

The General Theological Seminary

Since our last report to General Convention in 1982, the General Theological Seminary has completed a major capital funds drive, significantly increased its annual support, and made a number of internal changes aimed at strengthening the quality of the life of the Seminary community.

The Campaign for General is coming to a conclusion with almost \$11½ million raised toward its \$12 million capital funds goal. The funds that have been raised have made it possible for us to endow our library and five faculty chairs, totally renovate our married student apartments, increase scholarship aid, while maintaining a balanced budget for three consecutive years. In addition, the generous response of our supporting congregations to the 1% resolution ~~has resulted in a 122% increase in support from this source since the triennium began.~~ We, in turn, have been working with our alumni to develop some ways in which we can respond to the parishes and dioceses of the Church, including plans for the development of an educational program for parish use produced on video tape, in addition to ongoing conversations with regard to the meaning of accountability between the Seminary and the Church-at-large.

In the Spring of 1984, the Seminary, with outside assistance, began a study of its common life, to determine how we might become a more racially inclusive community, and how we might increase our awareness of what such inclusiveness implies both in what we study and in the way we live. We see this study as an ongoing process which will continue as a regular part of our Seminary life. The significance of the issues raised in our study was heightened for us by the presence of Bishop and Mrs. Tutu in our midst during the Fall of 1984 (during which time he won the Nobel Prize for Peace). As the second Visiting Professor of Anglican Studies made possible by our Campaign, Bishop Tutu made a contribution which was unforgettable.

In looking toward the future, we are paying particular attention to the need to renovate our historic Chelsea Square campus and to the ongoing development of our Board of Trustees. We have just commissioned David Helpern Associates to begin a complete master plan for the restoration of our facilities, which will be carried out over the next 10 years. To strengthen our Board of Trustees and to enable us to build a Board which will help *guide* this effort, we are petitioning General Convention for a constitutional change that will give us more freedom to elect our own Board. Mindful of our historic connection with General Convention, we are seeking authority to elect more of our Board by limiting election by General Convention to two bishops, two priests, and two lay persons (rather than the 18 persons presently elected).

In return, we are asking that the time on the agenda allotted to the Dean of the General Seminary be given instead to the Chair of the Council of Deans to speak briefly on behalf of all the seminaries of the Church.

To facilitate this change in the Seminary's constitution the following resolution was adopted by the Board of Trustees of the General Theological Seminary and is presented to the General Convention for action.

Resolution #A—72

Resolved, the House of _____ concurring, That the 68th General Convention authorize amendment of Art. III and Art. VI of the Constitution of the General Theological Seminary to permit a change in the manner of election to the Board of Trustees to allow for a Board constituted as follows:

GENERAL THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

III. The Board of Trustees shall be constituted as follows: The Presiding Bishop of the Church; the Bishop of the Diocese in which the Seminary is located; the Dean of the Seminary; ~~six two~~ Bishops chosen by the House of Bishops; ~~six two~~ Presbyters or Deacons chosen by the House of Deputies of the General Convention; ~~six two~~ Lay Persons chosen by the House of Deputies; ~~six twenty-four~~ persons elected by the Board of Trustees; and ~~three Bishops, three Presbyters or Deacons, and three lay nine~~ persons chosen by the Alumni of the Seminary. The Presiding Bishop, the Bishop of the Diocese, and the Dean of the Seminary shall be members *ex officii*. The ~~six~~ Bishops, ~~six~~ Presbyters or Deacons, and ~~six~~ Lay Persons representing the General Convention shall be ~~so chosen that three of each order shall be~~ elected at each Convention for a term of ~~six three~~ years; the ~~twelve twenty-four~~ persons elected by the Board of Trustees shall be ~~so chosen that six shall be~~ elected at the meeting of the Board following each General Convention for a term of ~~six three~~ years. The ~~three Bishops, three presbyters or deacons, and three lay nine~~ persons representing the Alumni shall be so chosen that ~~one of each order three~~ shall be elected annually to serve for three years. The Alumni elections, in which all the Alumni of the Seminary in good standing shall be the Electors, shall be in charge of the Alumni Association, whose Secretary shall report the results of the election to the Secretary of the Board of Trustees. All vacancies in the Board of Trustees may be filled by the remaining members of the Board for the unexpired terms. These forty-two Trustees shall constitute the regular members of the Board, and hereinafter are described as the members of the Board. The Board shall elect its Chairman for such time and with such powers as it sees fit. Fifteen members shall be necessary for a quorum for the transaction of ordinary business, but a majority of the Board shall be necessary for the election of a Dean or a member of the Faculty. Every Bishop of this Church, not a member of the Board of Trustees, shall be entitled to a seat and voice, but without vote, at any meeting of the Board.

VI. This Constitution, as altered by the concurrent vote of the General Convention and of the Board of Trustees, shall take effect *immediately upon its adoption by the General Convention of 1985; on the first day of October, A.D. 1884* and the first Trustees, other than ~~Bishops those persons elected to six-year terms in 1982 by the General Convention or the Board of Trustees~~, under the amended Constitution, shall be chosen ~~before that time by the House of Bishops and the House of Deputies and the Diocesan Conventions~~ respectively *at the General Convention of 1985*; and a certificate of their election shall be forwarded to the Secretary of the Board of Trustees. *At the meeting of the Board of Trustees following the General Convention of 1985, nine persons shall be elected by the Board, but thereafter all elections shall be conducted in accordance with the provisions of Article III.*

We respectfully request your support of the resolution.

Respectfully submitted,

James C. Fenhagen,
Dean