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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Wartburg Theological Seminary Announces New Distance Education Program

DUBUQUE, IA – February 5, 2010 - Wartburg Theological Seminary will launch a Distance Education/Residential Program in the fall of 2010. The program includes online and on campus intensive courses taken over a two year timeframe to fulfill the first year of degree program curriculum requirements. The Distance Education/Residential Program meets the needs of students who may not be able to relocate to the seminary at this time but expect to do so after completing two years of distance coursework.

Dr. Craig Nesson, Academic Dean at Wartburg Theological Seminary, said, "This new initiative allows students to maintain a measure of continuity in their work and family situations, while beginning the adventure of theological education at the Masters level. The format of on-campus intensives and online courses connects the students to the Wartburg community and initiates them into the residential learning community."

Students enrolling in the Distance Education/Residential Program can typically expect to take 6 credits of online classes in both the fall and spring semesters as well as come to campus for one or two week intensive classes in September, January, and June.

The Distance Education/Residential Program is available for the Master of Divinity, Master of Arts, and Master of Arts in Diaconal Ministry. For more information about these degree programs visit www.wartburgseminary.edu.

"Wartburg Theological Seminary seeks both to reach out to those who have complicated circumstances that challenge their attendance at seminary and to provide an opportunity for a rich immersion in the life of the seminary community. We are seeking to address an expressed need of many for more accessible educational experiences, while simultaneously retaining the value the residential learning community," said Nesson.

Wartburg Theological Seminary has petitioned the Association of Theological Schools for approval of this initiative and anticipates a decision by mid-summer 2010.

Wartburg Theological Seminary is one of eight theological schools of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA). Wartburg is accredited by the Association of Theological Schools and educates women and men to serve the church as ordained and lay leaders. Established in Dubuque, Iowa in 1854, Wartburg Theological Seminary is in its 156th academic year.

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