

## Christian Reformed and Much More

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of visual narrative and pours herself into material exploration through her delicate and refined craft in fiber and textile arts," he says. "Her work illuminates in captivating fashion some of the ways God intertwines his covenant and grace for his people with a remarkable co-creative spirit."

Barrick says that her impression of Dordt is of "a very Christ-centered, intentionally God-honoring community."

"It was so refreshing to experience young adults who are well-mannered, sincere, and not wrapped up in worldliness. Not once did I see a student give their phone attention over a face-to-face conversation," she says. "I fully intend to recommend Dordt University to my fellow East Coasters. I feel I have discovered a hidden gem in the cornfields of Iowa."

Now that everything has been shot, Wichhart is ready to get to work on the final product.

"My favorite part of filmmaking is editing, and this project has a lot of interesting editing to work with such as voiceover, transitions, and greenscreens," she says. "I'm eager to get into the digital media lab and put together a rough cut."

SARAH MOSS ('10)



JAMIN VERVELDE ('99)

**"Steeped in Scripture" is made of tea bags, emphasizing how believers should soak up Scripture continually.**

# CHRISTIAN REFORMED AND MUCH MORE

Dordt University...Where are you located?" "Dordt...Like the Canons of Dordt?" "Dordt...Other than the name, what's unique about your university?"

As Director of Church Relations, I hear common questions like these when speaking with people who are learning about Dordt University for the first time.

While not a denominationally owned university, when Dordt was founded in 1955 it was an institution primarily formed of and for the people of the Christian Reformed Church (CRC). Over the years, Dordt's affiliation with the CRC has been of mutual benefit. Dordt has been blessed by the thousands of young people from the CRC who have been equipped by Dordt's faculty and staff to pursue God's calling in their lives and enter into the vocations for which they have been prepared.

Dordt alumni engage in the local church. They attend worship on Sundays. They also involve themselves in the life of the church, teaching Sunday School or leading a small group. They serve in leadership within the church, with some eventually serving churches as pastors. Dordt alumni get involved in their communities, seeking to embody a faithful contemporary response of being agents of Christ-centered renewal, over every aspect of life.

Today, Dordt's impact extends far beyond one denomination. Currently less than 30% of our students come from Christian Reformed congregations. While roughly 50% of our current students come from Reformed or Presbyterian faith traditions, the other half of Dordt's students come from a range of churches, both denominational and non-denominational in their ecclesiastical ties.

As I serve at Dordt, my work is to continue to build deeper connections between the university and the local

church. Dordt is a better place when it has a close relationship with local churches. Churches not only provide us with students, but churches also help anchor us to our faith foundations. In turn, Dordt helps strengthen the local church, sending out graduates who have been encouraged and prepared to serve.

We strive to be, as President Erik Hoekstra states, "hospitably" Reformed, remaining Christ centered, Scripturally rooted, and confessionally committed, while still welcoming students from a variety of traditions within Christianity to learn and grow both in knowledge and in faith.

Every day, I have the opportunity to seek out ways to continue to deepen Dordt's relationship with the local church. For those who have known us from the beginning, I travel to ecclesiastical meetings, provide pulpit supply from Sunday to Sunday, and host pastor and church events on campus. I also seek to make more connections with churches that know us a little, or those who haven't yet heard about us. Across North America, I visit churches, Christian schools, and Christian conferences.

As a 1993 graduate of Dordt and an ordained minister with 20 years of congregational ministry experience, I am keenly interested in inviting people to be followers and servants of Jesus Christ. The local church and Dordt partner well in this important work.

I look forward to visiting and hearing about your church sometime. I welcome your invitations and enjoy when you share with me how God has used Dordt University to shape you to assist in bringing glimpses of the New Creation wherever God has planted you.

REV. TODD ZUIDEMA ('93), DIRECTOR OF CHURCH RELATIONS