

The General Theological Seminary

In the fall of 1991, after 14 years of faithful service the Very Rev. James C. Fenhagen announced that he would be stepping down as President and Dean of the General Theological Seminary in order to take up leadership of the Cornerstone Project of the Episcopal Church Foundation. Professor John Koenig served ably as Acting Dean during the 1992-93 academic year. In September of 1992 Professor Koenig presided as chief academic officer during the celebratory events commemorating the 175th Anniversary of the Seminary's founding by General Convention. These included an address by Archbishop of Canterbury George Carey, the conferral of General's honorary doctorate upon him, and a special banquet for the purpose of raising scholarship funds.

After serving as the Bishop of South Dakota for eight and a half years, I was asked by the Board of Trustees to be the eleventh President and Dean of the Seminary and Professor of Theology. The transition from the Northern Plains to New York City has been challenging and not without incident. The Seminary became the focus of attention both in the secular and religious press after adopting a housing policy that calls for shared leadership with dioceses around questions of housing and sexual orientation.

A strong emphasis on Anglican studies continues to guide the development of our academic life at the General Theological Seminary. Indeed, our doctoral degree now bears the name "Doctor of Theology in Anglican Studies," with major fields offered in the various subdivisions of Anglican theology, the history of the Church of England and the Episcopal Church, Anglican liturgical studies, and Anglican ecumenical studies. An Anglican Studies seminar for doctoral and S.T.M. candidates now meets each semester under the direction of a team of faculty. At the M.Div. level, electives in classical Anglican theology and history, which supplement our regular foundation courses, now meet each year, thus providing a special opportunity for senior transfers and non-degree students who wish to enhance their knowledge of the Anglican tradition.

In the last triennium our visiting professors of Anglican studies have included John Booty, Archbishop Peter Carnley of Perth, Australia, Dr. Suzanne Massie of the Harvard Center for Russian Studies, and Bishop Rowan Williams of Monmouth, Wales. In addition, Drs. Mary Donovan, Harding Meyer (a Lutheran), and Jon Nilson (a Roman Catholic), all well known for their work on Anglicanism in its ecumenical context, have served as visiting sabbatical professors. General's Center for Christian Spirituality continues to draw large numbers of lay and ordained persons for training in spiritual direction shaped by an Anglican perspective.

A major addition to General's curriculum this year has been a first ever program at the seminary level for newly elected and consecrated bishops of the Episcopal Church. Sponsored jointly by the Seminary, the Cornerstone Project of the Episcopal Church Foundation, the Office of Pastoral Development of the House of Bishops, and the Church Pension Group, and utilizing a grant from the Procter Fund of the Diocese of Southern Ohio, the College for Bishops counts among its faculty scholars from General and other theological schools as well as mentor-bishops and senior administrators of the Church. The College for Bishops is designed to facilitate formation for the episcopate by helping new office holders to grow in their identities as theologians, pastors, and apostles. The first

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phase of the three-year program was completed in February of this year. Responses from participants have been uniformly and enthusiastically positive.

As a part of its regular reaccreditation process by the Association of Theological Schools, which occurs every ten years, General is paying close attention this year to curriculum review and the support and development of resident faculty, especially in the light of expected retirements over the next few years. With Professor Philip Turner's move to New Haven to accept the deanship of the Berkeley Divinity School, and Professor Roland Foster's retirement, two major chairs fell vacant in the 1991-92 academic year. Following an extensive search, two younger scholars were appointed to fill these positions. The Rev. Dr. Thomas Breidenthal (D. Phil., Oxon.) and Dr. R. William Franklin (Ph.D., Harvard) now serve, respectively, as Assistant Professor of Moral Theology and Ethics and Professor of Modern Anglican Studies. This current academic year saw the retirement of two veteran members of our faculty: the Rev. Dr. James Carpenter, the Mary Crooke Hoffman Professor of Dogmatic Theology, and the Rev. Dr. Boyce Bennett, Professor of Old Testament. As the result of an international search, the Rev. Dr. Joanne McWilliam, a priest of the Anglican Church in Canada with a long and distinguished career at the Toronto School of Theology, was named to the chair held by Professor Carpenter for a three-year term.

Funds from the recent Chelsea Challenge capital campaign were used in 1991 to renovate partially three dormitories to improve the condition of single-student housing and update an antiquated plumbing system. In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, work was begun to make the Seminary campus accessible, an effort complicated by the Landmark status of our historic buildings. To date, the Main Building, containing the Library and guest rooms, and the Chapel of the Good Shepherd have been made accessible.

This past summer, Chelsea Challenge funds were used in a massive effort to rehabilitate the lower two floors of St. Mark's Library, including, most critically for the maintenance of our unique collection, a full climate control system. Tragically, workers using an acetylene torch to cut a shaftway into our Rare Book vault started a fire which, accelerated by the surprisingly flammable plastic sheeting used to protect books from dust, damaged many 17th and 18th century Bibles and our Hussite Gradual. With the generous assistance of members of the Pierpont Morgan Library and the chief curator at Columbia University Libraries, partially charred and water-damaged books were stabilized. Restoration will begin when insurance claims have been settled.

Last summer the General Theological Seminary restructured its administrative staff subsequent to the recommendations of a zero-base study by Dr. Alceste Pappas, a consultant with the firm KPMG Peat Marwick & Mitchell. The reorganization included establishing a Communications Office, centralizing Financial Aid administration in the Student Services office, the hiring of a full-time Director of Horticulture, all answering to a new Vice President for Administration. The Seminary's cleaning and maintenance operations were turned over to York Management, a contractor handling similar operations for the Church Center and many New York City businesses. Under a special agreement, York retained all our staff, providing substantial retraining. With the January 1 arrival of the Rev. Melissa Skelton, our new Vice President for Administration, the Seminary's administrative staff is operating more efficiently, feeling more empowered, and completing what has been planned more ably and comprehensively than ever.

We have also begun to look at empowering our Board of Trustees. An Advisory Committee has been formed to study our Board's structure, function, and purpose, with an eye to empowering, nurturing, and utilizing the resources of each Board member. While we await the recommendations of this Committee, we are petitioning General Convention for a constitutional change to allow the Board to elect Trustees in three classes of eight, rather than in one class of twenty-four. To facilitate this change in the Seminary's constitution, the following resolution was adopted by the Board of Trustees at its January 10, 1994, Annual Meeting and is presented to the General Convention for action.

Resolution #A053

1 *Resolved*, the House of _____ concurring, **That, pursuant to Article VII of the**
2 **Constitution of the General Theological Seminary of the Protestant Episcopal Church**
3 **in the United States, requiring a concurrent vote of the General Convention to the**
4 **amendment of such Constitution, the Board of Trustees having duly voted to amend**
5 **the same, this General Convention does concur that Articles III and VI thereof shall**
6 **be amended to read as follows:**

7 **III.** The Board of Trustees shall be constituted as follows: The
8 Presiding Bishop of the Church; the Bishop of the Diocese in which the
9 Seminary is located; the Dean of the Seminary; two Bishops chosen by
10 the House of Bishops; two Presbyters or Deacons chosen by the House
11 of Deputies of the General Convention; two lay persons chosen by the
12 House of Deputies; twenty-four persons elected by the Board of
13 Trustees; and nine persons chosen by the Alumni of the Seminary. The
14 Presiding Bishop, the Bishop of the Diocese, and the Dean of the
15 Seminary shall be members *ex officio*. The Bishops, Presbyters or
16 Deacons, and lay persons representing the General Convention shall be
17 elected at each Convention for a term of three years; *of the twenty-four*
18 *persons to be elected by the Board of Trustees eight persons shall be*
19 *elected annually at the meeting of the Board next preceding the Annual*
20 *Meeting of the Board following each General Convention shall be*
21 *electe*d for a term of three years *to serve until the Annual Meeting of the*
22 *Board following the expiration of their terms or until their successors*
23 *are elected and qualify*. The nine persons representing the Alumni
24 shall be so chosen that three shall be elected annually to serve for three
25 years. The Alumni elections, in which all of the Alumni of the
26 Seminary in good standing shall be the Electors, shall be in charge of
27 the Alumni Association, whose Secretary shall report the results of the
28 election to the Secretary of the Board of Trustees. All vacancies in the
29 Board of Trustees may be filled by the remaining members of the
30 Board for the unexpired terms. These forty-two Trustees shall
31 constitute the regular members of the Board, and hereinafter are
32 described as the members of the Board. The Board shall elect its
33 Chairman for such time and with such powers as it sees fit. Fifteen
34 members shall be necessary for a quorum for the transaction of ordinary

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1 business, but a majority of the Board shall be necessary for the election
2 of a Dean or a member of the Faculty. Every Bishop of this Church,
3 not a member of the Board of Trustees, shall be entitled to a seat and
4 voice, but without vote, at any meeting of the Board.

5 VI. This Constitution, as altered by the concurrent vote of the
6 General Convention and of the Board of Trustees, shall take effect
7 immediately upon its adoption by the General Convention of 1994; and
8 ~~of the first Trustees, other than those persons elected to six year terms~~
9 ~~in 1982 by the General Convention or the Board of Trustees, under the~~
10 ~~amended Constitution, shall be chosen by the House of Bishops and the~~
11 ~~House of Deputies respectively at the General Convention, of 1985;~~
12 ~~and a certificate of their election shall be forwarded to the Secretary of~~
13 ~~the Board of Trustees.—At twenty-four Trustees to be elected at the~~
14 ~~meeting of the Board of Trustees following the General Convention of~~
15 ~~1995 1994, nine persons shall be elected by the Board, eight persons~~
16 ~~shall be elected to serve until the Annual Meeting of the Board in 1996~~
17 ~~or until their successors are elected and qualify, eight persons shall be~~
18 ~~elected to serve until the Annual Meeting of the Board in 1997 or until~~
19 ~~their successors are elected and qualify, and eight persons shall be~~
20 ~~elected to serve until the Annual Meeting of the Board in 1998 or until~~
21 ~~their successors are elected and qualify, but thereafter all elections~~
22 shall be conducted in accordance with the provisions of Article III.

We respectfully request your support of this resolution.

As the General Theological Seminary continues to realize its mission of preparing individuals for ordained ministry and lay and scholarly vocations, it will focus on strengthening its unique calling given its history and its location. Thus, for the future General will seek to be a place that reflects the diversity of peoples and perspectives of the entire Episcopal Church, is rooted in and nourished by the traditions of Anglican worship and spirituality, supports and demands academic excellence, provides a community life that both reflects and deepens its education and formation programs, and makes use of the cultural and intellectual resources of New York, one of the world's great cities.

Yours in Christ,

Bishop Craig B. Anderson, Ph.D.
President and Dean