



“I will praise you with an upright heart, when I learn your righteous rules.” *Psalm 119:7*

# THE HEIDELBRIEF

News from Heidelberg Theological Seminary

Sept. 2019

## It's Back to School

Rev. Chuck Muether, Director of Advancement



If you were a child of the seventies, you might recall those catchy back-to-school “good morning to you” Levis commercials. When they rolled out, you knew that summer was officially over and it was time to get some new cool threads before that first bell of a new school year. My mom never got me the good denim, opting instead to get me the less expensive knockoff—Sears Toughskins, at \$4.99 a pair (remember, this was the 1970s), but that did not diminish my eagerness for entering a new grade in school.

The excitement of anticipating a new year followed me when I would become a middle school teacher

and many years after that when I plunged back into the classroom as a seminarian of a brand new institution called Heidelberg Theological Seminary. Now, as a seminary advancement director and an occasional instructor, I get even more excited about the dawn of a new academic year when I see students eager to begin or continue their theological training. Even from afar, it was thrilling to hear how our Philippine students were devouring their studies at the start of their summer courses.



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Whether it's in the Philippines or here in Sioux Falls or on a video conference at the kitchen table, when you gather for a learning environment with the understanding that you are going to learn something theological and ministerial that will equip you for a life of service as the Lord's undershepherd, you can't help but be moved, humbled, anxious, and excited. As a student and even teacher, you feel something toward the subject matter of which you can never get enough.



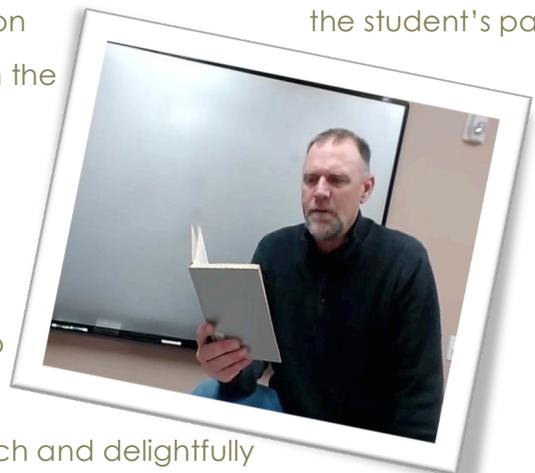
After well over forty years of pastoral ministry, Dr. Maynard Koerner enters into his Reformed his vast



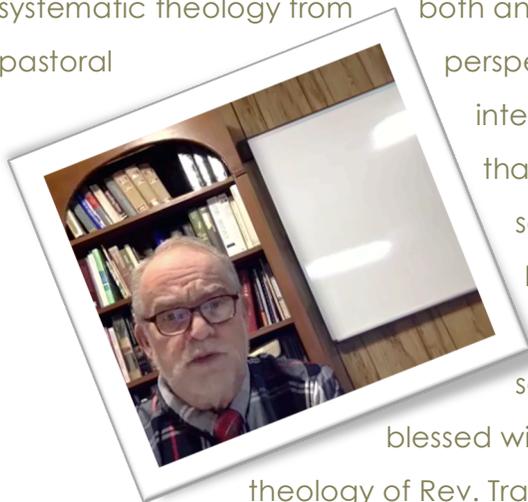
Worship course ready not only to impart the principles and pulpit experience, but also primed to interact and learn himself. You see it in his energy and passion. Every time he teaches the course, you might think he is teaching it for the first time. Worship and growing in orthodoxy never get old for him, and that's what our students see in all our professors.

Down the digital classroom hallway, there is Dr. Kevin Carroll introducing his students to Hebrew with such lively and nonthreatening methodology that any concerns of obtaining mastery on the student's part are quickly turned to a desire to know God's word from the original tongue. In the virtual classroom next door, newcomer Rev. J.P. Mosley, who has previously taught at New Geneva Seminary, exposes his students to systematic theology from both an academic and pastoral perspective, and has so intertwined the two that his teaching is rich and delightfully sermonically and students just want to exclaim, "Amen."

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Rev. Fluck unfolds history in his classes as if he lived in that period. His polemical sidebars could almost be recorded as sound bites from the times. The seminary continues to be blessed with the scholarship of Dr. Mark Larson, the pastoral theology of Rev. Travis Grassmid, and the confessional acumen of Rev. Kyle Sorensen.

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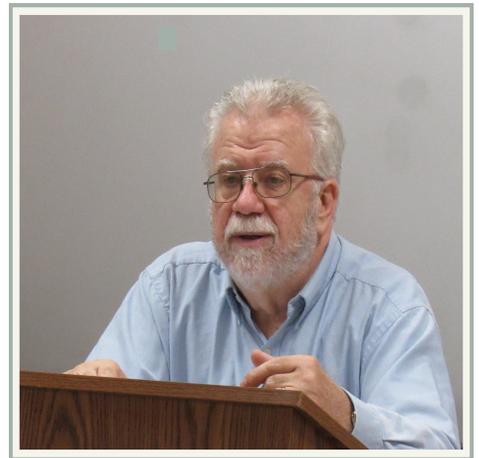
Sorensen.

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The seminary is simply blessed by a faculty that is not seeking personal name recognition or coveting some loftier position in the broader Reformed community. We have men teaching who are pastors, who love to pastor and love to teach others how to minister faithfully. And this brings me back to my opening thought about those Levi Jeans commercials. It took a random hit on YouTube for me to revisit those ads, and I remember how I wanted a pair instead of those cheaper Sears Toughskins, but my mom put it best when she said, "It's not about the look of the jeans; it's what you can do with them." Heidelberg is a modest seminary that rents space from a church facility. It's not about the outer appearances, but by God's grace what we can do in the classroom. In my position of advancement director, I am excited about this new year because I have already seen God's blessings in the classroom.

## Updates from the President

Heidelberg Seminary continues to grow as we see an increase in the number of courses being taught and the number of professors required. This fall HTS has the equivalent of eight full time students. In total there are 13 students taking courses in the Master of Divinity Program, of these, ten are taking more than one course. We are humbled and grateful to God in sending these students to HTS for preparation in service to the kingdom of God.



The seminary is also grateful that there are pastors who are able to teach the necessary courses. HTS is blessed with men who remain active in the ministry and are able to bring their ministry experience and expertise along with a high academic standard into the classroom. By the time a student at HTS graduates, they will have had about eight different active ministers as instructors. The courses being taught this fall are:

- TM111 Reformed Worship taught by Dr. Maynard Koerner – one week intensive
- OT211 Hebrew I taught by Dr. Kevin Carroll -meets Monday and Thursday
- ST111 Prolegomena taught by Rev. J.P. Mosley- meets Tuesday
- ST211 Doctrine of God taught by Dr. Mark Larson – meets Monday
- NT211 New Testament Introduction taught by Rev. Charles Muether, meets on Tuesday
- TM411 Pastoral Counseling taught by Rev. Travis Grassmid – meets on Thursday
- NT221 Gospels taught by Rev. Charles Muether – one week intensive

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Dr. Maynard Koerner  
President of HTS  
Director of Program



Ptr. Nap Narag  
HTS Advisor for  
Luzon and Leyte



Ptr. Vic Bernales  
HTS Advisor for  
Mindanao



Ptr. Edmund  
Delos Reyes  
Assists Bulacan  
Study Center



Mr. Rockie Simbajon  
Assists Agusan Del Sur  
City Study Center



Ptr. Filip Cruz  
Assists  
Cabanatuan City  
Study Center

– THE HTS Philippines Program Who's Who –

The Philippines Program continues to do well. There remains to be a growing interest with more students desirous of receiving training for Reformed ministry. It is difficult to speak of an exact number of students at this point since a number of them are in the process of being prepared and introduced to the program. At minimum there are thirty five who are continuing with their studies and an additional twenty five in the process of beginning to take courses for a total of sixty students. We expect that number to increase in the next several months. These students will

be studying together in nine different study centers throughout the Philippines. Pastor Nap Narag and pastor Vic Bernales oversee these study centers.



Kevin Te Slaa, Executive Administrator

*Give to the Lord the glory due His name; bring an offering, and come before Him. Oh, worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness!*  
(1 Chron.16:29)

Reformed Worship was taught the week of September 16. This is a foundational theology of ministry course. Worship defines a key role of the church. The lectures revealed why believers worship God and how God directs what proper worship is. Heidelberg Theological Seminary is beginning the fall semester. Your support enables seminary students to continue on the path to fill the needs of the church.

Their education requires a great commitment on their part. Please consider how you may be able to financially support HTS so that the education can be provided at a diminished tuition rate. Support can be made online at: <https://heidelbergseminary.org/support-hts/> or by mailing: Heidelberg Theological Seminary, 7301 South Louise Avenue, Sioux Falls, SD 57105

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