

Rock Island, Illinois
January 15, 1960

To the Chairman of the Committee on Scholarships
and Awards of the Seminary
Augustana Theological Seminary
Rock Island, Illinois

Dear Sir:

This letter is submitted as an application for either of the two graduate scholarships---the Lutheran Brotherhood, or the Centennial Scholarship---which are to be awarded at the close of this school year.

For the past several years I have felt with increasing intensity a compulsion to prepare myself for the teaching ministry, and would now accept with humble gratitude the opportunity to further pursue this goal by beginning work on a master's degree in the area of "Christian Thought" in September, 1960. This would, of course, necessitate the one year's postponement of internship. I consider this a matter of economic and psychological feasibility, and I would in no way want to jeopardize a later opportunity to fulfill all necessary requirements for ordination.

According to estimates which I have received, a year of graduate theological study involves an expense of at least \$2,000. I may be able to earn approximately \$700 during the coming summer months, but would be dependent upon scholarship aid and field-work remuneration for the remainder of that sum.

I have made no final decision with respect to the particular institution in which these studies should be pursued. I have, however, been in correspondence with several schools, and await further counsel with members of our own faculty before submitting application.

Your consideration in this regard will be very helpful.

Sincerely yours,

Walter H. Capps

Application
for Scholarships
stuff.

A BRIEF AUTOBIOGRAPHY

There occurs, as from above, a completely decisive event (or a series of such events) within the lives of individuals which radically alters, reshapes, renews, and redirects that one to whom the gift has been given. An occurrence such as this, which disturbs us to the very depths of our being, may be the occasion through which a vision of the road-ahead to be traversed is disclosed to us. Such a disturbance grips the total man and transforms with daily renewal and expansion his total view of the world, much to his own awe and gratitude.

While a student on a state-college campus, I became aware of the need to relate with depth-shaking relevance the Gospel to the day-by-day, hour-by-hour, and class-by-class ponderings and questionings of the serious college student. It was on the campus that I first sensed what religious vitality there might be if the Message of Christianity could somehow be shown in that strategic mission setting to permeate every aspect of higher education and manifest itself as the witness to the only Ground of learning and the very Foundation of wisdom.

With this awareness-become-compulsion, I began preparing myself for future campus, Christian work. With this goal in mind I saw each successive task as a means of preparation for the fulfillment of the calling; consequently, each subsequent honor roll listed my name throughout the remainder of college and seminary days. Those near me suggested that I should prepare specifically for college teaching in either philosophy or religion—advice to which I still strongly lean. Yet, as time went on, I realized that my calling must find itself as an office within the ministry of the Church. Consequently, I've discovered a focal point for that ministry as well as for the more specific aspect of that ministry in the Church pastorate near the college or university. In May of this year I will receive the B. D. degree from Augustana Theological Seminary, Rock Island, Illinois, in preparation for future ordination in the Lutheran Church.

My mother, a descendant of some of the first Swedish Lutherans to settle in Omaha, Nebraska (the place also of my birth), and my father, a deacon in the Augustana Church, now reside together with my three brothers in Portland, Oregon. Consequently, the greatest part of my educational training has been received in institutions on the west coast. Before coming to Rock Island, I enjoyed two years of seminary training at Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary in Berkeley, California.

Athletics has always been an important factor in our family's activity. My childhood, high-school, and early college goal was to become a coach of basketball and football. My brothers and I played all sports in high school and continued some of them in college.

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The pattern of life has been slowly but consistently developing across the years. A warm but awe-surrounded sense of worship in the presence of the Almighty, learned at the family altar by the nurture of kind, true Christian parents, now finds expression in the awareness of specific human need. A direction toward working with youth and a desire for teaching now receive a specific focal point within the Church. The aggregate of many experiences and ponderings now gains compulsion by a specific task in the world—that of relating in a meaningful way the Gospel of Jesus Christ, our Lord, to the total life of the student on the campus. Yet, the motive, the vision, and the goal have only become realities through a transforming event which has disturbed and radically altered the total view of the world with a redirection which is new and expansive at each, successive moment—much to the wonderment and gratitude of the one to whom the gift has been given.

AUGUSTANA THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
Rock Island, Illinois

Inter-Office Memorandum

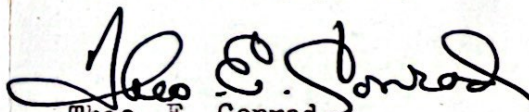
Date April 22, 1960

To: Mr. Walter H. Capps

From: Dean of Students

This note will inform you that the Intern Committee at its meeting on April 11 gave approval to your plan to defer your year of internship until after you have completed a year of graduate study. If by January of 1961, it becomes apparent that you ought to remain on for a second year of graduate study before fulfilling your internship, a petition to the Faculty would have to be submitted at that time.

Very sincerely yours,



Theo. E. Conrad
Dean of Students

TEC/dec

cc: Dr. G. E. Arden