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## Editors' Notes

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## Editor's Notes

This issue of *Leaven* is unusual. Allow us to explain why. During the Pepperdine University Bible Lectures of the year 2000, Dr. David Davenport, then president of Pepperdine University, hosted a luncheon honoring Dr. C. Robert Wetzel, president of Emmanuel School of Religion in Johnson City, Tennessee. At the luncheon Dr. Davenport proposed a collaborative learning experience in which the religion faculties of the two institutions would meet to examine the challenges of doing scholarship for the sake of the church in the cultural milieu of increasing secularization. The first meeting took place March 24–26, 2000, at Emmanuel School of Religion and at Beech Mountain Resort in Banner Elk, North Carolina. The topic was “Integrating the Academy and Church for Ministry at the Opening of the 21st Century.” The second meeting, held February 9–10, 2001, at Pepperdine University, pursued the topic “Challenges We Face in Serving Contemporary Churches: Spiritual Formation, Leadership, Diversity, Worship.” A full slate of activities included daily worship, breaking of bread, reading of papers, leisure time, and a common worship service on Sunday morning.

Eleanor Daniel, Dean of Emmanuel School of Religion, shares something more of the flavor of the first gathering in the notes below. The Editorial Board of *Leaven* has approved the publication of papers from that meeting. We offer them here, along with a few photographs. We dedicate this issue to the cause of unity among the churches of the Stone-Campbell heritage.

Four book reviews close out the issue. The guest editor for our next issue, *Conflict Resolution in the Church*, is C. Robert Wetzel. Our final issue of the year will be *First Corinthians and Ministry*. Continue to pray for *Leaven*.

STUART AND D'ESTA LOVE



### AN EXERCISE IN CHRISTIAN UNITY

We had waited and planned and prayed for months in preparation for March 24–26, 2000, when the religion faculty at Pepperdine and the faculty at Emmanuel School of Religion would gather in East Tennessee for our first joint faculty retreat. Everything I had anticipated—and a whole lot more—occurred.

Settling on a date when both faculties could meet was not an altogether easy obstacle to overcome. We did it—only to discover that Emmanuel's anticipated plans, to go to a nearby state park with good meeting, sleeping, and food facilities, would not be possible. It was NASCAR weekend in East Tennessee—and on those occasions, no hotel accommodations can be found within a seventy-five-mile radius. Never mind a waiting list—it is filled with other NASCAR devotees who will happily pay the inflated prices for the





Norbert's College in Wisconsin, who was to complete the Kershner Lectureship at Emmanuel the following day. Friday morning was filled with tours of campus, attendance at Dr. Wadell's final lecture, lunch with the Bible faculty at Milligan College, and a quick tour of the Milligan campus before leaving for the retreat site.

The retreat itself featured the sharing of a number of papers from both faculties, meals together (one of those at the Elk Park, North Carolina, church, where the ladies prepared a true mountain feast), and plenty of time for sharing and interaction. A session usually featured two papers on the same subject—one from an Emmanuel person, the other from a member of the Pepperdine faculty. In each case we tried to examine the ethos of our respective schools, what it is we bring to the task of preparing leadership for the churches. I need not comment regarding the papers—you can read them, since they are the articles in this issue of *Leaven*.

The presentations were excellent. The camaraderie we shared was refreshing and uplifting. The prayers and devotional thoughts were meaningful. But perhaps the high point of the retreat was sharing the Lord's Supper on Sunday morning. Unfortunately, I didn't have the opportunity to participate—I had to get someone to the airport in time for a 6:50 a.m. flight. But my colleagues commented about the moving nature of the service, which was led by Emmanuel's Dr. Rodney Werline, a Disciple—involving, therefore, those from all expressions of the Stone-Campbell movement. It was a beautiful symbol of the unity that we share in Christ Jesus.

Those are the facts of the first retreat. But I can't stop without a personal reflection or two. The event was one of the most stimulating I've experienced. It was thought provoking to hear the presentations from my colleagues. And it was spiritually refreshing to explore ideas together and discover that we have far more in common than we sometimes think. Our bond in Christ far supersedes our differences. I got to know many new people, some of whom I had known only by name. It was something like a family reunion, coming to appreciate Stone-Campbell kinfolk whom I hadn't previously met. Our first retreat was enriching in every way. I left with the sense that if future retreats were any better than the first, we would be at the very gates of heaven!

ELEANOR DANIEL

required four-night stay.

But we ended up with very nice facilities in the Western North Carolina mountains—the result of a contact President Wetzel had—still only an hour away from campus. We were in condos, our meeting space was a bit tight, and we had to do a bit of shuffling to handle the meals, but none of that impeded the sweet fellowship we experienced.

Many of the Pepperdine people had not been over our way before. Several came in on Thursday evening. They joined the Emmanuel faculty at a social occasion in honor of Dr. Paul Wadell from St.

