

PROSPECTUS

MONTREAT NORMAL SCHOOL
MONTREAT, N. C.

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PREAMBLE

THE Mountain Retreat Association authorized its President, Rev. R. C. Anderson, to offer to the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in the United States such of its buildings and grounds as might be needed for school purposes free of cost, excepting the upkeep of the same while in actual use of the school.

This offer was presented to the General Assembly in session at Kansas City, Mo., May, 1914; whereupon the General Assembly appointed a large Ad-interim Committee consisting of members of its Executive Committees and leading educators representing all sections of the church. This committee was directed to make investigation of the Montreat grounds and buildings and other conditions relative to the wisdom of establishing a church normal school in the Montreat grounds, and to report to the following Assembly.

This Committee, after thorough investigation both as to the church's need of such a school and the suitableness of Montreat for its location, reported unanimously and heartily to the Assembly in session at Newport News, Va., May, 1915, recommending that the matter should be referred favorably to the several Synods for their action.

In accordance with the recommendation of the Assembly, the Synods of Virginia, North Carolina, Georgia, Alabama, Tennessee and Appalachia, appointed a Board of Trustees for the purpose of establishing and managing the proposed school. Other Synods took favorable action, but deferred, for the time, the appointment of Trustees.

On May 2, 1916, the Board of Trustees met in Montreat and organized, electing Rev. R. F. Campbell, D.D., Asheville, N. C., Chairman; Rev. W. T. Thompson, Jr., Knoxville, Tenn., Secretary, and Mr. T. S. Morrison,

Asheville, N. C., Treasurer. Dr. Campbell, T. S. Morrison and W. H. Belk were appointed as an executive committee. The matter of raising funds for the support of the school was referred to Rev. R. C. Anderson.

It was determined to open the school in October, 1916, and to begin with the Montreat Hotel as a dormitory and the Montreat school building as classrooms.

DESIGNS OF THE SCHOOL

Both the Assembly and the several Synods recognized the obvious need of a school to prepare Bible-taught and well-trained teachers for our sub-collegiate church and mission schools and for public schools where such may be desired. More and better prepared teachers is the greatest need of our school system. The Montreat Normal is designed to meet this long felt want of the church. The school is unique, designed to come into competition with no other, but to make all of the sub-collegiate schools of our church more efficient, bearing the same relation to our church schools as the State Normal bears to the Public Schools. It is believed that such a school will help to counteract one of the great perils of our day—the secularization of education.

THE LOCATION

Montreat is located in one of the most beautiful sections of Western North Carolina, two miles from Black Mountain station, sixteen miles east of Asheville on the Salisbury Division of the Southern Railway. Its altitude is 2,600 feet above sea-level, with climatic and health conditions well nigh perfect. It is situated in a large and beautiful cove in the Blue Ridge Mountains, in the center of the Montreat grounds, which embrace about four thousand acres. High mountains on the north, east, and west, protect against severe weather, and the beautiful valley opening to the south affords a balmy and delightful

climate in winter season. The extreme lowest temperature being two degrees above zero, with an average of about forty degrees in the three winter months. Montreat is near the center of the territory embraced within the bounds of the Presbyterian Church in the United States, being within two hundred and fifty miles of ten of its sixteen Synods.

PRESENT EQUIPMENT

Montreat has all the conveniences of a city—water, electric lights, sewerage and telephone systems, stores, postoffice, a well organized church, a library of three thousand volumes, athletic grounds, and two large hotels well furnished and equipped with modern conveniences, with rooming capacity for four hundred. The hotels now remain idle nine months in the year; besides, there is a school building with capacity for four hundred, and many other buildings which might be used for school purposes. In a word, it has a plant worth more than \$200,000.00, which, with the addition of a few school appliances, would be splendidly adapted for the use of the school proposed.

SPECIAL ADVANTAGES

Montreat, with its spacious grounds in the heart of nature, equipped with furnished buildings and modern conveniences, thoroughly protected, controlled by the church and guaranteed to the church forever, the organ of the General Assembly for its summer Bible and Conference work, offers unspeakable advantages for the school designed. The Montreat management can greatly assist the school in the winter, and in the summer can give employment to at least forty of the girls to aid in their education and at the same time give them the advantages of the conferences; thus the school can be administered on the most economical basis. It seems a sin to let the Montreat plant lie idle nine months in the year and to neglect

this opportunity for the establishment of a school so much needed to complete our church school system.

It is proposed to give to thousands of strong, bright, and willing girls of the mountains and elsewhere, a chance to fit themselves for positions of usefulness, to supply a great need of our educational work, and to put the desired education in reach of those who most desire it and are least able to attain it, at half the ordinary cost, say about \$125.00 per year for board and tuition.

No pains will be spared to get teachers who will be, both in preparation and in personality, equal to the best in the land.

R. F. CAMPBELL,

T. S. MORRISON,

W. H. BELK,

Executive Committee of the Board of Trustees.



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