

# LifeTogether

THE MAGAZINE OF  
WARTBURG THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

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Fall 2021



# LifeTogether

The official magazine of Wartburg Theological Seminary for our alumni and friends. Permission is granted for additional use in congregations. Founded in 1854 and located in Dubuque, Iowa since 1889, Wartburg Theological Seminary is one of seven seminaries of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

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## FALL EDITION 2021

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## Mission Statement

Wartburg Theological Seminary serves Christ's church through the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America by being a worship-centered community of critical theological reflection where learning leads to mission and mission informs learning.

The community embodies God's mission by stewarding resources for engaging, equipping, and sending collaborative leaders who interpret, proclaim, and live the gospel of Jesus Christ for a world created for communion with God and in need of personal and social healing.

# Contents

Fiscal Year 2020–2021 Annual Report Edition

## **FROM THE BOARDS OF DIRECTORS AND TRUSTEES 04**

Introducing the Annual Report Edition

## **WTS BEGINS A NEW ACADEMIC YEAR 06**

Hybrid Prolog Week Kicks Off 168th Year at Wartburg Seminary

## **SUMMER RURAL IMMERSION PROGRAM 08**

Shalom Hill Farm Cohort Takes On Ministry in Rural Minnesota

## **DIEMER FAMILY ESTABLISHES SCHOLARSHIP FUND 10**

Steve and Terri Diemer Establish Scholarship Fund

## **JOURNEY TOGETHER 12**

Meet Pastor Edy Santos, Program Director

## **WARTBURG SEMINARY IMPACT REPORT 14**

Reflection from the President and Annual Report Numbers

## **WARTBURG SEMINARY DONOR SUPPORT 16**

Loeche Lifetime Giving Society

## **GETTING TO KNOW REV. JULIE HIGGS 26**

Wartburg's New Dean of Chapel and Director of Learning for Life

## **WARTBURG SEMINARY LEGACY SUPPORT 28**

Tower Community and Bequests Received

## **WARTBURG SEMINARY INSTITUTIONAL SUPPORT 30**

Synods, Congregations, Foundations, and Businesses

## **WHAT MAKES SEMINARIES GROW? 34**

Reprinted from *In Trust* Magazine

## **ALUMNI NOTES 37**

Updates from Wartburg Seminary Alumni

## **FACULTY AND STAFF UPDATES 38**

Updates from Wartburg Faculty and Staff

# From the Boards of Directors & Trustees



It is with great joy and praise to God that we celebrate another fantastic year for Wartburg Theological Seminary. In a year fraught with challenges stemming from COVID-19, Wartburg thrived.

We are pleased to share with you that Wartburg was recently named one of seven out of 280 accredited seminaries in the U.S. that has generated enrollment growth consecutively over the past five years. This is certainly a cause for celebration, and it also means we have an even higher responsibility to remain faithful to our mission to steward resources for engaging, equipping, and sending collaborative leaders who interpret, proclaim, and live the gospel of Jesus Christ for a world created for communion with God and in need of personal and social healing.



Wartburg's position to provide leaders for the church stems largely from its phenomenal fiscal strength. This strength is made possible due to the generosity of the people listed in these pages, as well as the prudent management of our leadership. Being debt free means every donor gift will have a direct impact on future church leaders.

For all of the outpouring of generosity, we are deeply grateful. Thank you for trusting Wartburg Seminary with your expression of abundance. Thank you for serving the church and God's mission in our world.

Dr. Stephen Cornils '70  
*Chair, Board of Directors*

Rev. Dr. Andrea DeGroot-Nesdahl '77  
*Chair, Board of Trustees*

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# WTS Begins a New Academic Year

## HYBRID PROLOG WEEK KICKS OFF 168TH YEAR AT WARTBURG SEMINARY

"I walked into seminary with many fears but one solid reassurance: I am supposed to be here. The community I have experienced here has allowed me to find a new sense of belonging and peace." — Tori Richard, Master of Divinity Student

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Together, we kicked off a new academic year at Wartburg Seminary with a hybrid model of Prolog Week! With more than 75% of the student body present on campus and the remaining 25% participating virtually, we began the year in the way we always do: centring our community in worship. The worshipping community at Wartburg Seminary gathers to receive God's Word and sing God's praise throughout the year as the center of life together as a learning community.

Opening Worship at Wartburg Seminary is a long-held tradition, taking place on the afternoon of Labor Day in September. It is a time to gather as a community for the first time in a new year, but also to welcome the new students in our midst. Rev. Dr. Craig Nesson, Academic Dean, commented on the addition of this class to our community: "As Academic Dean, I am thrilled to welcome our new incoming class. We had an amazing experience of orientation and community building during Prolog Week. Already I observe many gifts for ministry and am confident how these new students will both be formed by and contribute to the Loehe legacy of Wartburg Theological Seminary."

Another long-standing tradition is Convocation. Convocations at Wartburg Seminary are community conversations about topics that matter. They focus on

current, often-challenging topics that deserve face-to-face dialogue. Convocations strive to host discussion in ways that bring us together as community, invite open-ended questions, and welcome everyone's voice. Convocations are neither lectures nor simply presentations. They are face-to-face conversations, inspired by Jesus' teachings (Matt 18:15-20), that strive for mutual understanding, solidarity, and wholeness in communities today. Our Prolog Week topic was "Community as Sacred Trust and Spiritual Practice."

Troy Troftgruben, Associate Professor of New Testament and Community Life Chair, shared: "This fall, all of us at Wartburg are navigating complex relationships and modes of communication under the stresses of an ongoing pandemic, making it likelier for us to not bring our best to honoring one another in community together. In view of that, we thought it essential to kick off the academic year with intentional conversation about practicing community faithfully and well together, with special focus upon community members whose voices are less often heard in broader society. We had the opportunity to hear student leaders tell about their experiences as people of color, as LGBTQ community members, and as people with physical limitations. These voices, along with insights on community from faculty and staff, helped us pause to reflect on how we can be more intentional





about practicing community more faithfully here at Wartburg—and beyond.”

Student Tori Richard shared, “I walked into seminary with many fears but one solid reassurance: I am supposed to be here. As a person who has walked their entire life with a disability, I knew there would be additional challenges when accepting a call to serve the church. However, the community I have experienced here has allowed me to find a new sense of belonging and peace. Luther teaches us to live as theologians of the cross. When applied to a disability, we have to acknowledge and name that disabilities are seen and unseen. Each person’s experience is unique, and so is a community’s response. God’s grace is freely given, and paradoxically, God’s grace is manifested through communities that walk in solidarity with minorities. All of us are called into faith with Christ. Paul said that “when I am weak, I am made strong” (2 Cor. 12:10). When applied to disability, disability says where I am lacking, I am full in the light of the cross.”

Rev. Liz Albertson, Vice President for Admissions and Student Services, reflected on how we might take what was learned during Convocation and move forward after Prolog Week, sharing, “What does practicing community, Wartburg style, look like? The key word is *practice*. It is for good reason that the Bible is full of stories, advice, and rules concerning how we as humans and we who gather in God’s holy name should act and what to do when we (the community) fall short. Life Together as the Wartburg community is not simple or easy, but it is good. The work is worth it for the ways God expands hearts and minds, brings joy and delight, and deepens faith and understanding through this community. Humility, playfulness, worship, prayer, curiosity, speaking truth with love, and the powerful gift of forgiveness—these are the things that Wartburg students, faculty, and staff learn and practice as we engage in community life together.”



A photograph of three young women standing outdoors in front of a light-colored building with vertical siding. The woman on the left is a Black woman with short dark hair, smiling. The woman in the center is a white woman with red hair, wearing a grey t-shirt that says "LIVE GENEROUSLY" with a heart and cross logo. The woman on the right is an older white woman with short grey hair, also smiling. The background shows green trees and a clear sky.

DaMisha McFarland-Pollock, Riley Anderson Reed,  
and Mary Anne Parker

# Summer Rural Immersion Program

Shalom Hill Farm Cohort Takes on Ministry in Rural Minnesota

*This summer three Wartburg students, Riley Anderson-Reed, DaMisha McFarland-Pollock, and Mary Anne Parker packed up and headed to Shalom Hill Farm in rural Windom, Minnesota, to begin a 10-week Clinical Program of Wartburg Theological Seminary (CPW). The program, guided by ACPE standards, is adopted for the format of education that Wartburg is using in lieu of accredited CPE. Clinical experience is done through visits made by the students in their local community, with weekly group interactions through interactive technology. We interviewed the summer cohort to learn more about their journey together through the program.*



The Shalom Hill Farm cohort all agreed on one thing; being able to experience their ministry in person was very important. Summing it up neatly, Riley said, "When I was looking for a CPE site, a lot of them were still closed because of COVID and a lot were going online again, but I really wanted in-person. I'd had enough online experiences." Mary Anne agreed, "I was over COVID. I'm a people person and I was ready to connect with people one-on-one again." As so often happens, the trio forged a bond around the dinner table. "We already knew each other from Zoom, so it wasn't like we were starting out as strangers," shared Mary Anne. "It's true," states Riley, "but it was very cool to have a cohort that was in person. We ate dinner together almost every night and we would talk about our days and our experiences. We were all in rural ministry but all had such different experiences." Adds DaMisha, "It was just really fun to have a community that had similar things going on that you could talk about your day with."

Each morning, the three would leave the serene setting of Shalom Hill Farm and head out to minister in various communities. DaMisha served in a nursing home with 55 residents located in Windom, MN, with a population of 4,646. Riley's community was smaller, with 1,000 people, located in Westbook, MN. She spent half of her time at the Good Samaritan Society Nursing Home and the other half between Trinity Lutheran Church and Grace Lutheran Church as their home visit minister. Mary Anne served at American Lutheran Church in Worthington, MN, where the population was nearly 10,000.

Another topic the trio agreed on was the importance of their rural ministry classes. DaMisha in particular was grateful for the WTS instruction she had received; "I had three rural ministry courses prior to starting CPW this summer. Dr. Mark Yackel-Juleen prepared me for life in small, rural Midwest towns. I understood place was important and to respect where people come from. He also taught me the importance of story in rural contexts." Riley agreed, specifically noting that while the classes were helpful, there was something to be said about experiencing rural life in-person, "So many of us go into rural ministry and are unprepared for what it entails and how it's different from ministry elsewhere. For example, I was terrified to do cold calls; just calling up people on a list and introducing myself and saying, 'I would like to visit you, would you like a visit?' That's not something you ever get taught specifically but was great to experience firsthand." Mary Anne agreed, "Because Wartburg is so pastorally experience focused, there's so much grace in the classroom and so much passion in the teaching, and our professors walk their talk and really provide an example of what we're supposed to do and I think that's proba-



bly the most valuable quality for situations like we were in this summer."

And though the experience was rural and in-person, the group found themselves once again relying on technology. "Technology allowed me to be in a rural context while being supervised by an experienced CPE Supervisor located elsewhere," stated DaMisha. Riley agreed, "Without technology we wouldn't have been able to have a rural CPE experience. We also wouldn't have been able to connect with all the members of our cohort who were in different locations having different experiences."

The ten weeks flew by as the cohort busied themselves with ministry that included visits and relationship building with the elderly, Bible studies, and preaching, among a host of other duties assigned. In their free time, they explored the communities they were immersed in; including visits to a sheep ranch and a dairy farm. "We had the opportunity for quite a few different activities that were part of the rural experience that were really fun," stated Mary Anne.

Of the experience DaMisha noted, "I have a passion for rural ministry and a concentration in it as well. I love small town and rural life. The pace of life, the community, the interconnectedness... how kind and welcoming and helpful, typically, those communities are, all are things that draw me to them. This experience affirmed my call to rural ministry." Riley echoed the sentiment, saying, "This experience definitely taught me that I enjoy rural ministry and that if I have the opportunity for it in the future, I will be very excited." Mary Anne couldn't help but agree, noting, "This experience made me more passionate for what I want to do. I'm more passionate about my call. I know that this is what I'm supposed to do."

# Diemer Family Establishes Scholarship Fund

## FOR STEVE AND TERRI DIEMER, WHAT STARTED OUT AS A TRIP DOWN MEMORY LANE TURNED INTO A MISSION TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

The close knit Diemer family from Madison, WI grew up familiar with Wartburg Theological Seminary because of how highly their father, Joel '64, spoke about his alma mater and how many close family friends they had who were also Wartburg alums.

"I always had a high regard for it (Wartburg), I liked being the minister's kid. My dad is a role model for me and how I live life and he always says how much Wartburg shaped him and his thought process," stated Steve.

In 2019, upon his late mother Geraldine's suggestion, Steve and his wife Terri decided to take Joel back to Wartburg to learn more about the place that shaped not only his father, but their family as well.

Soon after their arrival to campus, Steve and Terri understood what all the buzz had been about. "Everyone was really welcoming and engaging and my dad was just so excited to be

back and to see the alumni pictures on the wall, and tell stories; it was really special watching his excitement," stated Steve. The trip was meaningful to Steve as well. The oldest of four, Steve was the only one in his family born in Iowa and though he has no memory of his 18 months living in the Wartburg trailer park, says of the visit, "It was a really great experience; it was my way to get back in touch with Wartburg and back to my roots and see where I was raised."

It wasn't only the memories that Steve and Terri found inspiring. States Steve, "Our visit showed us that Wartburg is a visionary school; you're not just reacting to the world, you're leading it. Our experience was very inspirational."

Following their visit to Wartburg, Steve and Terri began having conversations about the pivotal role the seminary played in the





WTS President Kristin Johnston Largen, Terri Diemer, Steve Diemer and Joel Diemer



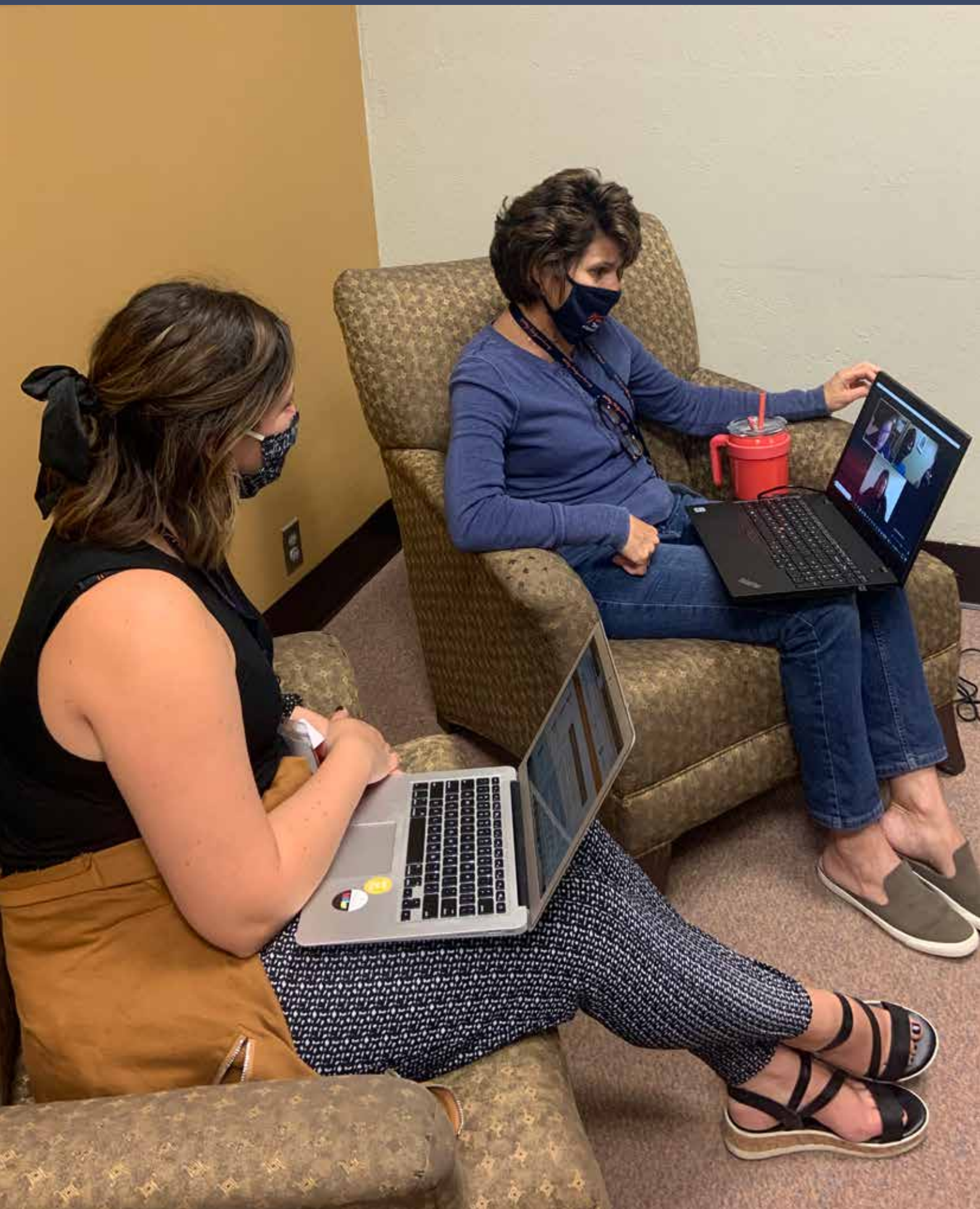
shaping of the Diemer family and continues to play in providing pastoral leadership for the church. This conversation led to an observation from their own church, “We’ve seen people in our church, one person in particular, trying to become a minister as a second career.” After seeing this person, the Diemers began to think about ways to financially assist people who are changing careers while raising a family at the same time.

After praying about it and consulting Joel, the couple decided to update their will to include a named scholarship in the Wartburg Seminary Endowment fund. The scholarship, titled, “The Diemer Family Scholarship,” was not only a way for Steve and Terri to honor Joel, but to honor the long line of ministers in his family, including his grandfather and uncles, one of whom also graduated from Wartburg. Of the scholarship, Steve says, “I am not a minister, but this was a way to give back in a meaningful way to a place that means a lot to my family and to me.”

The importance of scholarship funds cannot be overstated. In fact, each year WTS students are awarded scholarships, based on financial aid eligibility, from the endowment earnings. Because of the generosity of people like the Diemers, Wartburg is able to offer 100% of eligible students some level of scholarship support.

Kristin Johnston Largen, WTS President, said about receiving this gift, “It was such a pleasure visiting with Pastor Joel, Steve and Terri, and learning about their experience of Wartburg Seminary in the 1960s. Their love of Wartburg and their ongoing faithfulness to God’s mission in the world is at the heart of what makes Wartburg so special. I am deeply grateful for their generosity that will give future generations of church leaders the opportunity to be formed by the Wartburg community for service to the gospel.”

To learn more about specific giving options, including legacy giving, scholarship giving, endowment giving, or other ways to give, visit [wartburgseminary.edu/giving-opportunities](http://wartburgseminary.edu/giving-opportunities).





# JOURNEY TOGETHER

Meet Pastor Edy Santos, Program Director for Journey Together



In response to the call of the Spirit and the needs of the church for faithful leaders to steward the Gospel of Jesus Christ particularly in under served communities that worship in languages other than English, Wartburg Theological Seminary has created

a Competency Based Education approach to the ELCA's TEEM pathway to the ministry of Word and Sacrament. The program —Journey Together— will free people to pursue the call to ministry placed upon them by the Holy Spirit. Pastor Edy Santos, the Program Director for Journey Together, shared some of his thoughts on the program.

"Undoubtedly, there are different ways of learning and teaching theology," states Pastor Santos, "but the most important thing is to make theology a particular form of life, a way of thinking and being in the world. Journey Together makes this. It is a program that leads the student to delve into three dimensions necessary to be a competent Christian. Those dimensions are knowing, doing, and being."

Journey Together focuses on inductive methodology, where opinion and critical reflection are essential so that both the student and the academic community, through a horizontal dialogue, are allowed to learn together. "In traditional education, it is current that we learn, memorize, and evaluate based on content. That does not happen in competency-based education," states Pastor Edy.

He went on to explain that competencies are a combination of knowledge, skills, and attitudes appropriate to the context. "Likewise,

they are the ability to effectively perform a task in a given context. In other words, to develop competencies, one must assimilate and appropriate a series of knowledge associated with them and learn to analyze and apply them together in a holistic way. In this sense, evaluating competencies leads to evaluating processes in solving problem situations. In short, Journey Together is important because this program is for competent Christian leaders."

When asked about what he was most looking forward to in this new role, Santos shared, "First, I am very honored and happy to begin this "Journey Together" serving the church. The Wartburg community's historical trajectory and human quality are exceptional, so I thank God for the opportunity to integrate this family of faith."

Pastor Santos continued, saying, "I hope to contribute to the educational work of the seminary with the initiative of a reformed theological education, which provides students with meaningful learning through the development of competencies. I want to promote the importance of 'learning to learn' that emphasizes this new program, since we will have more effective church work if we are competent Christian leaders. I believe this can help transform lives through the Gospel of Jesus Christ, feeling strengthened by Grace and justified by a living faith that acts tangibly and does not remain in mere concepts. My work as director of Journey Together seeks to inspire a transformation in the way we educate ourselves as Christian leaders, awakening a spirit and a clear awareness of discipleship and implementing the gifts that God has given us. Likewise, I want to highlight the importance of listening to each other and expressing our sense of faith based on our circumstances to continue growing in the church's knowledge, do, and be."

# Annual IMPA

## A Note from the President

***"Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus." Philippians 4:4-7***



These verses describe well how God has been with us this past year at Wartburg Seminary. For a year and a half, when our community was not able to gather together for in-person classes or worship, this community remained rooted in God's peace, and experienced God's nearness. God kept our minds and hearts focused on Jesus Christ as classes and daily worship continued digitally. Many students graduated to become ordained leaders in the ELCA. Many more new students were welcomed.

God has continued to 'guard our hearts and minds' through faithful servants like you who have supported and energized Wartburg's mission. Your generosity has helped us shape leaders for spreading the gospel and sharing the good news of Jesus Christ with those who desperately need it.

**Rejoice in the Lord always.** Wartburg Seminary remains healthy and strong. In September, we were blessed to resume in-person classes and worship, and the joy of being together in person again was palpable. The chapel and our classrooms are full, and the halls echo with conversation, laughter, and the occasional song.

**Rejoice in the Lord always.** My gratitude for you is heartfelt, and your ongoing encouragement is evidence of the work God is doing through Wartburg Seminary. Your continued strong support allows us to form new leaders to strengthen and grow the church.

**Rejoice in the Lord always.** The Spirit is stirring at Wartburg Seminary, and I am so excited to see how God expands our mission and our impact in the year to come.

**Rejoice in the Lord always.** The Wartburg Seminary community is truly together wherever we are, and that community includes you. Keep us in your prayers as we continue to follow the Holy Spirit and form new leaders for service in the church.

God's peace and blessings to you,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kristin Johnston Largen". The script is fluid and cursive.

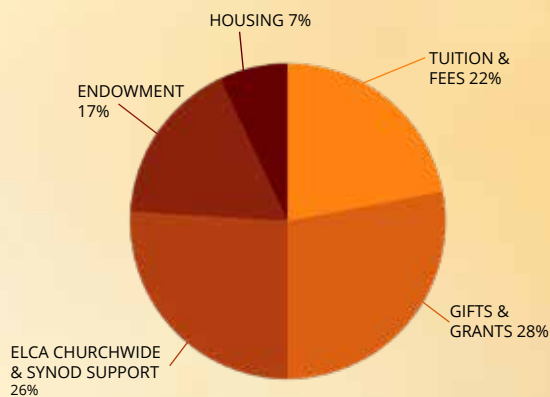
The Rev. Kristin Johnston Largen, Ph.D  
President, Wartburg Theological Seminary



# ACT Report

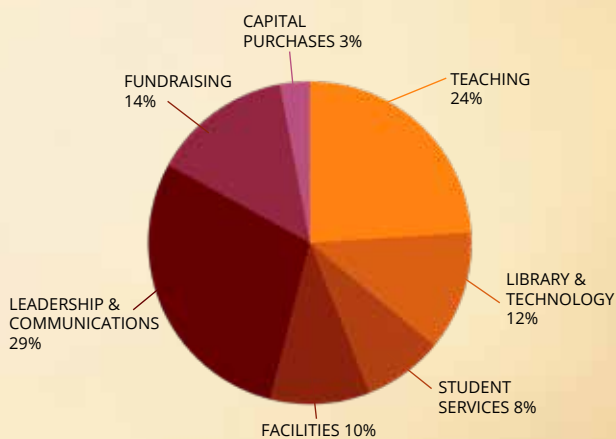
## Fiscal Year 2020-21 by the Numbers

### REVENUE \$6,014,397

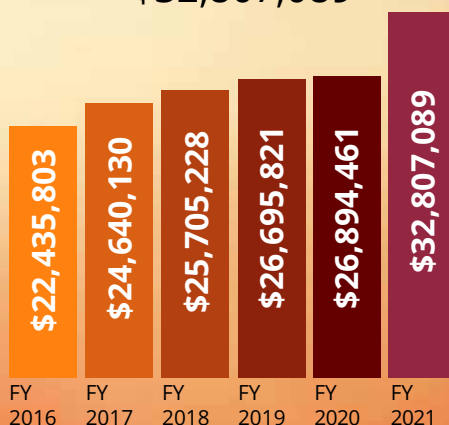


*\*Does not include \$255,894 in estate gifts*

### EXPENSES \$5,220,939



### ENDOWMENT \$32,807,089



# Wartburg Seminary Donor Support

## LOEHE LIFETIME GIVING SOCIETY

The Loehe Lifetime Giving Society, named for Wartburg Seminary's founder Wilhelm Loehe, honors supporters for the significant contributions they have made to Wartburg during their lifetime. The top categories, over \$500,000, also includes planned gifts. We express our sincere gratitude for the lasting impact these individuals have made on our mission. A cross (†) is used to indicate the person has died within the year. An asterisk (\*) is used to indicate new members.

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Ms Jean J Ruege  
Rev Roland & Mrs Barbara Schaedig  
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## MARK GLAZENER, MASTER OF DIVINITY STUDENT

When I first considered attending seminary, I imagined a joyful, Christ-filled, worship-centered community where I could feel right at home and grow as a minister of Christ while forming life-long friendships. Upon arriving at Wartburg, in very little time, I realized I had found that place of which I dreamed.









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# 242

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# Getting to Know Rev. Julie Higgs

## A Q&A WITH THE NEW DEAN OF CHAPEL AND DIRECTOR OF LEARNING FOR LIFE

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### WHAT HAVE YOU BEEN UP TO?

Since graduating from Wartburg, I've been a pastor in the Southeastern Iowa Synod: first as associate pastor at Grace Lutheran Church in Davenport; then moving just a few miles north to Trinity Lutheran Church in Pleasant Valley; then to Iowa City as an Assistant to Bishop Michael Burk, where I focused on candidacy, first-call theological education, rostered leadership support, and worship. Since leaving the synod office, I served as pastor in Adel, a small and growing community just west of Des Moines, met and married my husband—which added three adult stepchildren and four grandchildren (plus another on the way) to my life.

### WHAT IS IT LIKE RETURNING TO WARTBURG?

There's a striking familiarity in being back at Wartburg as well as an unfamiliarity about being here as a staff member rather than as a student. It's almost as if echoes of decades ago crash into the voices and energy that fill the halls today. Echoes such as remembering sitting in Craig Nesson's office talking about whether I could finish my internship; the first time I heard Winston Persaud mention cricket as a theolog-

ical construct; music in the chapel—the hushed, reverent sound of a multitude of voices singing harmony and fading into silence and the solitude of playing the piano when I needed to pray about something troubling me; my summer Greek class and our near-obsession with πρόβατον (sheep); Kristin Johnston's ever-present bottle of water in the chapel (which was a new experience for me); the memory of four students in a Blair House apartment kitchen cooking a Norwegian dinner together; the feeling in my stomach every time I preached in class; the joy of friendships and laughter. Voices and energy today are similar to those years ago, but they address topics that are both similar to and different from the topics we were passionate about 25 years ago. Added to all that is a mix of encounters with students and faculty members in the in-between years—endorsement interviews, synod events, my occasional visits to Wartburg.

Being here again has a surreal quality of déjà vu and new experiences, combined with a hope that my time at Wartburg in this new position will bring joys and growth as meaningful as those in my years as a student here.





### ON SERVING IN DUAL ROLES AS DEAN OF CHAPEL AND DIRECTOR OF LEARNING FOR LIFE

I've done a fair amount of continuing education since becoming a pastor—some fabulous, some less so. Most opportunities included some sort of worshipful component—perhaps a brief devotion at the beginning of the day, other times a quick prayer. But the opportunities that have been most meaningful to me have been those where worship didn't feel obligatory or like an add-on, but rather was part of the heart and soul of the education event. I think I experienced this most profoundly in the last year when I co-facilitated several courses focusing on faith and racism. Worship very intentionally began and ended every gathering, daily prayer practices between sessions were expected, and the conversations in the learning itself often drew us back to the connection between the issues and our faith, including considering how our policy positions were consistent or inconsistent with what we hear, proclaim, and do in worship.

Our conversations in class were shaped by what we were doing in worship, and what we did in worship was shaped by what we were learning in our classes. There was an integration of learning and worship that enriched both. Other educational experiences don't always express that integration and can reinforce the misunderstood sense of so many Christians that our Christian faith and everything in the rest of our lives live in separate boxes rather than fundamentally shaping one another.

Just as the centrality of worship was formative for me as a student learning to be a leader in the church, so too I believe that any education the church offers needs to be centered in worship as well.

### WHAT ARE YOU LOOKING FORWARD TO MOST?

I have loved being a congregational pastor. When I served as an assistant to the bishop I missed the regular rhythm of planning weekly worship so much that it was a primary reason I returned to a congregational call.

This new position pulls together for me what I loved most in congregational ministry with what I loved most in synodical ministry.

In the congregation—planning worship and working with people both to craft and lead worship faithfully as well as helping them grow through ongoing involvement in Christian education across all ages—all in service of current and future leaders and, therefore, of this church.

And in the synod—working with candidates and first-call pastors, as well as getting to help plan and experience “big” worship services, with processions and gifted musicians and tremendous visual artists.

### WHAT IS ONE THING THE WARTBURG COMMUNITY SHOULD KNOW ABOUT YOU?

I'm a lifelong learner myself, and I'm a practitioner, not an academic. And I believe what the Rev. Dr. Ralph Smith taught me decades ago:

Ralph's Rubric: There is no one right way to worship.

But in any given time and place, some ways are more faithful than others.

I think that's probably also true about providing opportunities for people to learn throughout their lives—that there's no one right way to teach or to learn, and there's no one right topic that we all should learn about. But in any given time and place, some ways are more faithful than others. In this time and place, it is a privilege to get to help provide opportunities for worship and for learning that are faithful both to who we are and to what we need to learn about in this time and place.

# Wartburg Seminary Institutional Support

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**TORI RICHARD, MASTER OF DIVINITY STUDENT**

“I walked into seminary with many fears but one solid reassurance: I am supposed to be here. The community I have experienced here has allowed me to find a new sense of belonging and peace.”

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Rev Jay A & Ms Julie Ford  
Rev Dr Cynthia Forde-Beatty  
Rev Kathryn Franzenburg & Dr William Davis  
Mr Dale E & Mrs Bonnie Freberg  
Rev Ronald J Freimark  
Rev Brenda Frelsi  
Rev John E & Ms Ruth Friedli  
Rev Susan & Mr Norman Friedrich  
Rev Dr Ann Fritschel  
Ms Barbara Fritschel  
Rev Eldor M Fruehling  
Rev Dr James Fruehling  
Rev James A & Ms Nancy Fuller  
Ms Sally Fuller  
Rev Jeffery Steven & Mrs Renae Gallen  
Rev Robert Garton  
Rev Eugene A & Ms Elvira Gauerke  
Mr William G & Ms Lois Geiger  
Rev Kathy Gerking & Mr Andy Johnson  
Rev James H & Ms Karen Gerth  
Rev Kenneth D & Mrs Yvonne Gibson  
Rev Dr Samuel Giere & Bishop Amy Current  
Rev Larry J Giese  
Ms Susan K & Dr Noel Giesecke  
Rev Mark A Gilderhus

Rev Jeff & Ms Jennae Giles  
Bishop Michael & Ms Terrie Girlinghouse  
Rev Carl W Glamm  
Rev Rebecca Goche & Ms Cheryl Goom  
Rev Jerome G & Mrs Jane Godson  
Rev Calvin & Mrs Donna Goerdel  
Mr Dale & Ms Susan Goodman  
Rev Gary & Ms Maxine Goodson  
Rev Myron & Mrs Florence Grams  
Rev Glen H & Ms Shirley Gronlund  
Mrs Dorothy Gronlund  
Rev Thomas Groth  
Ms Ruthann J & Mr Darrel J Gunderson  
Rev Richard L & Ms Diane Halom  
Rev Roy & Ms Margaret Hammerling  
Rev John M & Ms Barbara Hanisch  
Rev Daniel C & Ms Donna Hansen  
Rev Kurt & Ms Susan Hansen  
Rev George L & Ms Janet Hanusa  
Rev Arlyn J & Mrs Millie Hausmann  
Mr Tom & Ms Nancy Heavey  
Rev Peter & Ms Susan Heide  
Rev Raymond & Ms Lynette Heidenson  
Mr Donald & Ms JoAnne Heltner  
Rev Dr Lawrence & Ms Kathy Henning  
Rev Bennett J & Ms Patricia Henrikson  
Rev Jennifer & Mr Jerry Henry  
Rev Steve & Ms Julie Herder  
Ms Bernice Herder  
Rev Eimo Eldon & Ms Patricia Hinrichs  
Ms Beverly L Hoega  
Ms Elizabeth Hoeger  
Rev Roger & Ms Freda Hoffman  
Mr & Mrs Ronald Hoffman  
Rev Dr Leonard & Mrs Cathy Hoffmann  
Rev Charles R & Rev Magdalene R Holm-Roesler  
Ms Barb Holwegner  
Mr David L & Ms Joyce Horstmann  
Mr Doyce F Huebsch  
Mr Frederick A Hueners  
Mr Gerald Hulslander  
Rev Judith L & Mr Terry Huseth  
Rev Dr Delvin D & Ms Trudy Hutton  
Rev Michael & Ms Linda Ide  
Rev Jay Ilten  
Rev Harvey J & Ms Gloria Jaeger  
Rev Thomas & Ms Stacey Jenkins  
Rev James K & Ms Nona Jensen  
Rev Kevin Jensen & Rev Carla Nelson  
Ms C Joyce Johnsen  
Mr David L Johnson  
Ms Lora Lee Johnson-Berke & Rev Steven Berke  
Rev Jane & Dr Presley Johnston  
Rev & Mrs Thomas C Jones  
Mr Myron O & Ms Terrie Jordahl  
Dr Ralph Jung



Mr Morris Kalgaarden  
Rev Randall & Ms Donna Kasch  
Rev Robert M & Ms Betty Keller  
Mr John & Ms Barbara Keller  
Rev Karl O & Ms Carol Kessler  
Rev Marvin Ketterling & Ms Avis Julaine  
Halverson  
Rev Danith & Ms Paulette Kilts  
Rev Brian & Ms Jennifer King  
Rev Bonny Kinnunen  
Ms Kristin C Kirchner  
Dr Gerald R Kleinfeld  
Rev Jean & Dr James Kloss  
Rev Wolf Knappe  
Rev Barbara J Knutson  
Ms Dorothy Konst  
Rev Ronald G & Ms Mary Ellen Koplitz  
Rev Scott Kramer & Dr Minjing Wu  
Mr Donald & Ms Julie Kuhlman  
Mr Paul & Ms Karen Kuhlmann

Mr Harold & Ms Grace Kurtz  
Rev Neil S & Ms Rose Kvern  
Ms Gail Lampley  
Rev Beverly D Lange-Donnella  
Ms Hanna M Langholz  
Rev David N & Ms Judy Larson  
Rev William O & Ms Toni Lawson  
Ms Sally & Mr Glen Lee  
Rev Russ & Ms Susan Leeper  
Ms Judie Lehman  
Rev Robert F Lehmann  
Mr John A & Mrs LaVonne M Leonard  
Rev Janet & Mr Dan Lepp  
Rev Gary J & Ms Jodee Liedtke  
Mr R Daniel & Ms Suzanne M Lienau  
Rev Neil R & Rev Nell Lindorff  
Rev Lloyd Lockhart  
Rev Stephanie Lorenz & Rev Brad Dokken  
Mr Thomas C & Ms Sandra A Lother  
Rev Paul R & Ms Victoria Lovestrand

Rev Mark S & Ms Nancy Luepke  
Rev Karen A Lundwall  
Rev Lyle C Lutz  
Rev Dr Charles H & Ms Pauline Maahs  
Mr Dale & Ms Barbara Mahnke  
Mr Walter E Malkewitz  
Mr Richard D & Ms Tamara Mark  
Rev F Noreen Meginness  
Rev Carla Meier & Rev H Gaylon Barker  
Rev Marino Melsted  
Ms Arlene Meyer  
Rev Dr Nelson & Ms Shirley Meyer  
Rev Steve Meysing  
Rev Lloyd L & Ms Janet Miller  
Rev Dr Lyle & Ms Sonja Miller  
Ms Judy A Miller  
Rev Dr Melvin A & Ms Linda Miritz  
Rev Kathy Montira  
Mr J Duane & Ms Audrey Mortensen  
Ms Fayth Mueller

## HELP WITH YOUR LEGACY PLANNING

Wartburg Seminary has joined forces with the ELCA Foundation, Lutheran Foundation of the Southwest, and Lutheran Planned Giving Services of Nebraska to offer professional estate planning guidance and resources. The individuals listed below, together with the WTS Development Staff, stand ready to help you with your planned giving questions or dreams.

### **Arkansas, Kansas, Missouri, & Oklahoma**

Stephen Phelps  
stephen.phelps@elca.org  
314-703-6949

### **Gulf Coast Texas & Louisiana**

Lizbeth Johnson  
ljohnson@lfsf.org  
713-775-1595

### **Illinois**

Tim Urness  
tim.urness@elca.org  
331-444-3120

### **Iowa**

Mike Klinefelter  
mike.klinefelter@elca.org  
402-943-7272

### **Nebraska**

Sarah Callahan  
scallahan@lutherangiving.org  
402-342-5728

### **Northern Texas & Northern Louisiana**

Daniel Cazac  
dczac@lfsf.org  
800-424-0447

### **Southwestern Texas**

Deacon John Dellis  
jdellis@lfsf.org  
830-305-2758

### **Wisconsin**

Cynthia Halverson  
cynthia.halverson@elca.org  
773-380-2572

## TOWER COMMUNITY SUPPORT, CONT'D

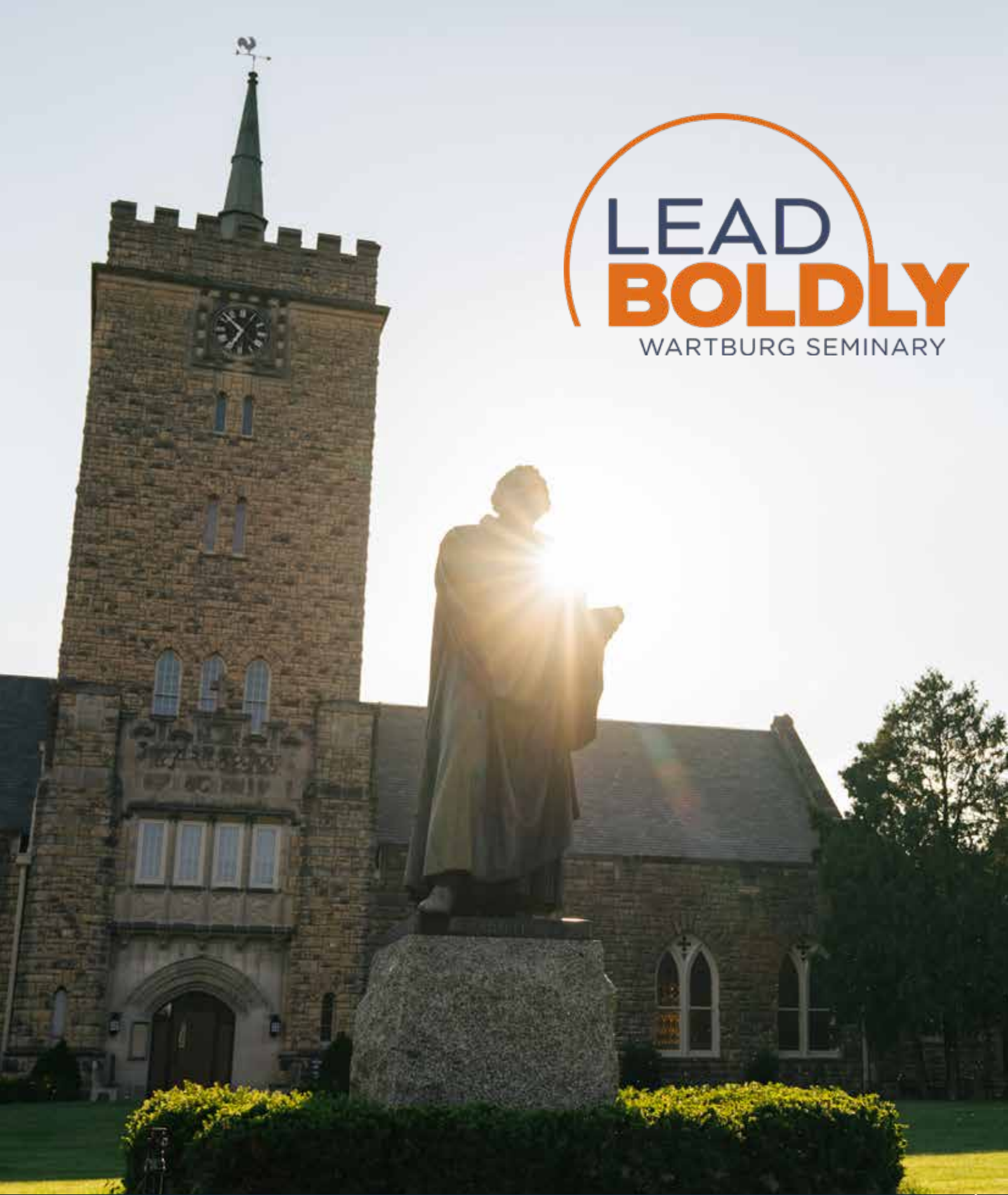
Ms Ann M Neher  
 Rev Layne & Ms Jennifer Nelson  
 Mrs Judith A Nelson  
 Rev Ethyl Mae Nelson  
 Rev Dr Craig L & Mrs Cathy Nesson  
 Ms Jane R Nessen  
 Rev Dr James Nieman & Rev JoAnn Post  
 Ms Stella Nieman  
 Rev Rodney Nordby & Ms Nancy Anderson  
 Mr John Nydegger  
 Rev Mark & Ms Linda Nygard  
 Rev Jerry R O'Neill  
 Mr Matthew O'Rear  
 Rev Mark & Ms Nancy Oehlert  
 Rev Peggy Ogden-Howe & Mr Henry Howe  
 Rev David Ethan Olson & Mr Rick Torres  
 Dr Daniel L Olson  
 Rev Beth Olson & Rev Bob Gremmels  
 Rev Dr Stanley & Mrs Nancy Olson  
 Rev Erik & Ms Jessica Olson  
 Rev Thomas & Ms Gail Opoien  
 Rev Jack A & Ms Kathy Ottoson\*  
 Ms Mary Anne Parker  
 Ms Jeanne & Mr Steven Parsons  
 Rev Robert & Ms Leda Patrick  
 Rev Dr Leo H & Ms Linda Patterson  
 Rev Michael & Ms Lisa Peck  
 Rev Jon & Ms Sonya Pedersen  
 Rev David A & Ms Karen Pederson  
 Rev Dr Winston & Dr May Persaud  
 Mr Alexander C Persaud  
 Ms Carmen Peter  
 Rev Carl W & Ms Marlene Peters  
 Dr Richard & Mrs Marge Peters  
 Rev Lyle W A & Ms Barbara Peterson  
 Rev Mary Ellen Peterson & Mr Joel Lindemann  
 Rev S Kim Peterson  
 Mrs Jean Peterson  
 Rev Wayne & Ms Irene Pfannkuch  
 Rev Frank & Dr Janet Philipp  
 Rev Jim & Rev Elizabeth Polanzke  
 Rev Dr Robert & Mrs Darlene Rademacher  
 Mr James & Ms Gail Raffel  
 Rev Barbara Rapp  
 Ms Carol & Dr Clifford Rask  
 Rev James Rasmus & Mrs Martha Stoune-Rasmus  
 Mr Carl & Ms Valerie Rausch  
 Sr Ruth Ellen Rebelein

Rev David & Mrs Lucille Redman  
 Dr Jack F & Mrs Shirley Reents  
 Rev James E & Ms Karyl Reents  
 Rev Michael Rehak & Ms Pira Mueller  
 Mr Jon Reynolds\*  
 Rev Dr Jan Rippentrop Schnell & Dr Steven Rippentrop  
 Rev Dr George & Ms Betty Roleder  
 Rev Dr Richard W Rouse & Ms Beth Lewis  
 Ms Jean J Ruege  
 Ms Kitty Ruosch  
 Rev Kermit & Ms Doris Rye  
 Rev Dr Allan H & Mrs Erlene S Sager  
 Rev Paul H & Mrs Eileen Schaedig  
 Rev Roland & Mrs Barbara Schaedig  
 Rev Ronald & Mrs Else Schardt  
 Rev Merlin & Ms Jill Schlichting  
 Rev Jonathan & Rev Jean Schmidt  
 Rev Curtis C & Dr Jean Schneider  
 Rev James & Rev Susan Schubert  
 Ms Emily Schuh  
 Rev Alton W & Mrs Mary Ruth Schwandt  
 Rev Dr Laura B Schwerin & Mr John Cimral  
 Rev Sonja Selboe  
 Ms Patricia & Mr David Shaffer-Gottschalk  
 Rev Patricia Shaw  
 Dr Robert & Dr Becky Shaw  
 Rev Arhiana Shek Dill & Mr Nathan Dill  
 Rev David L Shelstad & Dr Lorri J Lobeck  
 Rev Charles & Ms Annette F Sheppard  
 Rev Michael & Mrs Kathe Sherer  
 Rev Stephen Sherer  
 Rev Peter L Sherven  
 Mrs Marian Shrader  
 Rev Kathleen Shuck & Mr James Kluding  
 Mr Andre Sjaavaag & Ms Mary Rowland  
 Dr Cynthia Smith  
 Dr Lynn C Smith  
 Ms Mary E Smith  
 Rev Dr David & Mrs Diane Solberg  
 Mr Arlyn A & Mrs Joanne Solberg  
 Rev Nancy & Rev Neal Solomonson  
 Rev Harris & Mrs Carol Sonnenberg  
 Rev Harry C & Mrs Shirley Sorensen  
 Rev John H & Mrs Sharon Sorenson  
 Mr Alan Sorenson  
 Rev Renee & Rev Jonathan Splichal Larson  
 Rev Daniel L & Mrs Beth Stalker

Rev Dr Elizabeth A Stein & Mr Andrew Stackel  
 Rev Christine & Mr Daryl Stienstra  
 Mr Wayne & Ms Eileen Stordahl  
 Rev William R & Mrs Carol Straka  
 Mr William P Streng  
 Mr William & Ms Janet Striepe  
 Rev Barbara Stroud-Borth  
 Rev Craig & Mrs Karen Swenson  
 Mr Ronald & Ms Sandy Thiel  
 Rev Kenneth D & Ms Cynthia Thiele  
 Rev Luther & Ms Paula Thoresen  
 Rev Ray & Mrs Deborah Sue Tiemann  
 Rev Steve & Rev Karen Tjarks  
 Rev Steven M & Mrs Susan Trandem  
 Ms Faith & Mr Don Trapp  
 Rev Patricia J Turner  
 Rev Lisa A Ubbelohde  
 Rev Steven & Ms Ruth Ullestad  
 Rev Dr April Ulring Larson & Rev Judd Larson  
 Rev Gregory J & Ms Gwen Uthus  
 Rev Don D Vlasak  
 Rev Edward J & Ms Margaret Volkmann  
 Rev Robert T & Ms Marcy Voss  
 Mr Mike & Ms Deb Wagner  
 Rev Linda Walz  
 Rev Wendy & Mr William Riley Waugh  
 Rev Arthur R Weiss Jr  
 Rev Donald & Mrs Janet Wendt  
 Rev James & Ms Nancy Wenger  
 Rev Robert G & Ms Marge Wessels  
 Rev William & Mrs Nancy Wiederanders  
 Rev Timothy & Mrs Lorene Wiggins  
 Rev Charles A & Mrs Ute Wilfong  
 Rev John C & Ms Phyllis Wilker  
 Dr James E & Ms Gracia C Willis  
 Ms Sonja & Mr Harley Willmert  
 Rev Carl & Ms Cheryl Witt  
 Rev Janet Peele Wold & Mr Alan R Wold  
 Rev Karl Wolf  
 Rev William & Mrs Karen Wrieden Jr  
 Rev Dr Katharine & Rev Dr Ronald Yarnell  
 Rev Edgar A & Mrs Verona Zelle  
 Rev David & Mrs Kristine Zellmer  
 Rev Casey & Rev Lucinda Zesch  
 Mrs Arleen Ziemer  
 Ms Geraldine A Zimmerman







*More information coming soon!*

TRUSTING GOD'S PROMISE | INTO GOD'S FUTURE | FOR THE CHURCH AND THE WORLD

# What Makes Seminaries Grow?

## WHAT DID THEY DO THAT ENABLED THE GROWTH? WHAT COMMON CHARACTERISTICS DO THEY HAVE? INTERVIEWS WITH PRESIDENTS AND CHIEF ADMISSIONS OFFICERS EXPLORED THE REASONS FOR GROWTH.

*This article has been edited for length and reprinted with permission from In Trust magazine's summer 2021 edition. It can be found in its entirety online at [intrust.org/magazine](https://intrust.org/magazine)*

It should not be all that surprising that Asbury Theological Seminary, founded in 1923 in the Kentucky Bluegrass town of Wilmore, some 17 miles southwest of Lexington, would be a force for disruptive innovation. Its stately neo-Classical campus – serving more than 1,600 students representing 44 denominations and dozens of countries – belies a tradition of innovation established by its founder, Henry Clay Morrison, and sustained by seven successor presidents and a second campus in Orlando, Florida.

Asbury is one of seven accredited seminaries that, according to the Association of Theological Schools, have generated enrollment growth consecutively over at least the past five years. The schools are Asbury; Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Kansas City, Missouri; Northern Seminary in Lisle, Illinois; Shepherds Theological Seminary in Cary, North Carolina; Sioux Falls Seminary in South Dakota; Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Kentucky; and Wartburg Theological Seminary in Dubuque, Iowa.

While their individual fall 2020 headcount enrollments ranged from less than 300 to more than 3,300, the seven schools together saw total student headcount increase by 43.5 percent over five years. Every school saw the percentage of students go up by at least double digits. Sioux Falls, which has rebuilt itself on competency-based education and created a subscription-based tuition model, saw an increase of 186 percent, going from 172 students in 2015 to

492 last fall. Midwestern's enrollment nearly doubled from 1,196 students in 2015 to 2,397 last fall.

Most reported record applications for admission during the 2020-21 pandemic with leaders noting that it was a good "transition time" for prospective students to reconsider their vocations and enroll in online courses.

None of these seminaries attracted their students from a "growing" denomination. In fact, five are affiliated with denominations that saw membership declines over the past five years. One is affiliated with a denomination that reports stable membership, and one is independent.

Midwestern and Southern are Southern Baptist, Northern is American Baptist, and Sioux Falls is affiliated with the North American Baptist Conference. (Sioux Falls' Kairos Project brings in other faith traditions as well.) Although officially nondenominational, Shepherds has independent Baptist roots. Wartburg is affiliated with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. Asbury is an independent evangelical seminary in the Wesleyan tradition.

What did they do that enabled the growth? What common characteristics do they have? Interviews with presidents and chief admissions officers explored the reasons for growth. What they have in common, seminary leaders stressed, is disciplined and focused development of strengths and a "niche," and not on copying other seminaries. All

stressed the importance of serving the church by training pastors and leaders for the local congregations. Beyond that, seven other common characteristics emerged.

### 1) STRONG, ENGAGED PRESIDENT

Each seminary has a president who is engaged in recruiting by speaking at churches and conferences, producing podcasts and radio broadcasts, and writing blogs, books, and articles. Strong presidential leadership includes media visibility that makes the public aware of their seminaries. Albert Mohler, president of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, has a blog and daily podcast called "The Briefing." He has written nine books, numerous articles and is frequently quoted in the secular media. "If the president of the institution does not see the recruitment of students as a personal responsibility, the seminary will not flourish," Mohler said. "From the beginning, I have seen that as one of my primary responsibilities." Southern's enrollment has gone up 23 percent over the past five years, increasing by 636 students.

For the last 12 years, Asbury has sponsored "Tennent Tours," where the president travels around the country to meet with prospective students and donors to see firsthand the ministries of its alumni. "We also started a national conference known as 'New Room' as an outgrowth of our Seedbed publishing house," said Tennent, who also produces a blog and several podcasts. "The conference brings together thousands of pastors and church leaders for renewal and worship."



## **2) ACTIVE, SCHOLARLY FACULTY**

All the presidents agree that their recruiting and visibility is fruitless unless their seminary has a strong faculty whose work also is accessible to prospective students. Northern Seminary's Shiell said most of the "strong faculty" are visible with blogs, podcasts, and regular speaking engagements. "We've kept a strong commitment to core faculty who are practitioners in their field and who are writing and publishing," Shiell said. "We still feel students want to learn from an engaged and intellectually productive faculty member rather than from a generic program." He noted that Northern's recent market research supported that direction.

Kristine Stache, who served as interim president of Wartburg Seminary from January 2020 to February 2021, notes the diverse range of media the faculty use and their commitment to engaging with prospective and continuing students. "Our faculty members are not only out there doing speaking engagements, but they're also on social media talking about their own work," Stache said. "When students come for visits, they always meet with faculty, and often come because they formed a relationship with a faculty member who invited them into the community."

Several schools cited the importance of recruiting faculty for mission, scholarly achievement, and area of discipline, and supporting those who want a more public profile for their intellectual and ministerial capital. Davey, who founded Shepherds Seminary in 2003, said the philosophy was simple: "I believed that if we brought in the most qualified faculty, students would want to come." That was his own experience. He went to Dallas Theological Seminary not for Dallas, but rather because the late Howard Hendricks was there, and he wanted to learn from the long-standing professor and speaker for Promise Keepers.

"If you have the right faculty, students will tell other students, 'Hey,

this is where you should go,'" Davey said.

## **3) INNOVATIVE PROGRAMS**

Most of these seminaries offer a fully online master's program that is popular and accessible. "The M.A. programs really appeal to a lot of people seeking a theological education who are not certain they are called to be pastors and are hoping to have a flexible degree to enable ministry in many different forms," Southern Baptist Theological Seminary's Pelton said.

Greg Henson, president of Sioux Falls Seminary and leader of the Kairos Project, which brings together several schools, said that many students are attracted to the school's programs because they are affordable and accessible. He acknowledges that many students do not plan to become pastors or paid church leaders.

"Our students come from an array of backgrounds," he said. "We have doctors, real estate agents, fighter pilots, lawyers, and engineers, and we also have missionaries, church planters, and pastors. About half of our students are engaged in some kind of congregational ministry, and the other half are in a vocation outside the congregation. "We had a surgeon who was planning to move into the pastoral ministry, but about halfway through his program, he realized, 'Hey, this is about me becoming a better surgeon, so I am going to continue being a surgeon.'"

## **4) EMPHASIS ON SPIRITUAL GROWTH AND DISCIPLESHIP**

Some growing seminaries have created programs that combine spiritual growth and discipleship with their academic studies. Administrators at Shepherds and Sioux Falls both said they recognize that some of their entering students are more interested in growing spiritually and discerning their vocation than they are in becoming ordained pastors.

Shepherds requires a one-year "Heart Study" program for all first-

year students and spouses. They have weekly meetings. "Students begin the year together sharing their detailed testimony with the group, then work each week with devotional materials addressing issues such as addictions, purity, anxiety, and love for one another," Sigler said. "We are committed to helping men and women who not only know God's Word but also live out a response to that knowledge."

## **5) PROFESSIONAL ADMISSIONS STRATEGIES**

Borrowing from other higher education institutions, admissions officers at these schools have created a wide variety of techniques to reach out to prospective students. Jackie Baumhover, director for admissions at Wartburg, said the school uses customer management software to help. The headcount has grown from 147 in 2015 to 236 last fall, a 60.5 percent increase.

"I'm kind of a nerd when it comes to things like statistics and data analytics," Baumhover said. "The more information I can pull out of our database system, the better. I make sure I am tracking how and when I had a conversation with someone. I know whom I should be talking to and when. I get reminders two or three weeks after I talk with someone to check in and say, 'Hi, how are you? What's going on?' So, I rely on apps, calendar-invites, social media, email, database work."

Stache said that Baumhover focuses not only on the technology but also on developing relationships with prospective students. "She is accompanying them on their journey to discernment and helping them with their questions about what Wartburg has to offer to help with their formation," Stache said. "She really is their companion, if you will, on that journey. And I think that helps students in the process of deciding where to go and what program best fits their needs."

Smith at Sioux Falls also develops relationships with prospective stu-

dents. "Part of my role is fielding inquiries and working with prospective students," Smith said. "Seven out of 10 times, it's a phone call saying, 'I am interested in learning more about who I am and who God has called me to be' as opposed to, 'Hey, I'm interested in getting licensed or ordained.'"

The coronavirus pandemic also prompted some of these schools to creatively seize virtual opportunities to reach students. Northern Seminary, for example, created a virtual "Taste of Northern" day, said Kevin Armstrong, the director of enrollment. "We invite people to sit in on as many classes as they want for one day and feel welcome to participate," Armstrong said. "We want to give people a door into the personality of our seminary."

#### 6) DOCTRINAL FOUNDATIONS

Some leaders believe their seminary's strong doctrinal foundations are a key to their growth. "The conservative theological convictions of this school have almost everything to do with the fact that the young

people coming to study here want to come to a school that teaches these truths," Mohler said. Kevin Bish, Asbury's associate provost and vice president for enrollment management, noted Asbury's "long commitment to historic Christianity" as a draw. "We want to message out that we're not wavering on that," Bish said. "We haven't wafled or had any challenges to who we are or what we represent."

Davey said one of the draws to Shepherds is "our focus on the inerrancy and sufficiency of Scripture." "We appeal to a conservative, evangelical constituency," Davey said, "and they appreciate that we are focusing on these issues of Bible and theology."

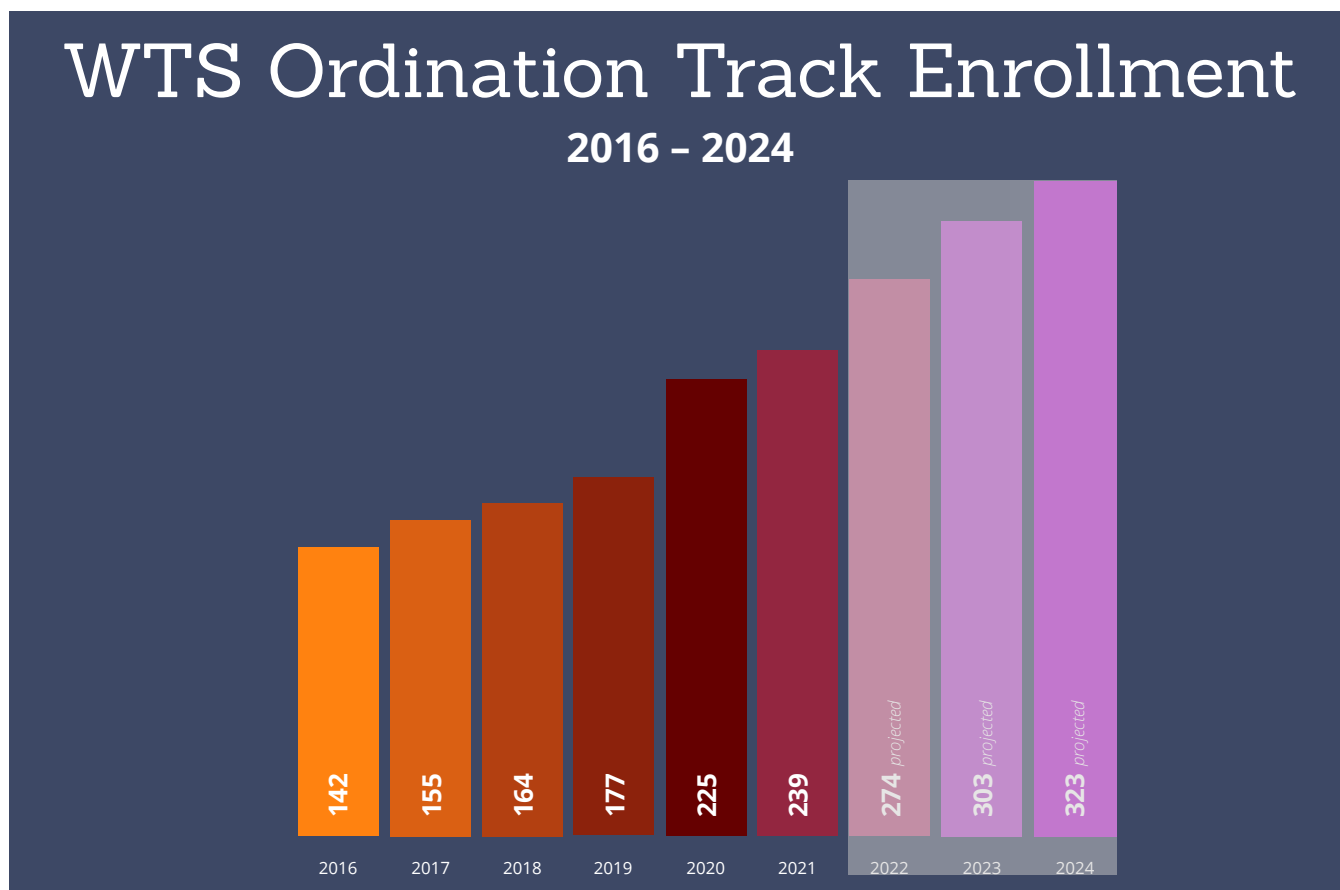
#### 7) AFFORDABILITY

Some seminaries have reduced tuition rates and the number of hours required for certain degrees, like the Master of Divinity, to make them more affordable. At these schools, per-credit-hour tuition ranges from \$285 to \$775. Sioux Falls restructured adminis-

trative costs, enabling a substantial reduction in its tuition, and it quit charging per class or per credit hour. "We charge a monthly subscription price of \$300," Henson said. "Students are allowed to start and stop any month of the year."

The two Southern Baptist seminaries have reduced tuition by about 15 percent for Southern Baptist students. And Midwestern offers a 50 percent scholarship to all residential students who enroll in its "Timothy Track" mentoring program.

Everyone agreed that there is no one "silver bullet" to make a seminary grow. It has to result from a team effort involving the trustees, president, administrators, and support staff. Sioux Falls' Henson sums it up this way: "If there's anything we've done that has helped our growth, it is making theological education affordable, accessible and relevant while remaining faithful to Jesus Christ. You can apply those practices to any school."





# Alumni Notes

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**'51**

**Rev. Wayne Eugene Bohling** died on August 1, 2021. He served Camano Island Lutheran Church, Camano Island; St. Peter's Lutheran, Clinton; and Trinity Lutheran, Freeland, all in Washington.

**'77**

**Rev. Major (retired) Gary Barr** has been appointed Rector of St. John's Anglican Church Westphal, Dartmouth, Nova Scotia. He had been serving as Rector of the Anglican Parish of Port Dufferin, a position he had taken after his retirement from the Canadian Armed Forces with his final posting as Land Forces Atlantic Area Chaplain in Halifax, Nova Scotia. During his service, he has been posted to the UN mission on the Golan Heights, NATO mission in Kosovo, and has service in the Afghanistan conflict.

**'88**

**Rev. Steve Moberg** retired from rostered ministry. He served Peever Lutheran Church, Peever; Willmot Lutheran Church, Wilmot; and Zion Lutheran, Gattetson, all in South Dakota.

**'20**

**Rev. Connie Monson** was ordained on August 1, 2021. She has been called to serve First Lutheran Church, Rugby, ND.

**Rev. Teresa Sutherlin** was ordained on August 14, 2021, at St. James Evangelical Lutheran Church, Garden City, KS. She has been called to serve St. John Lutheran Church, Russell, KS.

**'21**

**Rev. Sean Avery** was ordained on June 11, 2021, at Christ the Servant Lutheran Church, Bellingham, WA. He has been called to serve as pastor of Joy Lutheran in Eagle River, AK.

**Rev. Denise Berns** was ordained on August 29, 2021. She has been called to serve as pastor at Zion Lutheran Church in Gowrie, IA, in shared ministry with St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Rockwell City; Fulton Lutheran Church, Roelyn; and Church of Damascus Road, Fort Dodge and Rockwell City.

**Rev. Cassie Borges** was ordained on August 7, 2021, at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, Duluth, MN. She has been called to serve as pastor of Viking and North Viking Lutheran Churches, Maddock, ND.

**Rev. Rudy Flores** was ordained on June 27, 2021, at Kinsmen Lutheran Church, Houston, TX. He has been called to serve as pastor of Messiah Lutheran Church, Aurora, NE.

**Deacon Rebekah Forst** was ordained on July 16, 2021, at Holy Comforter Lutheran Church, Belmont, NC. She has been called to serve Holy Comforter Lutheran Church.

**Rev. Daniel Grainger** was ordained on July 9, 2021, at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Decora, IA. He has been called to serve as pastor at Christ Lutheran Church, Quincy, IL.

**Rev. Andy Graves** was ordained on June 24, 2021, at Fredsville Lutheran Church, Cedar Falls, IA.

**Rev. Carrie Greenquist-Petersen** was ordained on August 21, 2021. She has been called to serve as pastor of St. Luke's Lutheran Church, Middleton, WI.

**Rev. Tyler Hoey** was ordained on July 24, 2021, at American Lutheran Church, Jesup, IA. He has been called to serve Grace Lutheran Church, Tripoli, IA.

**Rev. Tamara Jacobi** was ordained on July 31, 2021, at Augustana Lutheran Church, Hobart, IN. She has been called to serve as pastor at Cross of Christ Lutheran Church, Crown Point, IN.

**Rev. Fredrick Klinker** was ordained on September 9, 2021, at St. Martin's Lutheran Church, Austin, TX. He has been called to serve St. James Lutheran Church, Graniteville, SC.

**Rev. Michelle Knight** was ordained on July 18, 2021. She has been called to serve St. John Lutheran Church, Pearl City, IL.

**Rev. Thomas Kreis** was ordained on July 11, 2021. He has been called to serve Luther Valley and Orfordville Lutheran Churches, Orfordville, WI.

**Rev. William Ostrem** was ordained on July 11, 2021. He has been called to serve Trinity Lutheran Church, Wausau, WI; and St. Peter Lutheran Church, Hamburg, WI.

**Rev. Sergio Edson Rodriguez** was ordained on September 19, 2021. He has been called to serve as pastor at Christ the King Evangelical Lutheran Church, Houston, TX.

**Rev. Timothy Stacy** was ordained on August 8, 2021.

# Faculty & Staff Updates



**Ms. Susan Ebertz**, Director for the Reu Memorial Library & Associate Professor of Bibliography & Academic Research, contributed a chapter to a book on Multivocational Ministry. The title of the chapter is "Finding Quality Information for Multivocational Ministry."

The chapter encourages multivocational ministers to continually learn after graduation from seminary.



**Rev. Dr. Kristin Lergen** contributed a chapter titled "Plurality and Salvation: Possibilities in Pannenberg's Soteriology for Comparative Theology," in the volume *Theology for the Future: The Enduring Promise of Wolfhart Pannenberg*, edited by Andrew Hollingsworth,

published in fall, 2021.



**Rev. Dr. Nathan C.P. Frambach**, Professor of Pastoral Theology, enjoyed leading a hybrid adult forum at Redeemer Lutheran Church in Hinsdale, IL, the focus of which was "Life Together: Practices of Silence, Solitude, and Contemplation in a Community of Faith." Nate continues work on an essay forthcoming for a festschrift in honor of one of his former teachers, Professor Gary Simpson, the working title of which is "Encumbered Public Companion: Being Church Today by Holding Space and Ceding Place." Finally, this fall (2021) Nate is chairing the search committee for an Assistant Professor of Homiletics at Wartburg Seminary.



**Rev. Dr. Martin J. Lohrmann**, Associate Professor of Lutheran Confessions and Heritage, co-edited a recent publication called *Teaching Reformation: Essays in Honor of Timothy J. Wengert* (Fortress Press, 2021). It contains eighteen articles on Reformation history by

an international collection of scholars. He worked on this book with his colleague, Dr. Luka Ilić, to honor their shared doctoral advisor. Dr. Lohrmann also contributed an article on Luther's Small Catechism for the book and translated one of the other essays from German.



**Rev. Dr. Sam Giere** had a lovely time preaching and presenting a series of lectures, "Faith and the Reconciled Imagination," at the Fall Theological Conference of the South Dakota Synod, ELCA, 19-21 September 2021. He also has an article, "Faith: The Trajectory of the Prophets," forthcoming from Lutheran Forum.



**Rev. Dr. Craig L. Nesson** Publications: "Practicing Jesus Christ in Public, Embodying Resistance," in Christine Helmer, Editor, *Truth-Telling and Other Ecclesial Practices of Resistance*. He also published "A Lutheran Theology for Diakonia in North American Contexts"

and "Liberation Theology and Diakonia: Methods of Learning," in the *International Handbook on Ecumenical Diakonia*. He spoke on "The Life and Legacy of Dietrich Bonhoeffer" at Bethel Lutheran Church in Madison, Wisconsin on Sunday, October 24.





**Rev. Dr. Winston D. Persaud**, Prof. of Systematic Theology, Holder of the Kent S. Knutson and UELC Chair in Theology and Mission, and Director of the Center for Global Theologies: via ZOOM,

participated in an ecumenical/inter-seminary discussion on “U.S.-Mexico Borderlands Project,” 24/25/28 May 2021; served as the Assisting Minister in the Service of Word and Sacrament (11 July 2021) in which William Ostrem (WTS, MDiv. 2021) was ordained, Mount Calvary Lutheran Church, Rothschild, WI; via ZOOM, co-taught in a two-day (31 July/7 August) Theological Intensive, “Liturgy and Worship: Scripture, History, Theology, and Practice,” for pastors, deacons, and lay leaders of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Guyana; was guest preacher at St. John’s Lutheran Church, Mendota, IL (8 August).



**Rev. Dr. Troy Troftgruben**, published an article (“The Ending of Luke Revisited”) in the *Journal of Biblical Literature* this past summer, contributed to Augsburg’s 2021 Advent/Christmas devotional

Heaven and Nature Sing, and wrote several pieces for Sundays and Seasons: Preaching Year C 2022. He is currently working on an article for *Word & World* journal and a percolating book project. Troy continues to serve as chair of Community Life at Wartburg and is part of the team working on the development of Journey Together, a competency-based TEEM curriculum.



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## Upcoming Events

**November 16, 2021**

Admissions Online Open House

**December 5, 2021**

Advent Lessons & Carols

**January 11, 2022**

Admissions Online Open House

**February 15, 2022**

Admissions Online Open House

**March 18-20, 2022**

Considering Your Call Weekend

**April 18-20, 2022**

Reformation and Reunion



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