



Midwest Messenger



“To the only wise God our Savior, be glory and majesty, dominion, and power, both now and forever. Amen” Jude 25

February 10, 2008 Volume 10, Issue 7

Greetings from the Board of Trustees!

The Board has been busy again this past month as the Society draws closer and closer to opening our high school. By the time of publication of this month's Messenger, notice has gone out that we will be having a special society meeting on Monday, February 11, 2008, to address a number of proposals from the Board, as well as to elect board members to fill the two vacancies on the board. These proposals are the product of work currently being done by the board, and, Lord willing, we will have more proposals in the near future, as will be discussed later. The board has been working through its committees to bring our project together, so let's take a look at what the board committees have been up to.

First, the Education Committee has been working on gathering information regarding the steps to be taken in obtaining state approval and starting classes. The Board is proposing to begin looking for an administrator to hire to pull the information

together and submit it to the appropriate agencies. Besides the fact that we have now reached the financial benchmark which allows us to seek approval to begin looking for an administrator, we have reached a crucial point in our project where hiring an administrator will hopefully become necessary in the near future. The Education Committee is also working towards completion of the steps of the timeline which was published in last month's Messenger. Finally, the Education Committee is preparing information for handbooks and policy guidelines, such as admissions policies.

The Promotion Committee has been working primarily on two items, the spring lecture and choosing a name for our school. First, with regard to the spring lecture, Professor Engelsma has agreed to present a seminar that he presented in Michigan, entitled "The Kingdom of God and the Protestant Reformed Christian School." This seminar will be held on Saturday, March 29, at the Hull Protestant Reformed Church, and will consist of a

speech by Professor Engelsma, a noon lunch, another speech by Professor Engelsma, and a panel discussion followed by a question and answer period. This seminar is co-sponsored by the Federation of Protestant Reformed Christian Schools. We are looking forward to this seminar, which promises to give helpful insight into understanding the role of the Christian school in culture, and to help us to develop a proper worldview in this regard. Obviously this is a timely topic as we near the opening of our own high school.

The work towards finding a name for our school has been underway for some time. Last October the Board began announcing that we would be soliciting ideas for names for the high school. All interested persons were given opportunity at the November 19 promotional supper to submit their suggested names for consideration. 32 different names were submitted, some of them multiple times, or with slightly different spellings. The ideas submitted were

interesting and thought-provoking. With many good ideas to work from, the Board then had to decide how to bring them to the Society, so we can choose a name. The Board carefully examined that list of 32 names and pared it down to eight names that we especially recommend for the Society to choose from. The Board used the following three criteria: 1.) the name avoids duplication of other schools we would be closely associated with, e.g. Covenant; 2.) the name is not a vague place name taken from a direction or location, e.g. Northwest or Midwest, and 3.) the name was suggested by multiple persons.

However, while the Board wanted to provide direction on this matter, it did not want to squelch the creative voice of the Society. A name is not small matter. Perhaps there was a very good suggestion, but only one person submitted it, so it didn't make the list of eight. Maybe someone missed the November 19 supper and that also would have altered the outcome. All these angles were thought through and thus we propose the method outlined in the agenda for choosing a high school name. As far as choosing colors and a mascot, the Board, on further reflection, has decided to set that matter aside for the time being. We appreciate the many well

thought out suggestions, and be assured they are not being discarded, but we would like to wait to get more of the students' involvement in this decision.

The Building Committee continues to work with our architect and J&J Building Contractors to come up with solid numbers for our building project. Based on the latest plans the Board has been working with, it appears that the cost to build and furnish the entire structure at one time would be somewhere around a total of \$2.6 million. In order to stay closer to the numbers used when we established the 2005 benchmarks, the Building Committee has been working with J&J and the architect to use more of a phased approach. Under this approach, most of the structure would be built, but parts would not initially be finished out and furnished. The Board hopes to present the final plans for Society approval in the near future at a special society meeting. At the same time, the Board will present information on the structure, cost, and proposals for financing.

The Finance Committee has also been meeting regularly and working to come up with projections to aid us in budgeting as we start our school. The

Finance Committee has also been working with the Building Committee on funding for the building which, Lord willing, will soon house our school, as well as the equipment and furnishings necessary for our school's operation. The Finance Committee is working on projected start-up and operating costs for the school. Part of this work involves updating and modifying the projections which were done in the past. The Board hopes to present this information to the Society soon, at the special society meeting referred to above. At the same society meeting, the Board will present its proposal for starting classes.

This is an exciting time for the Board, and we covet your prayers as we labor towards this worthy cause.

Our treasurer reports that total funds received or pledged to date are \$1,234,879.56.