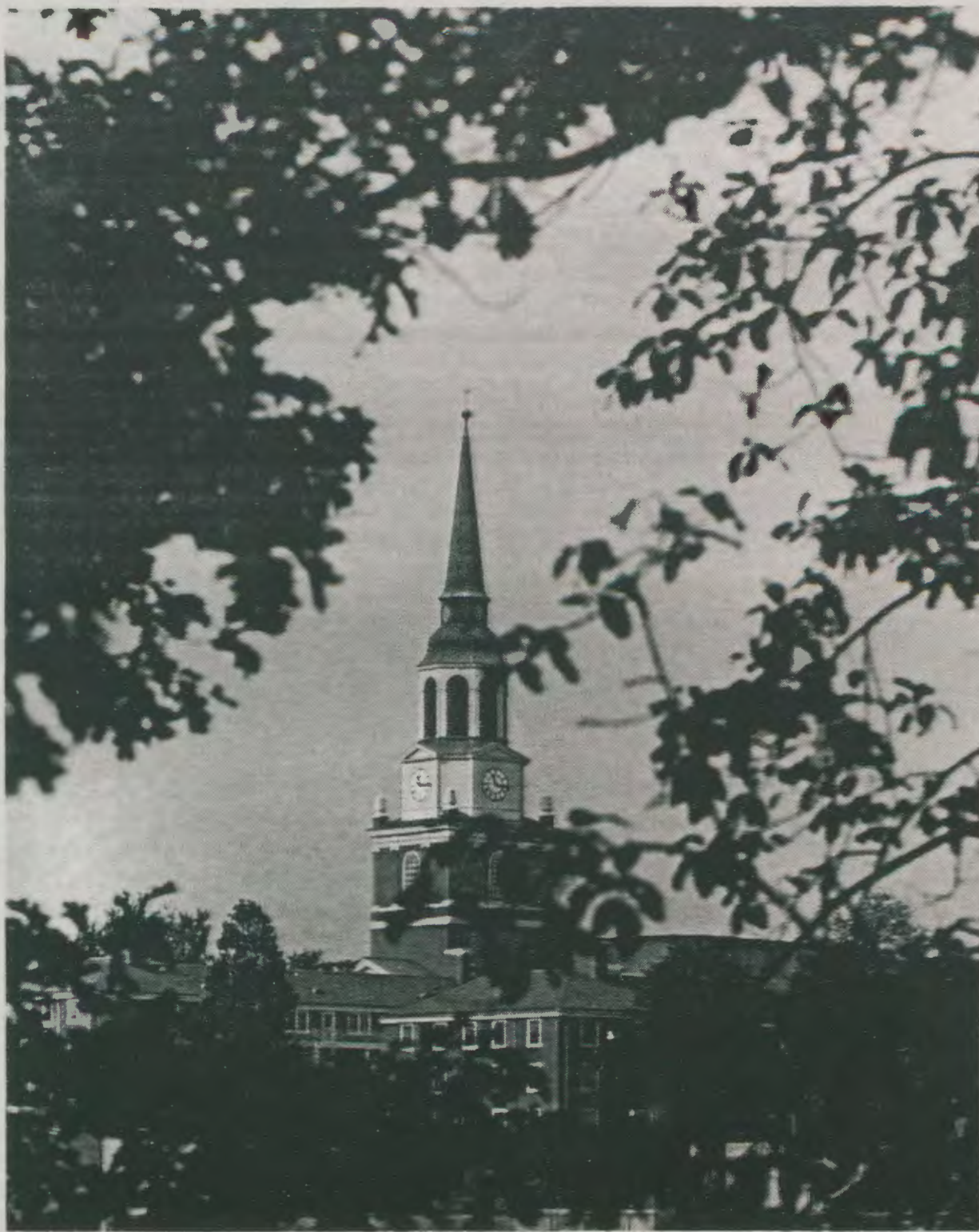


A Proposed
Divinity School
for
Wake Forest University



WAKE FOREST
UNIVERSITY



There is a centuries-old concept in Western European and American universities that the study of theology—or religion, if one prefers—is an integral part of an educational curriculum. In the history of many institutions, both in the Catholic and the Protestant tradition, theology has been seen, in fact, as the very foundation stone of education. It can certainly be argued that the founders of Wake Forest University saw the study and practice of religion as an educational premise to which all other disciplines should be somehow related.

Even though most of the institutions of the West may have departed in some way from their founding faiths and become more "secular," many of the best of these institutions have retained divinity or theological schools as essential units of the university. One thinks immediately of Yale and Harvard in the North and of Duke, Emory, and Vanderbilt in the South, to mention just a few.

Against this historical background it seems altogether logical, from an educational point of view, that Wake Forest should consider having a school of theology. We have already made professional commitments at the postgraduate level in medicine, law, and management, fields which are perhaps even less related to our founding educational principles; to extend our offerings into the postgraduate study of theology would be to affirm our commitment to a comprehensiveness in education which is thoroughly in keeping with our own past and with widely recognized educational ideals.

Edwin G. Wilson
Provost

In April 1989, the Board of Trustees of Wake Forest University approved the concept of a divinity school with the establishment of such a school contingent upon adequate funding. A thirteen-month study has shown that a divinity school at Wake Forest is "feasible in any and all respects," and that its development is in keeping with the University's mission to provide students a broad-based education in the liberal arts.

"It would be an important and appropriate way to honor our religious heritage," said President Thomas K. Hearn Jr. "The mission of this school would be to train ministers. While its orientation and heritage would be Baptist, it would be open to students and faculty of all denominations."

The University wants you to know about the proposed school and asks you to become a partner with it as it seeks to provide a center in which faith and mission are examined, clarified, and articulated.

We hope these questions and answers will provide you with helpful information.

1. *Why is Wake Forest now seeking to start a divinity school?*

One of the founding purposes of Wake Forest in 1834 was to provide for the education of ministers. Throughout its history the school has sought to be faithful to that mission. As Provost Edwin Wilson said so eloquently, theology is an integral part of an educational curriculum.

Wake Forest has already made commitments to professional education in management, law, and medicine. Making such a commitment to theology would confirm the University's commitment to a comprehensive education.

By approving the concept of a divinity school, the Trustees affirm the University's commitment to theological education in an atmosphere of openness where freedom of inquiry is assured.

2. *What kind of divinity school would be at Wake Forest?*

The divinity school would be a graduate professional theological school to prepare men and women for Christian ministry in local churches or in other areas where advanced theological training is desirable.

By virtue of its place within the larger University, the divinity school would have, both by history and present commitment, a Baptist identity. Nevertheless, its outlook would be ecumenical, its facilities open to students of all denominations, and its aim to help produce leadership for the larger Christian movement.

3. *How would the divinity school be governed?*

Wake Forest's Board of Trustees would assure the intellectual and spiritual freedom of the divinity school.

4. *What would be the size of the school?*

The University anticipates a beginning enrollment of forty-five students a year, for a total enrollment of one-hundred and thirty-five by the third year.

5. *How many faculty would be employed?*

It is anticipated there will be five faculty members the first year, seven the second, and nine the third.

6. *Where would the school be located?*

Classes would be held in Wingate Hall, which is a part of the Wait Chapel building. Space requirements can be met there in the school's early years of operation.

7. *When would the school begin operation?*

As soon as funding is assured, the school can open. It is hoped that full operation of the school would begin as soon as possible, and not later than 1992.

8. What degrees would be offered?

In the beginning, the master of divinity, which is the standard degree of accredited theological schools, would be offered. As the need becomes apparent the University would consider expanding its curriculum to provide for training in other areas related to the Christian ministry. Advanced degrees could also be offered.

9. Are there prospective students?

Of the 27,272 master of divinity students in North America in 1987 (18 percent of whom were enrolled in Southern Baptist seminaries), 6,317 were in the Southeast region.

10. What would be the contribution of a divinity school to society?

As part of a University committed to the proposition that service to the world begins with service to the community, the divinity school would provide valuable resources to churches and other institutions through its faculty, students, and their families.

11. Would training be for the Baptist clergy only?

With its intent to honor its Baptist connections, a divinity school would contribute significantly to the life of one of Wake Forest's major constituencies. As part of a University committed to the education of leaders for society, the divinity school would train religious leaders for other denominations as well.

12. What would it cost a student to attend?

Tuition would be approximately \$10,000 per year per student. The average cost for theological training in the United States is \$11,500 per student per year.

13. How much financial aid would Wake Forest provide?

Qualified applicants would have any financial need met. This is Wake Forest's policy toward any student who is admitted.

14. Are there funds to support a divinity school?

A consulting firm employed by the University concluded that sufficient interest in and financial support for the proposed divinity school exists. Many moderate churches and moderate individuals are seeking an appropriate outlet for gifts.

15. How would the funds be used?

All funds raised would be used for academic and administrative purposes. Fortunately, the space which would be needed, at least in the early years of the school, is available on the Wake Forest campus. Thus, gifts for the school would be used to support faculty salaries, student tuition, the library, and administrative expenses.

16. How may I/we make a gift to the school?

W. Robert Spinks, former chief fund-raising officer for Southeastern Theological Seminary, has been named director of development for the proposed divinity school. Gifts or pledges may be sent directly to Spinks at Box 7227 Reynolda Station, Winston-Salem, NC 27109. In the case of the churches of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina, gifts may be sent through the Convention if they are designated for the divinity school and an exact dollar amount is stated.

Wake Forest University has shown that it is ready to make a commitment to theological education. We hope these questions will guide you in your decision to help this commitment become reality. In the words of President Hearn, "Wake Forest has a tradition of training superior leaders, and a divinity school would enhance that tradition in the University's service to the church."

WHEREAS:

- A committee of the University has completed an exhaustive study of the feasibility of a school of divinity at Wake Forest University and has concluded that such a school is feasible,
- Members of the North Carolina Baptist community, the faculty of the University, and many others have been invited to comment on the proposal and have done so,
- It appears that in addition to being feasible, the school is consistent with the mission and purpose of the University and compatible with its programs and would benefit and supplement existing programs and add to their depth,
- A school of divinity is fully consistent with the commitment the University has made to maintain its Baptist heritage and to fulfill the opportunities for service arising out of that heritage and its fraternal relationship with the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina,
- There are not sufficient funds with which to establish and operate a school of divinity within the existing resources of the University,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

- The Board of Trustees expresses its appreciation to the University's study committee for its careful study and thoughtful report;
- The Board of Trustees approves the concept of a school of divinity at Wake Forest University;
- The school will require an endowment income equivalent to that produced by an unrestricted endowment of \$15 million. The University will establish a review committee to determine and report to the board when sufficient funds, in contributions received and pledged, have been received to permit implementation of the plans for the school, and implementation will be carried out in accordance with a plan approved by that committee.

*Resolution approved by the Board of Trustees
April 1989*