

The Seminarian

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Merry Christmas!!!!

December 20, 1977

To the Seminary Community,

I wish to extend to everyone hopes that all of you have a healthy, happy and joyous Holiday Season.

May the Spirit of this Christmas Season be with all of us every day of our lives.

I wish to thank everyone who helped so much this fall semester in bringing spirit and pride to the community.

To the faculty and staff and especially the students who have done a lot of great things for LTS - a heartfelt thanks!

Looking forward to next year with enthusiasm and great anticipation-

May God be with you.

Sincerely,
Rich Luh
Pres. SCC

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Notes and events in the making...

SCC Meeting Tomorrow

The SCC will meet tomorrow afternoon at 3:15 in the basement of Richard's Hall. Everyone is always welcome to come and participate at these meetings as we seek ways to work among ourselves and others.

SCC Constitution Ratifying Vote Tomorrow

The new SCC Constitution will be voted on tomorrow afternoon at the SCC meeting. Everyone present will be entitled to voice and vote. Come - please. We wish that the constitution be representative for the entire community.

Part III of Ian's feelings on ministry as communicated on Nov. 8:

Ordination to ministry of word and sacrament is a most awesome task. And it is as I understand it, and as I believe I have experienced it, a task and a calling to be in some very proper and special sense a representative person; not only for the church, but for the world. It is a calling where God gives special gifts through His Holy Spirit, and in which He invests upon us the time to meditate and pray that other men and women in secular occupations do not have; the time to search and understand the scriptures as secular men and women do not have time; and the time to be with people and identify with their needs, with their hopes, with their sorrows, growths in life, in this life and in the life to come. God invests us with this opportunity in His calling. And He invests us with other things as well. And such an office can be corrupted by idleness, by worldliness, by pompousness, by self opinionation, by claims to special privilege, special attention, special reverence. All these



corruptions can take place within this sacred and this most mysterious calling. But no one who sets Jesus as his example in pastoral leadership can go the way of becoming a pompous cleric, or a self opinionated person, or any other kind of person than one who is learning obedience in the things that he is suffering and is learning in a special way gentleness and love, perception and spiritual sensitivity. But I believe that when hands are laid upon us in ordination we become representative people. And we do take upon ourselves to appear before the Lord, on behalf of the brethren. And to return from this with words from the Lord. And it doesn't mean that we have a special friendship or a special claim upon the Lord, but that we do have an access to Him on behalf of His people and we have a responsibility to go from His presence into the presence of people. I have a quotation here, I don't know where it comes from - It's something that I didn't identify properly when I wrote it out once - but I don't want to take credit for it because it's a little bit too good and you'll recognize that it wasn't mine, so I have put it in inverted commas as I should justly do. And these words could have come from John Wesley himself - but, I'm not saying they did! "To be able to advocate before God, he, the minister, is forced away from the world into solitude before God. One who is not able to subject himself to this discipline of this solitude cannot be a priest. But at the same time he must be bound to help people, to keep in intimate contact with them, learn how to know the, learn how to know their cares, learn how to put himself in their place. We must be able to be a brother and a father." I love those words, I identify myself with them. And at this latter end of my own ministry, would say that if I had to have my time over again I would go this way and no other way for this is the greatest privilege and the deepest responsibility that one human being can ever undertake, and the most solemn charge that another human being can receive. And if he stays with the Lord he can in some manner fulfil what that call and ministry is about and what it is for. He can fulfil it to his own deep satisfaction, and to the glory and honor of God and to the gratitude of countless lives.

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of His Spirit be with you as you go forward to this awful and solemn moment as God sets His seal upon you for this ministry.

By Ian Dixon for the ordination
service of David Turner.

Submitted by David with Ian's OK

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Merry Christmas!