

MINUTES
OF THE
GENERAL SYNOD
OF THE
**ASSOCIATE REFORMED
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**



BONCLARKEN
Flat Rock, North Carolina
June 5-9, 1972

MISCELLANEOUS REPORTS

THE REPORT OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF ERSKINE COLLEGE

AT THE CLOSE OF THE COLLEGE'S 133rd YEAR

To the General Synod in Session at Bonclarken, Flat Rock, N. C.,
June 5-9, 1972

The Board of Trustees of Erskine College submits this report to the 168th meeting of the General Synod with humble gratitude to God for His blessings and mercies during the current school year 1971-1972.

GENERAL

A more happy and contented spirit has manifested itself among the young people across our nation and this has prevailed on the Erskine College campus. We have been fortunate at Erskine in avoiding demonstrations and confrontations, but nevertheless the troubled spirit of the past few years has been a source of concern to us as to all other institutions of higher education. Our young people are still deeply concerned about the state of the world but they appear to have a more patient and constructive attitude in trying to improve matters. As always, the young people remain keenly idealistic and they seek to bring about a state of affairs where Christian living may more easily flourish.

A feature at Erskine College has been a markedly revivalistic spirit. More of our young people are turning to God as their focal point and are accepting Christ as their personal savior. This encouraging manifestation has been well fostered by Dr. Randall T. Ruble who assumed the duties of chaplain in September 1971. Daily worship services have been very well attended while the college worship service on the Lord's Day has flourished and grown. Attendance of students at local churches has also shown an encouraging increase. A Teen Crusade was held in the Due West community in October 1971 in which many Erskine College personnel participated very closely and effectively.

ADMINISTRATION

As we reported last year Dr. Robert K. Ackerman was appointed the duty of Vice President for Academic Affairs. He has assumed his duties with keenness and alacrity. We are grateful for the hard work and dedication of our administrative staff.

As a Board we have authorized the enlargement of the admissions office, since the acquiring of new students is of vital importance to the College. In order to carry out our mission as the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church in higher education we have an obligation to reach out to as many young men and young women as possible. Also a shrinking student body brings immediate financial problems. We invite all our ministers and laymen to help us in this vital task of attracting to Erskine College young men and young women who would profit by the type of higher education in a Christian environment offered on our small campus.

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

The entering freshman class of this year was somewhat smaller than those of previous years. The smaller enrollment has caused some financial problems. We have not despaired, however. Contrarily, Erskine has reason to be encouraged in this time of crises for higher education (especially critical for private higher education). Our faculty has the best training of any time on record; slightly over 50% have the Ph.D. Erskine's students continue to perform well academically. The dean of South Carolina's law school recently indicated that Erskine graduates have better records in that law school than the graduates of any other school. Recent studies have shown that Erskine graduates continue to gain admission and perform well in medical schools. Erskine and The Medical University of South Carolina have concluded an agreement whereby students may enter Erskine on an accelerated program and after five years (two at Erskine and three in The Medical University) earn both the B.S. and the M.D. degrees. Erskine is also concluding agreements with Emory and Clemson Universities to provide cooperative programs to train young women for the B.S. in nursing. Erskine and Spartanburg Junior College have concluded a cooperative program to train teachers for pre-school and elementary education. It should be apparent that Erskine is working creatively and aggressively to provide the best possible opportunities for Christian education to prepare young people for meaningful careers in the last third of the twentieth century.

The faculty and administration are encouraged by the spirit of the students on campus. The prevailing attitude is earnest and seeking. For example, the library reports that the use of that facility has increased by about 30% in the last year. The entire college community is determined to work for the progress of this institution. At this point the applications for the next freshman class are about 15% ahead of last year. There is indeed reason for hope.

The College and Seminary united in a significant effort this year by creating the Erskine Institute for the Study of the Rural South. The initial effort of this Institute was the conducting of a symposium on the problems of the rural South in November. The success of this first effort was such as to encourage us to continue developing this rather unique and quite significant interest, which could have great benefit for our largely-rural denomination.

Last May the College granted degrees to 133 men and women. In August another 39 graduated. The continuing interest and loyalty of Erskine's alumni is a considerable encouragement to our efforts in Christian higher education. Erskine is convinced not only of the ever greater need for Christian education, but also of its ability to continue providing that service.

HONORARY DEGREES

At its January meeting the Board of Trustees voted to grant a Doctor of Divinity degree to Dr. John Haddon Leith, an Erskine alumnus of national reputation as a writer and teacher of theology. The Doctor of Divinity degree was also granted to the Reverend

Robert Ernest Smith for his record of pastoral service in the Presbyterian Church and for his outstanding loyalty as an Erskine alumnus. Miss Martha Florence Craig, whose career has been spent in the service of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian denomination, was honored with the Doctor of Humanities degree. Mr. Charles Rufus Walters, who recently retired after a distinguished career in industry, was awarded the degree of Doctor of Laws.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Last July the Board began functioning in its new organizational plan. The new committee structure is proving quite effective. We are thankful for the services of the retiring class, and welcome the incoming class of Trustees. The Board continues to provide able and dedicated leadership.

BUILDING PROGRAM

The G. E. Moore Construction Company was awarded the contract with the low bid of \$307,125 for an addition to and alterations of McCain Library. This three-floor structure will more than double the space for library services and will accommodate normal expansion for at least two decades, being designated so that additions can be made in the future. The Seminary Library collection will be housed on one of the floors of the addition. This project will be funded with proceeds from Synod's Comprehensive Capital Funds Campaign, the Dana Foundation, and gifts from friends and alumni.

Plans for constructing a men's dormitory to replace Wylie Home have been postponed.

DEVELOPMENT

A grant of \$337,000 was received from Mrs. Thomas Hope Reeder as a memorial to her husband and in honor of her mother, Mrs. Hanora Cuddy Dorn (1895) to endow a professorship. Dr. John Miller Grier was named Dorn-Reeder Professor of Modern Languages. Mrs. Dorothy Hipp Gunter donated \$4,500 in memory of her mother, Mrs. Eunice Halfacre Hipp (1905). These funds have been added to the permanent endowment. Notification has been received that the late Mr. William Love Pursley, elder in the First Gastonia congregation, designated Erskine College as beneficiary under the terms of his Will to receive \$5,000 unrestricted and \$5,000 for perpetual Living Endowment.

The house which was given by Miss Lola Bell (1899), who died July 8, 1971, has been designated as the Bell Hall of Education and will be adapted to use by the Education Department as soon as practicable. Miss Bell, a well-known and admired citizen of Due West, kept students in her home for many years.

Dr. and Mrs. Charles R. Younts have included Erskine in their estate planning for the amount of \$500,000 to be used to build the Younts Infirmary. The architect has visited the site and preliminary plans have been made for this facility which will be located between the two campuses along the mall.

The annual meetings of the Deferred Gifts Advisory Committee and the Board of Counselors were stimulating and most helpful.

The Living Endowment campaign was the most successful in Erskine's history with \$188,124.76 pledged by March 1. This loyalty is heartening, encouraging and most helpful in a time of economic instability.

The Public Relations Office reports to the public and religious presses the activities of campus life and alumni. The *Accent* goes to all congregations and a request is made that each Session see that it is distributed among the members.

FINANCES

As a part of this report and as supporting data, the following papers will be submitted to Synod:

- (1) Exhibit A—Auditor's Report of June 30, 1971.
- (2) Exhibit B—Budget Control Statement through May 31, 1972, with estimates to June 30, 1972.
- (3) Exhibit C—A condensed operating statement for the year ending June 30, 1972, as prepared by Erskine's Vice President for Business and Finance, based on actual operations for eleven months and estimated for the remaining one month to the end of the year.

At a time when most private colleges were operating at a deficit, Erskine was able to operate in 1970-71 with an excess of income over expenditures of \$30,538.02. This was very gratifying after several years of deficits. We were able to reduce our current fund indebtedness by this amount and bring our accumulated deficit to \$130,544.09.

In the current academic year, 1971-72, we are suffering from a sharp decline in enrollment which will result in the inevitable deficit. Erskine College is absolutely dependent on maintaining a good enrollment in order to operate on a sound basis. Last year, 78.97% of our operating funds for the College and Seminary came from the students (or parents) for an all-time high. The support of the denomination has been steadily declining as a percentage of the total budget. Last year, the church's support provided only 3.98% of our operating funds. The denomination is going to have to face realistically the financial situation of its institutions of higher learning and give them greater support if they are to continue to operate. Passing on to the student the higher operating costs is no doubt one reason for the decline in enrollment this year.

The Living Endowment program continues to be successful and so stable that we are able to anticipate it in the annual budget. We are most grateful that the alumni and friends of the College (many of whom are Associate Reformed Presbyterians) are so loyal in their support.

We are grateful that the Synod has authorized a day of special offering for the College as well as for the Seminary. This will at least be one additional way for the College and the Seminary to promote greater support.

The College is taking a number of rather drastic steps to help meet the financial situation we are in. Some positions on the faculty are not being filled as faculty members retire, and some offices are being combined or eliminated. Salaries, which are already near the bottom of the scale as compared to our neighboring institutions, are being frozen for next year. This is a drastic move when we realize that Erskine's salaries of 1971-72 are considerably lower than they were five years ago when 1972 dollars are converted to the purchasing power of the dollar in 1967.

The success of the Comprehensive Capital Funds Campaign has been of tremendous importance to the College. We continue to enjoy the use of the expanded dining hall and kitchen facilities which were made possible by this campaign and we anticipate that work will be well underway on the expansion of McCain Library before the meeting of Synod. The Executive Committee of the General Synod has approved the use of campaign funds for the expansion of McCain Library rather than for a new library. This seems to be better stewardship of these funds, as sufficient funds are not in sight for a new library.

The Chairman of the Board, members of the administration, and other members of the Board expect to be present at the meeting of the General Synod and will be pleased to answer any questions or give further information.

We respectfully request that the General Synod grant Erskine College \$85,000 for the operation of the College and Seminary for the year 1973 and \$8,000 for Synod's Scholarships. Because of the increase in tuition charges to \$1,600 in 1972-73, the \$500 Synod Scholarships are most inadequate. The College has had to raise its top academic scholarships to \$1,000. This means that the College will be able to offer two Synod Scholarships of \$1,000 each a year rather than four, unless the Synod can double its appropriation for Synod Scholarships.

We also request that a day be designated as Erskine College Day in the churches with a special offering being taken for Erskine College and another Lord's Day be designated as Erskine Seminary Day with an offering for the Seminary.

Respectfully submitted,

E. I. DAVIS, JR., Chairman
C. H. CARLISLE, Secretary

ADDENDUM TO REPORT OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF ERSKINE COLLEGE TO THE GENERAL SYNOD:

Since the Erskine College Board of Trustees has adopted new By-Laws which were approved by the General Synod in 1971, it is necessary that the charter of the college be amended to conform to these new By-Laws. These changes have come about as a result of a college self-study and of recommendations by various consultants and accrediting agencies. We respectfully request that

this resolution drawn up by the college attorney be adopted by the General Synod in session at Bonclarken, Flat Rock, North Carolina, June 5-9, 1972.

Respectfully submitted,

E. I. DAVIS, JR., Chairman
C. H. CARLISLE, Secretary

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees of Erskine College desires to amend the corporate charter of the College in various particulars; and

WHEREAS, the recommended changes are based upon the results of a self-study conducted by the College and the recommendations of various consultants and accrediting agencies; and

WHEREAS, Trustees of Erskine College was incorporated under a Special Act of the South Carolina Legislature adopted December 20, 1850, as ratified and extended under a Special Act of such Legislature approved March 12, 1872, and as thereafter amended pursuant to action by the Board of Trustees of Erskine College on or about June 7, 1961; and

WHEREAS, Synod approves the proposed amendments;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

1. That Synod approve amendments to the Charter of Trustees of Erskine College so that the same shall read as follows:

(A) Section II. That the said Board of Trustees are and shall be authorized to appoint such officers as they may deem necessary and proper for the organization and government of their own body and also all the officers, professors and instructors of the said College.

(B) Section V. The Board of Trustees shall consist of thirty-one members. The General Synod of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church shall appoint thirty, at least half of whom shall be alumni or alumnae of the College. Each year the Synod is to elect five members to serve a six-year term, beginning the following July 1, as well as to fill any vacancies. The President of the College is a member of the Board with full voting privileges. The appointment of any Trustee who is absent from three consecutive regular meetings of the Board shall be automatically terminated.

(C) Section VIII. In the event that this corporation or its successors should ever be dissolved, the net assets remaining shall pass to the General Synod of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church or its successors. Any change in this Section of this charter must have the prior approval of both the General Synod of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church and the Board of Trustees of the College.