

Thirteenth Biennial Convention

Manitoba/Northwestern Ontario Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada

April 22-25, 2010
Gloria Dei Lutheran Church
637 Buckingham Road
Winnipeg MB R3R 1B9

REPORTS (3 OF 3):

ADDITIONAL REPORT
(given to delegates & visitors at registration desk)



2009-2010 Report to the Synods
From
Lutheran Theological Seminary Saskatoon



2 Corinthians 4:1 *Therefore, since it is by God's mercy that we are engaged in this ministry, we do not lose heart.*

How could we lose heart? Christ has assured us of victory in the resurrection. How could we fail to celebrate? Life is a gift and abundant life a promise! Confident in our Lord's abundant grace and mercy, LTS engages in its ministry by equipping others for their ministry. We rejoice in the trust God and the ELCIC have placed in us.

Accreditation

For the past three years, LTS has been reviewing all aspects of the seminary's work from curricula to finances, from board governance to alumni(ae) relations. This review process was mandated by the re-accreditation process for the Association of Theological Schools. It culminated with a visit by a committee of our peers from other ATS accredited schools in September. Our facts and figures were checked and re-checked. The visitors then wrote a report and recommendation to the commission. The ATS Commission on Accreditation will make their decision in February 2010 but we have every hope that our outlook is positive.

The review process is very thorough and has helped LTS look at our strengths and our weaknesses. Among the strengths we discovered an exciting curriculum that is innovative and cutting-edge. We have a strong faculty and, for our small size, a great staff who each do more than the work of one person. Our challenges lie in developing resources to fund our future and in energizing our governance. We at the seminary would like to thank all those who contributed to the process, especially those who were contacted to fill out questionnaires, etc.

Accreditation by ATS is an assurance of the quality of education that LTS provides. Students with degrees from an accredited institution can more easily go on for further study at other schools. Similarly, accreditation assures the church that their seminary holds to the highest academic standards.

Faculty

LTS, as noted in the accreditation report, has a stellar faculty. Here is just some of what they are doing:

Gordon Jensen: Dean, Professor of Reformation History: In the 2008-2009 academic year, Gordon put great effort into negotiating agreements with the seminaries of the ELCA so that our students could pay tuition at home but take January term courses at any of the 8 ELCA schools. This is a huge advantage to our students who want to broaden



their education! His involvement with the Association of Teaching Theologians of the ELCA has also given our professors opportunities for cross-fertilization in their teaching.

In 2009-2010, Gordon is on a much deserved sabbatical spending half a year in Germany doing research and half a year writing. For those interested, Gordon will

lead a study tour of Reformation sites in the Spring of this year.

Jann Boyd: Professor of Worship and Homiletics: Jann continues to serve as Dean of Chapel and as Director of the Globalization/Cross-cultural program. This year she has led a group of students to Ethiopia. Liturgy students continue to find her use of an all-day retreat where students pray through the services of Ash Wednesday, Passion Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and the Easter Vigil to be deeply moving and practically invaluable for their training.

Cameron Harder: Acting Dean, Professor of Systematic Theology: Through an enormous effort and with true passion, Cam has seen the *Centre for Rural Leadership and Ministry (Circle M)* come alive. In 2009 Circle M received a major grant from the Rural Development Fund of the Province of Alberta. Already there have been important conferences and a new group of students for our new Rural Ministry track in the Masters of Sacred Theology. During Gordon's absence, Cam is not only teaching, but has taken over the duties of the Dean of Studies for the year.

Christian Eberhart: Associate Professor of New Testament: Chris received a grant from the Louisville Foundation to offset his teaching time and allow him to work on a new book due out soon from Augsburg Fortress. He continues to publish articles for a German theological dictionary and has submitted a second thesis to his alma mater in Germany for post-doctoral work. He has spoken often around the constituency. Chris co-ordinates our annual *Seminary on the Road* program.

Eddie Kwok: Assistant Professor of Christian Education and Missions; Director of Contextual Education: On top of his teaching load in Christian Education and Mission, Eddie has taken on the direction of our contextual education program, especially the Internships. This is enormous work and Eddie has done a grand job of moving into this work, freeing Cam Harder to develop Circle M. He has brought his own gifts to the position and in several cases has worked out difficult problems with great finesse and pastoral acumen.

Development:

In 2008, the Board of Governors authorized a capital campaign for the seminary which has been approved in each of the synods. The goal is to raise \$2.5 million to fund a larger faculty and make significant improvements in the seminary building. The project

languished a bit this year as we searched for an additional staff person in the Development Office. Happily, **Mr. Joseph (Joe) Stolee** has recently accepted the position and we will begin shortly to ramp up for the campaign. Joe lives – and will remain deployed – in Calgary.

In this down economic environment the efforts of the Development Office have not gone unrewarded. Giving is up. We are extremely grateful to our donors for this!

Enrolment:

2008-2009 saw a sharp decline in the number of entering students. A normal entering class at LTS is 12 to 14. In 2008-2009 the entering class was 4. It rebounded again in 2009-2010 to 9. Recruitment for ministry continues to be a top priority for the seminary and for the synods.

Students:

While our numbers are lower, we have had a very energized and competent group of students who are excelling at their studies and even, sometimes, pushing their professors for more. What an exciting time to be a teacher!

In the last year, the students themselves have organized to help the seminary ‘go green.’ They handle almost all the recycling done at LTS!

LTS graduated 13 in 2009 and expects to graduate 14 in 2010.

Board of Governors:

In 2009 the Board adopted a new strategic plan. Already much work has begun to flesh out the details, but in broad strokes that plan is:

1. To strengthen and continue to develop Godly and learned rostered ministers and other leaders through a program of education and formation that includes theology, spiritual formation, biblical and theological hermeneutics, ecclesiology, pastoral ministry, and congregational leadership.
2. To discern critically our role in theological education for a changed and changing church.
3. To exercise good stewardship of our property and support the teaching of scripture and training of pastors, diaconal ministers, and other leaders to meet the needs of the Church.

In 2009, the Board also thoroughly reviewed the work of President Ogilvie and has re-elected him for an additional 5 year term.

Finances:

While the economic environment in North America has been extraordinarily difficult for theological schools, LTS has weathered the storm well. Our Endowment portfolio is beginning to rebound. In January 2009 the kitchen operation was outsourced to a local catering company which has helped lower our costs. The Board Finance Committee is looking at other ways to reduce expenses without harming our program.

Seminary Financial Status as of June 30, 2009

REVENUE		EXPENSES	
Synod Grants	354,702	Instruction	563,041
Provincial Grant	187,400	Administration	284,431
Tuition Fees	187,917	Operations	76,846
Annual Fund	189,150	Development	83,413
Trust & Endowment	116,581	Library	96,888
Miscellaneous	14,246	Governing Board Expenses	20,004
Auxiliary Services	<u>394,251</u>	Auxiliary Services	<u>327,967</u>
	1,444,247		1,452,590
TOTAL REVENUE			\$1,444,247
TOTAL EXPENDITURES			1,452,590
EXCESS REVENUE BEFORE DEPRECIATION			-8,343
DEPRECIATION			(13,702)
EXCESS OF REVENUE OVER EXPENSES			<u>(\$22,045)</u>

Respectfully submitted:

The Rev. Kevin A. Ogilvie, President



Students off to Ethiopia