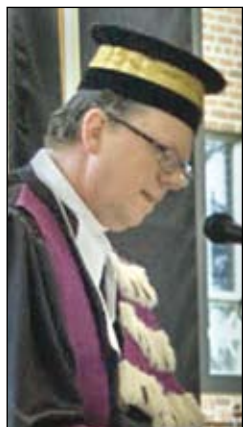


Leadership change at Edmonton seminary

EDMONTON - After serving as president for almost four years, the president of Concordia Lutheran Seminary (CLS) in Edmonton, Rev.



Dr. Manfred Zeuch addresses the Edmonton seminary's Sacred Convocation in May 2011.

Dr. Manfred Zeuch sent a letter of resignation to LCC President Robert Bugbee; Rev. Mark Dressler, chair of CLS Board of Regents; and Rev. Don Schiemann, president of the ABC District. The resignation was effective October 28.

Dr. Zeuch, a native of Brazil, accepted the call to serve as president of CLS in January 2007. "I was honoured to lead CLS through the phases of renewal in curriculum and vision," he said in his letter noting that the changes will continue as a result of the Memorandum

of Understanding which seeks to produce cost efficient and sustainable seminary education in Canada. He believes his "mission and vocation at CLS has now come to an end, and it will be good for other leaders to continue in the path of the agreement reached in June."

"These sorts of moments are bittersweet for me," commented President Bugbee. "I will deeply miss the warmth and collegial spirit that Dr. Zeuch always displayed toward me personally in his role as seminary president, and yet I thank God for his consecrated service, both to CLS and to the Synod." He asked the church to pray the Lord's guidance for the Zeuch family in the future, and for the ongoing work being done by faculty, staff and students at Concordia Lutheran Seminary.

To provide interim leadership the Board of Regents of Concordia Lutheran Seminary (CLS), asked Rev. Dr. Edwin Lehman, president emeritus of Lutheran Church-Canada to serve as acting president

until the end of December when the regents anticipated naming a longer term replacement.

On November 17, the seminary announced the appointment of Rev.

Dr. Norman Threinen as interim president, effective January 1, 2012.



Rev. Dr. Norman Threinen

Dr. Threinen's history with the seminary dates back to its inception in 1984 when he joined the faculty as an assistant professor. He became a full professor in 1993, a position he held until his retirement in 2002. Dr.

Threinen also served as Acting President of CLS in 2003-2004 when then-president Rev. Andy Bacon was engaged in military chaplain duty.

"The board is very grateful that Dr. Threinen is willing to lead the seminary during this transitional time," said Rev. Mark Dressler, chair of the Board of Regents. "We ask the community of Lutheran Church-Canada to keep both of the seminaries in their individual and corporate prayers."

Research centre to focus on scholarship and faith

EDMONTON - Providing a place for scholars to conduct research on the relationship between Christian faith,



Rev. Dr. Bill Anderson

academic learning and the contemporary world is the focus of the new Canadian Centre for Scholarship and the Christian

Faith (CCSCF) established by Concordia University College of Alberta.

The director of the CCSCF, Rev. Dr. Bill Anderson, says there are many "exciting ideas being presented

in the academic world from many different disciplines—and this unique centre provides a medium for disseminating the relevance of these ideas from a Christian perspective for both the academic world and the general public."

The CCSCF will hold its first annual conference on the theme of *The Humanities and the Christian Faith*, May 3 and 4, 2012.

Future conferences will look at *The Social Sciences and the Christian Faith* (2013), *The Creative and Performing Arts and the Christian Faith* (2014), *The Sciences and the*

Christian Faith (2015) and *Business and the Christian Faith* (2016).

Dr. Anderson notes that "both the general public and academics continue to show a strong interest in religion—and that the new Canadian Centre for Scholarship and the Christian Faith wants to be central in sharing that passion with intellectual, cultural and academic rigour."

The Canadian Centre for Scholarship and the Christian Faith receives funding from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC).



Seminary celebrates Walther anniversary

ST. CATHARINES, Ont - “He wanted to be a musician, but his father promised him a thaler (dollar) a week to study theology.” These and other personal and historical curiosities came to light as Rev. Jon Vieker and Dr. Thomas Winger explained the role of C. F. W. Walther (October 25, 1811–May 7, 1887), the first president of The Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod, in preparing a sound Lutheran hymnal and agenda designed to reverse a trend of less musical and less orthodox worship materials.



Rev. Jon Vieker

Pastor Vieker presented a brief history of German hymnals and hymnody to participants at the C. F. W. Walther Festive Convocation held Sunday and Monday, October 23 and 24, at Concordia Lutheran Theological Seminary, in honour of the 200th anniversary of Walther’s birth.

The event began with a narrative hymn-sing Sunday evening with 79 in attendance. The Resurrection Lutheran Church Choir, under the direction of Dianne Humann, assisted as the group sang hymns from the entire church year. On Monday Rev. Vieker began by pointing out the large variety of hymnals from various state churches that made worship challenging for the Saxon immigrants seeking religious freedom in America.

It was Walther’s congregation, Holy Trinity in St. Louis, which decided to prepare a new hymnal, and Pastor Walther was appointed chief editor. Thus the 36 participants gathered in the chapel and the 102 participants watching online learned that Walther was highly influential in providing worship materials as well as in theological writings and

political leadership for the new, struggling Synod of Missouri, Ohio and other states.

Dr. Winger led participants through a study of Walther’s five hymns, written on a long sea voyage to Germany in 1860. Trying to sing them was a lesson in how voices and music have changed over the years and across the ocean.

He also provided a brief history of the development of the German Lutheran Agenda. Both the Agenda and Walther’s German hymnal edition were still in use over a hundred years later in some LCC and LCMS congregations.



Walther at the organ

Following a German-style luncheon prepared by staff and volunteers, Rev. Vieker presented some of the challenges of transitioning from an all-German to a more English synod and hymnal.

Videos of each session are available online at <http://www.brocku.ca/concordiaseminary/videos>.

Financial support for the convocation came from the Natalie and David Appelt Endowment for the Promotion of Lutheran Liturgics and Music.

Faithful servant called home

CAMROSE, Alta. – The former treasurer for Concordia Lutheran Seminary in Edmonton, Ray Smith, was called home by his Lord, September 9, 2011. Mr. Smith also served as Vice-president of Finance at Concordia University College of Alberta. He was 72.



Ray graduated from the University of Alberta in 1970 with a Bachelor of Commerce. He articulated for two years with Clarkson, Gordon Company and received his Chartered Accountant designation in 1972. He remained in finance for the rest of his career working for the Alberta Research Council, Augustana University College, the Bethany Group and Concordia University College.

“When I came on staff at Lutheran Church–Canada in 2002, Ray was a tremendous mentor for me,” recalled LCC treasurer, Dwayne Cleave. “I deeply appreciated his strong faith, serving spirit and business knowledge.”

He retired in 2006 and after a brief hiatus, accepted a part-time position at Concordia Lutheran Seminary as the Finance Manager. He was pleased to serve his Lord and the church both in his positions at post-secondary institutions and also through service on many boards and committees in his congregation.

Rev. Neil Stern conducted the funeral service at St. Peter’s Lutheran Church in Leduc, Alberta followed by burial in the church’s cemetery.

Left to cherish his memory are his wife Bonnie; his children Angela (Matt) Honey of St. Andrews, N.B. and Les (Gaylene) Smith of Strathmore; two grandchildren and one brother Ken (Elke) of Sherwood Park, Alberta.