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Tracing
NC Roots

MEMO:

Denny:

I have now had opportunity to go back into the early catalogs and to examine the statements bearing on institutional purpose.

The earliest catalogs presented the school as providing training for two types of students: (1) those who have been called of God to enter the active ministry of the Gospel, and (2) those who do not realize a special call to the ministry but feel their need for Bible knowledge and instruction. (Catalog: 1936-37).

The curriculum was said to be characterized as a "practical course of instruction and training along full Gospel evangelistic lines, in an atmosphere and amid surroundings conducive to keeping the student spiritual and active in the work of soul winning." (Ibid.).

This statement of purpose continued in the catalogs until it was expanded in 1949, at which point the college began the procedure to seek AABC accreditation. The 1949-50 catalog reflects an expanded statement of ten objectives. As to subject matter they cover Biblical content of the curriculum, introduction to basic fields of general education, shaping of attitudes, professional training for the four basic ministries in the church: pastors, evangelists, missions, and ministry of music; lay workers in the church; undergrad prep training for the chaplaincy, for teaching, for nursing and other types of service; for encouraging students to be filled with the Holy Spirit and to gain from disciplinary regulations that will contribute to the academic and spiritual development of the students.

I believe that the primary author of this expanded statement was Dr. Richard W. Bishop who served on the faculty at that time. He will be here for homecoming.

This statement remained the primary published statement of institutional purpose until the college began the process of seeking regional accreditation with the NW Association.

At that point the language was modified in a way to show the broader educational purpose of the college, not just the Bible college with its professional thrust for vocations in the church. At this point of time the NW Association was struggling, trying to think through on its relationship to "single purpose" institutions versus the broader liberal arts type of schools. We were a sort of test case in their history of accrediting experience. Since then the matter has

been defined and refined to the point that Lutheran Bible Institute, which is distinctly a single-purpose school did in fact, gain regional accreditation a few years ago.

The current statement of purpose is more a philosophy of education in its language than was formerly the case in the older statement, though the later essentially embodies the other statements.

The second source of a statement of purpose was embodied in what might be called the Articles of Incorporation (charter). The college was incorporated as an independent entity until about 1949 or 1950. The College then regionalized with its own board of directors. Prior to that it was essentially a department of the NW District of the Assemblies of God and its governing board was the presbytery of the district.

The articles of incorporation or charter needs to be tracked. Former President Hurst may be a good contact for consultation at this point. He organized and documented much of the current manualization at the college over a long period of time and particularly before he retired from the college.

It appears that the Constitution and Bylaws embody statements of purpose derived from previous documents, viz. (1) See under Preamble, (P.1). the statements shown are identical to those carried in the college catalogs from 1949 and on.

It would appear that under Article IV (Purposes and objectives) the perrogatives of the college were expanded and placed in the bylaws. It would also appear that the documentary authority for the perrogatives listed here may well be taken or expanded from those in the Articles of Incorporation. This is particularly true of Section 2, paragraph a. which delineates specific educational options.

In the same article (IV) there is an essential embodiment of the present statements of mission, philosophy, and educational goals as are found the current college catalogs.

Conclusion: It may be said that from the beginning, the college envisioned two types of students as coming within its training purposes: those coming to prepare themselves for specific vocational ministry and those coming to prepare themselves for lay work in the church while preparing for other for vocations outside of the church. The work of the church is the objective in either case.

A.D.M.