

Section F

Reports of Colleges

and Seminaries

The Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia's 2010 Report to Synods

www.ltsp.edu

Centered in the Gospel of Jesus Christ, the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia seeks to educate and form leaders who are committed to developing and nurturing communities of faith and their leaders for engagement in the world

The Seminary's Mission

The Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia prepares leaders for the church who proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ from the Scriptures for the sake of the world's salvation. Jesus Christ is the center and key for our understanding of the Christian faith and interpretation of scripture for which we prepare leaders who can engage the variety of contexts in which our communities of faith find themselves in the 21st century. LTSP is a Lutheran Seminary of the ELCA and we understand being Lutheran as a particular way of theologically confessing and professing the Christian faith. It is not a claim of exclusivity but recognition of being a part of the wider Christian communion. As the ELCA seminary for Region 7, LTSP is committed in mission to exploring and engaging with the urban/metropolitan, multicultural, multiracial, religiously pluralistic context of Philadelphia, the northeast, the United States, and the world.

An Educational Institution of the Church

LTSP is a teaching and learning, and worshiping and living community that educates and forms leaders. LTSP educates leaders both for ministerial and non-ministerial leadership of the church and the world. Our recently formed program in Public Leadership prepares leaders for social ministry organizations and other religious non-profits that serve the public. More and more laypersons are coming to seminary to study theology for their own enrichment. Almost from its beginning, LTSP has served as a graduate school for pastors to continue their education in a variety of advanced degree programs: The Doctor of Ministry, Master of Sacred Theology, and the Doctor of Philosophy.

A School that Forms Leaders who Cultivate Other Leaders

The goal of theological education is the development of theological understanding and wisdom pertaining to a responsible life in faith. This includes ministerial, vocational, personal, moral, and spiritual formation, and involves a reflective process and supervised practical training. Formation is grounded in the seminary's contextual education programs to ensure that education for ministry occurs in the context of ministry.

A Leadership School

Seminary education is about the development of leadership qualities. Leadership today is broader than pastoring a congregation and involves a public dimension. Leadership is multi-dimensional, both ecclesial and public. LTSP understands that leadership embraces the whole community and requires abilities and skills to relate with various communities of faith, public, and governmental institutions. Leadership includes educating and equipping the community for individual and public vocations, and wisely stewarding and managing resources in the service of community and the church at large. Leaders engage the community in the practice of faith in the world. Leadership is also a missional task of building new communities of faith and renewing those who have lost contact with their communities and contexts. These leaders know how to nurture

communities of faith, including educating, organizing, planting, leading, supporting, equipping, counseling, visiting, serving, praying, evangelizing, preaching, and worshiping activities of the community.

It Costs a Great Deal of Money to Accomplish this Sacred Commission

Preparing missional leaders requires prayerful and ample financial support from the synods, congregations and their leaders, alums, and friends from Region 7 and beyond. The ELCA Constitution requires that the ELCA and its synods support the preparation of leaders with the additional support of fundraising from congregations and individuals. Thus it is a complex network of financial support that provides the resources for LTSP. The ELCA and the Region 7 synods combined are able to provide 10% of LTSP's budget. It is not that churchwide and the synods do not wish to provide more, but they do not have the resources as mission funds from congregations have not increased. LTSP relies on congregations and individuals for 40% of its income. Last year's Seminary Sundays produced an enormous outpouring of support for the Leadership Fund which helps with needed financial aid for seminarians. This fund topped \$1 million for the first time last year. Thank You. LTSP has also become increasingly dependent upon estates and annuities for the endowment, helping to bridge the declining support from synods. More and more of our alums and friends are including LTSP in their estates, with a percentage of the residual for the endowment and, especially, a percentage for financial aid for our students. We are grateful for your support to the Leadership Fund, our campaigns, and also ask you to consider including the seminary in your estate plans, helping us to carry out our mission to prepare pastors and leaders for congregations and the church.

Trimming Expenses to respond to the new economic climate

LTSP continues to trim its budget, making every effort to live within our new context of resources. This has come with enormous sacrifices for faculty and staff in salary and benefits. I am most grateful for their sacrifices. We have reduced our expense budget from a high of more than \$11 million before the recession to a current budget of about \$9 million, maintaining a balanced budget using current income to protect the endowment. In the process, the recovery and new endowment gifts have increased LTSP's invested resources by 50% from the low in March 2009. We are hoping that through collaboration with other seminaries we can save another \$1 million over three years. We are committed to being good stewards of the resources that you provide.

Faculty and Staff

As of this writing a search is being conducted for a homiletics professor. In 2009 LTSP welcomed Dr Michael Krentz as Director of Music Ministries and Cantor, The Rev. Dr. John Berntsen as Director of Student Services, and The Rev. Dr. Quintin Robertson as Director of the Urban Theological Institute.

Other Transitions

After six years of faithful leadership, Dr. Addie Butler, Chair of the Board of Trustees, turned over board leadership to the Rev. Dr. John Richter of the Northeastern PA synod. The Rev. Dr. Cynthia Krommes of Southeastern PA synod was elected Vice President, and Ms. Emma Porter of Metropolitan NY synod was elected Secretary. Mr. John Heck of Southeastern PA was reelected as Treasurer and Dr. Addie Butler was elected Assistant Secretary.

In December of 2009, Dr. John Kaufmann, retired registrar and trustee, entered the church triumphant after serving on the seminary campus for nearly seventy years. His passing is truly the passing of an era.

Enrollment Trends

After a few years of level to declining enrollment, LTSP's enrollment increased by 10% in 2009 and is trending upwards again. The trend is to younger students and a larger percentage of Lutheran students. The *Connect* program of the Eastern Cluster of Lutheran Seminaries, supported by the Lilly Endowment and renewed with a recent grant to the Cluster, is partially responsible for this increase. More and more college students have been identified, nurtured, and sustained through *Connect* as they discern a call to public ministry in the ELCA. The Masters of Arts in Public Leadership degree program, coordinated with Gettysburg Seminary, also added a cohort of ten new students.

Celebrations

The 100th anniversary of the Krauth Memorial Library concluded with a generous estate gift of more than \$2 million from The Rev. Dr. John and Doris Kaufmann. This gift will provide resources for the library long into its future. In 2010-2011, LTSP will celebrate the 30th anniversary of the Urban Theological Institute. In 2011-2012, LTSP will join in the celebrations of the 300th anniversary of the birth of Henry Melchior Muhlenberg. By God's grace in 2014, LTSP will celebrate its 150th anniversary

We are most grateful for the support of the bishops, councils, synods, congregations and all our friends in these challenging but blessed times.

Philip D. Krey
President

John C. Richter
Chairperson, LTSP Board of Trustees

Muhlenberg College
www.muhlenberg.edu

Muhlenberg College continues to receive local, regional and national recognition on its academic, athletic, arts and service learning programs, as well as articles on the results of research carried out by faculty and students.

Religious Life is vital to the mission of Muhlenberg College. Students of many traditions practice their faith, learn from one another, and serve the community. The Lutheran Student Movement has focused on retreats, study and service. The group sponsored an Alternative Spring Break trip to Washington DC centered on hunger and homelessness. The annual Advent Candlelight Carols service collected over \$1800 for Community Bike Works. Muhlenberg hosts groups from congregations and Lutheran agencies and institutions to the college. Individuals and groups from Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod are encouraged and welcome to participate in the life of the College.

Muhlenberg faculty, staff and students contribute thousands of hours of service each year. The College continues to attract excellent scholars who offer a wide range of challenging courses, and frequently lecture at community organizations. They generate useful polling information, and support and advice school districts. The staff is organizing community service initiatives, including Alternative Spring Break service trips. Students are volunteering in schools, health clinics, and with low income citizens to prepare tax returns. Students run homework clubs, teach English to immigrants, help out at shelters and raise thousands of dollars for a variety of causes.

A Seegers Union renovation and expansion project began, with opening planned for August 2010; and renovation began to create a music and dance rehearsal house. Our Gospel choir “Rejoice!” was crowned “Best Gospel Choir in the Lehigh Valley”. In what was a most challenging fundraising year Muhlenberg fared reasonably well. We remain on track to successfully conclude our multi-year \$105M campaign “The Talents Entrusted to Our Care” in June 2010 and are grateful for the many people, churches, and Synods who make the College a philanthropic priority.

Through this exciting year, Muhlenberg College remains committed to the student experience through excellent faculty teaching, community service, spiritual enrichment and public engagement opportunities. Consider visiting the College for a worship service, a theatre and dance performance, a public lecture, a sporting event, or music concert. If you know of someone considering a college education, please encourage them to contact our Admission office for a tour and interview. You can see more about Muhlenberg College at www.muhlenberg.edu.

Peyton R. Helm, president