



THE HEIDELBRIEF

NEWS FROM HEIDELBERG THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

SPECIAL ISSUE

An Introduction to Heidelberg Seminary

Dr. Maynard Koerner, HTS President



The Heidelberg Brief is a bi-monthly newsletter of Heidelberg Seminary and is made available by email to supporters. In an effort to reach a larger number of individuals who may be interested in the work of HTS, we are producing this special issue. We would like to tell you a bit about who we are and the work we are engaged in. It is our prayer that you will be interested in the work of Heidelberg Seminary and join us in praising God for the abundant blessings He has provided to us.

Heidelberg Seminary is committed to training men for the gospel ministry. We offer a historic Master of Divinity program. The curriculum provides for both academic rigor and training in the ministerial skills necessary for pastoral ministry. All of the instruction and application in the classroom are based on the historic Reformed creeds, in particular the Three Forms of Unity and the Westminster Standards. It is our primary purpose to meet the needs of the church of Christ by preparing men to carry out the work of the office of Minister of the Word and Sacraments.

The seminary is governed by a Board of Directors. This Board consists of ministers and elders from the RCUS and one member from the URCNA and one from the OPC. We seek to train men to meet the needs for pulpit ministry.

There are currently twelve students enrolled in the MDiv program. While we strongly encourage students to relocate to Sioux Falls and attend class in person, we do have the option for students to take the same program virtually.

Heidelberg Seminary is seriously committed to being a servant of the church. Unto this end the basic program is to train men for the ministry. But the commitment goes further. We believe there is a great need for pastors to have an opportunity to sharpen their skills, do research in areas that normal preparation for ministry would not afford, and have opportunity to be encouraged by others.

Unto that end, HTS offers a Doctor of Ministry program. The purpose of this program is not to emphasize an additional degree, but to provide help to pastors who are struggling with the ministry. Ministry has become very difficult, and we believe we can provide a service in this way. There are currently nine pastors in this program.

In addition, we see a great need for assistance to the leadership of the local church. Future plans are to develop a set of seminars for elders and deacons in understanding and developing the skills needed to fulfill these offices.

Such a program will need further development and

resources. We trust that the Lord will provide so we can serve the church in this manner.

Through contacts with the work of the Foreign Ministries of the RCUS, we have developed a program with a full curriculum for training men for pastoral ministry in the Philippines and in Africa. This is a tremendous opportunity to provide for laborers for the harvest in foreign lands. Specifically, this program trains men for ministry in the Pearl of the Orient Covenant Reformed Church, which is a sister denomination in the Philippines, and the Reformed Fellowship church, which is a sister denomination in Kenya. As you will read in a separate article in this issue this has provided a means to train men outside these particular denominations for ministry from a Reformed perspective.

The faculty at Heidelberg Seminary is made up of three full-time professors and one part-time. In addition we use a number of adjunct professors as we need them. There are also two full-time staff working for the seminary. Dr. Maynard Koerner serves as President; Dr. J.P. Mosley, Jr. serves as the Academic Dean; part-time professor Rev. Doug Schlegel serves as the Registrar; and Dr. Patrick Morgan is the Director of the International Program.

In responding to the opportunities the Lord has set before us, and as we plan for the future, we realize that there will be a need to add additional professors and staff. We trust that the Lord will provide even as He has given us opportunities to serve His Church.

Heidelberg Seminary currently rents space from Trinity Reformed Church in Sioux Falls, SD. This has been a very good arrangement for both the seminary and the church. However, as the Lord has blessed both institutions, we are pushing each other for space. In particular there is a need for more faculty office space. We desire to provide sufficient office space to house their libraries and provide room to meet with students. We also desire to grow our library. As we need more staff, there will need to be space for them as well.

The church has offered to provide land on the property for the seminary to erect its own building. Seeking the Lord's provision, we are conducting a Capital Campaign to raise \$3,000,000 for this project.

Please join us in praising God for the rewarding opportunity before us in the task of training men for the gospel ministry. We consider this a tremendous blessing as well a great challenge. We believe that there is yet before us considerable

opportunity for ministry as a seminary before us. We look each day to the Lord for His provision, but we also are keenly aware that we cannot function without the partnership of a supporting constituency.

There are three areas of need that we do respectfully ask you to consider. There is, of course, the operating expense of the seminary. In addition, the cost of the International Program must be fully covered by donations. Finally, we are seeking to raise the needed funding for the erection of a building.

One of the ways by which you can partner with the seminary in this ministry is to become a Patron of the Seminary. As a patron, we ask you to make a commitment to support the seminary with your prayers and a yearly donation. In addition to the privilege of being a partner with the seminary in this manner, we do desire to let you know how much this support is appreciated.

The options for being a patron are as follows:

* Bronze Patron - A yearly commitment of \$500 to \$2,500.

* Premium Patron - A yearly commitment of \$2,500 to \$5,000.

* Platinum Patron - A yearly commitment of \$5,000 plus.

To show our appreciation, every patron will receive The Heidelbergbrief along with a calendar or other small gift at Christmas. In addition, Premium Patrons will be afforded the opportunity to audit any courses at no cost. The Platinum Patrons will also receive copies of any books published by the seminary at no cost.

Monies received by means of the Patron Program will go to cover the cost of salaries and the general operation of the seminary. If you would like to just support the International Program, you may designate your gift to go specifically for training in the Philippines or Africa.

We would like to add you to our email list so that you can be current on the events at HTS by means of the Heidelbergbrief. We ask that you provide us with your email along with your name, address, and phone number. Please fill out the contact information section and return it in the envelope provided.

We would ask you to pray and consider how you might partner with us in this work by signing up to be a patron at whatever level works for you.

divided this class into two-credit hour courses each. This division allows for more time in both learning the fundamentals of interpreting the Scriptures and then taking what was gained and presenting it exegetically to a congregation in a well-crafted sermon.

The second development made for homiletical education was the addition of two more classes. Homiletics I (the original class in the curriculum) gives the students the fundamentals for preaching. Homiletics II encourages the students to become pupils of the sermon by examining the history of preaching, reading, listening, and/or watching sermons and then learning how best to apply those homiletical skills to their unique strengths and gifts as a preacher. This is like a professional athlete watching recordings of past games to make themselves better at their craft. Homiletics III is a consideration of the various occasions for sermons (funerals, weddings, etc.) and how best to preach through the Heidelberg Catechism. Whenever God calls an audible (like a quarterback changing the play in football) in our sermon preparation, the pastor should be equipped to preach in season and out of season, which is what Homiletics III is helping to prepare men for in their respective ministries.

The third change made was the inclusion of sermon labs for every exegesis class in the curriculum. For example, when a student signs up for Gospels, they are automatically signed up for New Testament Gospels Sermon Lab where they will have to write and deliver a sermon on a parable before the faculty and students in the class. It is like taking a science class in college and the student must spend many hours on their own in the lab conducting experiments. So, too, here the preacher must spend many hours in their lab studying, experimenting, and crafting a sermon to be delivered to his class and eventually to a congregation. The total number of classes with adjoining sermon labs is six.

In addition to these changes, all of my Systematic Theology courses include an assignment for a sermon manuscript, which includes delivering some of it in class. This gives opportunity for each student to write and present sermons on many occasions. With the number of sermons each student is asked to write at HTS, our goal is see them have plenty of material to use as they fill pulpits and begin their ministries in a local church that have been peer reviewed by professors and students.

It is our goal at HTS that the student become well-equipped to preach the whole counsel of God, and not just parts of it. We desire to see men able to rightly divide the Word of Truth and present that truth in a clear and beautiful sermon. The hope is for Christ's church to be edified, God to be glorified, and for the Spirit to cause each believer to grow in an admiration for their Savior. In this hope we long to see the same growth the ancient church saw: as the Word of God spread, so did the church spread. The believer and the church grow with the same means of grace, the faithful preaching of the Word of God.

We would be honored by your continued support of this goal. If you have not partnered with HTS in the past, please consider being one of our supporters and helping in this wonderful and exciting time as God works in the lives and hearts of His people through this country and the world.

Homiletics at Heidelberg Theological Seminary

Dr. J.P. Mosley, Jr., Academic Dean

Preaching the Word of God is at the heart of pastoral ministry, and that is why preaching is the heartbeat of the training students will receive at Heidelberg Theological Seminary. The goal of HTS has not changed since its birth: to make men competent to preach the gospel. For that goal, the curriculum underwent

some slight changes four years ago to include a more enriching environment for propagating preachers/pastors.

The first change was to increase the amount of time the student would spend learning the fundamentals of homiletics. Originally, Hermeneutics and Homiletics were combined into one three-credit hour course. We have since



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The International Program

Dr. Patrick J. Morgan,
Director of International Studies

It's 4 AM here in Sioux Falls, South Dakota and I can hear nothing outside my window except the wind blowing the snow around in the darkness. The city has not yet begun to rouse itself; the usual descant of police sirens, loud pipes and barking dogs is mercifully absent. As I sit down at my computer, I start the Zoom video conference program and wait for the sound which announces the arrival of our African students entering the conference. It's Thursday afternoon there and I'm overwhelmed at the contrast of the blowing snow and darkness of here and the constant sunny and warm weather of equatorial Kenya.

Soon, after a few more computer sounds, there, in front to me are groups of smiling African faces, gathered on this day at centers across Western Kenya (with a few from Tanzania and the Congo joining in as well) to learn about Christology or Homiletics or Church History or Reformed Creeds and Confessions. After I am finished with my class, these students will stay online for Reverend Doug Schlegel's Christology class.

Lameck Ochieng Ogongo has been taking courses through Heidelberg Theological Seminary (HTS) for over two years and signs in from the learning center in Kisumu, near the western border of Kenya:

"I want to thank God for this great opportunity that He gave me to learn with HTS during my courses with you, I love how my professors are taking us through our learning and it has been great. HTS has helped me a lot to understand more about Christ in Christology class and how to work through the map of the bible to bridge it to our time and to interpret the Scripture."

Each Thursday afternoon our students join together, traveling (often by foot) to get to the center each week. The gathering is something akin to a mini-classis meeting for

them; now is when they connect, now is when they help each other with their ministries, now is when they learn together. For four hours each week these students, who earn a living while they serve in their churches, give this time up to attend class in Heidelberg Theological Seminary's International Program.

A similar story unfolds each week on Friday evening and Saturday morning across the island nation of the Philippines with our partners in the Pearl of the Orient Covenant Reformed Church (POCRC). Our Philippine students attend online individually rather than at learning centers. In the more remote areas, our students watch recorded DVDs which our friend, Rocky Simbajon, delivers to their doors in the jungle areas where there is no internet. This past summer, Rocky invited a group of about 50 pastors to hear us present reformed teaching in a POCRC Church in LaPaz in Mindanao.

We've been teaching African students (over three years) and Philippine students (over seven years) this way. Our student body in both locations has grown to over 75 students (each week the numbers do vary a bit). We have also been blessed to visit our students in both Kenya and the Philippines in person, but our "go-to" is to teach online. What an amazing time we live in!

Attending class at the Kenyan learning centers in Kenyena, Meru, Kisii, Kibuga, and Kisumu means giving up time that could be spent working; each one of them is a serving pastor or elder in the Reformed Fellowship Church of Kenya or Emmaus Reformed Churches of East Africa; each one of these men represents churches across the country-side of East Africa where the mainlines just do not go.

These servants of Christ are on the front-line - Biblical (Reformed) faith is just beginning to break through the long established veil of pentecostal and charismatic confusion and to turn the tide of apathetic formalism and superstition present in the establishment churches in Kenya and the Philippines. This is His work, and it is marvelous in our eyes. The Lord has led these men and their flocks to the biblical faith of the Reformation and to freedom in Christ in the Word and Spirit, and they need your help to continue.

Thus far, and to the glory and praise of His Name, God has used Heidelberg Seminary to provide the instruction, but more servants more financial support are needed. Please pray that the Lord would continue to bless these men and their flocks as they continue to bring the Gospel of the Lord Jesus to their land. Please pray for wisdom and discernment as to how you can help support Heidelberg Seminary and we in turn support our brothers and sisters in East Africa and the Philippines.



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I would like to visit with someone about supporting the seminary

Consider Heidelberg Seminary

Rev. Todd De Rooy, Adjunct Professor

Ministers in NAPARC churches are trained at various seminaries. Some NAPARC churches have their own denominational seminaries, while other denominations and federations rely upon faithful Reformed and Presbyterian seminaries to train their men for the gospel ministry.

The seminaries of the many NAPARC churches undoubtedly share a number of things in common. Certainly they all strive to train men to preach the gospel from a historic and confessional foundation. Several of the seminaries employ faculty and adjunct faculty from multiple NAPARC churches. "Cross-denominational" training is valuable for men training for the ministry since churches live and worship among like-minded NAPARC churches. Ministers regularly interact with ministers from other Reformed and Presbyterian denominations and federations. NAPARC churches continue to learn from one another, hopefully in mutually beneficial ways. This "cross-denominational" training is also beneficial for seminary faculty members in sharpening their knowledge of the historic Reformed and Presbyterian spheres.

We can now add one more seminary to this list of seminaries that employs faculty and adjunct faculty from multiple NAPARC churches: Heidelberg Theological Seminary. Two of the full-time faculty members are ordained ministers in the Reformed Church of the United States. One full-time faculty member is ordained in the Orthodox Presbyterian Church. Other adjunct faculty members are ordained ministers in the RCUS. I have the privilege of serving alongside these brothers as another adjunct faculty member, from the URCNA. For churches considering sending a man for training for the pastoral ministry, this particularly means that Heidelberg Seminary is equipped to cover all the areas of a Reformed theological education that pertain to the many NAPARC churches. Polity courses, particular preaching courses, and denominational history courses are available for enrolled students that will cover the particularities of the NAPARC churches.



Consistories should consider encouraging men to enter the gospel ministry. "The harvest is plenty and the laborers are few" is just as true and applicable today as it was when Jesus said it. We keep learning how wide the need reaches as we interact with other NAPARC churches. The RCUS needs ministers. The OPC needs ministers. The URCNA needs ministers. Heidelberg Seminary wants to serve the needs of the NAPARC churches in training men for the gospel ministry. Please consider supporting the seminary for that training.

One final note to encourage your support of Heidelberg Seminary: there are benefits to your local church. Heidelberg Seminary is located in Sioux Falls, SD, in close proximity to several NAPARC denominations and federations. Pulpit supply is available within driving distance to most of those churches. Professors of Heidelberg are often called upon to preach at area churches. Many churches have been greatly blessed by the preaching of Heidelberg Seminary professors. With an increasing student body, there will be more pulpit supply opportunities in the future. The professors already put on conferences and seminars, with invitations to local churches, and there will be more opportunity for more in the future, Lord willing. Please consider these benefits of having a sound Reformed seminary in your vicinity. If Heidelberg Seminary is not in your immediate vicinity, keep in mind that Sioux Falls operates a regional airport with 16 direct flights and connecting flights all over North America. Please contact us if any of our preaching and teaching resources can benefit your local church.

To reiterate some of my colleagues in this edition of Heidelberg, if you are currently supporting Heidelberg, we thank you for your prayerful and generous support. If you are not currently supporting Heidelberg, we would ask that you would prayerfully consider lending your support for the ongoing mission of training men to preach Christ and him crucified to the nations.

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