



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

Campaign Leadership

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From the Campaign Co-Chairs



RENEE SPЛИЧАL LARSON AND MICHAEL FOSS

We were both excited to say "YES" when asked to serve as Co-Chairs for the **Lead Boldly** campaign. Even though our time at Wartburg Seminary was 30 years apart, we shared two common experiences that are at the heart of this campaign.

First, Wartburg's focus on Christ-centered community remains at the heart of the Wartburg experience, as it has for 170 years. This clear priority equipped us for bold leadership both in the church and in the communities we have served - and it continues to embrace every student here. Wartburg Seminary continues to adapt to the changing forms for effective delivery of this education, community centered faith and reflection remains as a pillar for forming church leaders.



Second, our years in ministry have helped us see how desperately our Church needs leaders shaped by the Wartburg Seminary experience. Three critical elements equip our graduates to lead boldly: an outstanding faculty, the emphasis on spiritual discipline, and learning the principles of innovation. Wartburg graduates are equipped to face the challenges of church leadership. Trusting in the grace of God, they are prepared to lead and to lead boldly.

As you review the priorities of this campaign, we believe you will agree that Wartburg's vision of equipping new generations of faith-filled leaders will have a powerful impact on fulfilling our call to serve the mission of the church. We invite you join to us in making this vision a reality.

From the Seminary President



KRISTIN JOHNSTON LARGEN

What a great time to be the church, and what a great time to be preparing leaders for public ministry! Both the opportunities and the challenges are great, and urgent is the world's need to hear and encounter the joyous transformative power of God's Word.

Much has changed at Wartburg since I was a student here over 20 years ago, but what has not changed is Wartburg's commitment to innovate and creatively meet the challenges of a rapidly-changing church. In these pages, you will find concrete examples of how Wartburg is planning to meet these challenges in the years to come and see our commitment to creating new pathways for future church leaders to respond to God's call. As in years past, these Wartburg

graduates will be solidly grounded in a theological curriculum that is comprehensive in depth and broad in scope, and conformed to Christ through our rich liturgical life and emphasis on intentional spiritual formation. And, equally importantly, Wartburg graduates are nimble and responsive to their local contexts, as well as oriented to the larger world, with hearts and hands open to proclaim Christ and build up the church.

All this means that it also is a great time for you to partner with Wartburg as we respond to God's call for visionary leaders to steward God's church in the 21st century. I am eager to see all the ways God works a new thing through you, and through our shared efforts. Please join us in responding to God's call to strengthen the church and serve the world through bold, faithful leaders; your generosity will make a difference!

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I'm struck by how fully distance students feel connected to our campus community. They enrich the teaching and learning experience beyond all expectations."

-Craig Nesson,
Academic Dean



LEAD BOLDLY - Trusting God's Promise

Throughout its history, many signs point to Wartburg's faithful response to God's call to lead boldly in its mission to serve the world with faithful church leaders. For nearly 170 years, God has led Wartburg Theological Seminary with a bold vision for the church and the world. Since its founding in Dubuque, Iowa by the German church visionary Wilhelm Loehe in 1853, Wartburg's mission was rooted in responding to a great need to serve all people with leaders who are equipped to share God's message of hope.

The beloved Wartburg Seminary castle, dedicated in 1917, was designed from the outside to resemble the Wartburg Castle in Eisenach, Germany where Luther found safe refuge. But the intentional design of the interior remains at the core for how the seminary lives out its mission today. **The building's blueprint reflects the centrality of the community gathering in worship with residential, dining, classrooms, and faculty offices all serving as extensions of that gathering.** This huge investment made a profound statement of Wartburg's unique approach to forming leaders and reflected a deep trust in God's call to lead boldly into the future.

While remaining anchored in the Iowa soil, Wartburg's footprint has stretched far beyond the limestone walls of the castle. For decades it has welcomed international students from Lutheran churches in Africa, Europe, Asia, and Latin America. Direct partnerships with Namibia, Papua New Guinea, and Guyana led Wartburg graduates to lead boldly throughout the world.

Commitments to multicultural engagement led Wartburg to expand its educational community to Texas in 1975 with a focus on forming leaders from Hispanic faith communities. The Lutheran Seminary Program in the Southwest (LSPS) continues today **as the only Latinx seminary program in the Lutheran church.** Through this program, Wartburg was an early leader in the alternate track toward ordination called TEEM (Theological Education for Emerging Ministries). **Wartburg now provides more TEEM ordinations than all other Lutheran seminaries combined.**

Lead Boldly also reflects the charge given to Wartburg students who faithfully follow God's promise. Since the ordination of women in 1970, **Wartburg graduates became the first two women to serve as bishops in American Lutheranism, the first woman called as a Lutheran seminary president, and the first woman to lead as a divisional director of a national church body.** Wartburg called the first woman as tenured professor of an American Lutheran Church seminary.

God's call to lead boldly continues to drive the Wartburg mission. Early experiments with digital education without sacrificing the centrality of community has led Wartburg to create a unique and highly praised seminary experience for distance learners. This expertise helped form an innovative collaboration program between congregations, synods, and the seminary. The result is students who are actively leading congregations while they complete their seminary education.



LEAD BOLDLY - Into God's Future

In many ways, the faith needs of our community, our nation and our world are the same as they were when Wartburg Theological Seminary was founded. The hunger for meaning, love, and direction means church leadership is as crucial today as then.

Yet we find ourselves today in a place that looks and feels very different. We find our society tested as never before—in face of a global pandemic, with racial and political tensions tearing at the very fabric of community life, and congregations at a crossroads of the most basic mechanics of how we worship and serve. Never before has theological education been more crucial.

Lead boldly. Wartburg Theological Seminary has continued to shape the very essence of theological education. Our seminary has transformed to meet these prevailing needs, rooted in the same promise of God through Jesus Christ, while modernizing our approach to shaping leadership for the church.





CONSIDER THE TRANSFORMATIONS IN JUST THE LAST 5 YEARS:

- „ A new curriculum launched in 2016 by the Wartburg faculty to meet the educational goals for seamless integration of distance and residential students
- „ New partnerships with synods and congregations to provide students with real-world ministry experience while supporting the student's financial needs (Collaborative Learning Program)
- „ Annual cross-cultural immersion experiences for nearly every student to learn in rural, inner-city, border communities, and internationally to Iceland, Guyana, Germany, Tanzania, The Holy Land, France, Norway, and Japan.
- „ New innovative scholarship funding has reduced student borrowing by 78% while the enrollment has nearly doubled.
- „ Prudent financial discipline resulting in ten straight years of balanced budgets; and becoming debt free.
- „ When the pandemic forced closures across the country, Wartburg was able to shift to fully digital delivery rapidly and seamlessly while maintaining deep community connectedness.

The results are clear: Wartburg's national reputation attracts current students from 32 states, with 46 of the 65 ELCA synods represented. The seminary's substantially increased enrollment over the last few years is on track to continue. But for a church with a desperate shortage of leaders, with over 1000 clergy vacancies, Wartburg must do more.

Just as in the early days, today Wartburg is called to **Lead Boldly**. Trusting God's promise. Into God's future. For the sake of the church. For the sake of the world.

LEAD BOLDLY - For the Church, For the World

Wartburg Theological Seminary is called to educate and form church leaders who are empowered to revitalize congregational life, envision new forms of worship, and inspire communities to welcome all people into the body of Christ. Wartburg equips leaders to proclaim the transformative, healing power of Jesus Christ to a hurting world, and embody Christ's love for the marginalized and oppressed. In short, Wartburg is called to **Lead Boldly** in shaping leaders who provide bold leadership for the church and the world.

To continue to lead boldly as we are called at Wartburg, we invite your help to maintain our forward momentum.

The **Lead Boldly** campaign addresses opportunities which will expand our impact through creative and innovative ways to meet the changing needs of the church. Our bold vision is focused on new programs and physical enhancements, as well as providing annual and endowed scholarships to remove financial barriers for students who would otherwise be unable to serve.

Your generous support of this campaign will:

- „ Increase our ability to serve more students who are called to lead boldly and increase the number of candidates for rostered ministry for the church desperately short of leaders.
- „ Continue to reduce the burden of educational debt that hinders new church leaders.
- „ Launch programs designed to meet future needs of the church and future challenges of church leadership.
- „ Deepen our commitment to diversity and increase our ability to serve faith communities in ethnic-specific, multicultural, urban, and rural areas.





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*It is fun and a privilege
to support WTS and
in my small way as an
instructor... [to] participate
in the innovative ways we
are preparing leaders for
the present and future of
God's mission and God's
church.”*

- Mark Yackel-Juleen,
WTS Faculty



Fritschel Hall: \$6 Million

Just as the seminary's Loehe Chapel is the center for gathering our life together in worship, Fritschel Hall is the physical embodiment of our life together for learning. It serves as the educational and innovative hub for the entire Wartburg community. Here the advanced technology of our newly remodeled classrooms allows our deeply relational faculty to engage simultaneously with students on campus and across the country.

Reu Memorial Library, part of one of the largest digital theological libraries in the world, anchors this hub. Our call to lead boldly envisions a library of the future to function as an innovation incubator. Here, the renewed space will incorporate cutting-edge technology, small group 'huddle' spaces, and permit more open flow between all areas. **The environment will encourage deeper collaboration**

among students, faculty, and staff regardless of physical location or academic program.

The renewal of Fritschel Hall's first floor will create a central commons area to increase gatherings and community interaction. These expressions of life together are foundational to the ongoing discernment process which is encouraged in all our students. It will also provide for greater student access to offices for student services, registrar, admissions, faculty, and the President. When complete, **Fritschel Hall will not just be an academic building but a space which through its design inspires and facilitates community for ALL students, both those who learn from a distance and in person.** Many naming opportunities are available for this project.

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I ultimately chose Wartburg because of their commitment to building community, both on campus and off. I didn't even realize at the time how crucial that sense of community would become. I'm very pleased with my decision.”

-Marie Martínez,
MDiv distance
learning student



Wartburg's Innovation Fund: \$3 Million

Innovation is at the core of Wartburg's identity and our call to lead boldly. A refined planning process, rooted in spiritual discernment and assessment, allows ideas to generate from a variety of stakeholders and be tested through disciplined steps of development, piloting, and integration into the WTS curriculum. **This process, which is integral to the seminary's strategic plan, has led to groundbreaking programs such as the accelerated BA/MDiv, congregationally based seminary education, and a new ordination track for leaders from underrepresented communities.**

Donors like you will have the opportunity to provide financial support to specific new pilot programs, or to undergird the overall process of launching new programs. A few select donors can participate in the Wartburg Seedbed Fund which provides support for the early stages of innovation. These individuals will make a high-level multi-year commitment to fund the planting of seeds for innovation, share their expertise and wisdom, and engage in mutual dialogue around the development of initiatives within the mission of the seminary.

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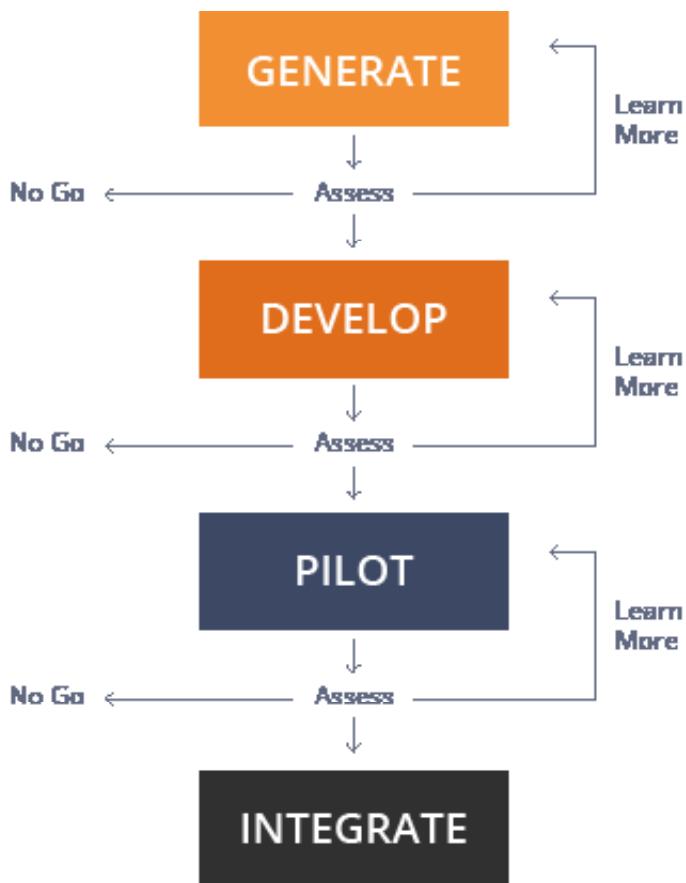
I never felt alone in the challenges I was facing as a Vicar, student, and a parent.

The teaching community at WTS encouraged and embraced the flexibility of online learning as well as creative problem solving.”

-Katie Rode Evans,
Collaborative
MDiv Student

Wartburg's Innovation Process

Strategic Plan Fiscal Years 2021-2023



Annual Fund & Scholarships: \$19 Million

The essence of Wartburg's mission is to equip students to lead boldly in sharing the love of Christ. Providing a high-quality seminary infrastructure and reducing the students' need to pay tuition is foundational to our ability to lead. Consider this: in just five years (2015-2020), total scholarships awarded to Wartburg students have increased 224%! While enrollment doubled during this time, total student borrowing declined by 78%. **To keep this momentum, we aim to generate an additional \$1 million annually in new scholarship funding.** Your generosity makes this possible and alleviates the incredible burden of debt for future church leaders --and yet we have more to do.

Your faithful gifts to the **Wartburg Annual Fund** provide for our dedicated faculty, facilitate our advanced technology, and undergird the support systems that nurture our students. Your generosity toward the **Annual Scholarship Fund** provides immediate support to students in the form of direct scholarships. A named **Scholarship Endowment** allows you to establish a permanent legacy for a person or congregation which becomes part of our prudently managed Wartburg Seminary Endowment. After the minimum endowed level is reached, a small percentage of the fund is directed for student financial aid while the core gift continues to grow and increase its impact for generations.



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We wanted to make a legacy gift of the farm to ensure that Wartburg will be able to provide future pastors who can share the Gospel message with clarity and compassion in a confused and hurting world.”

-Rev. Dr. Rick Rouse



LEAD BOLDLY

The church's need for leaders is immediate and urgent. Wartburg stands ready to lead boldly with God's grace and guidance. With your gifts, you will greatly increase the number and diversity of candidates for ordination who are bold, faithful and well-equipped. Your generosity will create a church of the future that looks more like the communities it serves. These leaders are sent into a broken world with the power to provide hope and reconciliation that is at the center of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Gifts of all sizes will be needed to make this vision for Christ's church a reality:

Gift Commitment	Number of Gifts	Cumulative Total
\$1,000,000	3	\$3,000,000
\$500,000	6	\$3,000,000
\$250,000	10	\$2,500,000
\$100,000	40	\$4,000,000
\$50,000	70	\$3,500,000
\$25,000	160	\$4,000,000
under \$25,000	many	\$8,000,000
		\$28,000,000

Campaign Breakdown

Scholarships and Annual Fund
\$19,000,000

Innovation and Renovations
\$9,000,000

Timeline

2020-2021 Leadership gifts invited

2021-2022 Alumni and synodical campaigns

2023 Campaign celebration

Individuals, families, and foundations are invited to be a part of Wartburg's future by making a single gift or a five-year gift commitment to the **Lead Boldly** campaign. Estate gifts and other planned gifts are also invited in support of our \$28 million goal.

Naming and/or memorial gift opportunities are available.

FORMING VALUED LEADERS FOR GOD'S MISSION



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