



# NEWS

FROM **WATERLOO LUTHERAN UNIVERSITY**

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## SCIENCE AND THEOLOGY LINKED

### FOR NEW GRADUATE PROGRAM

Science and theology will join forces this fall at Waterloo Lutheran University for a new, experimental course at the graduate level.

Called Man and Nature, the course brings together participants from Waterloo University College, the arts and science faculty; and Waterloo Lutheran Seminary, the theological faculty.

It is the first course of its kind offered by any seminary or college among the 50 operated by various Lutheran denominations throughout North America.

"Science and theology are not in conflict, or should not be," said Dr. U. S. Leupold, dean of the seminary. "We are not interested in protecting our seminary students from the real world."

He added that the program involves a reaching out by the seminary to become fully involved within the entire academic life of the university community. "We are moving against the trend toward specialization and its dangers of academic provincialism."

Planning for the new course has been under way for more than a year and follows a study of the aims and practices of theological education undertaken by Dr. Aarne Siirala of the seminary and Dr. Norman Wagner of the college.

In a forward to their study, the two professors wrote:

"Our research has made us increasingly aware both of the magnitude of the task and the urgency of nothing short of a revolution in theological education."

They added that "the lone wolf" approach to education, which isolates the various departments, should be a thing of the past, and that the team approach should be fostered at every level. Lecturing cannot remain as the major method of teaching.

Man and Nature will bring students together for a study of man as seen by theology and philosophy on one hand, and as seen by science and psychology on the other.

Class members will be drawn from graduate students proceeding toward a master's degree in the department of psychology and those working toward a bachelor of divinity degree in the seminary.

In their preliminary report, Dr. Siirala and Dr. Wagner refer to the words of Samuel Miller, President of Harvard Divinity School:

"Nothing is more critically needed at the present moment than a definite study of the relationship of psychodynamic structures to the transcendent structures of theological affirmation.

"When Miller speaks of present forms of theological education he states: 'what is dangerously possible if not already in existence is a Biblical knowledge, a historical sophistication and a theological elaboration which never gets communicated to the laity in any shape or form...The problem of integration of knowledge, of knowledge with life, and of the student himself is an extremely stubborn problem.'

"There must be a serious consideration both of the training program and also of the maturing of the student as a person. In both instances dynamic criteria and insight may guide us in bringing a new depth and power back to the educational program."

In the training of ministers all new insights must be understood and the useful ones included in theological seminaries, the two authors wrote. They summed up their feelings this way:

"If a seminary does not wish to confine itself exclusively to training parish pastors, it must still face the obligation of training servants for a ministry which is vital to the life-situation facing the graduates.

"If we dislike the term Functional Ministry, we must still insist that a minister must be prepared to function in the context of contemporary culture."

The new interdisciplinary course is the first step in implementing the report and a move to draw theological students into a deeper relationship with the thinking and development of the entire campus community. It also hopes to acquaint students in other disciplines with values and insights in theology.

"The imbalance in man today holds true for the non-seminary man as much as for the seminary student," Dr. Siirala said.