

United Lutheran Seminary

GETTYSBURG + PHILADELPHIA

*Let us build a house where all are named, their songs and visions heard
And loved and treasured, taught and claimed as words within the Word.
Built of tears and cries and laughter, prayers of faith and songs of grace.
Let this house proclaim from floor to rafter: All are welcome!
All are welcome! All are welcome in this place!*

➤ Marty Haugen

In our second year of being United Lutheran Seminary, we are pleased to report that we have 167 students seeking to serve in the ministry of Word and Sacrament and Word and Service, which is a ten percent increase from two years ago.

With your synodical support, a secure foundation exists on which to “build a house” that provides for the faculty, staff and facilities, but most importantly provides full tuition to all our ELCA students seeking rostered positions within the church. This year, *less than one in four students applied for loans* due in large part to your synod’s faithful giving. Our students will be graduating with less debt, which means your congregations in need of a servant leader will have more options for a call. We could not be here without your synod’s amazing grace.



Our goal is to provide full tuition to ELCA students for the sake of your synodical ministries.

In our second year as United, we lay claim to the lyrics of Marty Haugen—building a house (on two campuses!) where all are named, their songs and visions heard. We seek to love and treasure our students, to teach them and claim them as words within the Word. Through *Unifying, Learning, and Serving*, we model for our students a vision of the church—not perfect by any means, but striving to live into the grace that frees us all and echoes across the needs of this turbulent time and space. While

we have students from over twenty-five denominations and welcome the nuanced discussions that result in our classrooms about theology, culture, and witness, our historical ties to the earliest expressions of Lutheranism in America continues to guide us into a rich and meaningful expression of our denominational heritage and theology of grace.

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Our diversity task force, in conjunction with the diversity committee of the Board of Directors, has undertaken a nine month process to craft a Welcome and Equity Statement. We are committed to building a house where restorative justice, equity, and full inclusion at God's banquet table are afforded to all members of the seminary community. You can read the full statement here: www.uls.edu/about/welcome-equity/.



United Lutheran Seminary is a community committed to changing the world through the transformative grace of God, inclusive hospitality, and radical welcome. We commit ourselves to making this seminary open, welcoming, accepting, and affirming to all of God's children.

We cannot continue without your support, of course. We ask that you prayerfully consider three ways to help us:

- Recognize those individuals within your synod who have gifts for ministry and encourage them to answer God's call to rostered leadership in the ELCA.
- Make a personal contribution to ULS on a monthly basis. If you are already doing this, consider increasing your monthly gift to the seminary by ten percent (www.uls.edu/giving).
- Encourage your synod council to increase synodical giving by three percent of your current level over a three year period (an incremental increase with each passing year).

In return, we will strive to raise up new leaders for the congregations within your synod, doing our utmost to prepare them for the challenges of today's church with the added benefit of little or no graduate school debt. *We are grateful for you, your ministry, and the support by which we continue to thrive.*

By God's Grace,



Dr. Richard Green
Interim President