

Our Story

- Seminary. Discussed making *Kerux: A Journal of Biblical-Theological Preaching* the official journal of Northwest Seminary.
11. Adopted a budget of \$270,100.
 12. Scheduled a joint Kerux-Northwest Theological Seminary Conference for August 28-31, 2001 at the Lynnwood OPC.

Why, When, Where & How You Can Help

Why should we start another seminary at this time? It is very difficult to find these emphases taught consistently in one place. There are many fine Reformed seminaries around the country. However, none of these duplicate our vision for Northwest Theological Seminary.

Also the Northwest needs a seminary. The number of Christians in relationship to the general population is estimated to be 15%. We need strong churches in this area. This seminary will give support to existing churches and help evangelize and grow new churches. The encouragement from local English and Korean communities to begin this work is quite astounding.

Our intention is to start classes in September 2001. As previously stated, classes will be held at Lynnwood Orthodox Presbyterian Church, which is located at 17711 Spruce Way, Lynnwood, Washington.

What can you do? Help us to tell the story through the ministry of Northwest Theological Seminary. (1) Help us with your prayers. Please pray that we will be faithful to the Lord Jesus Christ. (2) Help us with your gifts. Yes, this venture will require committed donors; those who love the story because they are participants in it with us. Send your gifts, in any amount, on a regular basis (if possible), to

help us proclaim the story of our sweet union with Christ. As a goal, we are suggesting a pledge of \$50 per month (\$600 per year) for the period of September 2000 to August 2001. (3) Share names and addresses with us of persons whom you believe would be interested in our story. (4) Rejoice together with us that our stories (yours and ours) are centered in the eschatological story – the story of heaven’s love for us and our love for heaven.

Until we receive notification from the IRS, all gifts should be made payable to Lynnwood Orthodox Presbyterian Church and marked “For Northwest Theological Seminary”. All donations are tax deductible and may be mailed to:

Northwest Theological Seminary
PMB A-52
621 SR 9 NE
Lake Stevens, WA 98258-9400

You may also contact Rev. Dennison by phone: (760) 741-8276 or by E-mail: jtdkerux@aol.com

Tentative Calendar

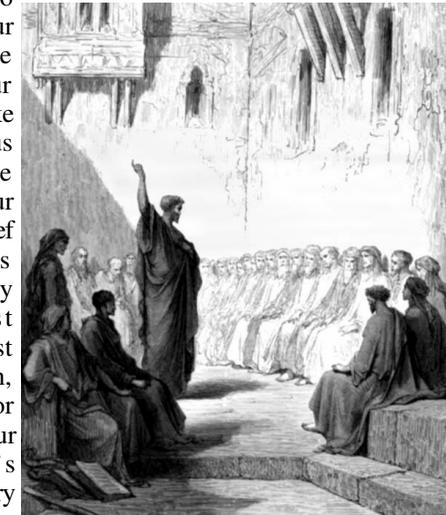
Classes begin Tuesday September 4, 2001
No classes Thanksgiving Weekend, Nov. 22 & 23
Classes end Nov. 30, 2001 (13-week semester)
Reading Week: Dec. 3-7
Exam Week: Dec. 10-14
Second Semester begins January 7, 2002
Spring Break (no classes): March 4-8
Classes end April 12, 2002 (13-week semester)
Reading Week: April 15-19
Exam Week: April 22-26
Continuing Education Program: August 19-30, 2002 (Special lectures and guests for pastors and

We have chosen the name of our Newsletter in order to identify our story with THE STORY – the wonderful story of God’s grace to his people through the life, death and resurrection of his Son, Jesus Christ. We have one solitary burning desire – to know Christ and to make him known. Each of us involved in this project rejoices in being conformed to the life of Christ (as our righteousness), to the death of Christ (as our forgiveness), and to the resurrection of Christ (as our vindication). Further, we take delight in the church of Jesus Christ as the place where we find our corporate identity, our sweet fellowship, our chief avenue of service and our focus for mission. We sincerely believe that Northwest Theological Seminary must serve and encourage the church, not compete with her nor dominate her. It is not only our desire that the story of God’s grace to his people in history will draw sinners into his heavenly kingdom, but that those who are already “blessed possessors” will be enriched and empowered as they find their lives “hidden with Christ in God” (Col. 3:3).

We are singularly committed to the biblical theology of Geerhardus Vos. Often called

the “Father of Reformed Biblical Theology”, Vos pioneered a semi-eschatological approach to the Scriptures. Simply put, he described the revelation given through the minds of the New Testament writers (especially the apostle Paul) as establishing the “now”/“not yet” relationship. The believer is “now joined to Christ by grace through faith so as to be already “seated in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus” (Eph. 2:6), though he is “not yet” perfectly or consummately glorified. The believer’s story is inseparably united to this marvelous story of salvation by Christ, so that as he awaits the “not yet” by faith, he rejoices “now” in his life of union with Christ. His life united to Christ even now is a life in which he has died together with Christ, and he has been raised up together with Christ – so that for him to live is Christ, to die is gain. It is our conviction that this is the liberating message of the gospel, which is to be proclaimed to the world (for conviction) and to the church (for nurture).

Our story is then first, Christ in us (Col. 1:27). Second, our story is Christ’s people. We want to introduce four of his children – four men who have been chosen to shape our story as an institution in Christ Jesus our Lord.



Four Men

J. Peter Vosteen, Professor of Homiletics and Pastoral Theology at Northwest Theological Seminary, was born in Buffalo, New York in 1931. Converted while attending Wooster College, Wooster, Ohio, he married fellow student, Winifred Ham, in 1954 and then enrolled at Westminster Seminary in Philadelphia. He graduated in 1956 and was ordained by the United Presbyterian Church in North America (UPCNA) in Lisbon, New York. When the UPCNA merged with the PCUSA in 1958 (forming the UPCUSA), Pete accepted a call to the Christian Reformed Church (CRC) in Emo, Ontario, Canada. The Lisbon congregation subsequently affiliated with the Orthodox Presbyterian Church (OPC). For 34 years, Pete served CRC congregations in Canada and the U.S., specializing in reviving dead or dying churches. While pastor of the Lynnwood CRC, Lynnwood, Washington, Pete became very concerned with the drift of the denomination away from full commitment to the Reformed faith. He joined the OPC in 1994 and his consistory followed suit in 1995. His wife Winifred died in 1998 and Pete married Mary Larson in January 1999. Pete is the author of “Pastoral Preaching” in *The Preacher and Preaching* (1986). His recollection of the classrooms of Cornelius Van Til, Ned Stonehouse, John Murray and Meredith G. Kline is the basis of his life-long commitment to biblical theology and presuppositional apologetics. Pete will continue as pastor of the Lynnwood church while serving on the Northwest Seminary faculty.



Robert A. Starke, Professor of Old and New Testament, was wonderfully converted to Christ out of the California drug and alcohol culture of the 70's. With his wife, Jan, he began seeking God's will for his life while attending San Jose Christian College.

Eventually enrolling at Westminster Seminary in

Escondido, California, “Rob” came under the influence of Meredith G. Kline and James T. Dennison, Jr. Both Dr. Kline and Mr. Dennison pointed him to Geerhardus Vos and Rob's love for biblical theology blossomed. He was licensed by the Presbytery of Southern California, OPC, served internships in Bonita and San Jose, and has preached extensively in OP churches in northern California. Rob is currently Professor of Hebrew and Greek at his alma mater, San Jose Christian College. Rob and Jan are the parents of two children, Robbie and Jacquelyn. He is the author of “The Tree of Life; Protological to Eschatological” in *Kerux: A Journal of Biblical-Theological Preaching*.

Lane G. Tipton, Professor of Apologetics and Systematic Theology, was born in Texas in 1967. Until the age of twelve, Lane attended church regularly. But for the next seven years, he developed increasingly sophisticated reasons for rejecting Christianity. After his freshman year in college, he decided to read the Bible in order to “know” what he was rejecting. The Holy spirit used the Word to draw him irresistibly to Christ as his Savior. He began to read the works of the Reformers and other Calvinist stalwarts. As a result, he became a member of the OPC in Abilene, Texas. There he met his wife, Charlene. They are proud parents of two children, Lauren and Lyle. While enrolled at Westminster Seminary in California, Lane was challenged by the biblical-theological teaching of Meredith G. Kline and James T. Dennison, Jr. His firm commitment to Van Til's apologetics led him to Van Til's teacher – Geerhardus Vos. Lane has served internships in the OPC and the United Reformed Church (URC). He is currently a Ph.D. student at Westminster Seminary in Philadelphia. Lane contributed “The Eschatology of Hebrews 2:1-4; A Critical Appraisal of the Theonomic Thesis” to

Kerux: A Journal of Biblical-Theological Preaching last May.

James T. Dennison, Jr., Professor of Church History and Academic Dean, was born in 1943. His parents raised him in the UPCNA where he was active in worship, Sunday school and youth groups. His “awakening” to the Reformed faith came in 1960 while reading Milton's *Paradise Lost*. At Geneva College, he studied Bible with Dr. J. G. Vos, son of Geerhardus. After a year in medical school, he enrolled at Pittsburgh Seminary where he studied under John H. Gerstner. Sharon Rogers became his wife in 1966, an R.N. (maternity) in 1967 and the mother of his four children in the 1970's. Finishing M.Div. and Th.M. classes at Pittsburgh, he was ordained by the UPCUSA in 1970 as pastor of the Pioneer and Pleasant Grove UP Churches in Ligonier, Pennsylvania. It was while preaching through the gospel of John in 1972 that he discovered the biblical theology of Geerhardus Vos and his love of the centrality of Christ was wonderfully heightened. In 1980, he moved his family to Escondido, California to become Librarian and Lecturer in Church History at Westminster Seminary. An ordained member of the Presbyterian Church in America (PCA), Jim is the editor of *Kerux: A Journal of Biblical Theological Preaching* and the author of numerous books and journal articles

The First Board Meeting

On September 15 and 16, 2000, the Board of Northwest Seminary met at the Lynnwood Orthodox Presbyterian Church, Lynnwood, Washington. The session of the Lynnwood Church has generously made their building available to the seminary for classrooms. All members of the Board were present for this important organizational meeting: Rev. Larry Semel of Reformation OPC, Morgantown, West Virginia, Chairman; Rev. Yong Kim of Theophilus OPC, Diamond Bar, California; Rev. Randy Bergquist of Emmanuel OPC, Kent, Washington; Mr. David Winslow, Ruling Elder at Westminster

OPC, Westminster, California; and Mr. Scott Hunter, Ruling Elder at Emmanuel OPC, Kent, Washington (ex officio; Rev. J. Peter Vosteen and Rev. James T. Dennison, Jr.). The following are some of the highlights of that meeting.

1. Adopted Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws including the following statement of purpose: “Northwest Theological Seminary exists primarily to train men for the Gospel ministry. The specific means of this training shall be a school of higher learning called Northwest Theological Seminary. The biblical-theological method has been described and developed in the Reformed Christian community by Geerhardus Vos and Herman Ridderbos. Northwest Theological Seminary intends to preserve and extend the insights of the biblical-theological method by educating students in those insights.”
2. Agreed to offer the M. Div. and M.A.R. degrees. In addition, courses will be open to auditors.
3. Approved a calendar (15-week semesters, fall and spring), a schedule of classes (18 hours/semester for full-time students), and a tuition schedule (\$150/credit hour)
4. Adopted the Westminster Standards and the Three Forms of Unity as the confessional standards of Northwest Theological Seminary.
5. Began the process of application for non-profit and IRS tax-exempt status.
6. Discussed a “testimony” emphasizing the distinctives of Northwest Theological Seminary.
7. Endorsed a proposal for close relations with the Presbytery of the Northwest of the Orthodox Presbyterian Church.
8. Discussed catalogue, application forms and a newsletter to be posted on the Northwest Seminary web site.
9. Discussed secretarial staffing and the purchase of the theological library of the late Rev. Charles G. Dennison.
10. Accepted the offer of Kerux, Inc. of Escondido, California to transfer the assets of that corporation to Northwest Theological