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Gift Provides New Program

Mr. and Mrs. Edward R. Wolfert of Benton Harbor made a gift to Western Seminary to establish a center for enlistment in the church vocations. In recent years the Wolfert Conferences on Church Vocation have helped to create and maintain an interest in church vocations as a live option for many high school and college students. Their substantial new gift raises Western Seminary into a new orbit of activity in this area of its life and work.

As President Ridder reported this new project to the Board of Trustees, and as they approved it in their January 27-28 meeting, the Wolfert Enlistment Center would be an office within Western’s structure and under the direction of the President. A half-time staff member will be charged with all matters relating to church vocation choice and seminary recruitment through congregations, groups of young people, and prospective students on school campuses and on conference grounds. The enlistment director would assume responsibility for scheduling and conducting a sharply increased number of Wolfert Conferences on Church Vocation annually, some of which could be “Mini-Conferences” including perhaps young people of only a single church. He would be responsible for enlistment materials and descriptive folders on ministry and church vocations, and would in time become associated with high school guidance counselors to enable him to work effectively in high schools, where decisions for ministry are often made. His work would also include regular visitation schedules to college and university campuses for the purpose of contacting and interviewing potential candidates for ministry. Such campus work might include Reality Conferences for young men and women considering the church vocations. He might also devise and implement short-term experimental projects in the area of enlistment.

In commenting on the gift, President Ridder said, “We are grateful once again for the tremendous boost the Wolferts have given to our program by means of the new level of activity into which we are now able to move. The thing that impresses me particularly about the gift is not only its amount, but the spirit and character with which it has been given.”

Mulder, Mennenga Papers Added to Archives

In recent months several additions have been made to the collection of archives in Beardslee Library. Mrs. John R. Mulder presented her husband’s papers, and later will present his sermons. Dr. Mulder’s 32-year period of service to Western Seminary is now documented by these archival additions.

Mrs. George Mennenga has contributed many of her husband’s papers, covering his years of service as professor and dean of Western Seminary.

Mr. Theodore Boot, son of Dr. Harry P. Boot, veteran missionary to South China from 1903 to 1940, has presented two fine Chinese vases to the collection. A Chinese friend had presented these vases to Dr. Boot as a gift. Before his death, Dr. Boot expressed the hope that they could be given to the seminary.

Alumni are reminded that they may be in a position to help provide important information on archival materials relating to the Reformed Church in general and to Western Seminary in particular. Dr. Bruins will send a guide listing the items in our archival collection to anyone requesting a copy. This guide also informs interested persons of material for which the seminary is looking in the nature of archival materials.

In his capacity as archivist for the seminary, Dr. Elton J. Bruins addressed the Michigan Archival Society on January 31, 1969, at Michigan State University. He outlined the collecting policy of Western, as well as that of member institutions in the Dutch American Historical Commission to which Western belongs, along with Hope College, The Netherlands Museum, and Calvin College.

MARCH 8 MARKS

FOCAL POINTS ON YOUTH

A Forum on Christianity and Life (FOCAL) will be held on Western’s campus on Saturday, March 8 to consider the subject, “Youth in Rebellion?”

Delegates from churches in the particular synods of Chicago and Michigan will spend an instructive and profitable day discussing the many aspects of this subject.

Professor Hugh A. Koops of the Christian Education Department and a team of seminary students will present a multi-media program on youth, followed by a panel response. The panel for the day includes Mr. Vern Eisenberg, Director of Christian Education, Garfield Park Reformed Church, Grand Rapids; the Rev. Richard Ter Maat, pastor of the Ninth Reformed Church, Grand Rapids; the Rev. Don Van Hoeven, Campus Minister at Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo; and Dr. Floyd Westendorp, Associate Director of Out-patient Services and Chief of Medical Staff at Pine Rest Christian Hospital in Cutlerville.

Small groups will meet to discuss a series of twelve subjects related to the general theme, and then meet again in the afternoon to discuss “What Can We Do?”

A worship service in the youth mode concludes the day.
At the January meeting of the Board of Trustees, there were three principal areas of concern which the Board considered in various ways during the two day session.

First was the continuing investigation of the concept of a unified program of theological education. The Program Design Committee presented its report to the Board. Since the matter of curricular design is temporarily resting with the Curriculum Committee, comprised of eight faculty members and four students from the two seminaries, the Program Design Committee was able to pick up some other areas of concern. Incidentally, the Curriculum Committee has had two full meetings and reported progress in its efforts. Presently, extensive work is being carried on to provide the particulars of the first level of a two-level suggested design.

The Program Design Committee recommended an extensive program of continuing education for ministers that will be coming through the Board to the General Synod. Essentially, the program suggested is that General Synod commend to the several classes for action that time and funding for continuing education be provided by the churches within their bounds for their pastors and that the matter of continuing education be written into all future calls to ministers of the churches within the classis. Further . . . that a general guideline for this program of continuing education be six weeks of professional training every five years exclusive of any vacation period . . . .” We feel that this will begin to give the kind of attention to professional development for ministers that has long been needed. The Program Design Committee also recommended that General Synod be asked for some funding of a significant scholarship program for post-B.D. study.

The second major area of concern was the matter of enlistment of young people for church vocation. To this end it accepted with gratitude the enlarged Woffert enlistment program as reported elsewhere in the Theolog. But it felt the necessity of becoming directly involved in the problem and as a result appointed a six-man committee (one from each particular synod) to study the problems of recruitment for ministry as they are evidenced among our young people. This committee will report in October.

Another large area of discussion was the relationship of theological education to the single corporation concept of the denomination. Presently, the seminaries are outside the corporation. The Board is examining the possibilities of integration of its program with that of the denomination as a whole. Along that line, the Board authorized the transfer of its Endowment Fund portfolio to U.S. Trust Co. of New York City for purposes of management. This was done in concert with a number of other Boards, institutions and agencies. The savings for Western alone in this move reduced the cost to one-fourth of the previous fee.

What was significant about this Board meeting was the fact that although it still centers its attention on the unified program of theological education, the Board is increasingly able to pay attention to attendant problems relating to the future of theological education in the Reformed Church.

From the President's Desk

SNIPS FROM FACULTY CALENDARS

Dr. William C. Brownson, Jr., Professor of Preaching, will be one of the speakers at the second annual "Ministry to Pastors" in Callaway Gardens, Georgia on April 7-11. He will also preach the baccalaureate sermon at Columbia Theological Seminary in Decatur, Georgia next June in connection with the graduation week activities there.

Professors Lester J. Kuyper and James I. Cook of the biblical department attended the annual meeting of the American Schools for Oriental Research, and of the Journal of Biblical Literature held at Berkeley, California on December 18-20, 1968. In the section on Biblical Theology, Professor Kuyper read a paper, "The Suffering and the Repentance of God."

Dr. James I. Cook served as chairman of a special committee on "Statement of B.C.A. Philosophy of Higher Education." He also attended a curriculum committee meeting of the board of trustees at New Brunswick Seminary on February 6-7, 1969. He also met with the theological commission of the Reformed Church at New Brunswick Seminary on February 12-13, 1969.

Dr. Elton M. Eenigenburg, Academic Dean and Professor of Ethics, attended the annual meeting of the American Society of Christian Ethics in Washington, D.C. on January 24-25, 1969.

Professor Hugh A. Koops of the Christian education department attended a conference on December 11-13 in the Presbyterian School of Christian Education in Richmond, Virginia on "Christian Education and Videotape Recording." Donald Griggs from the Teacher Learning Center in Palo Alto, California introduced "Microteaching" to the conference, and a variety of uses of videotape recording in Christian education were evaluated. He also attended the professors and research sectional of the division of Christian Education sponsored by the National Council of Churches, which met in Evanston, Illinois on February 7-9. The Christian Education conference met in Chicago on February 10-13. The theme of the conference, "Man and the City," was approached through a variety of visits to Chicago's schools, factories, churches, welfare agencies, and other institutions.

Dr. M. Eugene Osterhaven, Professor of Theology, gave four addresses on the overall theme, "The Changing Scene in Roman Catholicism" to a Minnesota pastors' renewal conference at Koinonia Camp and Retreat Center in South Haven, Minnesota. During this academic year, he teaches the weekly sessions of an adult Sunday School class called the Forum Class at the Central Reformed Church in Grand Rapids.

Prof. Garret A. Wilterdink, Director of Field Education, has met with Western's interns from Long Island to Los Angeles, conducting field visits with the interns. He attended the bi-annual consultation on Field Education at Berkeley, California, and participated in the meeting of the Theological Commission, R.C.A. at New Brunswick, New Jersey, together with Dr. Cook and Dr. Osterhaven.

Dr. John H. Piet gave the keynote address, "The Church in Mission in a Contemporary World" at the annual meeting of the Michigan State Migrant Ministry. The meeting was held on the Michigan State University campus in the Union Building in East Lansing on January 23, 1969.

Dr. Donald J. Bruggink will do a multimedia presentation on "Worship, Architecture and the Living Christ" at the World Center for Liturgical Studies at Boynton Beach, Florida on March 10-14. The presentation will survey the use of worship and architecture as media for the nurture of the church through the ages with the objective of providing understanding for their use in the present.

Dr. Bruggink has also participated in the work of the General Synod's Commission on the Revision of the Liturgy, and the Commission on the History of the R.C.A.
Lecture Schedule

Highlights Current Issues

Dr. Ray C. Petry, Professor of Church History at Duke University, was on Western's campus for two days to deliver lectures and to meet with the students and faculty in a classroom session. Author of the textbook, "A History of Christianity" currently being used by Western Seminary students, Dr. Petry's visit was an exciting one for the seminary family.

Dr. Howard J. Clinebell, Jr., Professor of Pastoral Counseling at the School of Theology, Claremont, California, will spend April 28 and 29 on Western's campus in a series of academic activities.

Evangelist Leighton Ford, associated with the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association, will give a special lecture on Thursday morning, May 8 in Mulder Chapel. His appearance is made possible because he will be conducting a crusade in Muskegon at that time.

Western Tells Prospective Students "The Way It Really Is"

Western Seminary’s Conference on the Ministry was held on Friday and Saturday, February 21 and 22. Students from out-of-town colleges checked into a local hotel late Thursday, and participated in a variety of activities.

They attended classes of their choice from 7:45 to 9:35, after which a chapel worship service was held with R. Koerselman, a Western senior, conducting the service.

Following Western’s traditional coffee, Dr. John H. Piet, Professor of English Bible and Mission, gave an illustrated lecture covering highlights of his 1967-68 sabbatical year. Conference guests participated in the noon luncheon in the seminary Commons, following the lecture, during which time questions were raised arising out of Dr. Piet's presentation.

The Friday afternoon activities included a seminar given by the Biblical Field on "The Way the Bible is Taught," followed by an afternoon coffee with a presentation by the Christian Ministry Field which preceded an evening dinner. An arrangement for conference participants to have a skiing outing at Carousel Mountain was provided by Western's students. Rumor has it that a few conference delegates dropped in on a hootenanny in the Coffee Grounds on Hope's campus. Saturday morning was given to the Theological Field, with a seminar presentation on "The Heritage of the Faith." After a midmorning coffee, the conference closed with a presentation on the Gospel and the World, entitled "New Concepts of Ministry." A total of 32 students from Northwestern, Central, Hope and Calvin colleges attended the conference.

MARTIN LUTHER KING, SR. ADDRESSES STUDENTS

Pleads for More Love in World

An appeal for love in the world—so much love that there is no room for hate—was made by Dr. Martin Luther King, Sr. at a public meeting in Mulder Chapel on January 27.

Veltman, WTS Alumnus, Meets Astronauts

Naval Chaplain Dean Veltman, Class of '54, was a member of the crew of the aircraft carrier Yorktown at the time it was assigned to pick up the Apollo 8 astronauts from their moon-orbiting mission. At a worship service which he conducted for the crew of the Yorktown on the evening before the scheduled splashdown of the astronauts, he offered the prayer for the protection of God for them as they prepared their re-entry into the earth's atmosphere at the conclusion of their historic mission.

ADELPHIA ACTIVE THIS YEAR

Through the years the Adelphia Society, composed of wives of seminarians, women students, faculty wives, and student fiancées, has been organized to fulfill the purpose of developing a personal responsibility for Christian service, through a program of prayer, education, giving, and service. This year's officers include: President, Betsy Paarlberg; Vice President, Lana Ten Brink; Secretary, Marlene Dykstra; Treasurer, Marcy Vanderwel; and Junior Representative, Mary Frens. Five circles extend pastoral care and opportunities for growth in spiritual life for the members. A highlight of this year's activities was a group visitation to the Bethany Christian Home, giving the Adelphia members an insight into the counseling which they and their husbands might be called upon to give in cases of adoption.

Western's Adelphia will be guests of the Calvin Seminary Dames in March, continuing a tradition of fellowship between the two sister seminaries in Western Michigan.

Betty Voskuil and her committee have
offered a program of social, practical, and academic growth for the A.D.C. mothers in the area.

Service projects include the publication of a new cook book, collecting stamps for overseas relief, circulation of a prayer needs list, maintaining student group interest in art, music, and sewing, and the practical project of rewriting and adopting a new Adelphia Constitution.

The traditional April Spring Banquet will conclude the Adelphia year.

Symposium Reveals Both Extensiveness and Hope in Drug Usage

The Theological Society at Western organized and conducted a two-day symposium on "The Social Use of Drugs" on February 6 and 7, 1969.

Dr. William Kooistra, a Grand Rapids psychologist, gave the keynote address on Thursday morning on the subject, "Why the Move to the Social Use of Drugs Today?", discussing psychological and social aspects. A fellowship noon luncheon followed the initial presentation, with a question and answer session conducted by Dr. Kooistra.

On Thursday evening, Detective James Fairbanks of the Holland Police Department presented a film on the use of drugs and set up a display of various types of narcotics.

A Friday evening panel consisted of the Rev. John Allen, Director of Youth Ministry in Grand Rapids; Mr. Ed Vandenberg, Social Worker for the Kent County Intermediate School District; Mr. Lynn Donk, candidate for the Ph.D. Degree in psychology at the University of Colorado and presently an intern at Pine Rest Christian Hospital; and Dr. William Kooistra. Rev. John Allen first addressed the audience on the subject, "A Theological Look at Drug Use Today" after which the panel conducted a symposium and question and answer session to complete the evening.

Western students and friends learned what little difficulty and only dubious pleasure a person can destroy himself physically and mentally through the use of drugs. Dr. Kooistra introduced a hopeful note in his report on the results of a thirteen-month program of rehabilitation in Grand Rapids, which he calls "Project Rehab." He and a medical doctor have worked as a team in dealing with more than sixty persons, all heroin users. He reported that through the use of physical and psychological approaches to the problem of drug addiction, more than fifteen of his patients have been off drugs for four to five months continuously as the result of such an approach.

The symposium left with Western's students and faculty the challenge for a positive response from all Christians to this urgent social problem of our day.

Western granted the Master's Degree to two overseas students in recent weeks. In the picture above, Mr. Andrew Hsieh is shown being hooded by Dean Eenigenburg, while President Ridder stands at his right. Hsieh received the M.C.E. degree on December 19, 1968. He then returned to Taiwan to serve as a campus minister in universities in that country.

PAR CONFERENCES SCHEDULED

"Seminary in the Rockies" Repeated

On July 21 through 28, 1969 pastors and their families from churches all over the country will reassemble at the YMCA Camp in Estes Park near Denver, Colorado for the annual "Seminary in the Rockies" to consider the subject, "Church and Society—Contemporaries?"

Conducted as a seminar, the conference is a cooperative venture of Western, Calvin Seminary, and Bethesda Hospital in Denver. This year's faculty will include Dr. John Fiet and Professor Garnet Wilgerdink from Western, Dr. Henry Stob and Professor Henry Zwaanstra from Calvin Seminary, and Rev. Frank Kaemink and Mr. John De Haan of the Bethesda staff.

Designed for family participation, ministers and their wives and children will come with trailers, tents, and camping equipment to participate in the one-week seminar. Dormitory facilities are also available at the "Y" camp. Sessions will be scheduled for wives and children, while a variety of activities and study sessions will be scheduled for the pastors. Faculty teams from the cooperating institutions will be used in presentations and discussion groups.

Publicity and detailed programs will be released at a later date by Bethesda Hospital, together with opportunities for registration for this meaningful activity. More than fifty ministers, many of them accompanied by their families, attended last year's session and were enthusiastic in their response to the inspiration, fellowship, and understanding given them by that conference.

PAR Set for Wisconsin

Camp Byron near Brownsville, Wisconsin will be the site of a PAR Institute on July 28 to August 1, 1969. Reformed Church pastors from the entire denomination are invited to register for the five-day session with Dr. William C. Brownson, Jr., director of the institute.

Cast in the format of previous study seminars, the July PAR will present Dr. M. Eugene Osterhaven, Western's professor of Systematic Theology, on a series of studies in "Contemporary Theology," while Dr. William C. Brownson, Jr., Western's professor of Preaching, will discuss sermon exegesis and will conduct preaching laboratories for the participants.

In the picture above, Mr. L. V. Azariah is being congratulated by President Ridder, while Dean Eenigenburg completes the "hooding" ceremony on January 22, 1969. The occasion was the awarding of the Th.M. Degree to Azariah, who left with his wife and infant daughter to undertake the supervision of a regional area of church congregations in the Church of South India.

ENTRANCE TO CAMP BYRON

Registration cost will be $25.00 per person, with a $10.00 deposit to accompany the registration, and the $15.00 balance payable on arrival at the camp. Families wishing to come will have camping facilities open to them at $1.00 a night (with no electricity) or $2.00 with electricity. A swimming pool is available along with other camp facilities. Meals for campers desiring this service will be 75c for breakfast, $1.25 for lunch, and $1.50 for dinner. Food for children under five is free, and meals for children under five is free.
ten years of age will be one-half that for adults. Wives accompanying their husbands may be housed in the dormitory. Registration cost for the wife will be an additional $25.00. The registration fees will cover food service and room, and the use of the camp facilities for meetings of study sessions. Participants who camp will pay $10.00 registration only and be responsible for their own lodging and food costs.

If children accompany parents to the conference, the recreational activities offered at the camp are available to them, such as swimming, hiking, and ping pong. The conference leaders are planning an overall program for husbands which should be of constructive interest to those wives who accompany their husbands to the PAR Institute.

Western alumni are encouraged to send requests for specific data and registration forms to Dr. William C. Brownson at Western Seminary, 86 East 12th Street, Holland, Michigan 49423 for enrollment in the Wisconsin PAR. The deadline is May 15.

Beechwood Church Purchases President's House

The congregation of the Beechwood Reformed Church in Holland committed itself to complete the purchase of the President's house, located at 580 Central Avenue, for Western Seminary. Beginning with January, 1969, the congregation will meet the monthly payments on the existing land contract for a commitment which represents an undertaking in excess of $15,000.

Members of the Beechwood Reformed Church sign an agreement with Western to complete the payments on "Beechwood House" for the President's home for Western Seminary. Seated (left to right) are the Rev. Chester A. Postma, pastor, and Dr. Herman J. Ridder, president; standing (left to right) are Larry De Kraker, chairman of the deacons, and James Geib, treasurer.

Seminary's Board of Trustees and was chairman of the board and its executive committee during the tenure of Dr. Englund during the year of vacancy, and during the early years of President Ridder's tenure. In calendar year 1966 and again in 1967, the Beechwood Reformed Church led all the congregations of the entire denomination in financial support of the operating program of Western Seminary.

This undertaking is another symbol in the partnership of congregations and seminary in their joint responsibility to prepare the future spiritual leadership of the church.

WOLFERT CONFERENCES AT HOLLAND: MINNESOTA

A revised format for a Wofert Conference on Church Vocations is slated for the Hope College campus in mid-April. Committee members planning this event for Hope College students only, include President Ridder and Henry Kleinheksel of Western Seminary, and for Hope College, Chaplains Hillegonds and Williams, Deans Robert De Young and Jeannette Sprik, and Barry Schreiber, representative for the student church council at Hope. The conference will be tailored to the rhythm of student life and activity on Hope's campus, with outstanding leaders in areas of ministry made available to the college student body in various areas at various times of the scheduled conference.

Minnesota Classis will host a Wofert Conference on Church Vocations at the Reformed Church of Roseland, Minnesota on Saturday, March 22. The pastor, the Rev. Wilmer J. Ver Meer will serve as registrar for that conference. President Ridder of Western Seminary will give the keynote address to the delegates, after which a series of special interest groups will consider various phases of Christian ministry in these times. The noon meal will be served by the guild of the host church, and an appropriate sound motion picture film will be presented.

A second series of small group discussions will be held in the afternoon, after which the conference will be concluded with a presentation on particular aspects of Western Seminary's program of preparing young men and women for the church vocations.

FACULTY, STUDENTS EXTEND MINISTRY TO NIGHT WORLD

Professor Hugh A. Koops of Western's Education Department was featured in an exciting report of an extended ministry to the night world by the Holland Sentinel, local newspaper. Inspired by night ministry examples in Kalamazoo, Grand Rapids, Muskegon, Saginaw, and other Michigan cities, the seminary faculty and students were led to undertake a night ministry program in

(Continued on page 6)
Holland. Twelve ministers and four Western students are attempting to express the concern of Christ for all men, in all places, at all times. Ministers involved with Professor Koops are Professor Robert A. Nykamp, Ralph Kickert (M.C.E. '68), David Van Dam (B.D. '67), Mark Walvoord (B.D. '66), John Nordstrom (B.D. '63), and John Rozendaal (B.D. '61). Students included in the program are Dean Wolbrink, John Elliott, Rodney Koopmans, and John Dilbeck. An additional half-dozen ministers from local area churches complete the team.

The night ministry enables seminarians to meet people on their "home ground," where those with problems are more free to discuss them than in a church or parsonage. Rev. Klouw of the Prospect Park Christian Reformed Church suggested, "In a way it's an acknowledgment that the established church hasn't always been successful." The ministers see the program as a way of extending their faith to those who aren't being reached through religious activities. Public support for the program has been encouraging. Reverend Koops feels that it is difficult to gauge the success of the night ministry program. The idea of "love in action" has become clearer, and the ministry has changed some people's ideas of what the church is all about. One minister recently received a letter from a young man who had attempted suicide the previous summer. He wrote to a night minister who had been riding with police the night of the suicide attempt, stating that the ministry had helped him to discard suicide attempts and face up to life through the power of the Gospel.

Annual Alumni Meeting Set For May 26

The Executive Committee of the Alumni Association, at its meeting on February 21, made detailed plans for the annual meeting of the Alumni Association of Western Seminary. Officers representing the 875 living alumni are: President, Rev. Ralph Menning; Vice President, Rev. Peter Muyskens; Secretary, Dr. Elton Bruins; and Recording Secretary, Rev. John Klaaren.

The committee will send its mailing to all alumni directly, informing them of the annual meeting to be held in connection with Western's Commencement on Monday, May 26, 1969. The Commencement address will be given by Dr. David C. Buttrick, associate professor and chairman in Church and Ministry, at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.