May 2012


Western Theological Seminary

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**Abstract**

Hope College, 1965; Western Theological Seminary, 1969; University of Northern Colorado, 1977; Lutheran School of Theology, 1985; RCA minister since 1969; WTS professor, 1977-1985. Materials include correspondence, clippings, conference information and support manuals. Subjects include church vocations, Western Theological Seminary and Wolfert Conferences.

Accession No:    W88-0010  
Provenance:    Richard Bennink  
Donor:    Richard Bennink  
Processed by:    Carolyn Nienhuis, February 1993  
                Michael Douma, May 2001

**Biography**

Richard Bennink served as an intern at Central College in Pella, Iowa, during his seminary training at Western Theological Seminary. He caused a flurry of interest, pro and con, when he held a jazz workshop during a chapel service. From 1977 to 1985, he was an assistant professor at Western Theological Seminary. He is currently a hospital chaplain.

The Wolfert Conference on church vocations began in 1965. These were financed by Mr. and Mrs. Edward R. Wolfert with a matching grant from Whirlpool Corporation. Their purpose was to inform young people about the church-related vocations available to them. In 1969, the Wolfert Enlistment Center was set up with Richard Bennink as director. All records of the Wolfert Conferences were kept together and donated by Richard Bennink.

**Scope and Content**

This collection contains personal correspondence and church vocation-related materials of Richard Bennink. It also has correspondence and support information for churches and institutions involved in the Wolfert Conferences.

**Container List**

Box 1

- American Baptist Guidance Program for Church Vocation, 1960
- Correspondence, 1967-1970
- Newspaper Clippings, 1967
- Supervisor Training Manual, 1979
- Support Manuals, 1961-1972
- United Lutheran Church in America, n. d.
Box 2

Men for the Ministry, 1961
Wolfert Conferences, Financial
  Correspondence, 1968-1969
  Correspondence, Whirlpool Corporation, 1965-1969
  Reports, 1966-1969
  Plan Outline, n. d.
Wolfert Conferences on Church Vocations
  Correspondence
    Camp Manitoqua, 1967
    Ebenzer Ref. Ch., Morrison, Ill, 1970
    First Ref. Church. Pella, Iowa, 1966
    First Ref. Ch., Rock Rapids, Iowa, 1969
    First Ref. Ch., Waupun, Wisconsin, 1970
    Garden Grove Comm. Church, Garden Grove, CA, 1968
    Hope College, Holland, MI, 1969
    Northwestern College, Orange City, Iowa, 1966
    Roseland Ref. Church, Roseland, Minn, 1969
    United Church of Christ, Benton Harbor, 1970
Support Information
  Camp Manitoqua, 1967
  Ebenzer Reformed Church, Morrison, Ill, 1970
  First Ref. Church. Pella, Iowa, 1966
  First Ref. Church, Rock Rapids, Iowa, 1969
  First Reformed Church, Waupun, Wisconsin, 1970
  Garden Grove Comm. Church, Garden Grove, CA, 1968
  Hope College, Holland, MI, 1969
  Northwestern College, Orange City, Iowa, 1966
  Roseland Reformed Church, Roseland, Minn, 1969
  United Church of Christ, Benton Harbor, 1970
Wolfert, Edward R. and Vera, Correspondence, 1965-1970