



Pending Approval—Minutes

Ninth Annual Meeting

Monday, September 21, 2015, 11:00 AM

Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary Chapel

Opening

Vice President Timothy Dolan opened the ninth annual WLS Alumni meeting at 11:02 a.m. with prayer.

Welcome and Acknowledgement of Classes

Vice President Dolan welcomed the alumni by decade.

Minutes of September 22, 2014

The minutes of the September 22, 2014, annual meeting were adopted with one sentence corrected to read “What was going on in our country in the year 1863?”

Greeting from the Seminary

Professor Richard Gurgel greeted the alumni on behalf of President Paul Wendland and Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary. There are 92 students on campus this year and 30 vicars. Since last school year, Professors Bivens and Brug have retired; Professor Cherney has become full-time on campus; and Pastor Brad Wordell has been called as World Mission Professor. The other vacancy is yet to be filled through the calling process. The library has been renovated and redecorated. Professor Gurgel also reported on the continuing efforts of the Grow in Grace initiative.

Investment and Grants Committee Recommendation

Vice President Dolan entertained a motion that we disband the Investment and Grants Committee at this time since all investments are managed well by the Seminary business office. The motion was made, supported, and carried. Vice President Dolan reported that the Executive Committee will likely bring a similar recommendation next year regarding the Auditing Committee since our books are professionally audited with the Seminary’s.

Elections (President, Treasurer, Committee Members)

The assembled alumni voted to fill positions up for election on the WLS Alumni Executive Committee and Board. The results of the election were as follows.

- President: Mark Eckert (1984)
- Treasurer: Richard Waldschmidt (1990)
- Auditing Committee member: Christopher Doerr (2000)
- Nominating Committee member: Gerhardt Juergens (2005)
- Membership Committee member: Daniel Heiderich (1998)

Financial Report

Treasurer Rich Waldschmidt presented the WLS Alumni treasurer's report. Last year, ended June 30, 2015, WLS Alumni received \$1332 in gifts for the operating fund. We awarded two \$1000 scholarships but those will need to be paid in semester installments as we wait for additional funds to arrive. Treasurer Waldschmidt mentioned that now would be an excellent time for those who are so inclined to give a gift. There were \$341.50 in gifts to the endowment fund; together with market gains, the endowment balance increased during the year ended June 30, 2015, by \$465.10 to \$9041.09.

Awarding of Scholarships

Professor Richard Gurgel welcomed Senior Caleb Schmiede and Middler Cale Mead, this year's recipients of the WLS Alumni scholarships. Both expressed appreciation for the gifts received.

Main Presentation (President Matthew Crass of Luther Preparatory School, WLS 1986)

President Matthew Crass spoke to the alumni on the occasion of the celebration of 150 years of preparatory ministerial education on the synod's Watertown campus, currently the home of Luther Preparatory School. See printed presentation.

Northwestern College opened on September 14, 1865, with 66 students in the preparatory department and 6 in the seminary.

The 1892 synod convention reorganized ministerial education; in 1895 the seminary moved to Wauwatosa, Michigan Lutheran Seminary became a prep school, DMLC became a teacher training college with a preparatory department, and Northwestern gave up its teacher training department.

Enrollment increased from 300 in 1955 to 530 in 1968; later it increased to a peak of 575 in 2000. Enrollment decreased to a recent low of 333 in 2008, but is up to 442 today.

Hundreds of tours are given per year. They start in the presently empty tower room. A baptistry has been donated by the NWC alumni society and will be installed in the tower room. Then tours turn to the chapel and to the photos of MLC and WLS, showing the purpose for which LPS exists. LPS continues to provide about 35% of traditional WLS enrollees.

The chapel has been refurbished and the organ is still undergoing work. A sesquicentennial service will be held on Sunday, November 15, at 3:00 p.m. President Schroeder will preach and choirs from the four ministerial education schools will participate.

Professor Roger Kobleske has written a 150th Anniversary history book of LPS that will be available soon.

President Crass noted that from 1975 to 1984, an average of over 55 candidates graduated from WLS each year, while from 2013 to 2022 it looks like an average of 30 candidates will graduate per year. The latter group is replacing the former as those from the former group retire. The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field.

Roll of Alumni Departed to Glory since Last We Met

Professor John Brenner read the roll of the 16 WLS alumni who had departed to glory since the 2014 WLS Alumni annual meeting. The alumni then sang hymn 551, "For All the Saints," stanzas 1-8. Professor Joel Otto was the organist for the day.

Acknowledgements, Announcements, and Adjournment

The next annual meeting of WLS Alumni will be Monday, September 19, 2016, at 11:00 a.m. The ninth annual meeting of WLS Alumni adjourned just after noon.

Respectfully submitted,



Pastor Nathan Ericson, Secretary

Related Documents

- Minutes of the September 22, 2014, meeting
- The Chronicler's Report of WLS alumni who departed to glory since the 2014 annual meeting
- The 2014-2015 WLS Alumni Treasurer's Report
- President Matthew Crass's presentation entitled "LPS 150: Lives Prepared for Service—150 years"