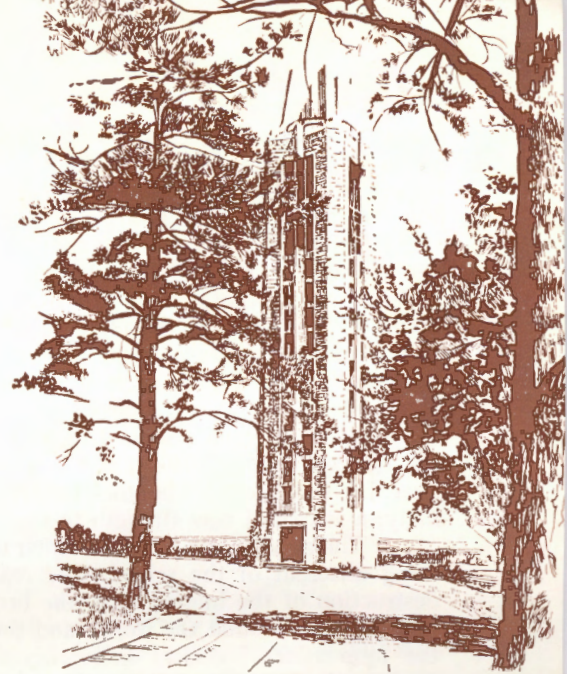


RELIGION

Bulletin of Kansas School of Religion at The University of Kansas

Vol. 3, No. 1, October, 1965



From The Editor's Desk

With this issue RELIGION begins its third year. The "Editor's Preface" in Vol. 1, No. 1 asserted that the publication was intended to meet a long-felt need for a literary medium through which K.S.R. may communicate with its constituency. It set out to provide information about the school and to publish articles representing serious thought on subjects related to the teaching of religion at a tax-supported university. This issue is limited to informing about the school. In past issues an occasional reference has been made to the plan for expansion in the coming decade. As the main article this time we are printing the complete text of the document which describes the expansion program adopted by the Kansas School of Religion board of trustees last Fall.

As we begin the decade the school is in a favorable position for expansion, thanks to the strengthening it has experienced over the last four years. Recognizing that the school had not taken full advantage of its opportunities at K.U., the board in April, 1961 adopted a four-year plan designed to correct deficiencies and improve it in various ways. At a meeting of leaders of major religious bodies in June of that year, Chancellor Wescoe challenged them to take the lead in translating the plan into reality. The results that followed in the past four years have far exceeded what even the most sanguine in 1961 expected.

- (1) An equitable system of financing the school has been put into operation whereby each religious body in the corporation contributes support proportionate to the number of members it has in the K.U. student body.
- (2) The number of religious bodies in the corporation has increased from seven to ten.
- (3) The groups in the corporation are now more intimately related to the school and function as fully responsible partners in the enterprise.
- (4) The library has been improved much, in books and periodicals bought and in better library services.
- (5) A substantial beginning has been made on a fund to provide adequate quarters for the school.
- (6) The number of full-time teachers has been increased from one to four, strengthening the school academically and allowing it to be compared favorably with a respectable department in the university.

Our circumstances are such that we may not relax and revel in the achievements of the past, however satisfying they may be, for the university with which K.S.R. is related is expanding at a rapid rate and our school must run very fast simply to keep in the race. So as the end of the four-year period approached, the board of trustees, led by a program-planning committee made up of Dean William Albrecht, Dr. E. B. Brown, Father John McLaughlin, Dean William J. Moore (*ex officio*), Mr. Russell Mosser, and Mr. Gerald Pearson, adopted the following plan for the expansion of the school, entitled "A Decade in Prospect, 1965-1975."

A DECADE IN PROSPECT, 1965-1975

1. Getting Perspective

(1) The Old

As we make our way through the coming ten-year period we do not sail through totally uncharted seas. Our school will be essentially the same as it has been for forty years and more. It will carry into the future the strengths and weaknesses of the ecumenical project it has been in the past. It expects to have, as it has had till now, the understanding and the good will of the university with which it is associated. No change is contemplated in its constitution.

Its good purpose, formulated in 1921, will continue to guide it. Its fundamental work will remain that of teaching credit courses in religion at the university and it will attempt to serve, as it always has, the perennial crop of intelligent and ambitious youth that comes hopefully to a great state university in the fall of each year.

(2) The New

But we are not justified in saying with Koheleth "there is nothing new under the sun." We are beginning to witness a student "population explosion" without precedent,

and the School of Religion will be obliged to attempt the unprecedented to deal with it. The trend to tax-supported higher education appears to be accelerating, and, added to the general increase in the number of students going to college, it will create new problems for an institution like ours. For example, if KU's student body increases as forecast by experts and if Kansas School of Religion continues to improve its position academically as it hopes to, it would have to provide for at least 1,500 registrations ten years from now whereas the yearly average over the last ten years was about one-third of that number.

There is good reason to expect new resources from the religious bodies of Kansas. The ecumenical movement sweeping through the churches is now, and will be increasingly, a source of new strength to the school.

The apocalyptic times in which we live demand something different of the school. The real possibility of total destruction of the human race, the breaking up of old culture patterns around the world, and the radical "shaking of the foundations," ethical and religious, that is occurring even in the most carefully guarded areas of our own land give a new urgency to the work of a school helping youth to think straight about the relations of man to man and man to God in the next ten years.

(3) The Goal

The goal that we should keep clearly in mind as we move into the next decade is that of a first-rate school among other first-rate schools in a university community with the distinctive role of creating the opportunity for students, graduate as well as undergraduate, to study religion by the highest academic standards. Kansas School of Religion has achieved much, but really it has obtained no more than a foothold in its Canaan. There is yet no undergraduate major in religion and not one graduate religion course—to mention some of the parts of the land yet to be possessed.

The program to achieve the goal should be comprehensive. It should be the best that limited human wisdom can devise. It must also be flexible. Ten years is a long time and circumstances sometimes change rapidly and radically. We could limit progress by giving a dynamic program institutional forms that are too rigid.

Planning for 1965-1975 should be related to the expansion plan for the present half-decade, 1960-1965. The enthusiastic response it has received and the achievements it has brought give us grounds for profound optimism as we enter the coming decade.

2. Basic Program

(1) Undergraduate

The school has traditionally offered scholarly, accredited, undergraduate courses to all the students in an effort to contribute to their maturity by relating religion to the totality of their educational experience. This will continue to be its basic concern. Some courses will need to be added, but the offerings we now have cover most of the fundamental content of undergraduate Biblical and theological studies. Our aim must be to reach more students with courses of solid content and to the best of our ability improve the quality of the teaching. With further academic strengthening of our work, we should early in the decade request through appropriate university channels a major in religion. It is desirable also to have double majors, such as Religion and Philosophy.

(2) Graduate

Beginning with the first year (1965-66) of the decade, we should offer some work at the graduate level, hopefully in the pattern of graduate studies carried on by various

departments in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences in a Master of Arts program, not as a professional school competing with denominational seminaries in preparing men for the ministry. We should also explore with the K.U. School of Education the possibilities of a Master of Education in religion with education courses provided by the School of Education and religion content courses taught by the School of Religion. These developments would be in keeping with the expanding programs of graduate study under way in many disciplines at K.U.

The offering of graduate courses would not call for the creation of a separate graduate faculty with its attendant heavy financial demands upon the treasury of the School of Religion. The work would be done by men who would teach regular undergraduate courses.

It is not anticipated that any graduate program in the coming decade would be more than a minor part of the work of the school, whose major responsibility will continue to be that of providing courses in religion for undergraduate students in general enrolled in K.U. Actually a graduate program of studies will help to strengthen the undergraduate program.

(3) Teaching Staff

a. Regular teachers

In this half-decade the school has moved definitely and rapidly towards the creation of a faculty of good scholars and able teachers for the solid courses it offers to future doctors, teachers, and others on the campus at K.U. We will begin the decade with four full-time teachers and five part-time. To handle the expanded and strengthened undergraduate program and the new work at the graduate level we would need to add three more full-time teachers by the year, 1974-1975. These should all have doctor's degrees in religion from leading universities.

The assembling of a faculty of scholars such as we seek will lead the school into expense beyond salaries and pension dues. Provision must be made also for sabbatical leaves so that the teachers may continue their education, for attendance at meetings of learned societies, and for additions to the library designed for the improvement of the teachers rather than the students.

b. Annual visiting professor

Each year we should bring to the university a world-renowned scholar—Protestant, Catholic, or Jew—as that year's visiting distinguished professor of religion. He might be expected to give public lectures for the benefit of the university community and residents of Lawrence, but he would come primarily as a teacher of regular courses, perhaps one in Kansas School of Religion and others in other department(s) of the university in which he would have special competence. For example, if it were Paul Tillich, he would probably be wanted in philosophy and in history. The purpose of this project would be to bring religion, through one of its most famous spokesmen, into sharp dialogue with other disciplines at this university. The visiting professor would be expected to do dramatically what the regular professors do in a more modest way in the university's academic program.

(4) Other Needs

a. Books, periodicals, etc.

The school now has about six thousand books and periodicals in its library. For its expanded program, undergraduate and graduate, in the coming decade it will need about twenty thousand. It should also have modern audio-visual aids.

b. Librarian

It should employ a librarian, one with theological training as well as competence in library science, for he would be obliged to counsel students enrolled in religion courses.

3. Supplementary Program

(1) Theological lectureship

It would be desirable to have once a year a visiting scholar in the field of religion who would function somewhat like the visitors in the university's Humanities Lecture Series. He might give a public lecture at a university convocation and spend a few days on the campus as a guest lecturer in classes and a speaker for extra-curricular gatherings. He would be chosen for his special competence in some area of current religious concern, such as Religion and Race, the Ecumenical Movement, Religion and Contemporary Art, etc. He would be expected to add to the effectiveness of the school's regular faculty and the annual visiting professor as they relate religion to life and contribute to a well-rounded liberal education on the Lawrence campus.

(2) Conferences and institutes

It is fitting that Kansas School of Religion sponsor conferences and institutes dealing with themes like: Developments in the Ecumenical Movement, the Churches and Civil Rights, Ethics and the Business World, Contemporary Church Architecture, the Clergy and Economics. Within this half-decade it has had two experiences of this sort, and they have been highly successful: the conference on Grief Therapy sponsored by the Kansas School of Religion and the Department of Mortuary Science in the spring of 1961, and the conference on Law and Religion in the fall of 1964 sponsored by Kansas School of Religion and the Law School.

(3) Clergy short courses

As soon as its resources allow, the school should provide short courses of an interdenominational nature for busy ministers in eastern Kansas, one in mid-winter and one during the summer.

(4) Extension courses

The University Extension Department stands ready to cooperate with our school in offering extension courses in religion on campus and off campus as the need arises.

(5) Correspondence courses

There are frequent requests for this kind of service

and K.U.'s Bureau of Correspondence Study will gladly work with our school in meeting the need.

(6) Radio and television programs

In these, competent people would deal with a variety of subjects that should be the concern of the school with its interest in religion and education. The K.U. radio and television staff is prepared to work with the school in these areas.

(7) Lay schools of theology

This sort of thing is in demand and is being carried on in various centers of theological learning across America in response to a new emphasis upon lay leadership in the church.

4. Attendant Needs

(1) Facilities

a. Library

The school must have a library building with stacks for at least 20,000 books and with adequate reading and study space for students as well as office and workroom facilities for the staff.

b. School building and equipment

A new building to replace Myers Hall would be a pressing need even if there were no expansion of the work of the school in prospect. It must have at least five classrooms, administrative offices and workroom, and seven faculty offices with the furnishings and equipment necessary for a school of this sort. A good beginning in raising the funds has been made in this half-decade. It must be carried through to completion and the building erected early in the coming decade.

(2) Personnel

a. Administrative assistant

This person would have the role of business manager, public relations man, and general assistant to the dean.

b. Additional secretarial staff

The school has been getting along on one regular secretary and some part-time help. It will need two full-time secretaries with additional part-time assistance.

c. Library services

A library of 20,000 volumes and a program such as the school will have will call for extra personnel, beyond the librarian, for circulation desk and cataloging services.

"The Fourth Dimension"

A 35 mm. color film-strip with an accompanying sound tape dealing with the work of K.S.R. has been produced under the direction of Professor R. Edwin Browne of the K.U. radio department. This is an exceptionally good production, as those who know Professor Browne's talents would naturally expect.

The work bears the title "The Fourth Dimension", a phrase lifted from a statement in a public address made by Chancellor W. Clarke Wescoe

"Without the opportunities offered at its own expense by the School of Religion, the educational choices of K.U. students would lack a significant fourth dimension."

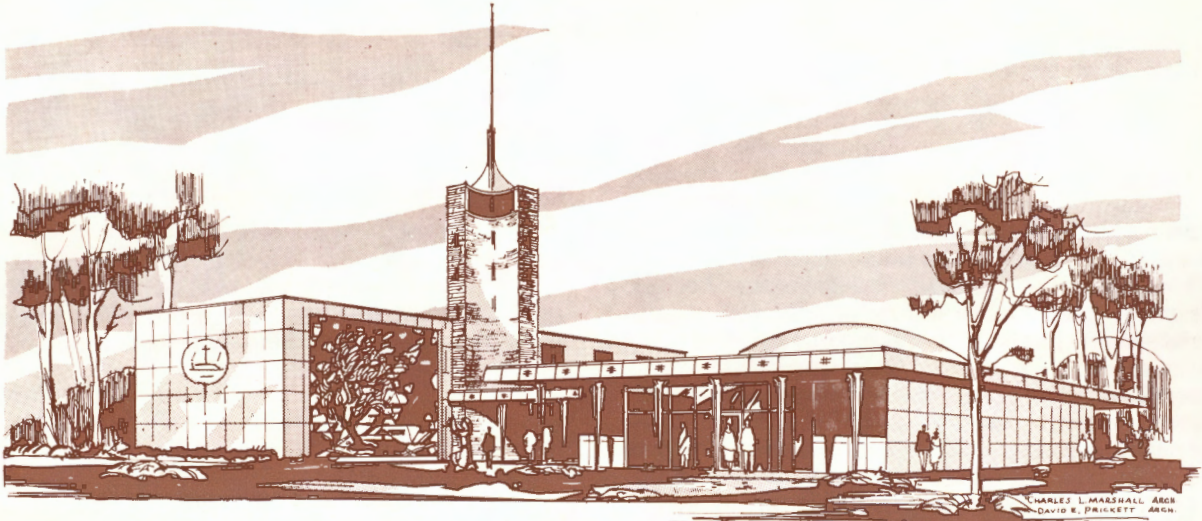
It is short enough, about twenty-five minutes long, to be used at luncheon meetings of service clubs and on other occasions when a program must be brief. It should have wide use in church gatherings and in groups like the P.T.A. which have a concern for education.

While it has general usefulness wherever people need information about the important work of K.S.R., "The Fourth Dimension" was prepared primarily for its potential value to the K.S.R. Development Campaign. It has been duplicated and copies have been distributed to important centers across Kansas with the expectation that it will be used much in an educational program preceding and supporting the campaign for funds in the Fall. We hope that anyone who

would like to take advantage of this audio-visual program will feel free to write our office. We will be glad to send the film-strip, the tape and literature dealing with the work of the school. Locally what is needed is a screen, a 35 mm. projector and a "play-back" machine for the tape — and, of course, an audience.

Incidentally, Professor Browne is serving this year, as he did last year, as president of the board of trustees of the school.

We have calls for extra copies of each issue of RELIGION. The printer will hold the type for this issue until December 1. If you wish to have extra copies for the bare cost of printing plus mailing charges, PLEASE NOTIFY US BY DECEMBER 1.



The New Building in Prospect

The plans for the coming decade include the completion of a fund to provide a new building to replace Myers Hall, the dilapidated structure which has housed the School of Religion since it was established in 1921. The building is in such a bad state of repair that its replacement is one of the most pressing needs we have. The architects have been employed—Marshall and Prickett of Topeka—and a building committee has worked hard on the project. Much more work will be required but at least the building committee and the architects have settled on preliminary plans. Guided by these, the architects have furnished us a sketch of the new building, which we are sharing with friends of the school by reproducing it above.

The building will have the usual functional elements in a school: classrooms, administrative offices and workrooms, faculty offices, and a fine library wing. It will also have some unusual features, not the least of which is a representation of Moses and the burning bush, the Biblical scene which is on the seal of K.U. Near the entrance of the building in a courtyard there will be a sculptured figure of Moses facing a large library window on which the burning bush will be depicted in flaming colors. It is an interesting fact that up to this time the university seal motif has not been employed architecturally on the K.U. campus.

Fall Enrollment

The school year has begun favorably. The K.U. enrollment is about 10 percent higher than that of last Fall. Registrations in K.S.R. are about 20 percent higher.

The Last Call

This is our final announcement to clergy and members of the medical profession about the unusual opportunity they have in the conference on medicine and religion at the K.U. Medical Center

in Kansas City on October 26 and 27. We printed the program in the July, 1965 issue of RELIGION. To register one should write the Department of Postgraduate Medical Education, K.U. School of Medicine, Kansas City, Kansas 66103.

An Assistant to the Dean

We are happy to announce the appointment of Mr. Hugh Stoupe as assistant to the dean. He brings to the position a rich and varied academic and practical experience. A graduate of Muskingum College, he did the regular three-year seminary degree at Boston University and pursued further graduate studies in St. Benedict's College and in K.U. He served as a missionary in China for eight years and as a minister of notable Methodist Churches in the Midwest and in the Eastern U.S.A. For four years he directed the public relations program of Baker University. In recent years he has been an instructor in the English Department at K.U.

Mrs. Stoupe is the former Olive Smith, a Methodist missionary in China. They have five children.

Mr. Stoupe will not assume the role of assistant to the dean fully until about January 1, 1966. In the meantime he will be working mainly with Mr. Paul Shivel on the K.S.R. Development Campaign.



Hugh Stoupe

RELIGION

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Dean of Kansas School of Religion

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