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Western Theological Seminary

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PROGRAM DESIGN HOLDS FIRST MEETING

The Program Design Committee of the merged Board of Trustees of Western and New Brunswick Seminaries met on June 3 and 4, 1968 on Western’s Campus. This was the first time the committee has met as a unit.

The task assigned to the committee by the Board was to work out a plan for a unified program of theological education in the Reformed Church in America. The committee reports good progress toward meeting this goal as a result of this first meeting.

A second meeting has been set for July 25 and 26 at which time the group expects to proceed with the finalization of the basic philosophy underlying a unified program. At their third meeting, September 5 and 6, they hope to have specific recommendations for action to present at the scheduled meeting of the entire Board of Trustees on September 21, 1968. This meeting will be held at Western.

The members of the committee are President Wallace Jamison of New Brunswick Theological Seminary, President Herman J. Ridder of Western Theological Seminary, Dr. Elton M. Eenigenburg, Dr. John W. Beardslee III, Dr. Louis H. Benes, the Rev. Raymond Van Heukelom, the Rev. Arie Brouwer, Dr. Robert Davidson, and the Rev. Vernon Dethmers. The consultant to the committee is Dr. Gordon H. Kaufman. Committee chairman is President Ridder with President Jamison serving as Vice-chairman.

WILTERDINK, NYKAMP ASSUME NEW POSTS

On May 24, 1968, President Ridder announced the appointment of a new member on Western’s faculty staff and the creation of a new position in the seminary program.

The Rev. Garret A. Wilterdink has been appointed by the Board of Trustees to the position of Director of Field Education and Assistant Professor in the theological field, replacing Professor Robert A. Nykamp. Mr. Wilterdink will also serve as a lecturer in the theological field. Mr. Nykamp has been named to the newly created position of Director of Counseling and Assistant Professor in Pastoral Care.

Garret Wilterdink graduated from Hope College in 1952 and from Western Theological Seminary in 1955. He holds a Master’s degree from the University of Chicago where he is presently a candidate for the Doctor of Philosophy degree in the field of Christian Theology and Pastoral Psychology. Prior to coming to Western, he served as pastorates at the Ivanhoe Reformed Church, Riverdale, Illinois, and the Midland Reformed Church of Midland, Michigan. During the past year Mr. Wilterdink has been serving at the seminary as sabbatical replacement for Dr. John Piet, teaching courses in the field of English Bible.

In commenting on the new appointment, President Ridder said: “Mr. Wilterdink’s appointment has received a wide acceptance. We trust that his present high level of achievement will enable him to give a very effective performance in this demanding but rewarding assignment.”

Professor Robert A. Nykamp, in his new position as Director of Counseling and Pastoral Care, will be filling a totally new area in Western’s program. His qualifications for this important position are excellent. After graduating from Hope College (1955) and Western Seminary (1958) he served pastorates in the Boss Reformed Church of Gary, Indiana and Hope Reformed Church of Chicago. In 1964 Mr. Nykamp was awarded a grant from the National Institute of Mental Health to undertake extended work at the University of Pennsylvania leading toward a doctoral degree. In June, 1965, he joined Western’s faculty as Director of Field Education with professorial duties in the Christian Ministry field. During this period he spent much of his time in counseling experiences.

With Mr. Nykamp’s appointment to work in the area of counseling and pastoral care the seminary has filled a recognized gap in its educational program. The greater emphasis which is now being placed upon this frequently neglected but vitally important phase of ministerial duties should prove to be of real benefit to the whole church. Mr. Nykamp will now carry on more extensive work in the area of practical counseling as well as continuing to teach related courses in the Christian Ministry field.
From the President's Desk

Program Design Committee

When the Reverend Arie Brouwer, chairman of the Board at the time, appointed the Program Design Committee of the board, he concluded his remarks by saying, "It's going to be a long, hot summer in theological education." The remark was made because of the board's interest in getting much of the work relating to the unification of theological education planned for report to the fall meeting of the board.

The committee has already met once and is presently carrying on further activity in small working groups which are centering their attention on specific assignments relative to the larger problem. We will meet again in late July for some additional group activity where it is hoped some real testing of work done to that point can be accomplished.

Where Will it End?

Where will it end? What will be the final outcome? What shape will theological education take in the Reformed Church in the years ahead? It would be foolhardy and unfair for anyone—especially a member of that committee—to make prognostications at this point which might prejudice the ultimate report and recommendations of the committee itself. But there are some observations that all of us are interested in which are more in the character of reflections on the process rather than information on the possible end product.

For example, the degree of unanimity and accord as to purpose and direction present at the first meeting was indeed heartening. Comprised of some top level people in the life of the church, the committee members proved their individual abilities to work with ideas, accept modifications and challenges, and move ahead. We made an amazing amount of progress in those two days.

Dr. Kaufman

Again, the choice of consultant by the board was a wise one. Dr. Gordon Kaufman, while serving on one of the world's most prestigious faculties and fresh from service as co-chairman of the American Association of Theological Schools curriculum design committee for the 70's, is yet a member of the Christian church who cherishes both his training and membership in one of the Mennonite churches. Thus, while bringing expertise to the committee, he is also able to identify with the problems of a relatively small denomination as it seeks to make its witness in the larger world.

I have just returned from the biennial meeting of the American Association of Theological Schools and one of the most exciting aspects of attendance at the meeting were the number of points at which our thinking and planning is being supported by more recent findings of individual members of commissions of the association.

Whether we will be able to agree on a program that will put us a long mile ahead in theological education remains to be seen. The news at this point is good and all of us should take heart for the kind of open, dedicated and honest planning going on in behalf of the church's theological education.

Electronic Aids Add Depth to Student Training

For some years now the seminary has been experimenting with electronic aids to learning. Student preachers have had the opportunity to see themselves as others see them when they are preaching by the use of the video-tape recording machine set up in Mulder chapel. Permanent tape recording equipment located in the basement of Beardslee Library has made it possible for students to listen to selected tapes. An experiment conducted last year permitted students to use tape recording devices in Greek language studies. Now a new acquisition promises to make electronic aids even more useful.

The seminary has purchased a number of tape recording machines which can be loaned to students for use in recording their experiences in field education. Three portable, battery operated tape recorders of very compact dimensions can be carried by the student easily. The taping of an entire worship service led by the student in a church can now be done unobtrusively. The Christian Education Department also plans to use the new machines to tape educational experiences such as Sunday School classes. Armed with a recording of his performance, the student can return to the seminary and reflect on his experience with his professor or fellow-students. Weaknesses which might otherwise have gone uncorrected can be dealt with, and strong points can be developed.

In addition to the three small models, two larger recorders have been secured. While these are not as handy as the mini-sets, they are also portable and have somewhat better reproduction of sound. All new recorders are kept in the library and are available for student use on a day to day basis.

During the past academic year the seminary had the opportunity to borrow a portable video-tape recording set from the Board of Education of the Reformed Church. This unit consists of a small television camera and sound pickup and a playback set which are connected to a small screen television picture tube that can be connected to or portable television set after a few adjustments are made. Prof. Hugh Koops of the Christian Ministry field made extensive use of this machinery in the planning and evaluation of educational techniques in the church. The unit is simple enough in operation to be operable by students with little or no training in television photography. The results of Mr. Koops experiments have been rewarding and enlightening according to him and the students who were photographed. All those involved in the experiment are convinced that this new form of electronic aid to education has great promise for future use in the seminary program. No definite plans have been made to purchase portable video-tape units at the time of this writing but the hopes are there that such machines will soon become integral parts of the evaluative process in the practical field.

Senior Class Presents Shuffleboard Table

The graduating class of 1968, in keeping with their objective to provide a gift which could be used to further student-faculty participation in seminary life, recently presented to the seminary as their class gift a full size, professional style shuffleboard table.

The table is twenty-two feet long and comes complete with all available equipment, including an electronic scoreboard. Installation was made in the student lounge area in the basement of the main seminary building. Because of its great length, the table had to be cut in two to fit through the narrow passages leading to the installation site. After reassembly, new lights were installed in the shuffleboard room and final adjustments were made to the table and scoreboard. Even before the official presentation was made, students and faculty found their way to the shuffleboard room, and the table is already a popular center of attraction for both students and staff members taking "study breaks."
INTERN PROGRAM ASSUMES WIDER RANGE

Western has always been proud of its intern program. This relatively new phase of theological education makes it possible for students to perform ministries for a full year between the middler and senior years, usually under close guidance by a minister already in the field. The results have been rewarding, both to the students and seminary and to the churches. This year we are especially pleased with the experience encountered by one of our interns who served in a new and different form of internship.

Richard Bennink is the first Western student to fill his internship as chaplain on the campus of a Reformed Church college. During the past academic year Dick functioned as assistant college chaplain at Central College in Pella, Iowa. His work covered the full spectrum of ministerial duties in the campus ministry including counseling, leading student worship, and inspiring the religious sense of the students.

OUDERSLUYS PLANS SABBATICAL YEAR

Dr. Richard C. Oudersluys, Professor of New Testament Language and Literature, will be on sabbatical leave during the academic year 1968-1969. His plans have not reached the stage of being final yet, but he does have an interesting schedule of academic and artistic pursuits which he hopes to fill.

The Oudersluys family plans to leave this country near the end of the summer. The first part of the sabbatical will be spent in England. During the last weeks of August, Dr. Oudersluys plans to attend the meeting of the Novum Testamentum Societas at the University of Exeter. Many of the leaders of British theology will be attending this five day conference. After the meeting, Dr. and Mrs. Oudersluys plan to tour England for about a month seeing sights and learning more about British theology and church life. Dr. Oudersluys is particularly interested in checking on the resurgence of the evangelical wing in the contemporary English church. He is looking forward to worshipping in Anglican and “Free” churches and getting the feel of the religious atmosphere in England.

When the fall term of study begins at the universities in mid-October Dr. Oudersluys plans to settle in either London or Cambridge for a more detailed study of his fields of interest. His plan is to meet and discuss theological matters with the leading British scholars. He also intends to hear lectures at the universities and pursue another large area of interest, the study of hermeneutics. He hopes that his work in this area will lead to the writing of a book on the subject.

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The climax to the sabbatical year will be a visit to Istanbul, Turkey, to see the fabulous Hagia Sophia. This great church, now a state museum, has influenced architecturally, countless later Christian churches throughout the world. The mosaics in the ancient church have recently been fully restored and both Dr. Oudersluys and his wife are eagerly anticipating the chance to view these masterpieces personally.

OSTERHAVEN SPONSORS SOGGY CANOE TRIP

The first week in June a group of thirteen men, eleven of whom were from the seminary and Hope College, spent a week on the Sand River in Northern Ontario. Alumnus Donald T. (Doc) Van Hoeven, Roger Mulder, Vernon Sterk, and John Mark Schoon of the class of ‘68, and Dr. M. E. Osterhaven of the faculty, represented the seminary. De-training from the Algoma Central-Hudson Bay Railway, the group traveled in a southwesterly direction to Lake Superior through primitive country. What made the trip unusual was several inches of rain on the non-absorbent rocky terrain causing the river to rise six feet. With a drop of six hundred feet in forty miles as it twisted through the Canadian shield of pre-cambrian rock, the river, which is normally hazardous enough, was a torrent. The current was often so swift that it was difficult to pull out for portages around thirty-foot waterfalls, cataracts, or rapids, and to put in again afterwards. The result was a number of upsets and harrowing experiences in the water. One of the latter was the retrieving, with the use of ropes, of a canoe and two packs which were tied into it from under a log jam in a strong current. The aggregate of muscle in the party—what with Herm Dekker of Muskegon, Doc Van Hoeven, Nate Bowles, Vern Sterk, Rog Mulder, Roy Anker, and Dr. Kenneth Weller!—was put to good use, as was the Osterhaven long-windedness, as effective in the water as in class. With sections of the twenty-five, or more, portages flooded, it was often necessary to walk through knee-deep water with a pack or canoe. The normally excellent trout fishing was spoiled by the high water although Van Hoeven and Schoon supplied the party with about fifty fish which, with those picked up by others in the party, provided a couple of meals.

While it was raining hard one evening, a drenched bunny hopped into a tent while its mother waited outside. Picked up, dried off, it nestled inside the wool shirt of one of the party until it was warm and dry. Then, scratching to get out, it joined its waiting mother to travel off into the wet night.

Fellowship was great, scenery on the train and down the river were excellent. The volume of water, in the skies and then in the river, provided a never-to-be-forgotten experience.

On May 20, 1968 the students and faculty of Central College honored Dick and his wife when they officially declared the day, “We Love You, Dick and Betty Bennink Day.” The recognition came as a token of appreciation for all the work the Benninks did for the campus community. A reception was held for the couple, followed by an all-campus picnic in their honor.

It is indeed encouraging to see one of our students so highly honored for his work in such a new and different venture. The seminary as a whole shares the pride Dick and Betty must feel for this job well done. The present plans are to continue the campus chaplain internship program at Central. Robert Dahl, a middler student at the seminary, will serve at the college during the academic year.

The Benninks will spend their summer in Pennsylvania where Dick will be taking specialized courses in clinical pastoral training at Crozier Theological Seminary. Next fall he plans to conclude his studies at Western.

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Dr. Richard C. Oudersluys

With the fall term completed, Dr. and Mrs. Oudersluys plan to travel to the continent and visit the famous theological schools, to renew old acquaintances and to discover current trends in thinking there.
CASTEEL TO LEAD
“A CHRISTIAN HAPPENING”

The annual fall retreat for seminary students and professors has been scheduled for October 4 and 5, 1968 at Camp Geneva. The program this year will be a little different. The leader of the retreat, Dr. John R. Casteel, has been given freedom in setting up a structure which should be very enlightening. He has chosen to title the retreat “A Christian Happening.”

Dr. Casteel is Director of the Council for Lay Life and Work of the United Church of Christ. He is the author of several books including: Rediscovering Prayer (1955), Renewal in Retreats (1959), and Spiritual Renewal Through Personal Groups (1957).

FINE ARTS FESTIVAL

The students at Western recognize, as one area of weakness in the contemporary church, the relative absence of any real artistic expression of the Christian faith. In the past, art and music served the church almost exclusively, but in the contemporary world the connection between the arts and the church is tenuous at best. In keeping with this observation the students felt the need for an expression of faith through the medium of the fine arts. The result was the institution of the first Western Theological Seminary Fine Arts Festival, held on campus from April 16 through April 20, 1968.

The program for the week included special chapel services directed by the students in which the service itself became a form of art designed to direct the worshipper toward God. A forum for the discussion of the relationship between Art and Theology was the highlight of the afternoon of April 17. Panelists included faculty members from the seminary and Hope College. The evening of April 19 featured a musical recital at which members of the seminary family presented musical numbers ranging from a trio for Harpsichord and two Recorders to vocal numbers composed and directed by seminary student Floyd Farmer. An evening of drama took place on April 20. A dramatic reading written by student Ron Cassie and a play were presented. Throughout the week a display of painting, photography, drawing and sculpture by members of the seminary community could be seen in the seminary commons. The library staff set up a display of the library’s collection of books and prints related to Christian Art. Creative writing by members of the seminary family was also on display.

The General Chairman of the Festival was Robert Dahl, assisted by Fred Doidge. The art display was directed by Richard Detrich. Mark Lemmenes co-ordinated the Music program and Rein Krone and Ron Cassie directed the dramatic productions. Literary materials were handled by Jack White. The Forum was moderated by Gene Pearson. Arrangements for the chapel services were handled by Robert White. The students were assisted by Dr. James I. Cook and Mr. George Ralph.

FACULTY ACTIVITIES COVER WIDE RANGE

The faculty and staff at Western Seminary are persons of wide interests and broad concerns. Their activities have never been limited to purely academic pursuits. We would like to share with you some of the many activities in which our staff members have been engaged recently.

Professor Donald J. Bruggink was recently elected First Vice President of the American Society for Church Architecture. In this position, Dr. Bruggink will act as the Assistant to the Editor of the Journal of the American Society for Church Architecture.

The class of 1968 held its 5th anniversary reunion on Commencement Day, May 20, 1968 at the parsonage of Second Reformed Church, Zeeland, Mich. Pictured here are: front row, left to right: the Rev. and Mrs. John F. Padgett, First Reformed Church, Piermont, New York; the Rev. and Mrs. John Kleinheksel, Hope Reformed Church, South Haven, Michigan; and the hosts, the Rev. and Mrs. John Nordstrom. Back row, left to right: the Rev. and Mrs. Howard D. Kruizinga, Aurora Reformed Church, St. Cloud, South Dakota; the Rev. and Mrs. Evert Fikse, Ivanhoe Reformed Church, Riverdale, Illinois; the Rev. and Mrs. Eton Roorda, Central Reformed Church, Muskegon, Michigan; the Rev. and Mrs. Harold G. Rust, Community Reformed Church, Delavan, Wisconsin; the Rev. and Mrs. Larry Izenhart, Fellowship Reformed Church, Holland, Mich.; and the Rev. and Mrs. Roger Kleinheksel, Huron Valley Reformed Church, Rockwood, Mich.

The concern of the Society is to provide a medium of exchange for ideas relating to buildings for worship. They conduct conferences and seminars on church architecture and provide educational programs leading toward a better understanding of the essentials of church architecture. Dr. Bruggink’s interest in architecture is well known throughout the Reformed Church. He is the author of a definitive work on Reformed Architecture, with Professor Carl Drouppers, Christ in Architecture published in 1965 by Eerdman’s Publishing Company. He has also served as theological consultant to many church architects and church consistorys.

Professor Lester J. Kuiper recently addressed the Conference of Pastors of the Lutheran Church in America at their meeting held at Camp Michi-Lu-Ca near Farnview, Michigan. Dr. Kuiper presented a series of three lectures on the prophets Hosea and Jeremiah. Dr. Kuiper is one of several staff members who is traveling this summer. Also “on the move” are Dr. James Cook, who, with Dr. Kuiper, is leading a group of scholars on a trip to the Holy Land. Accompanying them on this trip is Mrs. Colleen Slager of the library staff.

Two other world travellers are Miss Mildred Schuppert and Miss Estella Karsten who are both traveling to Europe this summer. Miss Karsten is Office Manager of the seminary. Miss Schuppert, the Librarian at Beardslee Library, will be traveling to the Eastern European countries with the Hope College Alumni Tour.

Also traveling, but in the other direction, is Dr. John Piet who is returning from sabatical leave in India. His plans are to return July 18, 1968 because, “... we (continued on page 5)
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Takemori, Chairman of the Department of New Testament Studies at Tokyo Union Seminary in Japan has accepted the position as visiting professor of New Testament at Western replacing Dr. Richard Oudersluys who is on sabbatical leave. Arrangements are being worked out in close cooperation with the Board of World Missions.

Professor Takemori is a member of the Nihon Kirisuto Kyokai, the Reformed Presbyterian Church of Japan. Born in Manchuria, he received his B.A. degree from the Manchuria Teachers’ College in Mukden, China. He did his B.D. studies at the Nihon Shingakko (Seminary) in Tokyo, Japan. In 1950 he received the S.T.M. degree from Union Theological Seminary in New York.

Professor Masaichi Takemori

Since 1936, Professor Takemori has served pastorates in Japan, first at the Shirogane Church in Tokyo, and since 1940 at the famous Kichijoji Church. In 1946 he was appointed Professor of New Testament at Tokyo Union Seminary, the position he now holds. Since 1965 he has been the chairman of the Department. In addition to his professorial duties, Mr. Takemori serves as chairman of the Japan Calvin Translation Society and as editor of the biblical journal, Seisho Zassi.

Professor Takemori has a number of literary works to his credit including books in his field of New Testament studies, a three volume collection of expository sermons, and a history of missions in Manchuria. He has also translated numerous works into the Japanese language, including a set of sermons by John Calvin and a version of the Heidelberg Catechism.

Professor Takemori is married and his wife also serves the church as an ordained minister, in the United Church of Christ in Japan. They have one daughter and a grand-daughter. Mrs. Takemori will accompany her husband to America.

Both faculty and students are looking forward to the coming of Professor Takemori and to his lectures during the first quarter of the academic year. Arrangements are presently being made to secure visiting professors to replace Dr. Oudersluys during the second and third quarters.

BIBLE LANDS SEMINAR
RETURNS JUNE 30

Western Seminary’s Bible Lands Travel Seminar left the country on June 9, 1968 for Tel Aviv, Israel. The Seminar was conducted at the sites where much of the biblical history actually took place. Academic participants made on-site presentations of their research projects at such notable biblical places as the Temple in Jerusalem, the Mount of Olives and the Old Testament locations of Jericho, Shechem and Meggido. Other areas in the Holy Land were also covered during the two weeks the group spent in Israel.

Following the tour of the Holy Land, the group traveled to other spots in the Mediterranean world for visits to Athens and Corinth in Greece and finally, to Rome. The Seminar returned to the United States after a twenty-one day tour, arriving on June 30.

Participants in the group were Western students Eugene Pearson, James Schoon, Kenneth Tenckieck, and David Vanderwel, accompanied by their wives. Michael Moran, from New Brunswick Theological Seminary also participated. Pastors and their wives enrolled in the Seminar were the Rev. and Mrs. Daryl Vetter of the First Reformed Church, Sodus, New York; the Rev. and Mrs. Donald Johnson of the Marmelnd Lutheran Church, Kent City, Michigan; and the Rev. and Mrs. Vernel Lundeen of the Jerusalem Lutheran Church of Seville, Ohio. Johnson and Lundeen are candidates for the Th.M. degree at Western. Mrs. Colleen Slager, library assistant at the seminary, and faculty members, Dr. and Mrs. Lester J. Kuyper and Dr. James I. Cook completed the Ist. Dr. Cook directed the tour, and was assisted by Dr. Kuyper.

HERITAGE ALCOVE
ESTABLISHED

The Western Seminary Alumni Association has completed a remarkable project on the seminary campus with the establishment of the Heritage Alcove in the east wing of the commons.

For one hundred and one years there has been a Western Seminary, but the many buildings the seminary has occupied during these years and the many professors who served the church as educators at the seminary were known only to a few. This situation has now been remedied in the Heritage Alcove. Visitors to the seminary, students past and present, faculty members and church members touring the facilities may now see, through the pictures in the Alcove, (continued on page 6)
Heritage Alcove
(continued from page 5)

some of the men who made Western's ideals a reality and some of the places in which the dream of a "western" theological school were realized.

The Alcove includes beautifully rendered color tints of photographs of each of the professors who have served at the seminary since its inception. The pictures include all past professors. Professors currently on the faculty at the seminary will be added to the Alcove posthumously. The pictures were prepared from photographs or paintings of the professors, professionally matched for size and colored in oils. The completed pictures were then mounted in Overton wood frames behind non-glare glass. Pictures of the buildings were similarly treated.


The project was under the direction of Mr. Henry Kleinheksel, Business Manager of the Seminary, assisted by Prof. Elton Bruins, Seminary Archivist, and Dr. Donald J. Bruggink, Professor of Church History at the Seminary. The photographic work and oil tinting was supervised by Mr. Ted Jungblut of Holland Photography.

The completed display eloquently expresses Western's history and should serve as a lasting memorial to the great professors of the church who instructed generations of ministers who have gone forth to serve Christ and His church.