

## REPORT TO THE 2016 ELCA ASSEMBLY

LUTHER COLLEGE

Decorah, Iowa

### **Report of the President – Paula J. Carlson, Ph.D.**

I began as Luther College's tenth president in July 2014, and it is a privilege to submit my first ELCA Assembly report. As president, I am emboldened by theologian Joseph Sittler's statement that, "The best way church colleges can serve the church is to be good colleges." Luther is a distinctive, extraordinary college that lives its mission with integrity. This is a place where students, faculty and staff are "enlivened and transformed by encounters with one another, by the exchange of ideas, and by the life of faith and learning."

At Luther, faculty and staff serve as faithful guides and mentors as students discern their vocations. Recently, Luther received a grant from the Network for Vocation in Undergraduate Education to help strengthen collaboration between College Ministries, our Career Center, and academic student advising. This grant supports retreats and other opportunities for students to engage in vocational reflection and conversation. Among the many vocations our graduates pursue, we are proud of the number of graduates who choose ordained ministry. Luther also sends a strong group of graduating seniors into service and volunteer corps, including Lutheran Volunteer Corps and the ELCA's Young Adults in Global Mission program.

There are many other ways Luther College nurtures its relationship with the larger church. College Ministries works with the Northeastern Iowa Synod on a summer leadership development camp for ELCA high school youth, and on special events that benefit global relief and development efforts. Our Grace Institute for Spiritual Formation—now in its fifteenth year—provides a two-year continuing education program on spiritual practices for individual and congregational renewal. Luther faculty and staff are involved in a wide range of synod, national and global ministries as well, serving on boards and as resource persons in areas such as worship and music, environmental stewardship, and interfaith relations. Music is another way we connect with congregations, as our ensembles go on tour to proclaim the Gospel through sacred choral music, orchestra and band concerts.

Plans are well underway on campus to commemorate the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Reformation in 2017. We are pleased that Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton will speak at opening convocation next February, and in late March, Luther will host a conference focused on the role of the reformation in the contemporary church. Pastor and author Nadia Bolz-Weber is among the speakers and the conference will conclude with a performance of Bach's Mass in B-minor by the Luther College Orchestra and Nordic Choir. More information will become available at [luther.edu/reformation-2017](http://luther.edu/reformation-2017).

A reminder that a tangible way your church can support Luther College is to encourage your high school students to visit. Should they choose to enroll, we hope you will consider supporting them with an EPIC grant (Education Partners in Covenant). Luther will match up to \$1,000 per year in support of each student from your congregation. More information can be found at [luther.edu/financialaid/current/scholarships](http://luther.edu/financialaid/current/scholarships).

I am convinced that a community of faith and learning provides the best possible environment for young people to discern their callings. You should be proud of our ELCA colleges. These institutions are serving the church by equipping engaged, capable leaders to serve on behalf of the common good. Thank you for your partnership in this ministry.

## **I. Amendment to Articles of Incorporation**

### *RECOMMENDED ACTION BY THE CORPORATION*

To amend Article V as follows:

5.01. The location of the principal office of the corporation shall be 700 College Drive, Decorah, Iowa. The name of its current registered agent at such address is Paula J. Carlson

*Rationale: Luther College has a new President so Article 5.01 needs to be changed.*

## **II. Ratification of Election of Regents**

### *RECOMMENDED ACTION BY THE CORPORATION*

To ratify the action of the Board of Regents of Luther College in electing the following persons to the Board:

- Jeffrey Anderson (Des Moines, IA)
- Sandra Joppa (Plymouth, MN)
- Michael Osterholm (St. Louis Park, MN)
- Connie Plaehn (South Salem, NY)
- James Young (Edina, MN)

*and*

To ratify the action of the Board of Regents of Luther College in re-electing the following persons to the board for second four-year terms:

- Enwei Xie
- Sue Sorlien
- Diane Thormodsgard
- Wendy Davidson
- Chinyere Ukabiala
- Lance Vander Linden
- Dennis Flatness

*and*

To ratify the action of the Board of Regents of Luther College in re-electing the following persons to the board for third four-year terms:

- Russ Bruemmer (Arlington, VA)
- Ronald Have (Bloomington, MN)
- Arne Sorenson (Chevy Chase, MD)
- Jon Stellmacher (Appleton, WI)
- Paul Torgerson (Lake Elmo, MN)
- Judy Vijums (Arden Hills, MN)