



# LTS TODAY

Lutheran Theological Seminary, a ministry of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada, nurtures and challenges all people for Christ-centred leadership and witness for God's mission in the world.

## THE ANSWERS WE'RE WORKING ON *Rev. Dr. William Harrison, President*



**T**heological education is at a crossroads everywhere. God is calling us to a time of experiments and transformations. Changes in the world are affecting the church's life in unanticipated ways. LTS continues to live by its commitment to "Challenge Yourself. Challenge Others. Challenge the World."

In this issue, **Dr. Kayko Driedger Hesslein** addresses themes that are central to our new curriculum development: proclamation, service, and church. **Bp. Sid Haugen**, of Saskatchewan Synod (ELCIC), speaks about challenges that he sees in the church and some of his hopes for ministry formation.

Two of our students, **Elina Singh** and **Andrea Wilhelm**, talk with us about their experiences with LTS and some thoughts about theological education. Andrea is the current Chair of the LTS Student Union.

We celebrate our developing relationships within the Saskatoon Theological Union. The signing of the **STU Covenant** on January 20 is a symbol of the work that we're doing together. Our Chair of the Board, **Laureen Wray**, addresses the conversations that we're in with the STU, where we're discussing ways to work more closely on academics and administration/governance.

Deepening relationships are also reflected in our plans for a summer conference—"Religious Community in a Digital World"—that will be shared by the STU and St. Thomas More College. We will discuss a variety of the shifts in our life together that the increasingly digital nature of our environment has brought us. This conference will be online, a reflection of the character of the topic and the challenges of organizing a shared event in a world still affected by the pandemic.

**Dr. Gordon Jensen** has announced his intention to retire on December 31 from LTS, where he has taught Theology and Church History for over 20 years, most recently as the first William Hordern Professor of Theology. We will celebrate Dr. Jensen's tremendous contributions to LTS and the Lutheran world more substantially in a future issue.

LTS is pleased to announce that the **Association of Theological Schools** has renewed our accreditation. The accrediting committee is very encouraging about our: leadership in transformation, collaboration in strategic thinking, commitment to decolonizing and indigenizing curriculum, and broad institutional vision combined with sustained Lutheran identity. We will be working with ATS as we continue our transformational work.

We are moving forward with a project that we call "**Our Classroom is Western Canada: We Meet There in Mission.**" At the heart of this idea is an effort to be less Saskatoon-focused and to focus more on developing lay leadership alongside rostered leadership. We hope to offer more courses in other places across the four Western synods, inviting participation from people in the areas where we are teaching. We are looking toward an ELCIC that is diaconal in orientation, incorporating the principles found in "Reimagining Our Church: Public Ministry in the ELCIC" (National Convention, 2019).

The courses will:

1. Be in an **immersion-style format**, engaging with local issues;
2. Involve **multiple voices**, incorporating local leaders and expertise;

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3. Include **lay leaders** with candidates for rostered ministry, in the same classes;
4. Support lay certificate programs along with a variety of degrees;
5. Be part of year-round study options;
6. Contribute to our participation in reconciliation, by connecting with Indigenous peoples; and
7. Foster Lutheran identity and leadership skills development for the contemporary world.

We hope to begin incorporating these classes in our offerings in the 2023-24 academic year. More details will be shared as the project develops.

This issue includes an update from our Development Office. Thank you for your contributions to our very successful Advent Appeal. Please consider planned giving and remember the **Grace Fund for Faculty**. Success in our transformation depends upon funding for capable Lutheran faculty, today and tomorrow!



## MOVING BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

*Rev. Dr. Kayko Driedger Hesslein,  
LTS Affiliate Professor of Theology and Director of Contextual Education*

LTS's call has always been to prepare ordained and lay leaders in the ELCIC. Today this means preparing them to lead missionally and collaboratively. Church leaders need to be able to introduce and nurture collaborative climates in congregations, and partner with ecumenical and interfaith partners and community organizations. They need the ability to foster environments of mutual learning and teaching in church settings, and lift up excluded and oppressed people as co-leaders in creating a just world. They need to have the skills to develop and promote responsiveness and adaptability in a precarious world.

To graduate students with these gifts and skills, LTS is developing a curriculum that addresses three areas necessary for leadership in today's ELCIC: Proclamation,

Service, and Church. Proclamation focuses on the skill, knowledge, and experiences necessary for translating and proclaiming the Gospel in today's world. Grounded in biblical studies, theology, and the Lutheran Confessions, it will include a focus on communication skills from the pulpit, in the public square, and on social media. Service focuses on diaconal and missional service, and will include skills in collaborative leadership, community building, partnership development, and social and political engagement. Church focuses on building relationships within congregations that affirm the vocation of the baptized, engage in whole church perspectives, support change, and nurture mutual spiritual care.

LTS is also changing how students will be taught. Moving beyond

the classroom as the sole space for learning, LTS will build on its current immersion trips to develop introductory immersion courses. Service- and experiential-learning will demonstrate mutual and collaborative teaching and learning between the faculty and other professionals, lay leaders, and elders. Faculty will co-teach with these off-site instructors from diverse locations in Western Canada, modelling the kind of collaborative work the church needs from its leaders.

LTS is committed to "whole church" education, which particularly includes supporting lay leaders. Historically, LTS has prioritized the preparation of leaders for ordained ministry. Unfortunately, this contributes to a hierarchy that focuses on "the minister" as the single authority for all theological, faith, and spiritual issues in the church. However, this is not only counter to the Lutheran understanding of the vocational



*Preparing to teach Theology I.*

*Leaving Advent Lutheran.*



calling of all baptized Christians—ordained ministry is only one vocation and is no more “Christian” than any other—but also contradicts what has been identified as necessary leadership for today. Lay leaders have gifts, skills, experiences, and faith that are equal to, and in many ways greater than, those in ordained ministry, and are the future of the church. LTS is working to support lay leaders as a way to support the whole church by facilitating minimal-cost access to the same courses that candidates for ordination take, preferably alongside those candidates, both through immersion courses distributed throughout the four Western Synods and through online learning.



*Lutherans Support Pride, at the Calgary Pride Parade.*

LTS is excited to embrace God’s calling to prepare leaders for today’s ELCIC. We continue to ask for your prayers as we participate in God’s transformation of the church and the world.



# STUDENT LIFE

LTS Today recently interviewed students Elina Singh and Andrea Wilhelm. Elina will graduate with her Master of Divinity this spring, and Andrea—current Chair of the LTS Student Union—is in her 2nd year of the Master of Divinity degree.

**Please tell us about the journey that brought you to LTS.**

**Elina:** Where should I begin...? I have sensed a call to ministry since I was about 8, although being a pastor was not part of that equation until just a few years ago. I have done a variety of jobs for churches, including office administration and youth ministry. However, about five years ago various people (including my pastor) started asking if I had ever considered seminary studies. No, I hadn't, and I laughed it off – but that left a door open to the possibility. So the external call was first, and the internal call slowly followed.

**Andrea:** I first considered becoming a pastor when deciding what to study but the thought of having to write an “essay” (sermon) every week deterred me. I ended up pursuing a Ph.D. and career in linguistics, focusing on documentation of Dënesų́łíné, an Indigenous language of Canada. I love linguistics, and the Dënesų́łíné language and people.

But I have always been very interested in Christian life and community, and have held many lay leadership positions, and even took an LTS course in 2014 (highly recommended!). Then I ended up serving on the lay committee for my

church's intern, LTS alumna Erin Thomas. Witnessing Erin and her formation tugged at me. A “random” remark by a church acquaintance whether I had ever considered becoming a pastor gave me the final impulse to apply to the seminary.

**What have been the joys and the challenges of student life thus far?**

**Elina:** I live in Vancouver, and I have been grateful for the intensive course format. That has made it possible for me to manage life here and studies there – although getting up at 6:30am for online classes that start at 8:30am in Saskatoon has been a bit rough at times. I've really enjoyed the times we've gathered in Saskatoon in person, and the opportunities to get to know my classmates outside the classroom.

**Andrea:** I love learning, so seminary has been a joy. The academic engagement with faith matters is intellectually stimulating and exciting to me. And it has challenged me to examine and deepen my faith. Lots of opportunity for the Holy Spirit to work on me! I have been able to explore some of my own deep faith concerns, such as my desperation about the human destruction of creation, zeal for justice, love of self and others, and lament before God.

My main challenge perhaps has been going from being a professor to being a Masters-level student. I have high expectations of the courses and myself. This has sometimes led to over-extensive research resulting in lateness of a course paper. Another challenge is juggling linguistics and seminary.

**How has being a student in the pandemic shaped or re-shaped your educational experience?**

**Elina:** When the pandemic began, I was just finishing off my second year of academic studies and heading off to internship. I've just finished internship, so that entire experience was done during the pandemic. I have seen how the church has adapted and shifted, pivoted this way and that. I have seen the challenges that come with not being able to gather in person.

It has been valuable to learn about online worship and Bible studies – there are people who have been able to connect with a church online when they were never able to do it in person, for various reasons, and that has been wonderful to see. Although I do miss the chance to get together with people and share a meal.

**Andrea:** All my classes except one have been online. I miss talking with other students outside of class. They are so interesting and I want to share experiences; we'd have so much to talk about. Yes, the peer experience is definitely missing.

On the other hand, I don't mind not having to travel to Saskatoon for intensives. I love working from home and have convenient access to a university library, so don't see the need. And the online format has made it possible for me to spend time in Germany supporting my elderly parents while I do my coursework.

**Many would say that “the future of theological education is in diversity”. Do you agree?**

**Elina:** Absolutely. For the most part



Elina Singh



Andrea Wilhelm

in our Christian history, theology has been thought, written and taught mostly by men of European descent, from wealthier families who could afford to send their sons to get the education needed. While that theology was considered universal, it was distanced from the daily lives of many.

The result was a distant God, irrelevant to the day-to-day experiences of people – and this still shows up in our textbooks and course materials. Thankfully the field of theology has shifted in the past few decades, with more voices being heard that speak to a variety of experiences. It has been wonderful to learn from those voices, and to expand my idea of who God is and what is possible.

**Andrea:** Yes and no.

At the most basic level I would say that the future of theological education is God and the gospel. Without them there is no reason for (at least my) theological education, and without God’s inspiration and provision there is no future either. From conversations I have had, I believe the seminary agrees with that and presupposes it.

But beyond that, if diversity means openness to and inclusion of—hopefully even leadership by—non-white/male/middle class/straight European-descent folk, I definitely believe this is very important. God has created the cosmos with a beautiful diversity of people, ecosystems, cultures, languages, species, and galaxies—who all praise God. All these voices should be part of theological

education and the church.

**What are you most looking forward to in the next steps of your theological pathway?**

**Elina:** I am graduating this spring, so I’m looking forward to being done with this section of the pathway. Hopefully a

first call and ordination will follow. And then the learning really begins!

And I am looking forward to having time to read some of those books I have accumulated over the past few years – let’s just say there are a few (boxes) to get through...

**Andrea:** The thought of beginning internship in September is exciting! It’s a bit nervewracking too! But I am hopeful that this “testing on the ground” of my learnings and faith will be formational...transformational, indeed. If my practical experiences so far (Clinical Pastoral Education, congregational involvement) are indicators, it will be.

I am so blessed to have people praying for me. Here I want to particularly acknowledge Myrna Husdal, my relator to the ABT Synod, who prays for me every single day during my seminary journey. As you read this, dear reader, thank you for saying a prayer for me and the other students too. Bless you!





# CHALLENGES FOR THE PRAIRIE CHURCH

*Rev. Dr. Sid Haugen, Bishop of Saskatchewan*

## *What transformations are you seeing in the life of the church?*

Back in January of 2020 our synod council passed a strategic plan with the vision: “Creatively transforming how to be church.” At the time it seemed a bold door we were seeking to gradually work open. Within two months we found that the pandemic was kicking us through the door. Change and transformation was not a nicety—it was a requirement. Our faith communities who had depended on gathering in person for worship were engaging in online worship. Our faith communities who had depended on gathering to ‘pass a plate’ to fund their ministries were engaging in other forms of funding: e-transfer, PAR, etc. Our communities who had depended on gathering in order to do education (confirmation, Sunday School, Bible study) were gathering in video-conference. None of these were simple steps. We gradually worked them out... particularly figuring out how to mute ourselves (and the dog!) for online worship. Are these transformations going to be ongoing once the pandemic quits ‘pushing us around’? I believe we will go forward with new ways of funding churches. But I imagine that some of the required transformations will turn out to be quickly discarded temporary adjustments to manage a difficult time.

I do wonder about one broad transformation. Will we understand that a faith community is not defined by those who are ‘seated in the pew’ on a Sunday morning? Or even by those who live in the region of the congregation? In a world where town and country parishes increasingly find it impossible to afford a pastor, with it nearly impossible to find supply preaching, will that broadened sense of faith community be a way in which urban and rural congregations reach out to each other? I wonder.

## *What kinds of changes are needed in the SK synod?*

Saskatchewan Synod is made up of 102 congregations and 3 ministries. Our congregations ‘work’ better with a pastor: a full time pastor, a half time pastor, even an over-seeing very part time contract pastor. While urban congregations generally have a called pastor, town and country parishes are

increasingly struggling to afford one. Or, if one is available, to find a pastor whose partner is able to find work in a rural setting. Increasingly we have town and country parishes who have not had any percentage of a pastor for many years. Oddly we do not, at this point, have a nimble, well-defined way to recognize a salaried lay ministry professional or a non-stipendiary trained lay minister that could serve with a mentoring rostered leader. We are hopeful about a Lay Pastoral Associate Program (LPA) at Sask Synod, which may emerge as a way forward. This is not to say that urban congregations do not have challenges in this time. But at this moment, the leadership crisis growing rapidly in our synod is in town and country congregations.

## *Do you have a personal sense of changes you would like to see, in the ELCIC, regarding preparation for ministry?*

Our faith communities do better with a pastor. We are short of pastors and it is becoming a critical shortage. But I’m not at all sure it is sensible or ethical for our church to continue to insist on eight years of post-secondary (to receive the usual MDiv) to fill a position that has never remunerated rostered ministers adequately to match that considerable educational expense (both the direct expense of tuition and books and the indirect expense of simply not being in the workforce for an 8 year training period). I watched my daughter as a social worker handle amazingly complex situations with a four year BSW. Could we not train rostered ministers for congregational work in a four-year blended liberal arts/theology degree (with required continuing education as other professions specify)? I realize that is an ELCIC call before it is a seminary task. But I hope that the spirit of innovation that is happening at LTS will reach beyond LTS into conversations with the ELCIC about the way we prepare rostered ministers.

## *Please share some of the joys of your work as Bishop.*

Visiting congregations is a real joy. I love to join the faith communities, preaching the gospel, sharing the sacrament,



and talking with the people about the lives we are leading, the way we see God leading, the questions that are emerging. It is odd perhaps to be surprised by the fact that when we worship together something happens to our relationship. We become more than a 'bishop' from synod office and the people of 'x' congregation. We become one body. That is an amazing experience.

One other experience is striking. I served as a soccer coach for many years when I was a parish pastor. As a coach, I loved watching a young woman or man finding out that they could do things—they had abilities! And I loved even more watching those young men and women learning to offer those abilities for the sake of the whole team and to experience how you can give yourself away for the whole and be richer for it! One of the joys of bishop's work is to be part of that same process. Working with candidates to find a place to serve. Working with congregations to find a rostered minister. Then, hopefully, watching both rostered minister and faith community grow together as a community of Jesus.

### *How has the pandemic altered your ministry?*

Two things that stand out.

The first five years I logged about 4000 km a month, travelling to congregations and ministries to preach, to lead worship, to meet with rostered ministers, councils and call committees. During the pandemic there were many periods when travelling from Regina, where COVID numbers were high, to town and country parishes where their numbers were low was simply not safe. For most of the last two years contact with congregations, ministries and leadership has been limited to a million email and a thousand Zoom calls (or so it feels!).

Secondly, my work during the pandemic has often centered around engaging in multiple virtual Town Halls to consult with congregational leadership on the shape of synod

guidelines for the next expression of COVID, or the next suddenly arriving Health Order! For Sask Synod it is the first time that we have repeatedly gathered rostered ministers and congregational chairpersons together to consult on synod issues. Before the pandemic and before the requirement to move online, the lay participants had been mostly restricted to synod conventions. I think this will be a welcome transformation in the way we do synod that will continue.

### *How will SK continue to be a place that provides wonderful future seminarians at LTS?*

Rostered ministers continue to be crucial for the work of our faith communities. Faith communities continue to be the place where rostered ministers are held and nurtured and called. I'm not at all sure where the rostered ministers of the future will come from. But I believe God will raise up for God's church the needed leadership. In God's own good time.

### *To what degree will Our Classroom in Western Canada: We Meet There in Mission shape the future of the ELCIC in western Canada?*

I am hopeful for the spirit of innovation that is blowing in LTS in these days.

Our faith communities do better with a pastor (does that sound familiar?). Having said that, I hope that the innovation blowing at LTS will move toward expanding the role of rostered ministers from being 'the minister' in one location, into being rostered ministers who equip and supervise lay leadership in wider geographical areas. I hope that the wind of innovation will lead LTS to set out to prepare lay people for distinct ministries mentored by rostered ministers at a distance: lay professional leaders under salary; prepared lay leaders without salary. The lay leaders might be lay administrators, youth workers, worship leaders, educators, community caregivers. It's complicated, I realize, because those roles have not been defined by our church—let alone defining the coursework that would support it.

# THE NEW SHAPE OF LTS

Editorial interview with President Bill Harrison

***In the last edition of this magazine, LTS announced that we would receive a grant from the Lilly Endowment. This grant will support the “Our Classroom is Western Canada: We Meet There in Mission” initiative. That article explained that the seminary seeks to become more deeply missional. What does that mean and why is it important?***

“Our Classroom is Western Canada: We Meet There in Mission” is an assertion that we will be less Saskatoon-focused. We hope to offer more courses in places across the four Western synods – courses in an immersion-style format, engaging with local issues and multiple voices, incorporating local leaders and expertise.

This approach is more missional. It moves us out of the classroom and into the community, enabling us to benefit from the wisdom and perspectives of the people with whom our graduates will work. We train our students to foster this type of community connection. We want our classes to reflect this more fully.

***What is the impetus behind these changes?***

We are “mission drawn” and “necessity driven.” Necessity is here. The ELCIC is shrinking rapidly. Fewer people in our congregations means less available money, fewer vocations to church leadership, a smaller group available to hire, and more calls on a shrinking reservoir of volunteer energy. Simultaneously, governments are cutting or redirecting support for post-secondary education. We must change. Transformation is not optional.

However, we have room to listen to God and the community. We can exercise our best judgement about our mission and the changes that serve it. What is God calling us to be? Lutherans bring important insights about grace, about God’s ever-present and transforming love in Christ, that the world needs. At the same time, we have much to learn about how to live out those gospel words. Our transformation today is about embracing our mission of simultaneously sharing and learning the Good News, in a changing world.

***Dr. Driedger Hesslein has been teaching seminary courses from Calgary for some years, now. How has this served her and the seminary?***

Working from Calgary enables Dr. Driedger Hesslein to teach with us, while meeting the needs of her family and church life. This is a blessing because she brings numerous gifts, including the rich combination of a deeply rooted Lutheran heritage and valuable scholarship in theology (theories of knowledge, contemporary theologies, Lutheranism).

In Calgary, Dr. Driedger Hesslein strengthens our connections with ABT Synod, fostering our ability to participate in synod conversations and activities. She is part of the Calgary intellectual community, important to Western Canada’s life. When Dr. Driedger Hesslein needs to connect in-person with students and ELCIC leaders across the West, especially in her role as Director of Contextual Education, Calgary is a central location with easy access to most places. And she can reach Saskatoon swiftly, when required.

***And you, too, will be dividing your time between Kelowna and Saskatoon. How do you see that unfolding?***

As is true for many people, my life situation has changed profoundly over the last couple of years. For a variety of reasons, my family needs to move. The board has been tremendously supportive (LTS has the best Board of Governors!). Kelowna, near where we once lived in Vernon, BC, offers both the supports and opportunities that my family needs.

I will keep a place in Saskatoon and will be there for the busy times. Pre-covid, I was routinely on the road much of the time. Some of this will resume, though Zoom already substitutes for some travel and will continue to do so. Ongoing operational conversations happen mostly by email and Zoom now; this will continue. I will still be rostered in SK Synod and serve on the Candidacy Committee. Little will change, for most of the basic work.

Spending time in Kelowna will help me foster closer relationships with BC Synod. BC can seem rather distant from the middle of the prairies and the needs can be very different. I anticipate sharing in synod life; I am already a member of BC CTEL (Committee on Theological Education and Leadership). Also, Kelowna is Canada’s fastest growing community – the sort of place where we can try new things. Perhaps the biggest change, though, will be in the space I will be afforded: kayaking on the lake and walking the trails will enable me to reflect more on the larger picture for LTS and its future.

***How can the community engage with and support this transformational work?***

Your prayers and declarations of support sustain the seminary in Christ’s work; please continue. As I’m sure you see, we’re stretched for faculty to build the future to which we are called. Donations to the Grace Fund for Faculty will help us to say, in full confidence, “Our Classroom is Western Canada: We Meet There in Mission.”





## FROM THE DEVELOPMENT OFFICE

*Hugh Williams, Director of Communications and Development*

Greetings to all.

### **Advent Appeal**

My warm gratitude to our community for another resoundingly generous response to an appeal. Last year's Advent Appeal was one of the seminary's most successful on record, raising close to \$40,000 from 133 gifts. This year's appeal nearly matched it, raising over **\$38,000**. Most impressive was the number of gifts: **135**, which represents the largest number of gifts to an LTS appeal in nearly a decade. Thank you!

### **Feature fundraising project: Historical Marker campaign**

Retired Bishop Allan Grundahl is steering the vision behind a campaign that the seminary is endorsing: the creation of a historical marker along with visiting benches at the site of the old Luther Seminary building. This was prompted by his discovery, in Luther Tower, of the old cornerstone for the building. The spirit of the project is to recognize one stream of the Lutheran heritage related to the creation of what we now know as 'Lutheran Theological Seminary Saskatoon'.

The goal is to raise \$12,000 by the end of this summer, with the hopes that we can hold a ceremony in September.

For questions relating to the history behind this, please email Bishop Allan: [allgrundahl@gmail.com](mailto:allgrundahl@gmail.com). For questions regarding donating to this project, please email or call LTS's Development office – whose contact information is on the back cover of this magazine.

### **Planned Giving**

Over the last year, I have fielded an increasing number of queries from our community about the possibility of including the seminary in one's Last Will and Testament. This is such an important and sensitive discussion for people; and yet it has been a while since the seminary created any planned giving materials for the community.

Such a publication is currently in the works; however, in the meantime please do feel free to phone or write to me with regard to this topic. Conversations about bequests to the seminary will not only help you learn of the financial benefits relating to planned giving, but will also provide clarity on the types of bequests that are most beneficial to the seminary.

### **Every little helps**

'Every little helps' is the slogan that Tesco, one of the UK's most beloved supermarket chains, uses in all of its advertising.

I close with a reference to this slogan because, along with the fact that the seminary is in one of its most promising positions in quite some time, we continue to rely very deeply upon the support of each community member.

We are therefore so grateful for every little bit that each of you do to help support the seminary – whether financially, through your time, or through your prayers for our students, staff and faculty. Thank you.



*Cornerstone for the old Luther Seminary building.*



# THINKING THROUGH THE STU

By Laureen Wray, the LTS Board Chairperson

The LTS Board is engaged with a lot of exciting investigation and action, these days, as the seminary undergoes big changes. An important part of our work is sharing conversation with our STU partners.

Historically, the STU relationship has been mostly informal. There have always been ties, but the connection has ebbed and flowed through changing circumstances. On January 20, 2022, at a ceremony broadcast on Zoom, the three STU schools (LTS – Lutheran; St. Andrew’s – United; Emmanuel & St. Chad – Anglican) signed a covenant, committing ourselves to find more ways to work together.

The three schools are now in two major conversations: curriculum, and administration/governance. The president and faculty are engaged in the curriculum discussions, focusing on working ecumenically while carrying Lutheran

priorities and the “Our Classroom is Western Canada” focus.

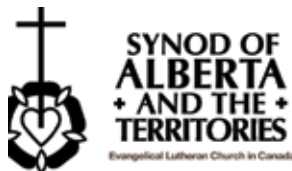
The board is part of discussions with the other STU schools exploring ways that we can share aspects of administration and governance. To be able to shift a greater portion of our energy directly towards our academic work, we are looking to maximize administrative efficiency while growing mission focused opportunities. We hope these talks will reveal ways that we can co-operate in a more integrated way. We don’t have any answers yet, but we hope to have more to say in late spring 2022.

If you would like to share your input with us, please contact a board member from your synod, or email [chairperson.lts@gmail.com](mailto:chairperson.lts@gmail.com). Thank you for your ongoing support.

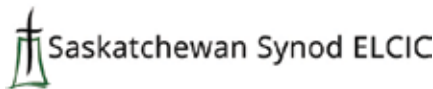
## LTS BOARD OF GOVERNORS



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Rev. Kathy Martin (Bishop)  
Rev. David Hunter (Clergy)  
Ms. Sue Palmer (Lay)



**Alberta & The Territories Synod**  
Rev. Dr. Larry Kochendorfer (Bishop)  
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**Saskatchewan Synod**  
Rev. Dr. Sid Haugen (Bishop)  
Rev. Stewart Miller (Clergy)  
Dr. Mary Vetter (Lay)



**Manitoba / Northwestern Ontario Synod**  
Rev. Jason Zinko (Bishop)  
Rev. Leslie Poulin (Clergy)  
Ms. Bev Wahl (Lay)

### Advisory Members

Rev. Dr. William Harrison (President)  
Rev. Susan Johnson (National Bishop)



President Harrison signs the STU Covenant.

## BOARD REAPPOINTS PRESIDENT HARRISON

The LTS Board of Governors is pleased to announce the reappointment of President William Harrison to a second five-year term, beginning July 2022.

Dr. Harrison's first term, beginning in July of 2017, saw him navigate many transformational challenges: the move to a new location, the complexity of theological education at the height of a pandemic, and responding to the most pressing challenges the ELCIC faces as the seminary prepares pastoral leaders—both now and into the future.

Laureen Wray, LTS Board Chairperson, shared this with our community: "Dr. Harrison has been a calm and stabilizing

force in a time of constant change. We are grateful for his leadership and ministry and look forward to the next five years of his presidency. With the opportunities provided by our generous grant from Lilly Endowment Inc., our transformational project—'Our Classroom is Western Canada: We Meet There in Mission'—will ensure that LTS continues to provide high-quality theological formation for years to come."

In concert with this transformational project, Dr. Harrison will divide his time between Saskatoon and Kelowna, BC, starting this summer.





Icon by Vecteezy.com.

# RELIGIOUS COMMUNITY IN A DIGITAL WORLD

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**What:** A summer learning event hosted by the three schools of the Saskatoon Theological Union in partnership with St. Thomas More College.

**When:** Noon, Monday, June 13 - Noon, Thursday, June 16

**Where:** This conference will be held entirely online.

## KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

**Dr. Deanna Thompson**, Director of the Lutheran Center for Faith, Values, and Community | Martin E. Marty Regents Chair in Religion and the Academy, St. Olaf College (Minnesota)

**Rev. Dr. Jeffrey Mahan**, Ralph E. & Norma E. Peck Professor Emeritus of Religion & Communication | Iliff School of Theology (Colorado)



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