



Section 10

Report of the Waterloo Lutheran Seminary

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WATERLOO LUTHERAN SEMINARY REPORT TO EASTERN SYNOD ASSEMBLY 2016

Report from the Chairperson of the WLS Board of Governors

In the past biennium, the Board has been most actively living out our vision of inspiring **“lives of meaning and service in God’s world.”** The following report details the many actions that have been taken in support of this “vision.”

Perhaps the most significant accomplishments of these past two years, has been:

- The slow but consistent growth in our undergraduate program, and the opportunity that provides for service-teaching opportunities for Laurier students,
- The continuing development of the Delton Glebe Counselling Centre which is becoming a significant community asset both for the training of students and as a service to the wider community,
- The expansion of the MDiv program to include multiple, bi-vocational options for students preparing for pastoral ministry (MDiv/MSW and MA/MDiv),
- The completion of a space-needs study that has determined what space the seminary will require to provide adequate facilities to accommodate up to 250 full-time students in the future, thus fulfilling necessary space needs for the next decade,
- The completion of a plan to renew the seminary building that will see the existing seminary transformed into a modern, upgraded facility that will accommodate our needs to support our vision for many years,
- The appointment of a search committee to look for a new principal-dean to replace the Rev. Dr. David Pfrimmer who advised the Board of his intentions to step down after several very successful years as the principal-dean,
- The appointment of Rev. Dr. Mark Harris as the new principal-dean,
- The undertaking of a capital fundraising feasibility study that give us a realistic guide to what funds we might raise in support of the renewal project,
- The development of a realistic capital budget to complete the project,
- The development of a timeline for construction that will see a complete move out in early 2017 to temporary facilities for faculty, staff and students to other space

provided by Wilfrid Laurier University, with a move back into the renovated building for September 2018,

- The progress on the name change to Martin Luther University College,

Ongoing tasks:

- Continued work on negotiating a new operating agreement with Wilfrid Laurier University. The current agreement is 24 years old.
- Complete the detailed engineering plans for the building reconstruction,
- Complete name change with the province to Martin Luther University College,
- Enter into an agreement with WLU for temporary space accommodation and site development administration services,
- Commence a capital fundraising program.

Other highlights from the biennium include the following:

- Enrolment has continued its slow, steady climb, particularly in the Spiritual Care and Psychotherapy program. Including the enrolment in service-teaching classes, the seminary has now reached its highest enrolment since separation from WLU in 1972.
- Ongoing development of the “alternative worshipping community” that was established as a pilot project at the seminary, providing the first non-traditional avenue for membership in the ELCIC-ES. This community, called thirdspace_, is led by Rev. Anne Anderson.

The current membership of the Board of Governors consists of the following: Rod Kruger (chair), Steve Hoffard (vice-chair), James Phillips (treasurer and chair of finance committee), Andrew Thompson (secretary), Bishop Mark MacDonald, Heather Main, Ken Meinert (chair redevelopment committee), Thomas Mertz, Bishop Michael Pryse, Karen Redman, Gloria Ryder, Kevin Tuer, Chun Zhang, Tom Bishop. Ex officio (voice only) Mark Harris (principal-dean), Kristine Lund (vice-chair Waterloo Lutheran Seminary Senate).

We want to thank these people who continue to offer their time and individual talents for the betterment of Waterloo Lutheran Seminary and who, we believe, will lead us in the future to exciting new ministries while honoring and preserving our roots.

We appreciate the Women’s Auxiliary as they continue their faithful and generous service to the seminary community by keeping the building and grounds looking beautiful and appropriately decorated for each season. They also continue to support our MDiv students with bursaries and lovely quilts. We appreciate the faithful and thoughtful support they have offered over the years.

The Board of Governors owes a debt of gratitude to many people who share in the ministry of the Seminary. WLS could not continue its work without the commitment of our bishop, the synod council and the members of the Eastern Synod who have provided support and encouragement in so many ways. The faculty and staff of the seminary deliver excellence in both their teaching and care for our students. The continuing upward trend of enrolment is evidence of their skill, dedication and enthusiasm. The students make the seminary come alive, and their formation as leaders in ministry is our purpose. Our long list of donors continues to grow, and we are most grateful for every contribution of time, talent and treasure received. The Board appreciates the commitment and hard work of all these people, and we extend to each one of them our heartfelt thanks.

Rod Kruger, Chairperson of the Board of Governors