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The Women's Council

GORDON  CONWELL
THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

2018-2019 Annual Report

This report summarizes the accomplishments and efforts of the Women's Council of Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary for 2018-2019. We are grateful to God for enabling the Women's Council to serve the seminary and students in particular.

This year marked the 91st year of Women's Council of Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary. The Fall, Advent, and Spring Programs featured a Scholarship Spotlight with testimony from one of the six Partnership Program Women's Council Scholarship recipients along with special music and a speaker. Sam Kim, speaker and pastor, and former scholarship recipient, brought an energetic message to the Fall Program. Former scholarship recipient Mollie Clark returned to campus as guest speaker at the Spring Program to bring an encouraging message that reminded us of the impact of the Women's Council Scholarship. At the Spring Program and luncheon we honored Mary Ann Hollinger, wife of retiring President Dennis Hollinger, for her many years of service to the students of Gordon Conwell and her consistent presence at Women's Council events. Mary Ann served on the Women's Council Board and was instrumental in many of the decisions that improved communication and beautified the campus. We were able to express our gratitude for all she accomplished over her years on campus.

Wendy Betts, in her second year as **Music chair** coordinated special music for each program. Through her connections to musicians in the area and her ministry as Organist/Director of Music Arts at Our Savior Lutheran Church, Topsfield, she and other talented musicians shared their gifts of music at each program and the concert. A highlight included her efforts to coordinate a memorable and beautiful piano/organ duet with Rose Hausman for the Advent Program.

The creative work of **Social chair** Dorine Waller set a welcome and cheerful atmosphere at each luncheon with seasonal table arrangements. As in the past, attendees could purchase arrangements, with any profit from sales going to the scholarship fund. Dorine also arranged details with seminary dining staff, ensuring that members and friends of the Women's Council enjoyed delicious meals. Attention to these details allowed for good fellowship and conversation.

Several Board members shared the role of **Membership chair**. There were 76 dues-paying members for the year, including 5 new members. Program cards were made available at each luncheon to encourage attendees to join by paying annual dues, which defray administrative costs and allow 100% of offerings and gifts to be applied to the Scholarship Fund.

The Women's Council supported six Partnership Program students for 2018-19. In addition to three returning students, (Corri Ogburn, Kimberly and Charles Fick), the Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary scholarship committee selected three new recipients – Lisa Xui, Beatrice Lyons, and James Holt. **Scholarship chair** Rose Hausman established and maintained contact with them throughout the year. She worked with three students to develop their testimonies for speaking at programs: Kimberly Fick (Fall), Beatrice Lyons (Advent) and Lisa Xui (Spring). Three thank you letters were sent to those who contributed to the Scholarship Fund. In addition, Rose and Vice President Kathy Kishbaugh made progress along with the Communication office in providing scholarship recipient bios and updates on the Gordon-Conwell website. This feature allows members to get to know recipients and stay informed on their experiences in seminary.

The Women's Council Executive Board met on campus with scholarship recipients at a reception, coordinated by Rose, on September 18 in the mezzanine of the Great Hall. This has become an annual event, giving opportunity for students and the Board to get acquainted early in the year. Scholarship recipients also attended programs and luncheons, with good representation throughout the year.

Secretary Judy Terhune maintained orderly details for Women's Council. Judy fulfilled duties through the year as she worked with seminary staff to schedule Women's Council program meetings, update documents, and prepare the fall invitation and program bulletin. Anne Swetland, Lisa Steigerwalt, and Grace Chmura assisted with invitation mailings and programs.

Treasurer Erica Giovaniello reported that the Women's Council maintained a healthy financial position. 268 people attended luncheons in 2018-2019. A total of \$12,422.70 was received in scholarship donations, of which \$12,000 was disbursed to scholarship recipients. Account balances include: an ending balance of \$721.04 in the operating fund, which represents dues, luncheon payments and expenses related to honorariums, food costs, mailings, and office supplies; an ending balance of \$20,848.34 in the Women's Council Scholarship fund, after scholarship disbursements; and an ending balance in the Women's Council Endowment fund of \$72,891.55.

Archivist chair, Anne Swetland, maintained historical records of the Executive Board minutes, luncheon invitations, scholarship letters, printed programs and program minutes into their respective notebooks. A box of items was discovered in the library that had been removed from other files, and is in the process of being returned to their proper place. Some items are not suitable for file folders, so will remain in a separate place. Renata DeCampos and Anne plan to work on the files together.

Anne is indebted to all the members of the Board for their support and interest as the position of archivist has become a reality. Bob McFadden in Goddard Library has also been very helpful and encouraging.

Executive Board members continuing in 2019-2020 include: Grace Chmura, President; Erica Giovaniello, Treasurer; Rose Hausman, Scholarship Chair; Dorine Waller, Social Chair; Kathy Kishbaugh, Vice President; Judy Terhune, Secretary; Wendy Betts, Music Chair; and Ex-Officio members Rhonda Gibson, Immediate Past President; Nancy Sunquist, wife of the seminary President. Members-at-Large continuing to serve include: Miriam Boylan and Camille Bishop. We welcome new Board members: Lisa Steigerwalt, Membership Chair; Renata deCampos, Archivist; and Anne Swetland, Member-at-Large.

All of our work could not be accomplished without the support of the staff and administration of Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary. We thank President Dennis Hollinger and many departments of the seminary, including the advancement team, which assists with invitations, registration and check-in for each event while campus safety, the dining hall, facilities, communication and media departments serve us so well through the year.

As my first year as President of Women's Council, I especially want to express gratitude to the entire Women's Council for their interest in and care for seminary students. The impact is eternal. We have seen growth in attendance at programs and an increase in giving – all by God's good grace to us.

Respectfully Submitted,

Grace Chmura
President, 2018-2019