

CONSTITUTION

of the

"The Theological Seminary of the
General Synod of the Evangelical
Lutheran Church in the United
States, or The United Lutheran
Church in America" : : :

GETTYSBURG, PENNSYLVANIA



CONSTITUTION
OF THE
GETTYSBURG THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

=====

CONSTITUTION.

ARTICLE I.

NAME, PURPOSE AND BASIS.

Sec. 1. The corporate title of this Institution as stated in the Charter as amended shall be "The Theological Seminary of the General Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in the United States, or The United Lutheran Church in America."

Sec. 2. Purpose. The purpose of this Seminary shall be to train men for the Christian ministry, especially for the Lutheran Church, and also to prepare competent men and women as leaders in Christian education and in other spheres of Christian service.

Sec. 3. Doctrinal Basis. The teaching of this Seminary shall be in Harmony with the Doctrinal Basis of the United Lutheran Church in America.

Every Professor at his inauguration shall publicly subscribe the following Declaration :

I believe that the canonical Scriptures of the Old and the New Testaments are the inspired word of God and the only infallible rule of Christian faith and practice. I accept the Augsburg Confession and Luther's Small Catechism as true interpretations of the Scriptures. And I promise that I will teach in conformity with this Declaration.

ARTICLE II.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

Sec. 1. Number. This Seminary shall be governed by a Board of Directors, consisting of an equal number of clergymen and laymen chosen by such Synods, in connection with the General Synod, or of the United Lutheran Church in America, as shall patronize it and contribute to its support. The term of service of the Directors shall be determined by the respective synods electing them.

The maximum number of Directors shall be fifty.

Each Synod consisting of seventy-four ministers or less shall be entitled to four Directors; of seventy-five and less than one hundred ministers, six Directors; of one hundred and more ministers, eight Directors.

Should this ratio yield more than maximum, the ratio shall be readjusted by the Board.

However the Directors then in office shall fill out their unexpired terms; but the Synods shall not elect new Directors until it becomes necessary to do so to meet the requirements of this Constitution.

Sec. 2. Right to Seat. In case the right to a seat is questioned, the Board shall decide the matter.

Sec. 3. Obligation. At the organization of the Board at each annual meeting, the Secretary shall read to the newly elected members Article I of this constitution, and they shall be entitled to a seat provided they shall affirmatively answer the following question addressed to them by the President:

Do you approve of the Purpose and the Doctrinal Basis of this Seminary, and do you promise to endeavor faithfully to observe its Constitution and to do all you can to promote its interests? If so, answer, I do.

Sec. 4. Quorum. Twenty members of the Board representing a majority of the Synods shall constitute a quorum.

Sec. 5. The annual meeting of the Board shall be held

at Gettysburg at the time of the Commencement, due notice of which shall be sent to the members three weeks in advance.

A special meeting of the Board shall be called by the President at the written request of one clerical and one lay director from a majority of the Synods.

Sec. 6. Officers. The Board shall annually elect by ballot out of its own number a President, a Vice-President and a Secretary.

Should any of these officers die, resign, or become disqualified by removal, failure to be re-elected as Director, or otherwise, the order of succession until the next annual meeting shall be as follows: In the case of the President, the Vice-President shall take his place. In the case of the Vice-President or the Secretary the remaining two shall fill the vacancy from among the Directors. In case but one officer shall remain, he shall appoint two other Directors to fill the vacancies, provided he obtain the approval of four other Directors, two of whom shall be laymen.

Should the term as Director of any officer expire in the interim between annual meetings, he shall continue in office provided he be re-elected as Director.

The Board shall elect some suitable person or Institution as Treasurer, who shall be required to give sufficient bond and security. He shall receive all moneys, and shall hold them and his office subject to the exclusive direction of the Board. He shall, in no case whatever, pay out any money, except as ordered by the Board, and shall render at every annual meeting a detailed report which shall be audited by a committee chosen by the officers of the Board and shall be printed and mailed to each member two weeks in advance of the meeting. In case of the death or resignation of the Treasurer, or his inability to act, the President shall appoint as Treasurer such person or Institution as may be approved in writing by four Directors, two of whom shall be laymen. Such person or Institution, having first given good and sufficient security for the faithful discharge of his duties, shall act as

Treasurer until the next regular or special meeting of the Board.

Sec. 7. Duties.—a. The Board shall conduct the affairs of the Seminary directly, or through its officers, or other agents, in accordance with its purpose.

b. The Board shall sacredly execute the intentions and directions of testators or donors in regard to funds or other property left to the Seminary.

c. The Board shall designate the time of opening and closing of the Seminary year.

d. The Board shall elect and inaugurate the Professors. It shall determine the course of instruction; and any Professor wishing to introduce any important change in his department shall first submit it to the Faculty, which shall present it to the Board for final action.

e. Committees. There shall be an Executive Committee consisting of the President, the Vice-President, and the Secretary of the Board, and one representative from each of the Synods supporting the Seminary not already represented by the officers of the Board, who shall be elected by the Board. Its duty shall be to act for the Board ad interim in matters referred to it and in cases of emergency.

There shall be a Property Committee consisting of three members living in or near Gettysburg, one of whom shall be the President of the Seminary, and the others appointed by the President of the Board. Its duty shall be to look after the real estate of the Seminary, make or supervise needed repairs, hire employees, purchase fuel and all other supplies. Extraordinary expenditures not included in the Budget of Expenses shall require special action of the Board. The Committee is authorized to draw on the Treasury for its expenditures.

There shall be a Finance Committee consisting of the Treasurer of the Seminary in addition to at least two persons appointed by the President of the Board. The Treasurer shall make no investments without the knowledge and the consent of this Committee. The Committee in co-operation with the President of the Seminary shall

also have general supervision of the finances of the Institution and plan for its financial advancement.

f. In case a Professor is charged with inefficiency or unfaithfulness to his obligation (Art. I, Sec. 3), it shall be the duty of the Board to investigate the matter. Accusations against a professor must be in writing and must be lodged with the President of the Board, who with the Vice-President and the Secretary shall consider them, and, if in their judgment the charges are well grounded and of sufficient gravity, the accused shall be furnished with a copy of the same; and he shall be summoned to meet the officers or a committee appointed by the President for trial at a specified place and time at least one month subsequent to his notification, unless he shall waive the time. Should the charges be sustained, the report of the trial shall be made to the Board with recommendations for its action. A two-thirds vote shall be required to remove a professor. Should the charges be unsustainable, no report shall be required.

g. The President of the Seminary shall furnish the General Synod or the United Lutheran Church in America or its Board of Education a biennial statement of the status of the Seminary.

ARTICLE III.

OF THE PROFESSORS.

Sec. 1. Every Professor must be an ordained minister of the United Lutheran Church in America.

Sec. 2. At his inauguration he shall publicly make the Declaration specified in Art. I.

Sec. 3. The preceding declaration shall be repeated by the Professors in the presence of the Board at the expiration of every period of five years, and at any intermediate time, if required by the Board. And no Professor shall be retained who shall refuse to make and repeat this declaration.

Sec. 4. The salaries of the Professors shall be fixed by the Board.

Sec. 5. Resignations of Professors shall be presented to the President of the Board or to the Board itself three months before they are to go into effect.

Sec. 6. The Board shall elect a President of the Seminary, who shall be Chairman of the Faculty. He shall be the executive officer of the Board in the management of the business of the Seminary, and shall represent it before Churches and Synods, and shall endeavor to advance its interests, financial and otherwise.

Sec. 7. The Faculty shall hold regular meetings as determined by itself. Special meetings shall be called by the President at the request of any one of its members. An abstract of the minutes shall be presented to the Board at its annual meeting.

Sec. 8. When a vacancy in a Professorship shall occur *ad interim*, the Executive Committee, in consultation with the Faculty, shall make temporary provision for instruction if deemed necessary.

Sec. 9. The Faculty shall examine and admit students, determine the hours of recitation, formulate rules for the guidance of students, and attend to all matters of discipline. It shall have authority to dismiss students.

Sec. 10. The Professors may preach in Christ Church according to arrangements determined among themselves, on such Sundays as are open to them, by virtue of the Charter of said Church.

Sec. 11. Professors shall retire automatically at the age of seventy-two.

ARTICLE IV.

OF THE STUDENTS.

Sec. 1. This Seminary shall be open to students of all evangelical denominations, on condition that they furnish satisfactory evidence that they are members in good standing in their respective congregations, that they pos-

sess good health and proper aptitude for theological study, and that they are graduates of a standard college, or have acquired sufficient education to enable them to take a Seminary course.

Sec. 2. At his matriculation every student shall make and subscribe the following Declaration:

I declare it to be my serious intention to devote myself to the Christian ministry or to some kindred work, and I solemnly promise that I will be diligent in study and conscientiously observe the rules of the Seminary.

ARTICLE V.

THE COURSE OF STUDY.

Sec. 1. The curriculum of the Seminary shall include all those branches of theology which are necessary to the equipment of men for the Christian ministry. Courses of study shall be arranged. These courses and their method of treatment will naturally be subject to such changes and development as shall be demanded by experience.

The details of the Course of Study shall appear in the annual catalogue.

Sec. 2. Length of the Course. The regular course of study shall extend over three years.

A shorter course may be arranged for special students who do not look forward to graduation.

Sec. 3. Grade. Students who have successfully completed the prescribed Course of Study shall be recommended by the Faculty to the Board for graduation.

Special students maintaining a satisfactory grade shall be entitled to a certificate, showing credit for the work done.

Sec. 4. The Faculty is authorized to arrange post-graduate courses of study as demand may arise.

ARTICLE VI.

DEGREES.

Sec. 1. Bachelor of Divinity. The degree of Bachelor of Divinity shall be granted in course to students who are graduates of standard colleges and who have met the requirements for this degree as specified in the catalogue.

Sec. 2. Doctor of Divinity. Upon the recommendation of the Faculty, the Board may confer the honorary degree of Doctor of Divinity "upon such persons as may be judged worthy," as authorized by the Charter.

ARTICLE VII.

THE LIBRARY.

Sec. 1. The Faculty shall elect a Librarian triennially who shall have general charge of all the libraries.

Sec. 2. With the approval of the Faculty, the Librarian shall make all needed rules for the management of the Library, engage assistants, and purchase all books and needed supplies.

Sec. 3. The salary of the Librarian shall be fixed by the Finance Committee, and shall be paid out of the Library Fund.

Sec. 4. The Library exists mainly for the use of the Faculty and students, but the Librarian may with proper restrictions loan books to ministers and to others pursuing investigations.

Section 5. The Librarian shall annually render to the Board a financial report and a statement of the status of the Library.

ARTICLE VIII.

This Constitution may be amended at any annual meeting, provided notice of the amendment shall have been given at the previous annual meeting.

*Constitution of the Gettysburg Theological Seminary
as amended and adopted May 20, 1926.*

