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Wartburg Theological Seminary Board of Directors Energized for Long-term Sustainability

DUBUQUE, IA – May 5, 2009 – The Wartburg Theological Seminary Board of Directors met at the seminary April 26 – 28, 2009 for its semi-annual board meeting. After decisions at the Fall Board meeting resulted in over \$700,000 in budget cuts, this meeting proved to be one of renewed energy. The Board re-dedicated itself to the mission and vision of Wartburg Theological Seminary and acknowledged that the seminary must remain focused on its strengths and retain its distinctive communitarian style of forming valued leaders for God’s mission.

As economic challenges continue around the world, Wartburg Theological Seminary has already made the difficult decisions that now face many colleges and universities. This positions Wartburg Theological Seminary to move forward with new strength and focus.

Board Chair, Rita Dudley, commented, “Challenges remain, but the Board is committed to the long-term sustainability of Wartburg Theological Seminary, and the Board is energized by its commitment.”

During the Spring board meeting last week, the Board of Directors embraced the “Committed to Valued Leaders” capital campaign which will raise \$20 million dollars over the next five years for the annual fund, student scholarships, debt reduction, endowed faculty chairs, and technology. Included in the campaign is the “Strengthening the Base” initiative, which aims to

build Wartburg's base of donors to 5,000 supporters, resulting in over \$1.5 million dollars per year toward the annual fund. The Board dedicated itself in partnership with President Duane Larson for the success of this campaign. He notes, "This can look like a challenging time for such a campaign, but we know that thousands believe in Wartburg. We thank God for this new energy to move forward."

As a measure to continue increasing enrollment at Wartburg Theological Seminary, Board members agreed to become integral partners also in recruiting students to attend Wartburg Theological Seminary in 2010 and beyond. All these efforts are directed too, to achieving a balanced budget for this next and all subsequent academic years.

With great joy the Board had the honor of approving forty-eight degree candidates who will commence on May 17, 2009. In addition, honorary degrees were approved for Dr. Martin E. Marty, Dr. Charles Maahs, Bishop Mark Narum, Rev. Larry Trachte and Dr. Hong-ki Kim.

"We have graduates who will be accepting calls to ministry around the world. Approving forty-eight candidates allows the seminary and the Board to rejoice in our mission of providing valued leaders for God's mission," said President Larson.

Wartburg Theological Seminary is one of eight theological schools operated by the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. Established in Dubuque, Iowa in 1854, Wartburg Seminary is celebrating its 155th academic year.

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