

Challenge Scholarships:

We are very pleased to announce a new scholarship programme at LTS. For each of the next three years (2018-19, 2019-20, 2020-21), we will offer up to a total of 5 scholarships per year for new students. A Master of Divinity degree student receiving a scholarship will be given a total of \$50,000 (\$20,000 for each of the first two years, while in classes, and \$5,000 for each of the internship years). A Master of Theological Studies degree student receiving a scholarship will be given a total of \$40,000 (\$20,000 for each of the two years of classes). Priority will be given to spreading the scholarships across the 4 Western Synods of the ELCIC. Share the news! Invite people to apply!

Recruitment:

Recruitment has become a significant issue in church life, as we all work together to encourage people to consider new roles in church leadership. The Seminary's strategy is multi-pronged: the Challenge Scholarship programme improves funding, while we reach out to people in parishes, schools, and elsewhere, using the language of "Challenge" as our theme of invitation. The Seminary invites people to "Be Challenged" with us, asking that potential leaders recognize that a call to church leadership of any kind will involve three aspects: "Challenge Yourself" (using and increasing all of your skills, and adding new ones), "Challenge Others" (as you help to lead a transforming church), and "Challenge the World" (in a church that is now counter-cultural, participating in God's work of changing society). We believe that today's people are up for a challenge, and are most excited by a life committed to growth and transformation.

We are reaching out with these themes to all parishes, post-secondary institutions, and secondary schools that are prepared to welcome us. We are striving to build (in some cases, re-build) ties to institutions that have prepared students for ELCIC leadership in the past, such as camp ministries and traditionally Lutheran colleges and high schools. We welcome invitations to parishes and church events where we can share the joy of life in church leadership and in the kind of formation that LTS offers.

Attendance:

For the 2017-18 academic year, we have 19 full-time students and 10 part-time students registered. We have 12 candidates for ordained ministry and 2 candidates for the diaconate. Six people are currently enrolled in the Doctor of Ministry programme, which is playing an expanded role in the Seminary's life. Rising interest in the D.Min. is very encouraging; it shows that parish clergy have a thirst for developing their skills at a challenging time in the church's life.

Finances and the Future:

The Seminary faces significant financial issues. After years of austerity measures that cannot be sustained over the longer term, we continue to have a structural deficit of over \$100,000 annually. The Board is considering a variety of options for moving forward in a way that will serve the synods and will best cater to the Seminary's revised needs in a world where our course delivery is in an intensive format or online, and where our numbers are relatively small.

Submitted by:

The Rev. Dr. William Harrison, President