



# THE SEMINARIAN

Volume XXIV

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Number 10

## AN OPEN LEYER TO UNITED CHURCH SEMINARIANS

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

On June 25, 1972, I was ordained in the ministry of the United Church of Christ by the Golden Gate Association of the Northern California Conference. My ordination had historic significance because I chose to openly affirm my gay sexual orientation before requesting ordination. By challenging my Association to relate to me in the fullness of my personhood, I brought the United Church to a face to face encounter with job discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, profound theological questions, and value judgments concerning honesty and integrity in the ministry. My ordination has begun a dialogue that will not be silenced.

The General Synod of the United Church meets this coming summer, June 22-26 in St. Louis. I have received word that an attempt will be made to petition the General Synod to void my ordination and DIRECT the council for Church and Ministry of the United Church to establish a national guideline of denial of ordination to openly gay persons. In addition, other matters of special concern to gay persons might well be added to the agenda of the Synod.

In order to respond to these concerns, a coalition of gay and supportive non-gay United Churchmembers are organizing a "Gay Presence" for the General Synod. While encouraging persons who can take the enormous step of coming out of the closet and working openly for gay rights within the UCC, the Presence will be structured in such a way so as to protect gay persons who cannot be open as well as welcome participation by non-gays.

Continued on Page 4

## MINUTES OF THE FINANCIAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

The Financial Affairs Committee, I. Z. Buckwalter Chairman reported to the Executive Committee meeting on November 28, 1972 that as a result of a unanimous affirmative vote of the Committee we sold 600 shares of Dow Chemical Co. Stock for \$57,639.33 for a gain over cost of \$25,249.92 and reinvested the proceeds in 400 shares of Colgate Palmolive Company at a cost of \$35,585.00 and \$25,000 Bank of Ohio 7% bonds due 1979 for a cost of \$25,156.25.

Further the Committee approved by mail the sending of the following letter to Abbott Laboratories, Continental Corporation, Crown Zellerbach Corporation, General Telephone and Electronics Corporation and Texaco, Inc.,-

"As a school for training future leaders in the field of religion, it is important that our actions be compatible with our religious teaching.

Much of our income is derived from endowment funds, part of which are invested in stocks, including some shares of your corporation.

We are concerned that the actions of your Corporation reflect the kind of principles we can approve, such as desire for World Peace and security of that Peace;-- such as responsibility to community as corporate citizen-- concerns for ecology and conservation of natural resources and regards for human rights and dignity of the individual.

As a Finance Committee, more and more questions are raised by our Trustees about investments that

Continued on Page 4

On Jan. 15 at 8 p.m. in the refectory, we will have a guest speaker, Mrs. J. Vornev who will speak on the service agencies here in Lancaster. It should be an interesting program and we hope you will attend.

Also on Jan. 23 at 8 p.m. there will be a get together to repair the seminary choir robes. The meeting place will be announced later.

We would like to thank everyone who donated to the Seminary Christmas Card. The money will be donated to L A B G.

#### ASST Exec. Com.

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Student Body Meeting

A meeting of the student body will be held on Wednesday, Jan. 17, at 3:00 in the Hub. The purpose of this meeting will be to vote on the proposed revision of the S C C Constitution, and to voice other issues which may be of concern to students. Copies of the revised constitution have been distributed. For comparison a copy of the old and the new document has been posted on the bulletin board of the Hub. Comments and additional revisions are welcomed. Come out and help make the S C C a more efficient and responsive organization.

Mike Lonic

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Senior Class News

The Senior Class has picked Mr. Seward Hiltner as the main speaker for their May 25th Commencement.

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Next Week: Services of Morning Prayer will be held every morning, Monday through Thursday at 9:50 a.m. There will be no service on Friday due to a conflict with the Exam schedule.

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Notable quote: "I'm a liberated woman because I have a liberated husband. Therein lies the key to women's lib." Edith (All in the 'Nam.) you prepare for his service."

#### On International Peace

--Pope John XXIII

The primary foundation of international peace is truth, for in international relations also the Christian saying holds good: "the truth will make you free."

Certain erroneous conceptions must therefore be dismissed: the myths of force and nationalism, and other inventions which have poisoned the relations between peoples, and peaceful co-existence must be based on moral principles, according to the demands of right reason and Christian doctrine.

Together with peace, and in the light of truth, there must be justice. This removes the motives for quarrels and wars, resolves disputes, assigns the ends to be sought, prescribes the duties and satisfies the just demands of all.

In its turn justice must be integrated and upheld by Christian charity. This means that our love for our neighbor, and for our own country, must not be allowed to turn in on itself, fostering a narrow egotism which is suspicious of the well-being of others, but must be enlarged and extended so as to embrace, with a spontaneous gesture of solidarity, all the peoples of the earth, and establish fruitful relations with all. Then we shall be able to speak of sharing a common life, and not merely of a co-existence which, just because it lacks this instinctive solidarity, raises barriers behind which lurks mutual suspicion, fear and terror.

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#### Ellen Painter Retires

Mrs. Ellen Painter, affectionately called "the soup lady," retired on December 22 after ten years of service in the Refectory.

"I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the students who over the years have made working at the Refectory such a joy. The concern and youthful spirit that students have shown has kept us all young at heart. God bless you all as you prepare for his service."

--Mrs. Ellen Painter

## YOU AND THE ACTION IN VIETNAM

Many of us feel a real hopelessness concerning the action in Vietnam and what our national leaders are doing as representative of "America." We wonder what we can do. Is there anything that we can do? Will our voice be heard if we do express ourselves? Some of us feel that we want to be expressive, but we feel that active demonstrations serve little purpose. WELL, NOW THESE IS SOMETHING THAT EACH AND EVERYONE CAN DO! AND WE MUST ACT NOW!

"Americans have the freedom to speak out against brutality. Frustration is inevitable among those who understand, but not silence. While Congress sits, every American who cares can and should write to his or her representative. While Americans prosper, they can give money to rebuild the hospitals their bombs have destroyed."

If there is no peace Inaugural Day, Congress will vote concerning whether to cut off United States funding of further bombing in Vietnam. There are but 9 days left until Inaugural Day, January 20.

Exercise your freedom of speech and exercise it Now! Write your elected officials today and express your feelings and desires concerning our action in Vietnam. Addresses of our congressional representatives are:

HUGH SCOTT

Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C.

RICHARD S. SCHWEIKER,

Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C.

EDWIN D. ESHLEMAN

16th District  
House Office Building  
Washington, D.C.

-- Bill Mayes

## THE SEMINARIAN REPORTS

With this edition THE SEMINARIAN ends publication for the first semester. The next issue will be printed on Thursday, February 8. Work hours begin at 1:30pm in the HUB. Items for the edition will be due by 5pm the preceding Tuesday. Place articles in either of the editors' mail-boxes.

The work on the paper during the first semester has been done by a small but dedicated crew to whom we owe many thanks. A better system for organization and printing is possible if we have more HELP!!! If you would like to donate your time as typist, proofreader, or printer or mimeographer or stapler, please contact us or come around on the 8th. We'd be glad to have you.

Writers of any type and style of article are welcome. Be creative and submit stories or poetry if your likes are there.

Our policy has been to reflect the attitudes and interests of the seminary community accurately and relevantly. We feel we have succeeded but we would like to add to our record and that means WE NEED YOUR HELP AND CO-OPERATION, AND YOUR READING ATTENTION! So, plan to be a part of this meaningful and important Seminary function.

--Brad S. Lutz

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### STAFF FOR THIS ISSUE

Editors: Brad S. Lutz  
Tony Szylagyi  
Staff: Philip Bogosh  
Barry Lohman

### ADVISORY BOARD:

David Colton  
James Fatzinger  
Dr. Richard Vieth

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FREE DAY-OLD BREAD and other baked goods are available in the HUB every Wednesday. Take advantage of this offer!!! Help yourself!

SEMINAR ON MYSTICISM, ESP, MEDITATION AND PSYCHIC PHENOMENA in the Hafer Center, Friday, Jan. 12 at 7:30pm featuring Lewis Bostwick and Michael Simon of Berkley, California. \$1.00 student donation at the door.

## CHAPEL CLEAN-UP

Tuesday, January 16 has been set aside to clean up Santee Chapel. Work will begin at 9am. Supplies are being provided by the Administration. Come and help clean our chapel.

--Spiritual Life Commi:

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Choir resumes:

SING OUT LTS!

The time has come to start singing out at LTS once again. Thanks to the interests of the Subilia's and Mr. McConnell it has been announced that a choir will resume on Tuesday, Feb. 6. The time in the evening will be announced.

There has been some response but any voices are welcome. You need not be a Robert Merrill or Leontyne Price -- just willing to make a joyful noise!

Members of the student body, wives, husbands, faculty & wives, and staff are invited to join in this venture in community fellowship.

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## OPEN LETTER (cont'd.)

From my own experience, I feel it is extremely important for United Church seminarians of whatever orientation to be involved in this effort on behalf of human liberation and the liberation of the church. Of course, I especially hope gay seminarians will become involved. Complete discretion to protect identities will be exercised.

You may learn more about my plans for the Gay Presence at the 1973 General Synod by writing to me personally at the above address. There is much to do and time is of the essence. Even if you cannot be in St. Louis, let me hear from you. The Gay Presence will be an ongoing association. Join with me in responding to the Light that has come to the people who have

walked in darkness!

Sincerely, your brother,  
Rev. Bill Johnson  
3971 Brookline Way  
Redwood City, Ca. 94062

EDITOR'S NOTE: This letter from Mr. Johnson is printed by THE SEMINARIAN but does not necessarily reflect the paper's position. Responses are welcome. Personally, as a delegate to Synod, I would be glad for any sentiments on this and/or other issues for the Synod.

--Brad S. Lutz

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## USED STAMP PROJECT

Several hundred handicapped refugees, who were rejected by the Communists are settled in Bethel-Bielefeld, Germany. They could not emigrate to the United States because of serious handicaps.

They organized into groups according to their skills. Some do weaving, tailoring, wood carving, radio and clock repairs, and the most severely handicapped ones have a stamp shop, making catalogues.

Please cut stamps leaving a "around the stamp. Do not peel off or steam from the envelope.

There is a box in the HUB for used stamps. Why not make this an ongoing project of the Seminary Community?!

It is mind bending that something so useless to us as used stamps can give meaning and purpose to someone's life. LET'S ALL START SAVING OUR STAMPS!!!

Also there is a box in the HUB for used Christmas Cards -- to be used for a similar type project.

--Bill Mayes

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## FINANCIAL AFFAIRS (cont'd.)

we select. We would appreciate any comments, materials and supporting information concerning your awareness of your social responsibility."

-- I. Z. Buckwalter,  
chairman