

The General Theological Seminary

The General Theological Seminary began this past triennium with a celebration of its past and a new focus on its future. On October 31, 1988, we celebrated the 100th Anniversary of the Dedication of the Chapel of the Good Shepherd—the geographical and spiritual center of seminary life—and soon after a Strategic Planning Committee was established to plan for the Seminary's future.

The central thrust of the planning process will be a renewed emphasis on the Anglican Studies Program as a shaping influence on every aspect of the Seminary's curriculum—an emphasis that will be viewed ecumenically through participation in the newly formed New York Theological Consortium, currently involving Union, Auburn, New York Theological and General seminaries. We have initiated a visiting scholars program which brings scholars and teachers from around the Anglican Communion to be in residence at the Seminary each term, and we have expanded our doctoral program both in the number of doctoral students in residence and through their participation in the broadened Anglican Studies seminar. The presence of visiting scholars has been enriched by the number of overseas visitors making use of seminary guest rooms in visits to New York. In the year 1989-90 we welcomed over one hundred overseas visitors to the GTS campus.

Our planning process is also concerned with ongoing curriculum review and the support and development of our resident faculty, particularly in the light of expected retirements over the next ten years. During this past triennium, Professors Robert Hood and Patricia Wilson-Kastner have left to take up other posts, and Professors Roland Foster and Thomas Talley have retired, causing us to explore possible faculty realignments and responsibilities as we look toward the future. As part of this process, Professor Neil Alexander has joined the seminary community to fill the Liturgics Chair vacated by Dr. Thomas Talley, and by the time General Convention meets we will have filled the Trinity Chair of Preaching. After six years service as the Sub-Dean for Academic Affairs, Dr. Boyce Bennett will retire at the end of this academic year to return to full-time teaching. Dr. John Koenig was elected to fill this position for the next triennium.

A major part of the General Seminary's response to the future has been the commitment to begin the restoration of our historic campus. The first phase of the Chelsea Challenge has provided us with the funds needed to modernize our heating system and complete the cleaning and repointing of all our buildings. A major grant from the Lilly Endowment has made it possible for us to undertake an updating of our Master Plan for campus restoration to include modernization of St. Mark's Library and a reorienting of priorities in light of changing needs and available funds. A million dollar pledge from our alumni/ae has made it possible for us to begin plans for the restoration of Dehon and Pintard Halls, which we anticipate beginning during this next triennium.

In addition to faculty changes, there have been a number of other personnel changes that have affected seminary life. Following last General Convention, the Rt. Reverend William Burrill succeeded the Reverend Charles Newbury as Chair of our Board of Trustees. The Reverend Dr. Willoughby Newton has retired as Director of External Affairs, and Mr. Patrick O'Hagan has joined our staff as Director of Development. Mr. Herbert Thomas, who has served the General Seminary in so many capacities and most recently as Director of Development, has been appointed Director of Operations, which includes oversight of the day-to-day operations of the Seminary and its ongoing strategic

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planning. By the time of General Convention we will have appointed a new Director of Admissions to succeed Mr. Edward Farrell.

We are pleased with the high quality of students who are applying for admission to the Seminary, but we are concerned with what seems to be a gradual shrinking of the overall pool of applicants to all of our seminaries. We continue to be concerned also with the demand being placed on our limited scholarship endowment and the related problems of student indebtedness. One of the most hopeful signs, therefore, is the willingness of various parts of the Church to be in conversation with the seminaries over the common concerns we share. This increased willingness to work together bids well for the future.

Respectfully,

James C. Fenhagen
Dean