



TRINITY
LUTHERAN
SEMINARY

2199 East Main Street
Columbus, Ohio 43209-2334
p 614.235.4136
f 614.384.4668
rbarger@TLSohio.edu

Office of the President

REPORT OF TRINITY LUTHERAN SEMINARY – SPRING 2017

Spirit-driven resurrection and reformation energy is driving Trinity Lutheran Seminary in these days as we carry out a divine mission to form leaders for Christ's church at work in the world. We live in a time when the world desperately needs a new narrative. It is in service to our mission that we have entered into a historic mutual agreement with Capital University to reunite as one.

From 1830 to 1959, Capital University and the Evangelical Lutheran Theological Seminary (ELTS) were one institution with a shared mission. Then, under a directive from the newly formed American Lutheran Church, ELTS separated from Capital. For a number of years, the two entities enjoyed shared services, but in 1978 that relationship changed. A consolidation of ELTS with Hamma Divinity School (Springfield, Ohio) created Trinity Lutheran Seminary. For 39 years Trinity and Capital have lived side-by-side with some shared initiatives but with clear institutional autonomy from each other.

The challenges of our current times and the emerging future urgencies, as well as the shared commitment of current leadership, have drawn Trinity Lutheran Seminary and Capital University together with the expectation and commitment that, *reunited*, we can have greater positive impact on our world than we can achieve separately. This reunion not only restores what was together until 1959; it also adds the shared gifts and history brought by Hamma Divinity School that joined with ELTS to form Trinity in 1978.

This reunion is a commitment to the continuing imperative of the mission and contributions of Trinity Lutheran Seminary. It is through reunion with Capital University that Trinity Lutheran Seminary can continue and thrive, developing new leaders for the church and the world. Such a reunion strengthens Capital University's Lutheran identity and offers additional opportunities for interdisciplinary programming that intersects with theology, leadership, and societal needs.

The reunion will be in operational effect commencing on July 1, 2017. To God be the glory!

Submitted with gratitude, humility, and hope,

Rick Barger, President

Trinity Lutheran Seminary forms leaders for Christ's church at work in the world.