Leading Change

Recently, I presented a case study on "Leading Change" for a gathering of seminary presidents in Santa Fe, New Mexico.

Reflecting upon the changes which Western has experienced during recent years—growth in student enrollment, faculty, and staff; the institution of a Distance Learning M.Div.

program; the establishment of a center for the continuing education of the church; and the construction of an addition to our facility—I have come to realize that we have been blessed by a generative and supportive board of trustees as well as an innovative and dedicated faculty and staff. We have learned that growth and change produces stresses and strains, but that these can be overcome when good people share a common mission and ministry.

I am certain that Christian congregations share much in common with theological schools. It is difficult for a congregation to move forward through significant changes, but these changes can be realized and sustained when the mission of the church is clearly understood and articulated.

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Thank you for encouraging us to find new and effective ways of preparing leaders for the church of the 21st century. As I often tell our students, this is a challenging but exciting time for Christian ministry. It is a privilege to be your partners in gospel ministry.

Cordially, in Christ,

Dennis Voskuil

President Dennis N. Voskuil

Notes from
A Day in the Life of a Seminary Student

Travis Else is a middle student with a family of five.

3:00-4:00AM—Up at this painfully early hour to pray, my usual Monday routine. I pray for our church here in Holland (Christ Memorial), WTS, my home church, (Faith Reformed in Rock Valley, IA), and my family.

4:00-6:00AM—Attempt to sleep again.

6:00AM—Annie, our two month old daughter, is ready for the day. I am not. I make my way to Annie’s crib and peek over the edge. She smiles at me, and I forget about being tired.

6:30AM—I hear Ian (5) getting up in the room he shares with Sophia (3). Ian, Annie, and I make our way downstairs. Ian puts on some music (softly!). Annie and I make toast, cereal and coffee.

7:00AM—Sophie comes downstairs and cuddles with Annie and me in the recliner. Ian reads a book.

7:30AM—Finished with breakfast, ablutions, and devotions (David Bivin’s New Light on the Difficult Words of Jesus), I check email and head across the street for my first class.

8:00-9:00AM—Introduction to Counsel & Care. Guest lecturer Ann McKnight instructs us in the place of music in worship, experiences new songs together, and learns from a talented musician. I feel I’m being prepared for one of those “unexpected” tasks: picking out songs for Sunday morning.

7:45AM—My last few nights of sleep have been less than great, so I'm having a hard time motivating myself this morning. I don't have Peer Group until 9, but that extra bit of sleep hasn't made any difference. There is only one option on a tough morning like this...fake that energy. To help, I dress up.

8:55AM—My Tuned for Praise class is leading a song for chapel this morning, so we arrive early to review and warm up. Before chapel begins, I search out my Peer Group mentor to tell her I will be late for group. Another member is also going to be late, so our time together this week will be spent finding a better slot for Peer Group in our schedules.

9:10-9:45AM—The chapel service is lovely with an eclectic mixture of music styles, accompanied by guest pianist Jeremy Simpson. I enjoy raising my voice with the Western community, which is amazingly musical, in my opinion. During these moments I feel most connected to the people here. Many times we just pass each other in the halls, anxious to get to our next class or to start researching that next paper; but during the nine o’clock hour we come together to worship our Lord and delight in God as the body of Christ.

10:00AM—Tuned for Praise is a breath of fresh air in my schedule. Our small class discusses the place of music in worship, experiences new songs together, and learns from a talented musician. I feel I’m being prepared for one of those “unexpected” tasks: picking out songs for Sunday morning.
morning exhaustion not dissipated. We have a morning class to go to school. "For what?" I demand, my mind wants to read fast, but another part of me struggles not to waste the time. Still, the classmate in the group. We struggle through jussives, hifil stems, and infinitive constructs. Mastering a language is daunting. I remember vividly a comment by Dr. Van Voorst last year in Greek class: "We learn Greek because that is the language God chose to communicate His word, so the beginning of love for the brethren is learning to listen to them."

My crabyness is confirmed. After three hours, I am exhausted. Ben Bruns tells me about a book on game theory, written from a man’s experience in Polish prisons. Where does he find this stuff? Relieved to be done with classes and processing both game theory and the connection between light and Epiphany, I walk home to our townhouse. 5:30-6:30PM—Julie has dinner ready (bless her heart!). It’s one of my favorites. I make an obscenely large bowl of ice cream for dessert. We talk about summer internship possibilities. 6:30-7:30PM—Ian, Sophie and I head to an obscenely large bowl of ice cream for dessert. We talk about summer internship possibilities. 6:30-7:30PM—Ian, Sophie and I head to
With the shadow of a Brown-Boersma ministry team looming large in the Midwest we thought it worth our while to cultivate the gospel soil of a different terrain: the rocky beaches of Puget Sound and Oak Harbor, WA in the Pacific Northwest. So, with Master of Divinity degrees in hand, a few internships worth of experience, and a lifetime of watching our dads minister side by side, we set out on a grace-filled ministry trail together.

We are young! Together we bring four years of experience to the table. Considering that Bryan’s dad just celebrated his fiftieth year ministering at Christ Memorial Church, and Jon’s dad began his pastoral career at Fellowship Reformed Church in Hudsonville, MI thirty years ago this June, a collective four years seems fairly insignificant. Young as we may be, we have been well received by the people of First Reformed Church, as well as by our colleague pastors in the Clas-sis Cascades. Because of (and maybe in spite of) our age and inexperience, the people of FRC have been exceedingly gracious toward us and appreciate the youthful energy and enthusiasm we bring to the work of the church.

The challenges and difficulties of the young pastoral life can be varied and intense, but the gift of walking through the challenges and difficulties together is unspeakable. After the intensity of Sunday sermons and narthex conversations, a cup of coffee at Starbucks on Monday morning and an encouraging chat is rejuvenating. When a consistory decision leaves us all wondering, maybe even worrying, a pat on the back and hearing “I think that was the right decision” is empowering. And when congregational loss becomes personal, or when congregational success becomes remarkable, the tears or the laughter are comforting. Ministering together has been a gift.

As if the glory of a Mount Baker sunrise and the power of a Puget Sound tide weren’t gifts enough, the joy of walking through the first years of ministry a long way from the comfortable confines of our hometown has been significant. Ministry as a Brown-Boersma team has been wonder-ful. Perhaps our dads were on to something. We are grateful to God for the good people of First Reformed Church and Oak Harbor, WA and for the opportunity to join together in the good work God is doing in the Pacific North-west.

Sarah leads kids in a song at Camp Warwick, Warwick, NY (summer 2005)
Faculty Interview

with Steven Chase

Steven Chase earned his Ph.D. in Historical Theology and has written and taught extensively on spirituality. His scholarship finds treasures in the history of the church that energize contemporary spirituality and prayer. He is currently working on a book on the relation between nature and spiritual formation.

What did you do after that experience? I felt guided to investigate Christianity. I talked to a college friend who had become a Presbyterian minister. He was very open to the spiritual experiences going on in my life. I joined the FCUSA and eventually decided to go to Princeton Seminary. I was disappointed for a year until I took a class on Christian mysticism, and then the lights went on. Ahh! I knew Christianity had a deep wisdom of its own!

What other experience at Princeton led you closer to Christ? I ran into a trained spiritual director from the order of The Christian Brothers. I didn’t know anything about spiritual direction, so I went under direction with him. Later I became a spiritual director myself.

How would you describe spiritual directing? Students in my spiritual formation class will recognize this image. It comes from the great saint, Teresa of Avila. Picture a garden. The Lord is the Gardener (and planter!). As spiritual director I serve as the gardener’s assistant, tending the garden. Water represents the Lord’s presence (or felt absence) in the directee’s life. The flowers and plants represent the directee’s calling, vocation, ministry. As the gardener’s assist- tant, there are many ways to water the garden, some difficult, some not so difficult. And ultimately, the garden may be watered without my assistance at all, by the Gardener alone...through a gentle rain.

How can we become more attuned to the voice of God? This is another way of talking about discernment. Perhaps the old ways of worship or devotion don’t feel like they’re feeding you anymore. Something begins to stir when God places a longing or desire within your heart, mind, and spirit. This may confuse you at first, but that is because we in the Reformed tradition have not served our students.

What other spiritual tradition from the history of the Church has impacted you? In the 12th-13th centuries, the Victorines were a group of priests outside the walls of Paris whose writings reveal a highly evolved, symbolic and imaginative way of prayer. Prayer was tied to scripture, theology, liturgy, priestly service, and the natural world, and contemplation was tied to all of those. Compassion creeps out of prayer, and acts of service become prayer itself that in turn inform prayer, so the circle starts again.

My first prayer as a new Christian was, “Teach me to pray.” I gleaned a lot from the Victorines and other contemplative writings of the Medieval period. But be careful what you pray for! God answers prayer, and where that has led me is not what I ever expected.

LifeNotes
Hometown: Seattle, WA
B.A. University of Washington; M.Div. Princeton Theological Seminary; Ph.D. Historical Theology, Fordham University (2001-Present) Associate Professor of Christian Spirituality, WTS
Ordained in 2005, PC(USA)
Other positions held:
• Core Doctoral Faculty Member, Graduate Theological Union, Berkeley, CA
• Resident Member, Center of Theological Inquiry, Princeton, NJ
• Associate Director of Prayer and Ritual, Dominican Center at Marywood, Grand Rapids, MI
• Books written: Angelic Wisdom: The Cherubim and the Grace of Contemplation in Richard of St. Victor

Books and CD's:
The Victorine Spiritual Tradition
The Tree of Life: Models of Christian Prayer

Angelic Spirituality: Its Medieval Perspectives on the Ways of Angels

Visit Dr. Steven Chase’s website to learn more about his work and teachings.

Two treasured parts of Steven Chase’s life: daughter Rachel and reading books. They enjoy a book together, shown here in 1993.

Western has never had a faculty position in Christian spirituality before. What kind of influence do you hope to have on WTS students? I would like them to develop sensitivity to different approaches to the one true God, so that in their ministries they can address people where they are, in the present, with God. I want to help open their eyes to mystery and wonder and to develop a longing for God.

Growing up, would it have surprised you to learn you’d teach in a seminary some day? Being a professor wouldn’t have surprised me, but having anything to do with Christianity would have astounded me! I was interested in religions, but certainly Christianity would have astounded me! I was interested in Hinduism, Buddhism, and nature religion.

How did Christ finally grab your attention? During a meditative hike in the woods and mountains outside Seattle, a sense of rolling power came down from the mountains outside Seattle, a sense of power coming up over a mountain, and, exhausted, sat on a rock. A fog rolled in, and along with it was a strange feeling of power but below me with a surg-

ing feeling of power but bleeding red. I climbed beyond the tree line to the top of the mountain and, exhausted, sat on a rock. A fog was coming up over a precipice somewhere below me with a surg-

ing feeling of power but at the same time, ease and rest.

I knew enough about Christianity to recognize the symbol-

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symbolizes and evokes a range of divine names and attributes as well as how we can be responsive to God’s call for our lives. Various angelic orders in this tradi-
tion represent paths of ministry, ways of being in relationship with God, and inspira-
tion for acknowledging and manifesting God’s illumination that lights the world.

What other spiritual tradition from the history of the Church has impacted you? In the 12th-13th centuries, the Victorines were a group of priests outside the walls of Paris whose writings reveal a highly evolved, symbolic and imaginative way of prayer. Prayer was tied to scripture, theology, liturgy, priestly service, and the natural world, and contemplation was tied to all of those. Compassion creeps out of prayer, and acts of service become prayer itself that in turn inform prayer, so the circle starts again.

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This January, as part of my sabbatical, I spent a month working closely with Central Reformed Church in Grand Rapids. Central had decided to try a new idea in their adult education program. With special funding given as a memorial to Jeannette Rylaarsdam Baas, a well-loved member of the congregation with a strong passion for education, they decided to invite a “teacher-in-residence” for a month of focused work with their congregation.

Guided by the theme of discerning a local congregation’s distinctive calling and mission, I preached twice in the month and taught morning church-school classes throughout January. On Sunday evenings I met in homes with groups of around 25 people for further conversation. I also provided feedback to the Consistory.

Spending a month with Central Reformed gave me a marvelous opportunity to get to know a congregation much more closely than is normally possible and to partake with members in wide-ranging conversations about issues of great importance to the life of the church. For the congregation, the focused and intensive approach stimulated interest and commitment. It was helpful for someone outside their usual frame of reference to ask questions and offer observations.

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The Zwemer Society

In the early 1900s Rev. James F. Zwemer raised the first $100,000 in deferred gifts for Western Theological Seminary and in so doing assured fiscal security for the school. His legacy lives on through The Zwemer Society, a group of individuals who affirm and support the work of equipping men and women for ministry by making life income gifts or other gift arrangements through their estate plans.

Life income gifts have significant tax benefits and can produce an income stream for life. Examples of life income plans include Charitable Gift Annuities and Charitable Trusts. Life income gifts and endowment earnings are used for student scholarships, faculty salaries, facility needs, student housing, technology enhancements, intercultural ministry opportunities, and offsetting tuition expense. Designated bequests can also be arranged for a variety of special projects or programs.

Would you like to help equip future generations of pastors and leaders for the church? Become a Charter Member of The Zwemer Society. Simply notify the Advancement Office at Western of your planned gift arrangement by May 15. In appreciation, you will be invited to the welcome banquet, to be held June 1, and to annual events every thereafter.

The Advancement Office is available to help you craft a gift that truly reflects your values and desires. If you wish to talk with someone personally or would like information on drafting your will or updating it, please call (800) 392-8554 and ask for the Advancement Office.

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A Safe Place to Play

Each year the seminary apartments are home to 20-35 children. The existing playground was built by students over a decade ago and had many safety issues such as rusty nails, no soft surface underneath, missing boards, etc. “Let’s just say it was well loved over the years and needed badly to be replaced!” says Lauren Eisnor, who helped spearhead the project with Julie Else. “Our major motivation was to have a gathering place where seminary families could enjoy fellowship in the courtyard of the apartments.”

Western received a grant that cut the price of the equipment in half, but the grant stipulated it had to be built in 2005. In November over 30 seminary students and spouses helped to build the playground before the ground froze. Volunteers from Holland High School’s National Honor Society and Hope College students helped too. They saved $4,000 by constructing it themselves.

The students have raised $10,000 through donations, plus $2,000 from Western’s housing office. To finish paying for the equipment, students need to raise $4,675. If you are interested in contributing to this project, please make checks payable to Western Seminary with “playground” in the memo, and send to WTS, 101 E. 13th St., Holland, MI 49423. The families are very pleased with the equipment, which includes two kinds of slides, several swings, a climbing structure with a variety of features, and ample soft surface to brace falls.

“The equipment has a life expectancy of 40 years,” says Lauren Eisnor, “so many seminary families will enjoy it!”
Philanthropy

“The word philanthropy has its roots in the Greek language meaning “love for mankind.” It was never meant to apply only to donors of thousands or millions of dollars.”

—Arthur C. Frantzreb

I can’t tell you how many times I have been asked in one form or another, “Why does the seminary need an advancement team? Don’t churches pay for whatever expenses tuition doesn’t cover?”

As I recently responded to this question again, it reminded me that until I came to work at Western, I, too, thought the RCA and tuition covered the cost of educating our pastors. While there was a day when that was true, it has not been so for many years.

This year it will cost $246,000 to educate one student at Western. Tuition (before scholarships and other financial aid) will cover 26% of this cost. Earnings from seminary investments and donor endowments will cover 39%, and support from RCA congregations will cover only 9%. The remaining 26% must be raised through gifts from individuals—people like you and me who care deeply about the Church and those who will lead it.

It has been said that “ministry donors do not just give, they invest.” Will you join me by investing in the ministry of Western Theological Seminary? Every gift, no matter its size, makes a difference in the life of a future pastor. You, too, can be a philanthropist, showing your “love for mankind” through your giving.

Ken Neevel
Director of Advancement & Communications

Thank you!!! You may recall that last fall an anonymous donor pledged to match every new or increased gift given to the Seminary Fund this year, up to $100,000. I am thrilled to report that the challenge was met with gifts totaling just over $150,000! This is a tremendous blessing for the seminary, and I extend a heartfelt thanks to every person who made this possible. You truly are partners in this ministry.

Harlan Van Oort Profile

Harlan Van Oort is the Chaplain of Northwestern College, Orange City, Iowa

Who or what influenced you to be the person you are today?

I have been blessed with many people—family, friends, teachers, leaders—who impacted my life and shaped my understanding of God’s sovereign grace revealed in Jesus. I also benefited from being exposed to rural life on the farm in Iowa and city life in Denver, Colorado in my early years.

How and when did you hear the call to ministry?

I felt a nudging from the age of 6 and all throughout school, but after high school I tried to avoid it by attending community college and becoming an electrician for 4 1/2 years. Finally, the reality of God’s call and confirmation by people I trusted could no longer be ignored. I entered Northwestern College with the intention of following college with seminary.

What did you value most about your seminary education?

Harlan debriefs with students during a visit to Nicaragua. Northwestern sends about 15 teams out each spring break, involving around 250 students. Harlan is a staff advisor on these trips where students learn about the world, missions, and service.

I needed and appreciated every aspect of my education at Western—the community, academic rigor, practical training, mentoring in the teaching congregation, spiritual formation—the total experience. I especially enjoyed my internship at Central College—an experience unlike anything I thought I would ever have.

What are the most important lessons you learned from the churches you pastored?

I learned there are many people in the pew who know more about the Bible and can preach better than I can. I simply had been given the time and privilege to search the Scriptures and discern the message from God for the community. I also learned that some of the most important events were those which were not planned, and the Holy Spirit can use anyone to create something new.

What led you to become a chaplain at Northwestern?

Again, it was a subtle nudging along with others telling me I should consider it. I am honored to be here. The pace is faster

Events and Seminars

March 20-24—“Daughters of Thunder Speaking Out” a week of women’s preaching, co-sponsored by Journey and Preach Sista

March 21-22—Oosterhaven Lectures: “Love and Justice” with Dr. Nicholas Wolterstorff

April 28—Managing Congregational Conflict with Speed Leas, Alban Institute. $50 for day-long workshop.

May 10—Prepare/Enrich with Andrew Gorter. $130 for day-long Initial Training Session.

Journey Summer Institute

June 5-9—Witness of Public Theology with Dr. George Hunsberger and Dr. Cynthia Holder Rich

June 12-16—Theology of the Holy Spirit

June 19-23—Leadership for a Revitalized Church in Mission with Dr. Ken Eriks and Rev. Vicky Menning

June 26-30—Lesslie Newbigin’s Theology for the Church in a Pluralist Society with Dr. George Hunsberger, Tyndale Seminary in Toronto

Journey’s homepage: www.westernsem.edu/Brix?pageID=16293

A center for the continuing education of the church, located in the Garden Level of Western Theological Seminary
Harlan Van Oort ‘86

than I expected and a little more fun than I thought it would be.

How would you describe the dynamics of a congregation all the same age rather than the variety found in a church?

I miss doing baptisms, though I have pitch-hit a few times as a pastor in local churches. I don’t encounter the wisdom of the elderly as often, but I treasure it when it is available.

The main benefit of college life is the students. The enthusiasm, giftedness, and potential for ministry in these students overwhelms me with gratitude daily.

What do you want students to learn from you?

My constant plea is a quote from Pascal, the first word of St. Benedict’s Rule, the first word of the Shema: “Listen for God.”

I hope they hear God calling them to be children of God in the church, lifelong learners, servants in a kingdom vocation, and members of a global community. I hope they hear Jesus say, “Do not be afraid.”

What works against that message?

A culture of individualism and video games, a mindset of defining one’s own reality. These barriers prevent students from interacting in community. They know they need it and desire it, but they are drawn back into the internet and other distractions available to them in the culture.

How do you seek out and encourage gifts of ministry in the students?

I make myself available as their pastor while they are away from home. Besides leading in worship, I work at the ministry of "presence," encouraging them to live in gratitude for grace and the opportunity to learn.

Each year I take students considering a theological education to Western Seminary. Sometimes I plant the idea, because I see so much potential in a particular student. Western does a marvelous job of helping them discern their call, even if they choose another school or another plan.

What is your favorite part of being a chaplain?

My favorite part of the job is watching students develop as Christians and as scholars. I am eager for the world to meet them.

What is one way you model Christian service to your community?

I am on the board of Siouxland Habitat for Humanity. I have been involved with Habitat for Humanity for many years and have worked on several projects in the local chapters of Yakima, Washington and Sioux City, Iowa. I have done two blitz builds with Jimmy Carter. Orange City completed its first Habitat house in 2005.

Other interests?

The most interesting things are those that interest my wife, Pat, and my two daughters, Elizabeth and Jenna. I love being where they are.

Any advice to current seminary students?

I heard it at my graduation. My prayer is that we end our ministries with the words of Psalm 26: “Vindicate me, O Lord, for I have walked in my integrity.”

LifeNotes

b. 1956; Hometown: Sheldon, IA
B.A. Northwestern College, ‘82; M.Div. Western Theological Seminary, ‘86

Faculty Views

Matthew Foding, Dean of Students and Director of Formation for Ministry, traveled to Sudan in November, where he taught a “History of Evangelism: Considering Alternative Models for Sudan” at the Khartoum Evangelical Church Pastor and Christian Worker Conference. On March 31 he will present “Approaches to Mentoring in Seminary Education” at The National Conference on Mentoring at Denver Seminary.

Through the Journey Summer Institute, George Hunsberger, Dean of Journey, and Cynthia Holder Rich, Associate Professor of Continuing Education, will teach “Witness of Public Theology” June 5-9 at Western Seminary. On June 26-30 Dr. Hunsberger will teach a course at Tyndale Seminary in Toronto entitled, “Lesslie Newbigin’s Theology for the Church in a Pluralist Society.”

Theresa Latin, Assistant Professor of Pastoral and Congregational Care, successfully defended her dissertation on October 31 in Princeton, NJ. The thesis title is, “From Community to Communic: A Practical Theology of Small Group Ministry.” This signals completion of the Ph.D. degree for Rev. Latin.

Robert Van Voorst, Professor of New Testament, published two books on world religions, Anthology of World Scriptures: Eastern Religions and Anthology of World Scriptures: Western Religions (Wadsworth/ Thomson Press). Designed for upper-level college and seminary courses in religion, they are “plits” from his Anthology of World Scriptures, 5th ed.

In the last three months, Dr. Voorst preached and/or taught adult classes on the Bible and current Christian issues at Third Reformed in Holland; Fifth Reformed in Grand Rapids; Ferryburg Community Church (CRC); First Reformed in Grand Haven; and Second Reformed in Zeeland.

On Wednesday evenings, March 8-29, he will teach a course on Christian approaches to other religions, particularly Islam, open to the public at River Tree Church in Wyoming, MI.

President Dennis Voskuil presented a case study at The Association of Theological Schools’ Presidential Intensive Week in Santa Fe, NM in December.

Jill English comes to WTS with an educational background in sales and marketing. Most recently she worked at Second Christian Reformed Church in Grand Haven, MI as the Administrative Director.

In her new position Jill assists the admissions director and provides support to prospective and current WTS students. She also helps to coordinate the chapel service, schedules pulpit supply for students, and helps develop materials to enhance the visibility of WTS to prospective students.

Jill says, “I feel incredibly blessed to combine my experience and skills to encourage the future leadership of Christ’s church!”

Welcome

Rev. Van Oort’s congregation: Northwestern College students
**News**

Harman Heeng '65 retired from serving as full-time pastor of Second Reformed Church and part-time pastor of Normandale Reformed Church in Pekin, IL. Harman served RCA congregations in Ontario, Indianapolis, and Pekin for 40 years. He and his wife, Grace, have moved to Jacksonville, FL to be near family.

Martin Vis '92 and Sally Vis (former WTS Admissions Assistant) moved to Israel at the beginning of January to volunteer with the International Christian Committee located in East Jerusalem. They are honored to serve with the wonderful folks of the Palestinian Christian Community. Check out their blog site: www.martvisallyvis.typepad.com

Karen Nottelmann ’89 has completed the rigorous process of being certified as a Christian educator. She was recognized for this achievement at the Association of Presbyterian Church Educators (APCE) annual awards ceremony on February 3 in St. Louis, MO.

**on to Glory...**

In mid-January the Rev. Myung Woo Lee was killed in a traffic accident in Korea. Rev. Lee’s father was seriously injured, and his mother and aunt were also killed. Rev. Lee had resigned recently as the pastor of the Peace Korean Reformed Church in Fairlawn, NJ to accept a call to serve Korean students studying in China. He had just arrived in Korea and was making preparations to begin his ministry in China.

Real, Myung Woo Lee talks to WTS students during coffee time, October 2004. During the last five years, Rev. Lee had served as a valuable member of the Western Seminary Board of Trustees. At his final board meeting last October he shared the powerful story of his call to ministry in China. The seminary community will deeply mourn the death of this gifted and dedicated servant of Christ. Rev. Lee is survived by his wife, So Ae, and sons, David and Andrew, both students at Hope College.

**An Invitation**

Classes of ’56, ’66, and ’81: Please join us for Alumni/ae Day on May 8, 2006. Luncheons will be provided for the 25th, 40th, and 50th reunion classes. Special activities are planned for the morning and afternoon. Meet current students and reminisce with former classmates. ALL Western alumni/ae are invited to an alumni/ae dinner at 5:00 in the Maas Center of Hope College ($25/person). We will be honored Distinguished Alumni Rev. Dr. James Nettinga ’37 and Rev. Dr. Richard Ter Maat ’64. This is an advance notice. You will receive an invitation packet in the mail. If you are coming from out of town, we recommend that you book your reservations early at local hotels.

Alumni/ae, Friends and Family: At 7:30 you are invited to Dimnent Memorial Chapel on Hope’s campus for the commencement service of the class of 2006. Rev. Neil Plantinga, Jr., President of Calvin Theological Seminary, will be the commencement speaker.

**Special Gifts made to Western Theological Seminary**

October 14, 2005 - February 8, 2006

- In Memory of Edith Eicemergen
  - Mr. & Mrs. Paul M. Kies
- In Memory of Andy & Gordon Isenga
  - Mrs. Myra Isenga Barkel
- In Memory of Mr. & Mrs. Justin Waakbeke
  - Mr. & Mrs. Jack Waakbeke
- In Memory of Robert Vafniervoost, Sr.
  - Rev. & Mrs. James Boe
  - Dr. & Mrs. Donald J. Breggeng
- In Memory of Richard VanHouten, Sr.
  - Rev. & Mrs. James Boe
  - Dr. & Mrs. Donald J. Breggeng
  - Dr. & Mrs. George Hansberger
- Mr. & Mrs. Mark R. Jackson
- Mr. & Mrs. Randall VandeKlutter
- Mr. Howard VandeKlutter

- In Memory of The Rev. Theodore Zandstra
  - Mr. & Mrs. Charles Chester
  - Dr. & Mrs. J. John Hesselink
  - Mrs. Darlene Jekel
  - Mr. & Mrs. Glenn Kooyman
  - Dr. Richard Gudertays
  - Mrs. Thelma J. Pachla
  - Mrs. Marian Spyker
  - Rev. Dr. & Mrs. Vernon Sterken
  - Rev. Henry J. VanDerven
  - Mr. & Mrs. James Veld
  - Dr. & Mrs. Henry Veegd

- In Memory of C.ERCA (Christian Educators Reformed Church in America) President Nancy McNielsen

**An Invitation**

Classes of ’56, ’66, and ’81: Please join us for Alumni/ae Day on May 8, 2006. Luncheons will be provided for the 25th, 40th, and 50th reunion classes. Special activities are planned for the morning and afternoon. Meet current students and reminisce with former classmates. All Western alumni/ae are invited to an alumni/ae dinner at 5:00 in the Maas Center of Hope College ($25/person). We will be honoring Distinguished Alumni Rev. Dr. James Nettinga ’37 and Rev. Dr. Richard Ter Maat ’64. This is an advance notice. You will receive an invitation packet in the mail. If you are coming from outside of town, we recommend that you book your reservations early at local hotels.

Alumni/ae, Friends and Family: At 7:30 you are invited to Dimnent Memorial Chapel on Hope’s campus for the commencement service of the class of 2006. Rev. Neil Plantinga, Jr., President of Calvin Theological Seminary, will be the commencement speaker.

- Theodore F. Zandstra ’44
  - b. Chicago, IL 1/1/1920
  - d. Holland, MI 11/27/2005
  - Chicago City College, 1937-39
  - Hope College ’41; WTS ’70
  - Reformed Churches served: Palmyra, Palmyra, NY (1944-48)
  - South, Holland, IL (1948-64)
  - Kalamazoo, MI (1964-67)
  - Westwood, Muskegon, MI (1972-79)
  - Trinity, Holland, MI (1978-84)
  - Other service to the church: Secretary, Board of Pensions, RCA, NY (1967-72)

- John Edward Hbma ’49
  - b. Maurice, IA 3/4/1919
  - d. Grandville, MI 2/21/2006
  - Central College ’46; WTS ’49
  - Reformed Churches served: Corinth, Byron Center, MI (1949-52 and 1969-76)
  - Richmond, Grand Rapids, MI (1952-56)
  - First, Artesia, CA (1956-64)
  - Mayfair Community, Lakewood, CA (1964-69)
  - Other ministry: Chaplain, Veteran’s Facility, Grand Rapids, MI (1976-86)

Necrologist: Glen Bruggers ’51

**Reformed Review**

The Autumn 2005 issue of The Reformed Review, "Homosexuality and the Church" is available online:

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