



On behalf of the Board, staff and volunteers of Canadian Lutheran World Relief, I wish to thank the leaders, congregations and members of the British Columbia Synod. We are thankful in the Lord's name for your trust and confidence in CLWR. We value your partnership as we seek to fulfill Christ's mission together.

CLWR is now in its 70th year of service on behalf of Lutherans from coast to coast to coast. Our vision remains focused on challenging the causes of human suffering and poverty so that people may live in peace and dignity and are empowered to achieve their universal rights to basic needs and quality of life.

As the executive director of Canadian Lutheran World Relief, it is my pleasure to bring greetings to the people of the British Columbia Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada

CLWR has made an intentional decision to renew its emphasis on the needs of forcibly displaced persons in the world. This makes sense since as an agency with vast experience in sustainable development, humanitarian assistance and refugee sponsorship, CLWR understands the full cycle of the refugee experience and is committed to bring about actions that result in better protection and treatment of forcibly displaced persons as well as the fulfillment of their human rights.

This includes supporting programming that addresses the longer-term needs of forcibly displaced persons. To do so, requires a stable and sufficient funding base that transcends the traditional divide between "development aid" and "emergency assistance" and recognizes that forced displacement is a global problem that threatens the attainment of all anti-poverty goals.



Inspired by God's love for humanity, CLWR believes that traditional "care and maintenance" approaches to emergency relief are unsustainable and can lead to a culture of dependency. CLWR believes that assistance in protracted refugee situations should aim towards resiliency as the ultimate goal. It is imperative that adequate resources are invested in linking relief and development work to ensure

flexible, relevant assistance that leads to poverty eradication and empowers affected individuals to be agents of change and transformation.

CLWR is engaged with a number of refugee and internally displaced populations. Chief among them are Syrians in Jordan. Since the beginning of the conflict in Syria, CLWR has programmed nearly \$10 million in humanitarian aid and relief. We will soon launch a bi-lateral program to improve learning environments in 75 schools by providing renovations, repairs and upgrades to washrooms, classrooms, hallways, libraries, recreational areas and school kitchens. As well 450 teachers, advisors and school administrators will be trained by 40 staff trainers in hygiene promotion, environmental awareness and child protection. Our partners will be the Jordanian Ministry of Education and LWF-Jordan.

In Northern Iraq, CLWR and Lutheran World Federation are working to reduce the vulnerability of conflict-affected people in the Dohuk region by providing structural and sanitation upgrades to

200 homes and distributing non-food items. The most vulnerable families, including those headed by women are being targeted for relief.

There is almost no coverage of the South Sudanese refugee situation. The ongoing conflict and worsening humanitarian situation inside the world's youngest nation is fueling a refugee exodus into Ethiopia, Kenya, and Uganda at a much higher rate than initially anticipated. CLWR is supporting humanitarian aid and building resilience for refugees from South Sudan in a variety of settings in those countries. We have been granted another \$1million by the Government of Canada to continue this work.

The media attention on Syrian refugees and the ELCIC Reformation challenge to sponsor refugees has led to an explosion of interest in sponsorship by congregations. CLWR is responding to this demand through its regional offices in Waterloo and New Westminster. In fact, the staff of CLWR, in partnership with the staffs of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada and Lutheran Church-Canada are "walking the walk" and have sponsored a family of four Syrians who are now in Winnipeg.

The renewed emphasis on refugees has not diminished our traditional development, education and health programming. Hand in hand with partners on the ground, lives are being changed in places like Ethiopia, Nicaragua, Haiti, West Bank and East Jerusalem, and Nepal to name only a few locations.

Global Encounter 2016 was a huge success. Members of this synod were among the 41 people who visited CLWR programs in Uganda and Ethiopia. The 2018 Global Encounter will travel to Jordan and the Holy Land.

God continues to lead us in new directions. CLWR's public policy focus will be called Education in Action. It will work to encourage policy changes within government; engage government stakeholders on issues that affect CLWR; and, educate the Lutheran community.

We celebrate the loving and caring hands that prepare quilts and blankets and fill We Care kits in church basements and halls in this synod and across Canada. At least four shipments of donated commodities leave for refugee camps and development programs around the world every year. I am delighted to announce that the number of We Care bags ordered has topped 100,000.

We are thankful for Gene Blishen's leadership on our board. His insight and discernment add great value to the board's decisions and governance.

To learn more about what CLWR is doing to make a difference in people's lives, please visit our website at www.clwr.org.

We pray God will continue to bless you so that you may be a blessing for others.

God bless



Robert Granke
Executive Director

**LUTHERAN THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
REPORT
TO SYNODS
2016**

YOUR SEMINARY - GOD'S MISSION

Lutheran Theological Seminary is uniquely situated not only because it is on the University of Saskatchewan campus but more importantly because of its membership and reputation as a member of the Saskatoon Theological Union (STU). As a member of the STU it is in relationship with St. Andrews College - a college of the United Church of Canada, Emmanuel and St. Chad College - a college of the Anglican Church and Horizon - college of the Pentecostal Church. Its reputation for openness and acceptance of members of other denominations was affirmed by the Board of Bethany Mennonite Brethren College who thought of LTS as the first place to reorganize its education programme. The commitment of LTS to the many and various facets of diversity means that its future needs to be assured. There may be issues, mainly financial, that create some anxiety but these are insignificant with respect to the important place LTS has on the campus and in the Church.

Having served as Acting President of LTS since 15 July 2015 I am increasingly hopeful about the future of the seminary. I appreciate the ongoing support and commitment of the Board to the seminary, faculty, staff and to me as Acting President. This commitment to the future of the seminary is reflected in the hard work being done on the strategic plan. I also want to express my appreciation to the Bishops who have welcomed me to their synods, set up meetings for me to address local clergy and provided me with an opportunity to address the Synod Councils. These opportunities allowed me to correct misinformation and provide a more positive message about the seminary. Everywhere I have had the opportunity to speak about the seminary I have been warmly received and I am thankful for this. These welcomes are some of the positive outcomes of the goal I set for myself of Bridge Building.

In my report to the November Board meeting I offered the umbrella concept of God's Mission as a bridge that integrated the various aspects of the seminary system. This theme was further developed in a presentation to the faculty and staff in which I described the whole system, Synods, Board and seminary, as a series of silos relatively unconnected from one another.

What connects these various silos? I believe that the connection is God's Mission. The purpose of each Synod is to particularize that Mission in its defined geographic area. It is God's Mission that defines not just the Synods but the seminary as well. This was recognized by the Board of Governors of LTS in the new LTS Mission Statement. The seminary does not have its own mission but rather participates with the Synods as they seek to full God's Mission. What is unique and important about the seminary is its functional position. Its function is to assist the Synod's in fulfilling God's Mission.

Faculty

In a number of ways the faculty have borne the brunt of the Board's actions when it had to deal with financial difficulties at LTS. Tenured faculty members were laid off leaving the seminary

with only 3 faculty members and the president. This action, however, did not reduce the administrative duties at the seminary but rather placed the burden of doing them on the few remaining faculty. We owe the faculty and our thanks and appreciation for their commitment and dedication.

The staff have been busy. The Development Office has had another successful year in fund raising. The maintenance staff have worked hard to clean up the grounds and lay sod down in the old pool areas. We are blessed by having a diligent and dedicated library staff. The finance office has done great work which is not only appreciated by the Board, but was commented on by the auditors. The staff function in the background and their contribution to an efficient and effected system is often overlooked. Our thanks to every one of them.

This year two faculty members will have sabbaticals. From January to July 2016 Prof. Kristine Ruffatto is on sabbatical. She is teaching in Cameroon. Prof. Gordon Jensen will be on sabbatical from July 2016 to July 2017. Since Prof. Jensen is also the Registrar, Colleen Rickard has been hired as Registrar while he is away.

Students

Enrollment at the seminary is slowly increasing and the trend is very encouraging. Registration has improved as shown by the statistics for 2015-2016.

D.Min	6
M.Div	17
MTS	1
Diaconal	6
Occasional Students	14

Exciting News

The future of the seminary is exciting. A new major in the Master of Theological Studies programme is the degree in Community Health. This degree is directed particularly to parish nurses. We are truly fortunate to have Pastor Ali Tote as the lead in this programme. Pastor Ali Tote has a Ph.D. in community health from the University of Saskatchewan and is bringing his knowledge and expertise into the service of the church.

Another exciting development is the proposed Lay Academy which will operate under the auspices of the seminary. The Lay Academy will be offering courses for interested lay people who wish to learn more about their church, have a deeper understanding of their faith and a more profound appreciation of the grace of God. Some of these courses will be offered online while others in local areas.

The Saskatchewan Synod is moving into the seminary building. Their coming is important for the seminary since it will no longer be perceived as being isolated from the Church. The Church will now be in the seminary. This new relationship opens up new and exciting possibilities.

Another new possibility is that Bethany Mennonite College has approached the seminary and is negotiating to use our residence and a class room. In the Spring of 2015 the college had to shut its doors and now some of the Board members are examining their options.

Recruitment

Recruitment is essential if the church is going to have pastors and diaconal minister in the future. The Board and the seminary have been actively investing resources in recruitment but their efforts alone is not sufficient. It is the responsibility of every pastor and member of the congregations to encourage their children, family members or friends and members to consider the ministry as a career.

Finances

It would be remiss not to mention the financial concerns of the seminary. The seminary has a revenue and not an expenditure problem. Building a solid financial foundation for the seminary is like putting together Lego blocks. It takes patience and persistence and creativity. One such block is to increase dramatically the number of people who pledge annually to the seminary. Have you considered making a pledge to your seminary? We are thankful for those who already make regular pledges. An important block in rebuilding the financial basis of the seminary concerns the financial commitment of the Synods. There are other blocks that are part of the process of moving the seminary to a more secure financial stability. The presence of the following institutions who are leasing space provide additional income for LTS: Emmanuel and St. Chad College who has signed a three year lease and the Saskatchewan Synod who on 23 March 2016 will be moving into the seminary building. Our finance should also benefit should the negotiations with the Bethany Mennonite College be successful.

Respectfully submitted

Michael J. Nel D.Th.
Acting President
Lutheran Theological Seminary

Surrey Urban Mission Report to Synod Convention 2016

The work of SUMS continues in providing some food and comfort to the needy and those living in poverty in the Whalley area of Surrey. As things have changed and evolved over the past couple of years the Board has had the opportunity to review our core mission and how we carry on operations.

This reassessment has resulted in a clearer focus on what our Core Mission is:

1. Meeting the needs of people in poverty (food, clothing, partnerships)
2. Chaplaincy/ministry
3. Community service for youth and adults
4. Volunteer engagement
5. Providing a venue for community services

It is important that we focus on these critical activities and do them well. This also means maintaining a discipline of what we do, how we resource and support it, and how we obtain funding support for our operations. As well it means that we cannot do everything ourselves and partnering with others is important.

The second major change as a result of the Board's review was to change the management of the organization and its operational processes. In November 2015 we welcomed Mike Musgrove as the new Executive Director. Mike and his small team of part time staff and volunteers have worked feverishly to restructure and reposition the Mission and ensure we are serving the needs of our ever growing group of guests. Thank you to the BC Synod and congregations who have supported us as we made these changes during the transition period.

Some of the major achievements over the past several months have been:

- breakfast is now served 6 days a week
- lunch is served 5 days a week
- dinner is served every Sunday and on special occasions
- all meals are now served inside the building

We have begun to explore partnership opportunities with several other service providers in our area to provide more and better services to our guests. Currently Options Surrey has 2 housing workers who come to the Mission several days a week to meet with guests and look to provide housing solutions for them. We will continue to explore more such opportunities as we go forward.

SUMS has become a 'Hub' in the community, a safe place, where people are treated with dignity and respect, can have a coffee, something to eat, find clothing, sit in a chair, use a toilet, and if for only a couple of hours, feel 'normal'.

We also continue to provide temporary shelter by supplying beds for the Extreme Weather program that is managed through BC Housing. We are currently approved for 45 beds per night when the shelter is declared open. The services to provide the overnight beds are overseen by a group of trained and paid staff that SUMS recruits and manages.

The challenges are many, but the support for individuals, congregations and businesses is great. Although we are always in need of additional donations and funding, it is amazing what we are able to do with our current donations and volunteers. We are regularly serving over 8500 meals a month in our facility. This takes an incredible effort and we will need to find new ways to resource and support this at such a high level. We are truly blessed to be supported by such generous donors such as Diamond Foundation, Cobs, Surrey Firefighters, Surrey Central Lions Club, Superstore, Versacold and many others which give us almost all of the food needed for our meals.

We were pleased that earlier this year we were successful in getting our Registered Charitable status from the Canada Revenue Agency. This means we can now directly accept financial donations and issue receipts. This achievement is critical as we move forward to find additional funding and donation opportunities.

As SUMS continues to help serve those in need, we need your prayers and support. This is part of the mission of our church and we are called to reach out and provide a helping hand to others. Please consider how you and your congregation can become engaged in volunteering, providing a meal, providing clothing or providing financial support. Visit our website www.sumsplace.ca for more information.

On behalf of our guests, staff, volunteers and Board we thank you for your prayers and ongoing support.

Remember: 'We make a living by what we get, we make a life by what we give!'

God Bless
John Wolff, Board Chair