Method in Theology

Fall 1980

Procedure in this Seminar

- 1. Go through book on Method, one chapter at a time.
- a Each day except first day

answer questions from previous day

1 qq written out

handed in to assistant director

preferably, clarified, narrowed down to precise issue, and so apt to be of general interest and concern on previous Tuesday, so that respondent will not be talking off the top of his head

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- b sketch of main points in next chapter
- 2. First day

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Why method? Sketch of first chapter.

Intr Juction: Basic Notions in Method

1 Method/Logic/Existenz

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Logic is concerned with i) terms, ii) propositions, and iii) inferences

- Method goes beyond concerns of deductive logic; adds further operations (observation, description, problemformulation, discovery, formulation of discovery, adding implications and presuppositions of hypothesis, devising research program (observations, experiments), confirming or invalidating hypothesis, in that case review and new discovery, modification of hypothesis.
- Existenz: the existential moment arises when one finds out for oneself that on ehas to decide for oneself what one proposes to do with oneself and one's life

Response to the existential moment puts an end to drifting: A drifter does what everyone else is doing, says what everyone else is saying, thinks what everyone else is thinking, and commonly everyone else includes the whole local or regional class of drifters.

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2 Method in Theology

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Yves Congar, "Théologie," <u>Dict. de théol. cath.</u>, paris ³1950 ff. Hunter Guthrie, <u>History of Theology</u>, the foregoing edited and translated, Garden City, N. Y., 1908. (Doubleday)

F. L. Cross, <u>The Oxford Dictionary of the Christain Church</u>, London: Oxford Univ. P., 1957. Later reprints and second edition. Berthold Altaner, Patrology, translated from 5th German

edition of <u>patrologie</u> by Hilda Graef, New York: Herder & Herder, 1900. NB There are later German editions.

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