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MERGER OF SEMINARIES PROPOSED

Board Called To Consider Study Plan

At the Executive Committee meeting held October 19, 1964 a proposal from New Brunswick Theological Seminary was presented for consideration by the Western Seminary Committee. By a near unanimous vote, New Brunswick had expressed an interest in a possible discussion looking toward merger of the two seminaries into one new institution.

The Executive Committee set up a special meeting at which the Investment Committee, Instruction Committee, and the entire faculty of the school met with the Executive Committee on Monday evening, November 23 for the purpose of discussing the feasibility of entering into a study with the Board of Superintendents of New Brunswick Seminary as to the possibility of a merger of the seminaries. Following the discussion by these combined committees, the Executive Committee held an official meeting and voted that "the Executive Committee, in reply to the inquiry of the Board of Superintendents of New Brunswick Seminary, deems it feasible to enter into a study with New Brunswick as to the possibility of a merger of the seminaries."

President Ridder and Chairman Damon of Western’s Board were authorized to meet with like officials of the New Brunswick Seminary to formulate specific procedures by which to carry out the study of a possible merger.

The heart of the proposal prepared by this group is that the aim of the study would be to decide the question of merger in the light of the larger question of the continuing mission of the church, with technical matters relative to the mechanics involved in a merger to be decided after the question of merger.

It was further suggested that the Permanent Committee on Theological Education, recently established by the General Synod, R.C.A. conduct the study on this question with the request that each Board select two additional members from each of the Boards of Trustees to sit with the Permanent Committee when the study and discussion on merger would be pursued.

In a special session held by the full Board of Superintendents of New Brunswick Seminary on January 19, 1965, it was voted to adopt the proposed structure for the merger study, providing further that the committee should report its findings to the two seminary Boards for approval prior to submission to the General Synod for whatever action the result of their study would indicate.

A special meeting of the full Board of Trustees of Western Seminary was called on February 16 at which time the proposed structure for the merger study was discussed.

Western Grad Heads Leadership School

The Mulder Memorial Chapel of Western Seminary will be the scene of the first worship service for delegates to the National Leadership School of the Reformed Church on Sunday, July 11.

Following the successful format of earlier years, delegates attending the school will be housed at Hope College dormitories and will hold study groups and sessions in college facilities as well as in classrooms and the commons of Western Seminary.

Replacing Miss Elsie Stryker, founder and competent administrator of previous schools will be Miss Charlotte Heinen, who will have completed the program and have been granted the Master of Christian Education by Western Seminary. Miss Heinen is the first young woman to be graduated from this newly structured academic program at Western.

The National School will end its work on Saturday, July 17.

The Rev. Christian H. Walvoord, Executive Secretary of the Board of Education, R.C.A., is responsible for the general oversight of this dynamic program for adult Christian education for the denomination.

Faculty at Bloomfield Hills

The faculty of Western Seminary will spend September 1-5 at the Institute for Advanced Pastoral Studies in Bloomfield Hills, Michigan with Dr. Reuel Howe. For several years the Institute, in cooperation with the American Association of Theological Schools, has conducted ten-day seminars in the summer for faculty people from various schools. In such a seminar held last summer, President Ridder and Dean Eenigenburg were invited along with representatives of ten other seminaries holding membership in the AATS.

The arrangements involving Western’s stay at the Institute comprise a “first” in that this is the first time the Institute has ever had an entire faculty present at one time.

Reuel Howe, an internationally known specialist in teaching methods and the nature of dialogue, will construct a specially designed seminar period for the five days in which the entire matter of the teaching and learning process will be examined very carefully.

Funds for this new venture of the faculty are supplied by the Midland Faculty Scholarship Fund which is reported in this issue of The Theolog.

Psychological Services at Western

Psychological services have been greatly increased at Western’s campus since the beginning of the fall term.

For some time we have given psychological tests but have not been too aggressive in using them in later counseling. With the incoming of the new class this fall we have retained the services of Dr. William Kooistra of Pine Rest Hospital. The battery of tests was increased and for the first time an initial interview was held with each of the students who took the tests.

In addition, procedures have now been established whereby students who need or desire counseling or therapeutic treatment during the course of their seminary training may receive it on a pro-rata

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From its inception the purpose of The Theolog has been to relate news stories that are either not released to the general press or released there in abbreviated form. We shall continue this as a major purpose of The Theolog.

But to that purpose we want to add another. There are many factors related to Western's life which seldom fall in the category of a news story. Frequently, they are far more important than any single event in the life of the school. Therefore, we want to use the columns of The Theolog to share some of the underlying thinking going on at Western. What are some of her major goals? What does she understand to be her major task? Questions like these are integral to the life of a school such as ours. For that reason we hope to use this column to add to the present sources of such information, namely the report of the President to the Board of Trustees and the letters of information sent to the classical agents on education.

When I leave the campus and travel to various parts of the church, I am invariably asked: "How are things going at Western?" And the questioner usually has something of the above concern in his mind. Or one is accosted by the individual who in the same breath will express concern for the rising costs of theological education and suggest one more thing "the boys ought to get" or some bit of help that "wasn't given when I was there." In addition, conferences called on the various problems facing the church usually end with some strong suggestions about what the seminaries ought to be doing to meet this problem. (This sometimes takes on the flavor of parents who want to educate their children to die for truths they're not presently prepared to live for!)

We don't object to any of this. In fact, we welcome it. We have recently held a number of workshops in various areas of the church at which time we have deliberately involved a number of laymen and ministers in the discussion regarding theological education. It has been most encouraging to see the response of these friends when we shared openly with them some of our concerns and attempted responses. Always they were reminded that the men we train today become their ministers tomorrow. For that reason we feel that they need to be very much involved in the discussion and the process.

In the forthcoming issues of The Theolog we hope to discuss some of these matters in this column. When my identification with Western began some twenty-four months ago, I suggested that the work and goals of the seminary must be closely related to the mission of the church, particularly the Reformed Church in America. In the ensuing months that conviction has deepened. There may be a difference of opinion in the church as to what the needs of the mission really are. Some see needs not yet fully born. Others see the ministry in a transitional time. And still others are determined that the needs of yesterday's ministry shall always continue as the needs of the ministry in any day. In the discussion centering on these vital questions, let no ancient shibboleth paralyze us into immobility nor any modern jargon lure us off course. Our purpose remains that of training young men to stand at the juncture where the Eternal Word of God meets Today's World of man.

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help basis established by the administration of the seminary.

Working under the assumption that a number of our problems in the ministry are psychologically oriented, it is hoped that this new program will begin to be helpful in dealing with problems before they become a matter of congregational concern later on.

Student wives are also encouraged to participate in the program along with their husbands. We look for significant results in the pursuit of this program and hope that more and more we will come to see the need and importance of proper psychological service as an integral part of the preparation process for the Christian ministry.

Faculty Scholarship Established

As a result of discussions held by President Ridder with the congregation of the Midland Reformed Church at Midland, Michigan, the "Midland Faculty Scholarship Fund" was established recently.

Mr. Tom Werkema, vice-president of the Midland consistory, worked out the details of this new project with President Ridder. Dr. Corwin Bredeweg and Dr. Duane Lehman presented the details of the program to the consistory and congregation to insure the effectiveness of this unique program.

The source of funds will be gifts from members of the congregation, matched by equal gifts from the Dow Chemical Company of Midland in the case of those donors who are employees of that firm.

The "Dow Matching Grant Plan for Higher Education" does not require the employee to be an alumnus of the institution to which the gifts are made.

Pastor of the Midland Reformed Church is the Rev. Garret A. Wilterdink, member of the Board of North American Missions, R.C.A. and a Western graduate of the class of 1955.

Designed to enhance the teaching competence of Western's faculty, the fund has great potential for stimulating a meaningful educational activity on the part of Western's faculty in years to come.

Caravaners to Return To Western

On June 23 Western will bustle with the activity of arriving Caravaners for this summer's training session prior to their assignment: on field duties.

Repeating last year's experience, the training center for young men and women volunteering for Caravan duty through the Department of Youth Work, R.C.A. will again take place on Western's campus.

Following full schedules of activities, the young people will leave in teams on Friday, July 2, but will return for a round-up and review of their summer's work on July 31 and August 1.

Director of the project will be the Rev. Delbert J. Vander Haar, assisted by the Rev. Harold De Roo, both associated with the Youth Department, R.C.A. From the ranks of Caravaners in previous years have come some of the ablest young leaders in the Reformed Church. All pastors and churchmen will want to encourage young people in their congregation to seriously consider the challenge of this specialized summer activity.
Choir Slates 1965 Concert

The Christian life in action is the focus of this year's choir program. The program stresses four areas of Christian activity: worship and praise, Christian conduct, Christian hope and Christian service.

Under the direction of Kelvin Kronemeyer, director from Grandville, Mich., the choir numbers thirty singing men. Their accompanist, Arnold Van Beek from Westfield, N.D., is also a middler. Officers are Ronald Vander Werff, president; Paul De Maagd, vice president; Calvin Tyser, secretary; and Marvin Schultz, business manager. The choir will be leaving Holland by chartered bus to travel directly to Denver, Colorado on Friday, February 26. In addition to singing concerts, the tour will include preaching, teaching and singing in the Denver and Chicago areas on the two successive weekends. The tour itinerary is listed below:

Feb. 28 — First Reformed, Denver, Colorado
March 1 — Prairie View Reformed, Prairie View, Kansas
March 2 — Winnebago — a.m.
March 3 — First Reformed, Orange City, Iowa
March 4 — Northwestern College Chapel Service, a.m.
March 5 — Central College Chapel Service, a.m.
March 6 — Forreston Reformed, Forreston, Ill.
March 7 — Calvary Reformed, Chicago, Illinois

Choir officers planning the tour slated for the first week in March. Left to right: Marvin Schultz, business manager; Kelvin Kronemeyer, director; Arnold Van Beek, accompanist; Calvin Tyser, secretary-treasurer; Ronald Vander Werff, president and Paul De Maagd, vice president.

Executive Committee Sets Leave Policy

For several years Western Seminary has had a sabbatical leave program in which several of the faculty members have participated. Recently the Executive Committee of the Board approved a new leave policy which will continue the sabbatical leave program each seven years but spells it out more carefully and makes some minor revisions in the program. Some of the matters relating to the carrying out of the sabbatical and the report involved are strengthened and more carefully defined. However, the item of special importance is one having to do with the newly announced quarter leave. In the leave policy it was suggested that a leave of one quarter would be available any time after the first two years of service on the faculty, and subsequently after each third year following a sabbatical or quarter leave.

In Appreciation

By means of this issue of the THEOLOG the administrative officers of Western Seminary desire to express their appreciation to the friends of the school who made personal contributions to the work of Western Seminary during the Christmas season this year.

We thank God for all these tangible expressions of interest and concern on the part of friends of Western in the churches and in the local community.

desiring to use such a quarter leave may submit their plans to the Executive Committee. One of the prime factors in deciding on the value of the plan submitted will be to determine its potential for both the faculty member and the seminary. It is hoped that the ultimate end will be the broadening of faculty interest into areas other than those of their chosen specialty. It is also entirely possible and specifically encouraged that some will choose to spend a quarter in the pastorate. Obviously, in an institution set aside for the training of pastoral ministers, a continuing identification with and an understanding of the pastorate as it is presently constituted is of importance to the teaching staff.

There are some essential differences between a quarter leave and the sabbatical leave. In the case of the quarter leave there will be no attempt made to get a replacement as is often the case with the sabbatical leave. Instead, courses will be shifted and the load in the department will be spread among the remaining members. No more than one faculty person will be allowed to take the quarter leave at any one time. In addition, there is no rotation factor to the quarter leave, as in the case of the sabbatical leave.

Highly placed sources in theological education have expressed their opinion that the above described quarter leave is a pace-setting move in the improvement of theological education.
THEOLOGY

MISSION WEEK AT WESTERN

R.C.A. Boards and Agencies make United Presentations

On November 30 through December 2, representatives of all the Reformed Church Boards gathered on Western's campus to relate the larger mission of the Reformed Church to the seminary student body and faculty.

Planned as an intensive effort in a united way, mission week fulfilled all expectations and achieved a meaningful impact upon the entire seminary family.

At the first meeting held in the form of a supper on Monday evening at the Third Reformed Church of Holland, the Rev. Edwin Luidens, Executive Secretary of the Board of World Missions, R.C.A., discussed "Key Issues Affecting Mission." Following the presentation, group seminars met under the direction of staff personnel to discuss the relationship of each of the boards to the key issues presented by Mr. Luidens. For the Board of World Missions, the Rev. James Ebers joined Rev. Luidens in these discussions. For the Board of North American Missions, Dr. Beth Marcus and Dr. Russell Redeker presided, and on behalf of the Board of Education were the Rev. Christian A. Walvoord, Miss Grace Pelon, the Rev. Arthur O. Van Eck, and the Rev. Harold DeRoo.

In a full schedule of events held on Tuesday, the chapel service in the morning was led by the Rev. Garold Van Engen. At the first of a new series of weekly noon luncheons, the Rev. Christian A. Walvoord spoke on the subject "Key Missions Affecting Issues." The early afternoon hours were reserved for a faculty-board personnel collaboration, after which another series of group seminars under the same group leaders was held for a different section of students and their wives. The Tuesday evening pot-luck supper at the Third Reformed Church was addressed by Mrs. J. Foster Welwood on the subject "The Women in the Church." A last cycle of group seminars was again conducted by Board personnel. The final activity on Tuesday was a chapel service conducted by the Rev. Arthur O. Van Eck and Mrs. J. Foster Welwood.

Wednesday morning began with a final faculty-board personnel conference, after which the Rev. Howard Teusink, executive secretary for the Stewardship Council, R.C.A., met with the senior class and later conducted the seminary chapel service. Throughout the day opportunity for interviews with mission guest personnel was arranged.

Deliberately scheduled on the opening days of the second quarter, mission week provided an opportunity for meaningful discussions and participation with a minimum of classroom pressure, although the schedule of classes was held without interruption during the entire program. A high level of interest was maintained throughout the three days of the mission week and both board personnel and seminary administrators were high in their praise of the new program.

Faculty Activities

Between Christmas and New Year, Professors John Piet, Richard Oudersluys, and Lester Kuyper attended the meetings of the Society of Biblical Literature at New York, and Professor Donald Bruggink attended the meetings of the Society of Church History at Washington. Lecturers of renown appeared during these meetings to inform the delegates on developments and thought and research in various fields of study. At the conference, the faculty made arrangements with Professor R. de Vaux of Ecole Biblique of Jerusalem to come to our campus the weekend of April 23-25 to lecture about the Qumran scrolls and community, the excavation of which he supervised.


Dr. John Piet will be a principal speaker at the Thirteenth Annual Conference on Evangelical Literature Overseas to be held at Wheaton College, Wheaton, Illinois, on April 12-15, 1965. Appearing there with International figures concerned with the matter of evangelical literature, Dr. Piet will be speaking on "The Use of Secular Outlets—Are We Too Timid?" Dr. Piet also serves as Vice Chairman of the newly-formed Interchurch Committee set by the General Synod of 1964.

Dean of Students, Henry J. Ten Clay, has enrolled in the Michigan Training Laboratory Institute for the spring session, February 26 to March 7. Conducted by the Michigan State University, University of Michigan and Wayne State in cooperation with the National Training Laboratories of the National Educational Association, the course is an intensive eight-day educational program concerned with the problems with youth, organizations serving young people, relationships between teachers, youth workers and community relationships. Objectives are the increased understanding of group processes and basic teamwork, increase in leadership skills, and increase in personal awareness. Scheduled in the recesses between quarters, the Institute provides an excellent opportunity for specialized training in which a new "mix" of theory, action-training, practice and analysis of behavioral patterns takes place.

President Ridder has been involved in a number of speaking trips at which time also workshops have been held in Florida, California, Denver and other places. The purpose of the workshop is to carry on a discussion with lay people on theological education, and also show the seminary's new film "The Ministry" to young people in an effort to recruit students for the ministry.

Annual Alumni Meeting Announced

The Rev. J. I. Eernisse, chairman of the Alumni Association, has called the annual meeting of the alumni association at noon on Wednesday, May 26, which is Commencement Day this year.

The executive committee of the Alumni Association is planning a noon luncheon of all alumni to be held jointly with the Trustees of Western's Board, followed by presentations by the seminary staff.

The committee has also suggested that various classes hold reunion dinners at the time of the evening meal, after which they may hold business meetings and plan to attend the commencement service as individual classes. The seminary will be pleased to reserve seating spaces for any class which may desire this service.

The Rev. John J. Arnold, the alumni association representative on the Development Committee, has met with the Centennial Development Committee as they have planned special events for the Centennial Year at Western.

More detailed plans will be formalized by the Alumni Association executive committee at a meeting set for March 18.

In addition to Chairman Eernisse, officers include Secretary-Treasurer, Rev. A. Mansen; Executive Secretary, Rev. J. C. Van Wyk; and the Rev. D. Ter Beest.
Fellowship Luncheons

Begin at Western

An innovation at Western which has been very well received by students and faculty alike is the all-seminary noon luncheon held each Thursday in the commons. Begun on December 1, fellowship meals have been held each Thursday with food served by the Slater Food Service, caterer for Hope College.

Provided for the purpose of creating a sense of community and an opportunity for conversational dialogue, the luncheon program coincides with a revision of the lecture program at the seminary. Special lectures are now scheduled for the fourth hour, 11:15 until noon, on Thursdays. Immediately following the lecture the students and faculty are dismissed to the luncheon in the commons where the lecturer is given an opportunity to answer questions raised by the students and faculty after the meal is finished. The content of the lecture is frequently the focal point of discussion at the luncheon tables.

On Thursdays when no special guest lecturer is scheduled, the student organizations, Adelphic and Goyim, will arrange for speakers to give addresses on specific subjects of interest to the entire seminary family. Occasionally, luncheon dates are left completely open for conversational purposes only. The meals are subscribed on a prepayment basis and student wives are encouraged to participate with their husbands in the program.

Adelphic Programs Modified

This year the Adelphic Society has been restructured to conform with the new Thursday noon luncheon program. In January, the Rev. Ronald P. Brown, pastor of the Beverly Reformed Church of Grand Rapids, addressed the students at a Thursday noon luncheon under the auspices of Adelphic. He compared theological conservatism with political conservatism. Questions raised by the address were discussed at length following the dismissal of the luncheon.

In February, Dr. Duncan Littlefair, pastor of the Fountain Street Church of Grand Rapids, spoke at a similar luncheon meeting.

Adelphic has planned to schedule the Rev. Herbert Taylor of the Pleasant Hill Church in Grand Rapids for a similar meeting.

In addition to providing speakers on occasional luncheon noon programs, Adelphic this year sponsored an all-seminary program which featured a group of folk singers from Hope College, followed by refreshments and fellowship.

The annual Christmas program of Adelphic this year featured Professor John H. Piet showing slides of mission fields around the world, an after-glow of the round-the-world tour for which he was the director this past summer.

Officers of Adelphic are Paul Vande Hoef, president; Thomas Bruno, vice-president; Paul DeMaagd, treasurer; John Faas, secretary; and Wayne Joosse, social chairman.

Alumni of Eastern Synods Meet

Western Hosts Grads at Warwick Estates

Alumni of Western Seminary serving churches in the three eastern synods were invited to a retreat at Warwick Estates on October 11 and 12. Gathering on Sunday evening following worship services, informal discussions were held with Western Seminary represented by its President, the Reverend Herman J. Ridder.

On Monday morning, October 12, President Ridder led a discussion on the life and work of the seminary as it relates to the Reformed Church and its mission to the world in these times.

Meals and lodging were furnished by Warwick Estates with Western Seminary as host for this first occasion for alumni in the eastern synods to gather together in a reunion.

Arising out of this event was the request of the group that the officers of the national alumni association consider a possible organization of regional chapters of alumni for Western Seminary. This matter is under advisement by the executive committee of the alumni association.

Graduates attending the event were appreciative of the opportunity to meet fellow alumni in this informal setting for purposes of fellowship and inspiration.

The First All-Seminary Noon Luncheon in the New Program at Western

Early Report on Senior Placement

The early springtime, this year as every year, gives the Seniors a great deal of anxiety as well as pleasure in studying the "Orange Book" vacant church lists and statistics. Each day the halls are filled with groups talking about promises of calls and possibilities of calls as well as watching the list on the bulletin board.

At this point six seniors have received the longed-for "Call" (one senior has two) and are now considering whether this is the divinely arranged opportunity for which they've been praying. Each Sunday some six or seven seniors candidate in churches that are looking for pastors. There are some thirty-five or forty churches throughout the denomination from which seniors might possibly receive consideration.

Thirty-four B.D. seniors and one M.C.E. candidate will be graduating this coming May. Of this number two are in communication with missionary opportunities—one with the World Board and one with the North American Board. At least six are planning to do a year or more of post-graduate work. Twenty-six are hoping to enter pastorates as ordained ministers of the Word. No doubt the Lord has use for all these, and many more, in the fields whitening unto harvest.
Lecture Series Continues at Western

In addition to the special lectures already presented at Western the following calendar has been scheduled by the Lecture Committee:

April 2—Dr. Kenneth Cragg
April 15—Dr. Richard C. Oudersluys
April 20-23—Dr. James Eelman, Series of three, New Brunswick Exchange Lectures
April 29—Dr. Calvin VanderWerf, Hope College Lecturer

May 6-7—Dr. Heiko Oberman, Series of three
May 26—Commencement Speaker, Dr. Stuart Babbage

All Western alumni and interested laymen and ministers are cordially invited to attend these special lectures.