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On: 28 December 2014, At: 22:01

Publisher: Routledge

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## Religious Education: The official journal of the Religious Education Association

Publication details, including instructions for authors and subscription information:

<http://www.tandfonline.com/loi/urea20>

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Published online: 10 Jul 2006.

To cite this article: Wallace N. Stearns Ph. D. (1906) Religious Education at State Universities, Religious Education: The official journal of the Religious Education Association, 1:5, 193-194, DOI: [10.1080/0034408060010509](https://doi.org/10.1080/0034408060010509)

To link to this article: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/0034408060010509>

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## Religious Education at State Universities

WALLACE N. STEARNS, Ph. D.  
Professor Wesley College, University of No. Dakota

On Wednesday, October 4, ground was broken for the first of the new group of buildings for Wesley College, an educational institution associated with the University of North Dakota. Presidents Merrifield of the State University and Robertson of Wesley College delivered addresses, after which President Merrifield turned the first sod and declared the enterprise begun.

Wesley College, the first Associated College to be established in the United States, began work September 25, opening with a School of Arts and a Conservatory of Music. To this will be added later the Bible Normal School, providing courses of study for workers along the lines of religious education who, while they do not care for or are unable to take up college work, are still desirous of making further preparation.

The purpose of the instruction given in Wesley College School of Arts is to provide, in co-operation with the University of North Dakota, courses that may be counted toward the degree of Bachelor of Arts. This will include such courses as, though properly arts courses, are not offered in the University itself.

The requirements of the degree in arts will be equivalent to those of the University of North Dakota and will meet the standards established by the University Senate.

Candidates for a degree from Wesley College may elect work in either the University or Wesley College, provided that the options from the college equal at least eight units for the total number of units necessary for the degree.

In accordance with a plan in vogue in leading institutions, students in Wesley College will find it possible to elect such studies as later may be counted toward a degree in divinity.

The courses offered include English Bible, History of Israel, Church History, Epistemology, Theism, History of Philosophy, Hebrew and Biblical Greek.

Under Bible Normal, work will be provided in English Bible, Bible History, Bible Doctrines, Church History, Christian Art, Church Organization and Polity, Church Activities and Benevolence, Pedagogy, Psychology and History of Modern Denominations.

The opening has been auspicious, the most cordial relations exist between college and university, on both sides there is the earnest desire to solve the problem at issue,—religious education in the State University, and everything seems to augur the success of the work.

### **Churches and Pastors**

Dr. Henry Louis Smith produces some startling figures regarding the supply of ministers for his own denomination, the Southern Presbyterian. He shows that among the 3,136 organized congregations in the denomination there are only 841 installed pastors. These men serve 1,110 churches, leaving 2,026 churches without definite pastoral service. There are, however, about 1,500 ministers in the denomination, counting stated supplies.

### **How to Help the Work**

The work of the Religious Education Association cannot be maintained successfully on the income from membership dues alone. Each member costs the Association on account of the literature given to him and the clerical labor involved, a very large part of the whole amount of his annual fee. This leaves but little for the expenses of promotion and extension. In order to carry out the missionary program of the Association to promote the improvement of moral and religious education, it is essential that all those who believe in this work shall support it not only by active membership, but also by sustaining membership or by occasional gifts. It would be hard to imagine any cause where a better or more enduring investment could be made.