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The Reverend Robert A. Nykamp has been named the Director of Field Education, it was recently announced by President Ridder.

Mr. Nykamp will begin his work on the campus approximately July 1 after having spent a year in special preparation at the University of Pennsylvania in the area of supervision.

With a growing intern program and thought being given to continuing education for pastors as well as the regular summer field education and ongoing field experience, the growing need of a Director of Field Education has become more and more apparent. Mr. Nykamp will fill this slot in Western's program by means of his own preparation, careful training in the area of supervision and a pastoral experience in the Reformed Church.

He is presently a candidate for the D.Ed. degree from the University of Pennsylvania. Prior to this time he studied at Hope College from which he graduated in 1955 and Western Seminary in 1958. During the years of 1950 to 1957 he worked as an orderly and X-Ray technician while moving toward his earlier goal of being a physician.

After his graduation from Western he served as the pastor of the Ross Reformed Church of Gary, Indiana until 1963. While there he also worked on a post-B.D. Master of Arts degree which he began in the fall of 1961 at the Chicago Theological Seminary. In addition, he was the pastor of the Hope Reformed Church, Chicago for a brief period before being called by the seminary to receive this special preparation fitting him for the position of Director of Field Education.

Mr. Nykamp was one of five people in seminaries throughout America who were invited to participate in a first-year program of the National Institute of Mental Health in training for supervision. This program, combining the twin rigors of intensive study and close observation, was focused in the area of marriage counseling. The University of Pennsylvania, under Dr. Emily Mudd, is one of the leading schools in America and one of five centers nationally recognized as marriage counseling centers, so that in addition to his preparation in the field of field supervision he will also be qualified to teach courses in the area of Christian education generally and in the area of marriage counseling and family problems specifically.

In commenting on his new assignment, Mr. Nykamp had the following to say: "I believe that supervision should take place in two phases of field education. First, each student should be assigned to a carefully selected and trained ministerial field instructor. The Director of Field Education should help the parish minister become aware of the process of supervision and meet with him on a regular basis. I believe that this 'one to one' relationship is very essential in a meaningful and helpful field education program.

"The second phase of the supervision would take place in the seminary with a small group of students meeting with the professor on a weekly basis. This would be like the case seminar with a student presenting one of his 'visits' or 'conferences.' The professor working with each small group would need to have some training in group dynamics and the principles of professional education and be sensitive to the work of the church and the seminary."

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NYKAMP NAMED AS DIRECTOR OF FIELD EDUCATION

REV. ROBERT A. NYKAMP

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rostrum and in a moving ceremony participated in a prayer of dedication led by President Ridder.

The traditional reception for relatives and friends of the graduates was again held in the seminary commons immediately following the commencement services.

First fields of service and postgraduate plans of the graduates have been published in THE CHURCH HERALD for May 21, together with the picture of the assembled class.

The faculty-senior class banquet was held at the Sunnybrook Country Club in Grandville on May 14. The spring banquet of the entire seminary was held at Carousel Mountain on May 21. Professor Hugh A. Koops gave the charge to the seniors and the response was given by Mr. Gerald Phelan, president of the class.

Academic honors and prizes were awarded to students at the Honors Assembly held on May 18. The list of prize winners and scholarship winners also appears in THE CHURCH HERALD for May 21.

The spring banquet of Adelphia was held on May 4 at Cumberford's Restaurant in Holland.

The final social event of the year was the Adelphic picnic held at Tunnel Park on May 24.

Trustees Elect Ridder To Presidency

At the annual meeting of the Board of Trustees held May 25, 26, The Board of Trustees of Western Seminary elected the Rev. Herman J. Ridder as President of the seminary. For the past two years Mr. Ridder has served as Acting President, according to the stipulation of the By-Laws of the Seminary.

The Board of Trustees forwarded its action to the Permanent Committee on Theological Education which is to meet June 1, 2, at New Brunswick, N.J. It is expected that the Committee will present the election to the General Synod at its Buck Hill Falls session, asking the Synod to confirm the election of the Board of Trustees.

The procedure will be slightly altered from past procedure in that the President of the Seminary will serve at the pleasure of the Board of Trustees. He will not have tenure as President and will not be installed as a Professor of Theology holding membership in the General Synod. In commenting on the new proposal, President Ridder said: "This meets with my full approval. Aggressive administrative leadership must be balanced by the ultimate veto power of the Board of Trustees. And no man would care to serve in any position where he no longer commands the respect and approval of the people he serves."

Commencement

Climaxes Closing Days

Thirty-four graduates, plus two master of theology graduates and one new master of Christian education graduate, participated in the commencement services on May 26.

President Ridder presided at the service and Chairman John E. Damon assisted in the colorful "hooding" ceremony. Acting Academic Dean Dr. Lester J. Kuyper presented the candidates for diplomas.

The commencement address was given by Dr. Stuart Barton Babbage, professor at Columbia Theological Seminary in Decatur, Georgia (Presbyterian Church U.S.) whose subject was "Preaching Christ Crucified."

At the end of the service, the hooded graduates assembled in a group facing the
Allow me to quote a section from my annual report to the Board of Trustees which you may find interesting.

"From time to time it is said that Western is becoming too academic. Generally, I reject this charge out of hand. If it means that any applicant to the seminary who feels called is therefore called and must be admitted to the institution, I have little sympathy for the sentiment. It strikes at both the well-being of the institution and the integrity of the Holy Spirit's work within His church as He calls gifted men to ministry. But if it means that the academic is being presented in such a way as to stifle personal growth and development it is, of course, a valid concern and ought to be heard.

"There are two responses I would make. First, this can be a genuine concern. Perhaps the time has come for a basic look at the curriculum. With the addition of new courses and skills, we may be guilty of demanding too high a level of competence as we are of demanding too many involvements at any given time so that the student is more frustrated than he is educated. If this is the case, then a careful look at the curriculum and student capacities will be most helpful. It is my hope that within the year we may begin such a study. This study must not be content with patchwork of existing structures but should deal with issues that are basic and the very principles involved in building curriculum for a theological seminary.

"The second response is that somewhere in the curriculum there must be found room for the non-rational elements to be found in the Christian faith. All of us are deeply concerned that we shall turn out ministers who are academically mature but who lack that drive and force of personality and commitment which is so necessary for the minister of Christ. More often than not the theologian discounts religious experience as a source of religious knowledge. And seminaries have relatively few courses which emphasize the non-rational, such as in the field of prayer, the literature of devotion and mysticism. One of the interns wrote to me with a certain bitterness, complaining of the fact that he had never yet been taught anything about prayer. Lest we rush in with suggestions for a three-hour course in which the student is reminded that 'men ought always to pray,' let me resist such impulse by suggesting that the answer is not really that simple. What we need is not more patchwork on the curriculum but a carefully designed curriculum in which proper attention is given to both the rational and the non-rational aspects of the Christian faith.

"In a sense, I am pleading for the freedom and the encouragement of the Board to turn the attention of the seminary in the direction of a basic review of the curriculum which deals first with the philosophy behind the curriculum and only secondarily with the component parts of it."

_Faculty Report Summer Plans_

Dr. William C. Brownson, Jr., assistant professor of preaching, will lead the devotional service each morning at the General Synod from June 3 to June 9. The Brownson family expects to attend a series of Bible conferences in the East, after which Dr. Brownson will prepare himself for new courses in the area of preaching for the next academic year.

Dr. M. Eugene Osterhaven, professor of systematic theology, will again explore the wilds of Canada by canoe. He will escort a small group of men during the week of June 7 and later in mid-July will attempt a less expensive exploratory trip with his wife and youngest child. He expects to attend a theological conference sponsored by a Roman Catholic organization in Montreal, Canada from June 28 to July 2. The balance of the summer he will spend in preparation for course work and academic activity for the coming school year.

Dr. Donald J. Bruggink, professor of historical theology, attended the 26th National Conference on Church Architecture in Chicago on April 27-29, as a member of the American Society for Church Architecture. Professor Bruggink addressed the Commission on Church Building and Architecture, following the presentation of a pre-publication copy of his new book _CHRIST AND ARCHITECTURE_ (sub-titled "Building Reformed Churches"). At the conference, a preview edition of thirty copies of the book, co-authored with Professor Carl H. Doppers of the Western Reserve University, was available. Publication is scheduled for the current summer. Dr. Bruggink plans to go to Columbus, Indiana this summer to study and photograph the North Christian Church of that city, which was designed by the distinguished architect, Eero Saarinen.

President Ridder will be attending Union Theological Seminary in New York City for the summer session. In addition, he will finish some course work at Chicago Theological Seminary.

_Alumni Association Reports Annual Meeting_

The Alumni Association of the seminary, working with the administration of the school, prepared a revised format for this year's annual meeting of the alumni.

The informal tea held on previous years was discontinued. In its place, the Alumni Association held a noon luncheon meeting at Jack's Garden Room near Holland on Wednesday, Commencement Day.

The Rev. Josias I. Eernisse presided at the meeting which drew about 125 persons.

Seminary activities were reported by President Herman J. Ridder. Dean of Students Dr. Henry J. Ten Clay brought the alumni up to date on new developments in the seminary program. Students of the school assisted him in the presentation.

In the traditional rotation of officers during the business meeting, the Rev. David Ter Beest was named president; the Rev. Albert Mansen, vice-president. At the meeting, (held after the "Theolog" went to press), the alumni elected a secretary-treasurer from the group. The alumni gift was presented to the school, thus completing the project of furnishing two new faculty offices.

A proposal for an outdoor advertising sign was presented by the Executive Committee of the alumni as the project for next year.

Class reunions were held during the evening dinner hour, among them the class of 1899 which made formal arrangements for its reunion.

The Rev. J. C. Van Wyk, executive secretary of the Alumni Association, presented the necrology report. Rev. Van Wyk helped to make the local arrangements for the alumni luncheon.

The first reunion of the class of 1960 is tentatively scheduled for August 4 and 5 this year. Tentative plans are being formalized by the Rev. Mr. Merwin Van Doornik, pastor of the Second Reformed Church of Little Falls, New Jersey. Alumni guests will be housed in rooms in Zwemer Hall and will use the facilities of the chapel, commons, classrooms, and the kitchen for their varied activities.

The officers of the Alumni Association have invited other classes to make similar plans in future years.
Student Groups Organize for Next Year

Norman Kansfield of South Holland, Illinois, this year's student council president, conducted an election which resulted in naming Mr. Stanley Rock of Needham, Massachusetts as president of the student council for the next academic year. Mr. Rock, a Danforth Scholar, holds the A.B. and M.A. degrees from the University of Michigan. He will be a senior next year.

The Adelphi Society, composed of wives of seminary students, has reorganized itself along the lines of the Women's Guild structure of the Reformed church. Officers of the cabinet for next year are Mona Beukema, president; Barbara Zoschke, vice-president; Clarissa Ekema, secretary; and Marlene Dirksen, treasurer. Chairmen of the various circles will be elected at the beginning of the new school year.

Adelphi Society elected as officers for next year: President, Karl Overbeck; Vice-president, Leon Aalberts; Secretary-treasurer, Donald Veltman; Chairman of athletic and social events, Jon Schoon.

Goyim, the association of students interested in studying and promoting the overseas mission work of the church elected the following committee: Wayne Kiel, chairman; John Wiers; Sherwin Weener; and David Maris.

The format of meetings of Adelphi and Goyim was modified during the past year to coincide with the Thursday noon luncheon program established recently. On alternating assignments, Goyim and Adelphi arranged for luncheon speakers in the areas of their special interests. Following the noon luncheons, the speakers deliver their addresses which are followed by a question and answer session. This general format has been very successful during the past year and will be continued into next year.

Interns Assigned For Next Year

With the close of the school year, some eight interns will be leaving the campus for their assignments for the coming year. In addition, we expect the return of four men who were assigned last year and another student who has served two years in an internship.

Those being assigned for the coming year and the places to which they are going are as follows:

Norman Van Manen will be going to the Artesia Reformed Church of Artesia, California; Paul Swets to the Mountain View Church of Denver, Colorado; Ross Westhuis to the Grove Church of North Bergen, New Jersey; Kelvin Kroemeyer to the Calvary Reformed Church of Chicago; Calvin Tysen to the Hope Reformed Church of Los Angeles, California; Donald Jansen to the Bethel Reformed Church of Passaic, New Jersey; Arnold Van Beek to the Paramount
Reformed Church of Paramount, California; and David Van Dam to the Second Reformed Church of Wyckoff, New Jersey.

The assignment of eight interns for the coming year sets a new high in participation in the intern program, which next year will be under the direction of the Reverend Robert A. Nykamp, Director of Field Education. The program has been under the direction of President Ridder during the past year.

The seminary is very anxious to have intern situations comparable to those being made available this year. We see the internship as a fine learning possibility when church, pastor and student see it as a learning experience from which certain benefits can be gained in the continuing work of the church.

Recently, supervision has been more carefully structured and it is hoped that with the coming of Mr. Nykamp the value of the internship may be increased through further supervision and examined experience.

**Pre-Seminary Training Conference Held**

Western Hosts Bible Faculty From Reformed Church Colleges

Faculty members from Bible departments of Reformed church colleges were guests of the seminary at a two-day conference held on the campus on March 26 and 27.

Planned to discuss educational programs at the college level for those students planning to enter a theological seminary after commencement, the conference explored new approaches to this problem to meet the challenges of this new day in theological education.

Key representatives from the church colleges were participants in the conference. Dr. Vernon Kooy, registrar and professor of Greek at New Brunswick Seminary, attended as an observer for our sister school. Central College delegates included the Rev. Arthur De Jong, the Rev. James Van Hoeven, and Professors Herbert G. Mentink and William W. Paul. Dr. Sylvio Scorza represented Northwestern College. Hope College sent Dr. William Vander Lugt, the Rev.

Allen Cook, the Rev. William Hilmert, the Rev. Lambert Ponstein, the Rev. Lyle Vander Werf, and Dr. Bastian Kruthof.

The entire Western Seminary faculty participated in the discussions which were conducted under the chairmanship of President Herman J. Ridder.

In commenting on the potential values derived from this new venture at Western Seminary, President Ridder said, "Since a significant part of seminary student training occurs at the college level, the results of discussions at this conference should be immensely helpful in directing the programs of training and the emphases in curriculum so that ministerial candidates will arrive at the seminary better equipped to receive final, specialized training for their vocations in today's world."

**Western Grads State Attitudes on Preaching**

Results are now in from the questionnaire on preaching which was sent out this spring to 200 Western Seminary graduates. Over 120 responses were received to the inquiry, which requested the members of nine graduating classes to evaluate their homiletics training at Western and also to provide data from their own experience in preaching.

The responses, on the whole, showed warm appreciation for the training received while in seminary. Fully 90% of those responding indicated that their homiletics preparation had been "challenging and inspiring as well as instructive." Almost 90% reported that they had graduated from Western with the conviction that preaching was to be their "pre-eminent task."

A large number of ministers expressed the view that the seminary should offer additional training in specific areas. Most of these felt that the lecture hours devoted to homiletics were sufficient, but that more supervised preaching opportunities should be provided. Many felt that more work should be required in the discipline of composing sermon manuscripts.

Two particular areas in which a large majority of those polled felt that they had not received sufficient help were "speech" and "planning a year's preaching."

A number of stimulating suggestions were received as to possible changes or additions in the homiletics program. Some of those which appeared most frequently are: more opportunities for supervised preaching, especially in "live" worship situations; more emphasis on Biblical exposition; more attention to making sermons relevant to the contemporary world; and possible criticism of student sermons by lay auditors.

A survey of current preaching among Western graduates yields the following insights: 95% are as enthusiastic (many are more so) about preaching as they were when they left the seminary. 65% write out at least some of their sermons. When in the pulpit, 67% use notes, 15% employ a manuscript, and 18% use no notes of any kind.

The "average" Western-trained preacher spends approximately 9-11 hours in preparing a sermon. He would describe 80% of his sermons as "expository" and 20% or less as "topical." He would say that 70% of his sermons "include the note of evangelistic appeal."

Most of the ministers responding preach a "catechetical sermon" once or twice a month. About 26% indicate that they do this, in the formal sense, "seldom" or "never." Of those who do use the catechesis, 78% usually draw their sermon outline from a Scripture passage and then work in material from the catechesis. The remaining 22% take their outline from the catechesis, and then relate it to the Scriptures. About 67% prefer to preach on a single catechesis question rather than a complete "Lord's Day" section.

In answer to the question, "What aspect(s) of sermon preparation do you find most difficult?", these were most frequently mentioned: finding fresh illustrative material, constructing sermon outlines, focusing on sermon themes or ideas, and securing the needed time for preparation.

Almost 90% of the responses were in favor of homiletics refresher courses at the seminary, or preaching workshops in local areas.

The fine co-operation of Western's graduates in this venture has been most encouraging and it is hoped that their many helpful contributions can be put to good use in the significant task of preparing men to preach the Word.
Permanent Committee Begins Merger Study

The study of the merger of the two seminaries has been committed to the Permanent Committee on Theological Education, which held one meeting on the subject at its regular spring session. The Permanent Committee will meet again in special session June 1 and 2 at New Brunswick, at which time it will study the matter further. Part of the material for discussion at this meeting will be three position papers submitted by the separate faculties on the following questions: 1) The Purpose of Theological Education in the Reformed Church; 2) The Location of Theological Schools in the Reformed Church; and 3) The Theological Compatibility of the Two Faculties. These papers have been requested by the Permanent Committee and will be part of the discussion matters at the June meeting.

Physical Improvements At Seminary Plant

The development of an additional parking lot is well under way this year. Located on the site of the former “Meengs Mission House,” the lot will be black-topped with concrete retaining walls, floodlighted at night, and have access to 13th Street. Located just west of the kitchen area of the new building, the new parking lot is expected to accommodate about fifteen cars.

The need for increased faculty office space will be met by remodeling classroom 102 in the main building to provide two faculty offices, plus two small seminar rooms. Using soundproof modern partitions, the new offices and seminar rooms are expected to be very adequate for this revised use. By scheduling classes in the remaining classrooms no difficulty is anticipated in future years. The addition of seminar classrooms is a welcome one to the faculty and students inasmuch as elective classes the past year held their sessions in the faculty room, in a wing of the commons, or even in the unfinished attic room above the chapel in the tower.

Through the generous gift of the Alumni Association during the past two years, faculty offices for Dr. Kuyper and Dr. Oudershuis have been refurbished with new equipment. In a continuation of this project, the seminary is this year furnishing the remaining three faculty offices for the professors of theology: Dr. Osterhaven, Dr. Eenigenburg, and Dr. Piet. The existing furniture freed by the purchase of new equipment for these offices will be used to furnish the newly-created offices in old classroom 102.

Renovations done last year in the north wing of the Zwemer Hall dormitory will not need to be repeated again this year. Occupancy of this section of the dorm by Hope College freshmen is expected to be continued in the next academic year.

Using the development fund established recently with assets received from generous bequests, a program of acquisition of houses adjoining the Western campus is being continued. The Executive Committee of the Board of Trustees felt that this program should be maintained even though there is a discussion and a study underway concerning a proposal to merge New Brunswick and Western Seminaries into one theological school. As property in the area earmarked for acquisition becomes available at reasonable prices, it is expected that it will continue to be acquired for future development.

Kuyper Announces Sabbatical Plans

Dr. Lester J. Kuyper, professor of Old Testament at Western, has completed plans for his year of sabbatical studies.

Mr. and Mrs. Kuyper will sail on the Maasdam on August 9 for Rotterdam. During the voyage, Dr. Kuyper will serve as chaplain of the ship, which will include conducting worship services and counselling passengers.

From the Netherlands, the Kuypers will travel by auto to Geneva, Switzerland where Dr. Kuyper is a delegate to the fifth International Congress for Old Testament Studies meeting from August 22 to 28.

Following the Congress, the Kuypers will travel through Germany, returning to the Netherlands where Dr. Kuyper will engage in research in Dutch and German works in preparation for a manuscript for publication on Old Testament studies.

This return visit to the Continent will enable the Kuypers to renew friendships begun on their sabbatical seven years ago. They will also use this opportunity to make contacts with the church and her life in the Netherlands.

Dr. Kuyper joined the faculty of Western Seminary in 1939 as Cornelius Vander Meulen Professor of Old Testament.

Advertising and Promotion Programs Enlarged

In an attempt to interpret the school to the church, to prospective students, and to the larger public, Western this year is presenting a new type of catalog-bulletin.

Designed to serve for a two-year period, the new publication will present an appealing picture of Western Seminary as a theological school. Material covering rules, regulations, student rosters, and associated data has been eliminated from the new publication and will be presented in an accompanying student handbook. The agency of Schoonmaker and Haskell is working with Western with Mr. Ron Haskell personally directing the promotional work of Western Seminary in its broadening aspects.

Last year’s bulletin cover was very well received by the churches with 150,000 being printed. A new bulletin cover has been mailed to each church in the denomination for its use sometime during the coming year.

Although space advertising will be maintained in THE CHURCH HERALD, similar advertising in religious journals and periodicals has been sharply curtailed so that resources might be used instead in more fruitful ways. The overall thrust of the advertising and promotional activities of Western continues to be directed toward (1) acceptance and understanding by the churches; (2) recruitment of students; and (3) financial support of the program.

Theolog readers are invited to express to the administration of Western their reactions to this type of program.

Enrollment Rises At Western

As this issue of THE THEOLOG went to press, there were twenty-nine students enrolled in the new junior class for the B.D. program, plus one student added to the M.C.E. program. Received as transfers are six upperclassmen from other seminaries. Two Oriental ministers are scheduled to enter Western Seminary as candidates for the Th.M. degree. It is expected that some students will still enroll before the opening term this fall.

The intern program has reached its highest point of participation with eight going out this year, while five currently registered as interns will return to complete their academic work. The new senior class will number about thirty. The middle class will maintain its approximate number of twenty-four, three men will be continuing the M.C.E. work, while the total number registered as candidates for the Th.M. degree now stands at eleven.

Continued effort is being made to evaluate academic and personality qualifications for ministerial aptitude as the admissions committee considers each new applicant for entrance to Western.
If you are not an alumnus or a Reformed church minister and you want to continue receiving 'The Theolog,' please return this coupon to the seminary.

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