

Calvin Courier

H. Henry Meeter Center for Calvin Studies
Reformation, Research, Teaching, Community Outreach



Fall 2022
Number 69

From the Director

Welcome to this special issue of the Calvin Courier, marking the Meeter Center's 40th anniversary! As well as brief reports on recent Meeter Center events, we are delighted to present a series of updates and reminiscences from past visiting scholars. We appreciate their updates and good wishes.

Looking ahead, we hope to keep building on our momentum, especially in raising money to reach our target endowment goal - we are currently over half-way there. Any and all contributions to the Center's endowment fund will help ensure that scholars, students, and the wider community can continue to benefit from the Center's collections in their research and growing knowledge about the Reformation and its impact.

As always, thanks for your support and interest in our work. Here's to another forty years!

-Karin Maag-

Donate to the Meeter Center to help it flourish for another forty years!

- Giving to our endowment
- Contributing to the Friends of the Meeter Center Fund
- Donating to our Rare Book Fund

Please join our circle of support!

Make checks out to "Calvin University Meeter Center" and send to The Meeter Center, 1855 Knollcrest Circle SE, Grand Rapids MI 49546. To donate online, go to: <https://calvin.edu/support/giving/meeter-center> Thank you!

John Calvin's 513th Birthday

We marked the 513th birthday of John Calvin by hosting an open house on July 12 and celebrating this special Calvin tradition. The open house included a range of activities including guessing games, short quiz, scavenger hunt, selfies with the reformers and a book sale/giveaway. The winners of the games were awarded with special Swiss chocolates.

It also featured a special presentation highlighting treasures of the Meeter Center including rare books and commemorative coins by Dr. Karin Maag.



Visiting Scholars' Reminiscences and Anniversary Wishes



I work for the organization Churches Learning Change, write for the Center for Excellence in Preaching, and am completing a ThM in Spiritual Theology (focused on 17C English Puritans) at Regent College in Vancouver, BC.

Paul and Karin make up most of my memories from my time in the Center: their support, enthusiasm, and help have no parallel. My time as the Emo Van Halsema Fellow in 2016 led to my current studies, as it reminded me how much I enjoy sustained research. I am thankful!

May the Meeter Center be as supported as it has been supportive! And wouldn't it be great if they were able to add a 1536 edition of the Institutes?!

-Chelsey Harmon-

I have served as a pastor in Germany for two decades. For the past two years, I have worked as program coordinator for the master's in theological studies at the Kirchliche Hochschule Wuppertal. In October, I will take up the professorial chair in church history at Wuppertal, succeeding Prof. Hellmut Zschoch.



I have fond memories of both my stays in Grand Rapids and still recall vividly both the people who work there and the research space. International networking seemed to happen so organically at the Meeter Center, due to the close connections between research, teaching, and spiritual care for the visiting scholars.

I wish the H. Henry Meeter Center continued success in fostering these international networks. I hope that (young) researchers continue to receive the opportunity to share their knowledge and carry out their research in such a wonderful place with so many Reformation resources at hand.

-Nicole Kuroпка-



I enjoyed my month at the Meeter Center in the summer of 2021 enormously. It was the perfect venue for me to finish my book manuscript. The book, *Reformation in the Low Countries*, appeared in print almost exactly one year later. I hope in future the Meeter Center will continue to provide such a welcoming and convivial place for scholars of all things Reformation.

-Christine Kooi-



I am a Professor of Systematic Theology at the Hapdong Theological Seminary, Korea. I served the Korean Evangelical Theological Society as President during

2000-2002. After the year 2000 when I was at the Meeter Center, I published 20 books on Reformed theology, many of which reflected what I had studied at the Meeter Center. Especially *The Direction of Reformed Theology in the 21st Century* (Seoul: SFC, 2005) has several chapters which I have written during my stay at your Center. Recently I am writing the History of Dogma from the Reformed Perspective, which I want to finish before the end of 2023 when I will retire. I am always grateful for your invitation to be a summer research fellow during the summer of 2000. My stay there was one of the most enjoyable and fruitful times of my academic life. So I have to say "Thank you" again.

-Prof. Dr. Seung-Goo Lee-

International Calvin Congress July 25 to 28, 2023!

This major gathering of Calvin scholars happens every four years - this time will be in Grand Rapids, at Calvin Theological Seminary. The conference theme is John Calvin, Exile, and Religious Refugees. To see the schedule/speakers, to register, and to submit a short-paper proposal, go to <https://internationalcongressoncalvinresearch.com/>



My name is Gyeong-Su Park, a professor of church history at the Presbyterian University and Theological Seminary in Seoul, South Korea. I teach students about the history and theology of the Reformation, and I serve as the dean of the Seminary. I remember

that it was in 2002 that I received a fellowship for Ph.D. students from the Meeter Center. Even though 20 years have passed, I still remember the warm hospitality I received then as a good memory. Congratulations on the 40th anniversary of the Meeter Center, and I hope it will continue to play a greater role as a center for Calvin and Reform tradition studies.

-Gyeong-Su Park-

I am Professor of Theology at Heritage Christian University in Florence, Alabama, and Executive Director of the Center for Christian Studies in Austin, Texas. The time I have for academic research and writing is very limited, but I am always working (or should be working) on requested essays. At present, the major project in early modern studies I have under contract is another book with Oxford University Press on the thought of Arminius.



Congratulations to the Meeter Center—Karin, Paul, and all the staff over the years—for four decades of creating and cultivating such a fine venue for scholarship. First as a Calvin Ph.D. student and later as a visiting research fellow in 2010, I benefitted first-hand from the excellent resources of the Meeter Center and Hekman Library. The staff was always so helpful, not only by fulfilling my requests, but also by suggesting other resources that they knew would interest me and contribute to my project.

May the Meeter Center continue to prosper and to foster serious scholarship that enriches the academy, edifies the church, and brings glory to God.

-Keith Stanglin-



I am retired from London School of Theology but still active in teaching and supervising research. I am currently editing the new translation of the Institutes sponsored by Crossway, translated by Randy Blacketer.

I first came to the Meeter Center as a visiting fellow in 1987 and then again for five months in 1990 and subsequently another five (shorter) times. I treasure these times, for two reasons. First, thanks to the photocopier I have a filing cabinet full of Calvin material at home. Secondly, I am grateful for all the fellow Calvin scholars, both staff and other visitors, that I have got to know through the Meeter Center.

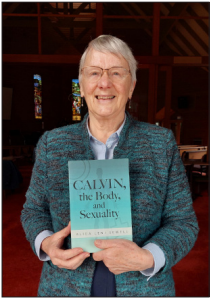
I am so grateful to the Meeter Center for all that it has done for me and my hope and prayer is that it may continue to offer these facilities to many others over the coming years.

-Tony Lane-

I was a Meeter Center Fellow in the summer of 2022, doing research for a book which will examine Reformed teaching on the nature of divine government. The staff were immensely helpful, and the academic resources housed at the Center and in the library were invaluable to my research. But by far the highlight of the fellowship was the opportunity to converse with scholars from all across the globe, each working in a different corner of Reformation history and theology. Relationships like these enrich research and spark new ideas for collaboration. At a time when theology is culturally hard-pressed, institutions like the Meeter Center have never been more important for the life of the church. I hope that its next 40 years will prove to be even more productive and expansive.



-Timothy Baylor-



I am very grateful to have been able to spend time at the Meeter Center! Karin Maag and Paul Fields are the right people in the right position. They helped me get the most out of the wonderful resources of the Meeter Center and made me very welcome. Doing my PhD via the Free University of Amsterdam and living

in Iowa at the time, it is doubtful whether I could have finished it without access to the Meeter Center. Being allowed to browse the books meant that I found many interesting items that were useful for my dissertation. In some libraries you have to know what book you need before you can request it to be brought up from rooms not accessible to mere students. As part of the scholarship deal, I had to present some of my findings, which gave me some needful practice in public speaking.

-Alida Sewell-



I am currently P. J. Zondervan Professor of Historical Theology Emeritus, Calvin Theological Seminary; Senior Fellow at the Junius Institute for Digital Reformation Research; and Scholar in Residence at Puritan Reformed Theological Seminary for 2022–2023. In the past year I

have completed several essays on Calvin's and Vermigli's thought and several on aspects of seventeenth-century Reformed theology. My memories of the Meeter Center extend from 1990, when I was a summer fellow, to my years teaching at Calvin Seminary, when I regularly spent hours using the Center's resources. One distinct memory that I have comes from time researching the essays that became my *Unaccommodated Calvin*. Examination of the text and apparatus of sixteenth-century printings of Calvin's Institutes generated two essays that would never have crossed my mind to write had it not been for the resources of the Meeter Center Rare Book Room. My primary wish and hope for the Meeter Center is that its endowment become sufficient to support a full-time Director, Curator, and Administrative Assistant in order to maintain and develop its work.

-Richard A. Muller-

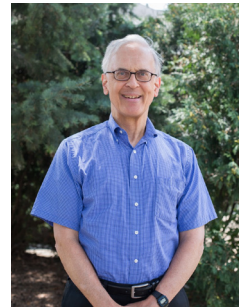


My time as an Emo F.J. Van Halsema Fellow at the H. Henry Meeter Center was a wonderful experience. Having access to the collection at Calvin University was a great help to my research, but the encouragement I received, particularly as an early career scholar, was the true blessing.

Thank you Karin, Paul, and Deborah! The opportunity you give scholars, pastors, and students from around the world to come and access your collection is a tremendous gift, and all you do to support those researchers is sincerely appreciated. Keep up the great work! And I will pray that the H. Henry Meeter Center continues to be here for another forty years serving Christ's Kingdom!

-Christian Finnigan-

I am currently writing a book on George Whitefield as a spiritual theologian and interacting with his Calvinist theology and strong Puritan influence.



I look back with great fondness to my time at the Meeter Center and the expert guidance I received from Paul Fields and Karin Maag. I learned many skills that were foundational for my future graduate studies and research and gratefully contribute annually to support the Center.

I am grateful for the Meeter Center and the vast collection of sources for all things related to John Calvin. I trust it will continue to attract interested students and top scholars from around the world to further the critical need for research and publication on all the diverse topics of John Calvin's legacy.

-Tom Schwanda-



It was a great joy to study at the Meeter Center; I remember fondly Dr. Maag patiently walking me through the records of the Registres de la Compagnie des Pasteurs to track down information for an odd footnote. May the Meeter Center be blessed with many more

decades of facilitating research on Calvin and Calvinism.

-K.J. Drake-



I'm currently Professor of History and Interim Department Chair at the Missouri University of Science and Technology. I am currently working on an online edition of Sebastian Castellio's correspondence,

as well as on a book for a general audience on Calvin and Castellio. I've held two Meeter Center fellowships, first as a graduate student in 1999 and then as an assistant professor in 2009. I used my 1999 fellowship to work on my dissertation, which was later published in revised form as *Calvinism's First Battleground*. In 2009, I was working on my critical edition of Viret's correspondence, *Epistolae Petri Vireti*. I was also present for the big 500th birthday party for Calvin that year! That visit was particularly helpful for my research, and I was able to fill in many of the footnotes in the edition with information I found in Grand Rapids. I also made one other week-long, non-fellowship visit in 2017 for work on *Refusing to Kiss the Slipper*. The Meeter Center is such a tremendous resource for Calvin studies, I wish it all the best in the coming years!

Andreas J. Beck (PhD Utrecht University) is Professor and Chair of Historical Theology and Director of the Institute of Post-Reformation Studies (IPRS) at the Evangelische Theologische Faculteit (ETF) in Leuven, Belgium.



Congratulations on the 40th anniversary of the Meeter Center! I remember very well my 7-week stay in 1995 as a research fellow at this beautiful institution. The excellent research infrastructure at the Meeter Center helped me track down copies of early modern disputations from Europe that were brought to New England by colonists. That way, I discovered a previously unknown disputation by Gisbertus Voetius, kept by Andover-Harvard Theological Library, which I translated and analyzed in Chapter 5 of *Reformed Thought on Freedom* (Baker Academic, 2010).

Wishing the Meeter Center another 40 years of success in facilitating excellent research on early modern Reformed thought!

-Andreas Beck-



I currently serve as Associate Professor of History at Trinity Christian College (Palos Heights, IL). I am finishing up a research project on the theological and religious experiences of rural Reformed churches in the Low Countries. I am also beginning research on Dutch Reformed exegesis and theology related to slavery as well as the ways in which Dutch Reformed churches and ecclesiastical authorities navigated the practices of slave-owning and slave-trading, especially in the West Indies Company.

I came to the Meeter Center as a doctoral candidate when I was working on completing my dissertation. Much of the work I was doing at that point was pursuing secondary sources, and I remember how Paul and Karin would so kindly and effectively answer my questions, find resources, and provide helpful suggestions. I also remember presenting my research at the conclusion of my fellowship and being so encouraged the interest in and respect for my research shown from those in attendance.

I have at least three hopes for the Meeter Center. First, I hope the Meeter Center continues to welcome scholars from around the globe via seminars, conferences, and fellowships. These connections have enhanced the study and knowledge of Calvin and Calvinism. Second, the Meeter Center serves as a renowned and valuable repository of knowledge both in its holdings of primary and secondary sources and as a place where scholars can turn with questions and research ideas. The Meeter Center's ability to continue to serve in this way will benefit us all. Finally, as it has been in my own experience, I hope the Meeter Center continues to be a place where experienced, knowledgeable scholars encourage, promote, and enhance the work of young scholars.

-Dr. Kyle J. Dieleman-



Congratulations on the 40th anniversary! Recently I've completed an edited volume (*Music and Religious Education in Early Modern Europe* [Brill]), which is the first output of the RMHT (Reformation Musical History & Theology), an

international and interdisciplinary project I've led since 2018. As a Meeter Family Fellow I conducted my research at the Meeter Center in summer 2019, focussing on the second theme of the RMHT ('The Reformed Theology and Spirituality of Music: from the Reformation to the Present'). This project continues for wide dissemination.

The Meeter Center is one of the most welcoming, caring and engaging (and green!) places where I've ever worked as a guest researcher. Wishing the Center many more years of success: KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK!

-Hyun-Ah Kim-



I am currently Rector of Global Theological Seminary in Accra, Ghana. At the time of my visit, I was the Director of Global Impact Foundation, a financial NGO in Ghana. I transitioned to Theological education in 2012 and have found materials collected

from the Meeter Center during my visit to be very impactful and invaluable to my new role as a Seminary teacher. Although it's over a decade since I visited the Center, I still have fond memories of the warmth of the personnel at the Center; my trip to Lake Michigan with the Fields, fellowship in their Presbyterian Church, the reception in their home and my moments with Ryan Nappon—especially our visit to Kalamazoo. If indeed, life begins at 40, then the H. Meeter Center has just began life. May the Center continue to be the blessing that it is, to the Body of Christ, the world over, till the end of time. Happy anniversary.

-Komi Hiagbe-

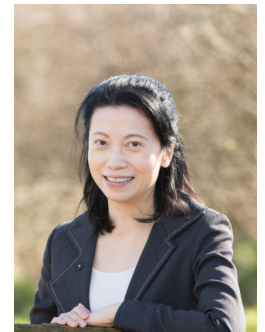
I am currently pastor of Reformation Orthodox Presbyterian Church here in Grand Rapids, the Beza Scholar in Residence for Greek and Latin at Puritan Seminary, a Fellow at the Craig Center for Westminster Studies and the Meeter



Center, as well as purveyor of online Greek and Latin instruction. I was very happy to be a junior fellow nearly 30 years ago, and I remember the warm and welcoming staff (Dr. Gamble, Susan Schmurr, Paul Fields), the pleasant working environment, the incredible resources, and the overall honor to be working on Calvin studies. I wish that the Center will continue its long tradition of providing a high quality environment for individuals engaged in research on the Reformation and its aftermath. I would like to see more popular engagement as available, more acquisition of rare books and manuscripts, and pedagogical opportunities specifically involving Latin.

-David C Noe-

I am working at the Christian International Training Centre, Scotland as an Academic Dean and Lecturer. I am very grateful for the Student Research Fellowship granted to me by the H. Henry Meeter Center which enabled me to work on my PhD research at this center from April-May 2019. The day when I arrived at the Meeter Center was snowy and cold but the time I spent here was full of warm memories. Meeting many tremendous scholars and having valuable discussions with them on Calvin's doctrine of divine providence were only part of the good memories. Thanks for everything! May the center continue to glorify God's kingdom.



-Suk Yu Chan-



I received the Meeter Center Student Fellowship in 2018, which allowed me to write several significant portions of my dissertation, which I defended in June 2020, and have subsequently revised for publication with Brill, set to come

out in October 2022 under the title *The Necessity of Christ's Satisfaction*. I have very fond memories of the beautiful Michigan summer days, the quiet little office in the back of the Meeter Center, and the lively conversations in the back coffee room. In January 2020, I took a position as executive editor of *Modern Reformation* magazine, and as of August 2022 I have taken a position as Professor of Theology at Yellowstone Theological Institute in Bozeman, Montana, where I will teach biblical studies and historical theology. I hope and pray that the Meeter Center will continue to aid students and scholars in the cultivation of deep roots church's past for abundant fruit in the church's present.

-Joshua Schendel-



I serve as the senior minister at Rose Hill Presbyterian Church in Columbia, South Carolina, a position I have held since 2012. My primary area of research is in Old Testament studies, but I strive to

take the history of interpretation seriously, including Reformation sources. The 2021 Van Halsema Pastor's Fellowship allowed me to pursue advanced study of the annotations on Ecclesiastes in the 1637 Dutch States' Translation. Everything about my time in Grand Rapids was enjoyable-the Meeter Center's staff and collection, the beautiful campus, and the delightful Michigan summer. The Center is a tremendous resource for Reformation studies both in the academy and in the church. I hope to visit it again!

-Max Rogland-



I am a PhD student at North-West University and a research fellow at George Whitefield College (GWC) in Cape Town. I also teach Student Ministry and Modern Church. I am currently

completing my PhD dissertation titled "The Role of the Holy Spirit in Ecumenical Relations: Calvin's Reply to Sadoletto". I intend to finish it in the first semester of 2023. I still remember the kindness and hospitality. I appreciated my workspace at the Meeter Center, which had Calvin pictures all over it, and having the opportunity to come in every day and interact with others in a foreign country was a blessing. I am grateful for my fellowship at the Meeter Center, and I pray that the Lord blesses the Meeter Center with additional resources, financial, human, literature, and so on, so that it can continue to serve Reformation scholars from around the world to his glory.

-Thapelo Khumalo-

Since the summer of my fellowship at the Meeter Center I've moved to Phoenix Seminary, where I enjoy teaching classes in systematic theology and hermeneutics. During my time at the Meeter Center, I had great access to crucial resources that helped with the completion of a book entitled *God in Himself* (IVP, 2019). I also began talking with an editor from Baker Academic, which eventually led to the recent publication of a book with Baker - *Jesus and the God of Classical Theism* (2022).



I hope more students and faculty members will continue to be able enjoy the excellent books and hospitality of the Meeter Center. It has just about everything a theologian would want to read and is situated on a beautiful campus.

-Steve Duby-



I have published some articles in relation to Reformation. Most of them are written in Korean but they have an abstract in English as well. It was so wonderful to do research and have fellowship with other professors. I am very

thankful for the kind hospitality of Prof. Susan Felch and Doug Felch. I hope to have one more chance to receive the fellowship.

-Prof. Dr. John Choi-



I am currently Assistant Professor of Integrative Theology at Richmond Graduate University in Chattanooga TN. In my post, I teach on Reformation theology and spirituality in both our School of Ministry and our School of Counseling, and I

often help students retrieve resources from Reformed theology and spirituality for mental health and Christian ministry in today's world.

When I think of my time at the Meeter Center, I am filled with sweet memories that draw me to gratitude. I enjoyed the walk each day to the Meeter Center and I will never forget the touch and smell of the 16th century books which contained notations from Calvin's original readers. History came alive! Also, the staff were incredibly warm, helpful, and genuinely enjoyable to see and interact with each day. the community was organic and conducive to a productive and refreshing research stay.

For the next decade, I hope the Center will continue specializing in Reformation history but will also be able to dialogue with and expand into more prominent impact on the world of constructive Christian theology. The Meeter Center has a wealth of prestige and resources to help rehabilitate Reformed theology in the larger quarters of constructive academic theology today.

-Preston Hill-



I am professor of religious history in the Faculty of Humanities of Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, and director of the HDC Centre for Religious History (formerly Historisch Documentatiecentrum Nederlands Protestantisme) [www.hdcvu.nl]

One of my projects regards 16th-century church life in the Northern Netherlands, using datasets on parishes and clerics as well as digital visualisations.

In the summer of 2000, I spent six weeks as a visiting fellow at the Meeter Center. The stay on Calvin Campus, together with my wife and three children (the oldest one celebrating her sixth birthday in Grand Rapids), remains a golden memory in our family's and my personal track record as well. I remember the warm hospitality and guidance of staff members Karin Maag, Susan Schmurr and Paul Fields. We also enjoyed the friendship of Seminary student Yudha Thianto, who daily shared the floor with the visiting scholars. Our Netherlands background added special encounters with people like theological translator John Vriend, Dutch language professor Walter Lagerwey, and Janet Sheeres who looked after our children during services in Calvin Chapel. Working quietly in the library amidst a lot of well-filled, open bookshelves and drawers with photocopied articles (on the eve of the breakthrough of our digital world) was like playing in an intellectual sandbox.

I really hope that the Meeter Center will continue its unique function in providing researchers in residence a wonderful experience of scholarship.

-Fred van Lieburg-