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WTS Board of Directors and Foundation Trustees Meet in Joint Session

DUBUQUE, IA – November 16, 2011 – The Wartburg Theological Seminary Board of Directors and Foundation Trustees met jointly on the Wartburg campus November 2-4, 2011. Wartburg's president, Rev. Dr. Stanley N. Olson, said of the meeting, "The Directors and Trustees affirmed strong reports about Wartburg Seminary's present work and its financial sustainability. Discussions and actions creatively engaged several key arenas—mission focus and flexibility, governance structures, faculty and program, growth for gift support, and strategic planning. It was a great meeting."

At the meeting, the Board of Directors and the Foundation Trustees decided that as they move forward they will integrate their work more closely under changes recommended by a special Governance Task Force. Bylaws were adopted to allow election of up to four Trustees to the Board of Directors and to allow the Foundation Trustees to function also as the Mission Support Committee of the Board. Governance is the primary responsibility of the Board of Directors while the Foundation Trustees advocate for mission support and the distinctive Wartburg mission.

The Board took the first steps toward developing a new strategic plan by considering the environment for the life and work of the church and seminary. President Olson recommended intentional flexibility as the seminary plans for the future, not only out of fiscal caution but also because the church's theological education needs are changing rapidly and Wartburg knows how to innovate well. Olson urged that flexibility for Wartburg should mean a continued focus on forming pastors and other leaders for ELCA

congregations. He also called for active exploration of new collaborations that could strengthen both Wartburg and other partners.

The Trustees laid ground work for a possible comprehensive campaign to address annual funding, debt elimination, and technology enhancement. The Board received a positive report from auditors for the previous fiscal year and the 2012-2013 revenue and expense proposal was reviewed. The balanced budget proposal is based on continuing strong gift support from WTS alumni, friends, and congregations as well as ELCA churchwide and synodical grants.

Decisions were also made regarding faculty and academic programs. Dr. Craig Nesson was appointed to another five year term as Academic Dean of Wartburg Seminary. Nesson has served as the Academic Dean since 1999. President Olson said of the reappointment, "I am very pleased. Dean Nesson is a great asset for Wartburg and has been a fine partner for me." The Board also affirmed offering a fully distributed (distance learning) MA in Diaconal Ministry. WTS already offers a fully distributed MA and a partially distributed MDiv.

The Wartburg Theological Seminary Board of Directors and Foundation Trustees meet in the fall and the spring on the Wartburg Seminary campus.

Wartburg Theological Seminary is one of eight theological schools of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. Wartburg is accredited by the Association of Theological Schools and educates women and men to serve the church's mission as ordained and lay leaders. Established in Dubuque, Iowa in 1854, Wartburg Seminary is in its 158th academic year.