

**Constitution**  
**Of The**  
**Gettysburg Theological Seminary**



**MAY 1, 1951**

## ARTICLE I

### Name, Purpose and Basis.

1. Name. 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.

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.

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 Unaltered 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.

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 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-two.

2. Distribution. Each Synod consisting of fifty pastoral charges or less shall be entitled to four Directors; of fifty-one and not more than one hundred fifty pastoral charges, eight Directors; of one hundred fifty-one and not more than three hundred pastoral charges, twelve Directors; of three hundred one or more pastoral charges, twenty-eight Directors.

Should this ratio yield more than maximum the ratio shall be readjusted by the Board; but the Directors then in office shall fill out their unexpired terms, and the Synods shall not elect new Directors until it becomes necessary to do so to meet the requirements of this Constitution.

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

4. 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 answer affirmatively 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.

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

6. Meetings. The annual meetings of the Board shall be held at Gettysburg each Spring at a date appointed by the officers. Due notice of the time and place of meeting 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.

7. 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, the order of succession until the next annual meeting shall be as follows: In the case of the absence 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 or by the President of the Seminary 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 one week 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 du-

ties, shall act as treasurer until the next regular or special meeting of the Board.

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

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

c. The Board shall elect and inaugurate the Professors, and shall fix and pay their salaries. It shall determine the course of instruction, either directly or through the Faculty.

d. 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, shall provide for the coordination and development of the courses of instruction, shall have general oversight of the internal administration of the institution, shall represent it before Churches and Synods, and shall endeavor to advance its interests, financial and otherwise.

9. Committees.---a. There shall be an Executive Committee consisting of the President, the Vice-President and the Secretary of the Board and four others so chosen that each of the Synods supporting the Seminary shall have at least one representative on the Executive Committee. The President of the Seminary shall be an advisory member of the Committee. It shall be the duty of the Executive Committee to act for the Board ad interim in matters referred to it and in cases of emergency.

b. 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.

c. There shall be a Finance Committee consisting of the President of the Seminary and 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 which knowledge and consent shall appear upon the minutes of the records of this Committee kept by the Secretary of the Committee. The Treasurer shall have the custody of all securities subject to the orders of the Board. The Committee in cooperation with the President of the Seminary shall also have general supervision of the finances of the institution and plan for its financial advancement.

d. In addition to these standing committees the Board or its officers may from time to time appoint special committees for special tasks.

### ARTICLE III

#### The Professors

1. Every Professor must be a member of a congregation belonging to a Synod of the United Lutheran Church in America. The Board may elect members of Evangelical Lutheran Churches as Fellows, Instructors, Assistant Professors, and Associate Professors. From time to time members of other Christian Churches may be employed for special instruction.

2. Each Professor shall be publicly inducted into his office, and at his induction he shall publicly make the Declaration specified in Article I of this Constitution.

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. No Professor shall be retained who shall refuse to make and repeat this declaration.

4. The salaries of the Professors shall be fixed and paid by the Board. The Professors and Instructors of all grades shall be eligible for the Church's Contributory Pension Plan.

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.

6. In case a Professor is charged with inefficiency or unfaithfulness to his obligation (Art. I, 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.

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

8. 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.

#### ARTICLE IV.

##### The Faculty

1. The Faculty of the Seminary shall consist of the Professors elected in accordance with Article II, 8, c. It shall have charge of the curriculum and instruction of the Seminary under such provisions and regulations as the Board of Directors from time to time shall approve. The President of the Seminary shall be ex officio Chairman of the Faculty. Members of the teaching staff who are not Professors shall be eligible to attend the regular meetings of the Faculty, but each department shall have only one vote in Faculty meetings.

2. The Faculty shall hold regular meetings and keep an accurate record of all its proceedings, and at any of its meetings the President of the Board of Directors may be present for consultation and advice. An abstract of the Minutes shall be presented to the Board of Directors at its annual meeting.

3. Members of the Faculty shall not be eligible to membership in the Board of Directors but may be present at meetings of the Board.

4. The Faculty shall have charge of the examination of students for admission, promotion and graduation, and shall recommend to the Board for graduation and admission to academic degrees all such students as shall have met the requirements fixed by the Board upon the advice of the Faculty. It shall exercise moral and spiritual guidance in the lives of the students, shall administer discipline, and shall have authority to dismiss students.

5. The Faculty shall fix the calendar of the Seminary year. It shall determine the curriculum and arrange the courses of study so as to include the branches that are necessary to the equipment of Lutheran ministers and other Christian leaders. The details of the curriculum shall be published in the annual catalogue. The courses of study and their method of treatment shall be changed and adapted to the demands of experience. The regular course of study shall extend over three years. Students who have completed successfully the prescribed course of study shall be recommended by the Faculty to the Board of Directors for graduation. The Faculty is authorized to arrange postgraduate courses of study as demand may arise.

#### ARTICLE V

##### The Librarian

The Board shall elect a Librarian and shall fix his salary. The duties of the Librarian shall be determined by the President of the Seminary after consultation with the Faculty. The Librarian shall attend the regular meetings of the Faculty but shall have a vote only on matters pertaining to the Library.

#### ARTICLE VI

##### The Students

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 possess 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. Admission to the Seminary shall be by vote of the Faculty.

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 VII

##### Degrees

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 determined by the Faculty and specified in the catalogue.

2. Master of Sacred Theology. The degree of Master of Sacred Theology shall be granted in course to students who hold a degree of Bachelor of Divinity from an accredited theological seminary and who have met the requirements for this degree as determined by the Faculty and specified in the catalogue.

3. Master of Arts. The degree of Master of Arts shall be granted in course to students who are graduates of standard colleges and who have met the requirements for this degree as determined by the Faculty and specified in the catalogue.

4. Honorary Degrees. Upon the recommendation of the Faculty, the Board may confer the honorary degrees in theology upon such persons as may be judged worthy, as authorized by the Charter.

#### ARTICLE VIII

##### Amendments

This Constitution may be amended at any annual meeting, provided notice of the amendment shall have been given at the previous annual meeting or the amendment shall have been approved by the Executive Committee and notice given to the members of the Board at least two months before the annual meeting.

#### STANDING RESOLUTIONS ON RETIREMENT ALLOWANCE FOR PROFESSORS

May 1, 1951

1. For purposes of clarity the term "members of the teaching staff" in the following paragraphs 1-9 shall mean professors of all grades, librarians and all other full-time instructors in the employ of the Seminary.

2. The age of retirement for members of the teaching staff shall be 70, with the optional right of retirement beginning at age 65. Retirement shall begin not later than August 31st following the 70th birthday of the person concerned.

3. For all who are members of the teaching staff at the present time (May 2, 1950), the age of retirement shall be not later than 72, with the optional right of retirement beginning at age 65. Retirement shall begin not later than August 31st following the 72nd birthday of the person concerned.

4. All members of the teaching staff who are eligible shall be members of the Church's Contributory Pension Plan, and the Seminary shall pay the employer's share of the Plan.

5. The Seminary shall provide each retired member of the teaching staff, who is a member of the ULCA Contributory Pension Plan, with an annual honorarium equal to one-half of his average annual salary during the last ten years of his service to the Seminary or for the period of his service, whichever is shorter, less the total sum of the amounts provided him by the pension plans of the Church and the Synod.

In computing the average salary, 15% shall be added to the cash salary if the member of the teaching staff was provided with house and heat during his period of service to the Seminary.

6. Members of the present teaching staff (May 2, 1950) shall have the choice of the plan provided by paragraph 5 of these resolutions or the following:

The Seminary shall provide each member of the teaching staff upon retirement with living quarters and an honorarium of \$1000 a year less one-half of the annual amount payable to him under the option (Single Life or Joint Life and Survivor) chosen by him in the Church's Contributory Pension Plan.

7. If a member of the teaching staff retires prior to the maximum age limit provided for him, the honorarium above provided shall be reduced by the difference between the amount received from the Contributory Pension Plan and the amount which would have been received if he had retired at his maximum age limit.

8. If a member of the teaching staff chooses the Joint Life and Survivor Option in the Contributory Pension Plan, the honorarium paid to him shall be reduced by the difference between the amount payable to him under the Single Life option and the amount payable to him under the Joint Life and Survivor option.

9. The retirement allowances shall be regarded as part of the compensation for services already rendered, and professors who retire hereafter shall not be asked to do any teaching.