

Cannon Valley Elder Collegium
Minutes of the 20th Annual Membership Meeting
March 26, 2017

The annual membership meeting of the Cannon Valley Elder Collegium took place on Sunday afternoon, March 26, 2017, at St. John's Lutheran Church. A group of approximately eighty, comprising Board directors, staff members, instructors, students, and guests, gathered to celebrate the historic event of the Elder Collegium's 20th anniversary.

1. The event began at two o'clock with a half-hour social time in the Commons during which, over punch and pretzels and nuts, a buzz of conversation among friends and new acquaintances gave testimony to the ongoing spirit of this special group and the unique educational enterprise that came to life in 1997.
2. By 2:30, members and guests adjourned to adjacent St. John's Hall and lined up to select a piece of pie a la mode from a variety of tasty fruit pies and, with treat and coffee in hand, joined others at tables each decorated with a floral centerpiece, programs, and reprints of the initial issue of *Collegium News* (May 1, 1998).
3. All were granted an enthusiastic welcome by Board Vice-Chair Dale Talley and then brought up to date with State of the Collegium remarks by Executive Director Rich Noer. Rich regaled the group with a number of interesting historical anecdotes and statistics, including the fact that the Collegium missed setting another enrollment record this year only because three courses had to be cancelled at the last minute due to their instructors' illnesses. He pointed out that, beginning in 2013, shorter courses, especially 4-week versions, were inaugurated to complement the typical 8-week course format. The generosity of member donors has allowed the cost of a course to remain at its original \$50, and, since 2008, no longer dependent on assistance from grants. The expansion of courses, initially of the shorter variety, to Faribault began last year and is proving to be a thriving venture.
4. Treasurer Peg Morrison continued the good news, reporting that total assets have remained stable and that recent and current budgets are close but balanced. She projects that if donations continue to swell, the signal fifty-dollar tuition for students can continue in place for at least the next two years.
5. Rich and Dale presented recognitions to 5-Year Faculty (Almut Furchert and, posthumously, Anne Aby); 10-Year Faculty (Bill Carlson, Richard Collman, Barbara Evans, and Jim McDonnell); and 20-Year Faculty (Bill Woehrlin). Retiring Board Members Randy Cox and Judy Mason along with Retiring Staff Members Barbara Jenkins, having served as Finance Director for 9 years, and Ed Langerak, completing his fourth year as Curriculum Director, were saluted for their past service. Rich announced the appointment of new staff members Kathy Sommers (Finance Director) and Perry Mason (Curriculum Director) and expressed good wishes on the assumption of their respective important tasks.

6. On behalf of the Nominating Committee, Acting Committee Chair Phil Eaves presented the slate of new Board members for three-year terms (Barbara Crouter and Mary Ho), for extending Board members (Joan Drenth, Dale Talley, Phil Eaves, and Peg Morrison for three-year terms and Bob Speckhals for one additional year), for Board officers for the next year (Chair: Dale Talley; Vice-Chair: Phil Eaves; Treasurer: Peg Morrison; and Secretary: Dan Van Tassel), and for Nominating Committee members from the general membership for the coming year (Jane McWilliams, Tim Madigan, and Pat Rice). Vice-Chair Dale Talley then conducted the election. No nominations for any category were added from the floor, and in each instance the candidates were unanimously approved.

7. The featured event was a panel focused on the topic "From College to Collegium." Moderated and introduced by Ed Lufkin, the panelists were co-founders Ron Ronning and Keith Anderson, whose wives, Bettye and Beverly respectively, were recognized for their essential roles as well in the formative years of the Collegium. Presenters covered a broad range of topics relating to the origin of the Cannon Valley Elder Collegium: the successful pursuit of grants obtained for its development; the interesting and novel matter of naming and designing the enterprise; the initial term with four courses in the characteristic liberal arts tradition, all revolving around small group discussion and give-and-take with the faculty; the national attention given by the media to this unique startup of a program for lifelong learning; and the values held by those involved from the beginning and all who have participated during the two decades since. The narrative of the birth and history of this wonderful phenomenon was well received by those present. Indeed, many among the attendees rose to express their special connections and involvement with the Collegium over the years since its inception. (The larger community were informed in advance about the legacy of the Collegium and today's celebratory program by a front-page article with photos carried in the local newspapers.)

8. Vice-Chair Dale closed the program with thanks to all attendees, the panelists, those who set up and served desserts and decorated the tables, and all who continue to support the Collegium with welcome donations and involvement in the courses and the leadership and volunteer work central to its continuation and growth.

Respectfully submitted by Dan Van Tassel, Secretary