibly excited to see where God is going to lead me in my future.

“While God has not seemed to lay out my calling piece by piece for the exact vocational setting I’d like to work in, FYF has encouraged me to broaden the spectrum of these possibilities, allowing me to discern a number of ministry settings where I can be made available to use my gifts for his kingdom,” Hoekman said.

This is the goal of FYF: to give young people a place, space, and time to build relationships with other students in community; to deeply engage theology and ministry and to experience it on the ground in different contexts; and to discern where God might have them serve.

Students grow in Spirit and in truth, and at the end of the three weeks are eager to give themselves to God’s service. It’s a wonderful thing. ■



Joella Ranaivoson is an M.Div. student at Calvin Theological Seminary. She served as a live-in leader for FYF 2014.

## What’s Next for Calvin Seminary?

Dear Church,

Facing *Our Future* was the unofficial theme of my third year as president of Calvin Theological Seminary. And because you are an essential member of the community that undergirds Calvin Seminary, I invite you into our Facing Our Future conversation.

Over the course of the past year, I enlisted a creative planning process and consumed more than a few pads of sticky notes to help map the landscape of hopes and dreams for Calvin Seminary. Groups of students, staff, faculty, and board members each had opportunity to post on sticky notes their ideas that could help us identify critical academic needs and how best to serve students—past, present, and future.

What surfaced is a clustering of opportunity questions that we face in future plans:

- What other programs should we explore putting in “distance” delivery, if any?
- How better can we serve churches and pastors?
- Should Calvin Seminary explore offering a Doctor of Ministry degree?
- What learnings from a church renewal lab (still local and in pilot stage) can we share more broadly, and how?
- What adjustments still need to be made to strengthen the curriculum as we center our training on “formation” for ministry?

If you’re willing, please use some imaginary sticky notes and send your ideas and input on these and other questions to me at [stickynotes@calvinseminary.edu](mailto:stickynotes@calvinseminary.edu). Please tell us how you think Calvin Seminary can or should serve you and your church better.

Now I invite you into one more important conversation. It’s about money and our financial model at Calvin Seminary.

When I began as president, Ministry Shares support accounted for about 44 percent of our operating income. In just three years, we have seen that slide to 37 percent. We project that next year it may be about \$350,000 less than when I started.

Because of this, we will need to raise thousands of new dollars to maintain our ministry and support for students, including FYF graduates, in the years ahead. I know that these are challenging times for all of us. Yet I also know I would not be leading honestly if I neglected to sound the alert that this challenge must be faced in order to face the future well—together.

Looking back on the first three years of my service as the seventh president of Calvin Theological Seminary, I am filled with both deep gratitude and buoyant hope. You have helped to mark this journey with your expressions of encouragement, helpful advice, and steady prayers.

Looking to the future, Calvin Seminary will remain clear and convicted in its call to serve the church. With your prayers and partnership, together in humble confidence, we can respond to the opportunities and challenges before us!

Serving with you,  
Jul Medenblik  
President, Calvin Theological Seminary