

## Board Votes To End Compulsory Chapel; Resolution To Take Effect This January

### New Assembly Series May Then Be Required

Student attendance at college extracurricular religious exercises will be completely voluntary effective at the start of the next semester, according to Board of Trustees action taken Friday.

The board also approved a policy establishing a series of assemblies at which student attendance may be required.

To be arranged as deemed necessary by the president, dean, or faculty at the college, the assemblies will enable administrators, faculty members and student leaders to communicate with the student body as a whole on matters of current concern to both bodies.

"The board members feel strongly that colleges which abolish all assemblies, religious or secular, suffer loss of the common experience engendered by meetings of the entire student body, or of specific classes at the college," Dr. K. Roald Bergethon, president of the college, said.

#### Religious Growth Needed

"In adopting the new policies, the board emphasized that as a church-related college, Lafayette must have a distinctive and prominent posture of concern for the religious growth of its students," he said.

The board members recognized that measures other than required student attendance at certain exercises may be of more positive value in demonstrating such a posture, Dr. Bergethon said.

The board's allocation of funds that support Lafayette's extracurricular religious offerings ensures that they will continue to have breadth and intensity, he said.

Students are presently required to attend a number of weekly noon chapel services or several evening presentation - and - discussion sessions known as theological confrontations.

#### Services To Continue

The evening confrontations were established this fall as an addition to the traditional 20-minute chapel services. Both types of exercises will be continued as part of the overall religious program on the campus.

In addition, students of the Christian faith are encouraged to participate in the Lafayette College Church.