



**Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.

College Corporation Meetings

Luther College, Decorah, Iowa

Wartburg College, Waverly, Iowa

Fifteenth Churchwide Assembly

August 5–10, 2019
Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Luther College Decorah, Iowa

Report of the President

It is my privilege to submit this report to the 2019 ELCA Churchwide Assembly on behalf of Luther College. On June 30th of this year, I completed my service as president of the college, and on July 1st, Jenifer K. Ward became the 11th president of Luther College. Dr. Ward will present this report and the recommended actions by the Corporation at the Assembly in August.

It has been my honor to serve as president of Luther College, and I offer my congratulations and best wishes to Dr. Ward as she begins her service to the college.

Luther College 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.” Faculty and staff serve as faithful teachers, guides, and mentors as students discern their vocations and prepare for their careers.

In February 2018, the Luther College Board of Regents approved a new five-year strategic plan for the college. Titled “*Inspired. Empowered. Engaged.*” the plan reflects Luther’s long-time commitments to innovation and excellence, and charts the course for the college to reimagine a liberal arts education for a 21st century global society, providing students an education that inspires, empowers, and engages them to thrive, serve, and lead in an ever-changing world. The strategic plan is available here: luther.edu/strategic-plan.

At Luther, College Ministries is an integral part of campus life. College Pastors are available to all within the Luther community for conversation, reflection, vocational discernment and counseling. At the core of College Ministries is the Luther College Student Congregation. The student congregation elects a council each year who work in partnership with the college pastors to provide a rich range of ministries and opportunities for students to explore their faith, build community, and discern their particular gifts and calling for leadership and service. We are proud that many Luther graduates begin their careers with service in Lutheran Volunteer Corps or the ELCA’s Young Adults in Global Mission and that many pursue vocations in ordained ministry.

One important way your church can support Luther College is to encourage your high school students to visit campus. 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 is here: luther.edu/financialaid/current/scholarships.

Thank you for your prayers and your support for Luther College.

Soli Deo Gloria.

PAULA J. CARLSON, *president*

I. Amendments to Articles of Incorporation

RECOMMENDED ACTION BY THE CORPORATION

To amend Articles V and VII as follows:

Article V

Principal Office and Registered Agent

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 Jenifer K. Ward.

Article VII

Management and Control

7.02. The Board shall consist of not less than twelve nor more than thirty-one members, including the President of the College. The President shall be an ex-officio member, without vote. At least one (1) member of the Board of Regents shall be a bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. Such Regent(s) shall be elected by members of the Board of Regents. The expiration of such bishop's term of office, resignation or removal as a bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America shall be deemed such bishop's tender of his or her resignation as a member of the Board of Regents. The Board of Regents may accept or reject such resignation in its sole discretion. If the Board rejects such resignation, such bishop shall continue to serve until the end of his or her term, or until such bishop's earlier death, resignation, or removal. A representative from the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America Churchwide Organization is welcome to attend Board meetings.

7.04. The President of the College shall be elected by the Board of Regents for term of four (4) years and shall be an active member of a congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America or another local Christian community of faith. A newly elected president must have an appreciation for the importance of higher education in the Lutheran tradition and a commitment to Luther College as a leader among the colleges and universities of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

II. Ratification of Election of Regents

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

- **Shannon Duval (Castle Rock, CO)**
- **Peter Espinosa (Edina, MN)**
- **Chris Gade (Rochester, MN)**
- **Allen Green (West Orange, NJ)**
- **David Norris (Champlin, MN)**
- **Michael Osterholm (St. Louis Park, MN)**
- **Anjie Shutts (Des Moines, IA)**

and

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

- **Jeffrey Anderson (Johnston, IA)**
- **Ann Bentsdahl (Big Timber, MT)**
- **Katherine Johnson-Becklin (Monona, WI)**
- **Sandee Joppa (Plymouth, MN)**
- **Connie Plaehn (South Salem, NY)**
- **Robert Paulson (Medina, MN)**
- **Jim Thomsen (Eden Prairie, MN)**
- **James Young (Edina, MN)**

and

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

- Michael Burk (Iowa City, IA)
- Wendy Davidson (Wheaton, IL)
- Susan Sorlien (Bonita Springs, FL)
- Diane Thormodsgard (Estero, FL)

Report of the President

“Wartburg College is dedicated to challenging and nurturing students for lives of leadership and service as a spirited expression of their faith and learning.”

After completing Transforming Tomorrow, Wartburg’s \$89.5 million comprehensive campaign, the College launched Focus on the Future to identify strategic opportunities for better executing the mission. More than 150 alumni, faculty, staff, students, and friends of the College participated in seven task forces – three focused on academic innovation, two on student success, and two on expanding our reach. Those task forces challenged Wartburg to pursue several important initiatives:

- In partnership with Wartburg Theological Seminary, Wartburg is building and populating a new B.A.-M.Div. cooperative program that streamlines preparation for ordained ministry. Halcyon Bjornstad, director of integrated B.A.-M.Div. degrees, spends time on both campuses generating interest among students in the program, made possible by a \$500,000 grant from The Kern Family Foundation.
- Wartburg has launched new academic majors in Public Health and Exercise Science, along with new specializations and concentrations in engineering and supply chain management. The College received approval from the Higher Learning Commission to offer its first graduate program, a Master of Arts in Music Therapy.
- The College continues to examine capacity and effectiveness in the areas of online, distance, and digital education. Wartburg is seeking approval for its first complete online programs – an English as a Second Language (ESL) endorsement for educators and a post-baccalaureate certificate program in Leadership.
- A new Center for Integrative and Interdisciplinary Studies binds curricula together in the service of our common mission.
- The Wartburg Incubator supports undergraduate social entrepreneurs as they address societal problems.
- New co-curricular offerings in women’s lacrosse and men’s and women’s bowling seek to meet student needs and interests.

God continues to inspire and move us into new ministry opportunities:

- In September 2018, the Rev. Dr. Brian Beckstrom was inducted as the Herbert and Cora Moehlmann Chaplaincy Chair, following the retirement of the Rev. Dr. Ramona Bouzard. As dean of spiritual life, he leads the College’s ministry program and promotes faith exploration and development in and out of the classroom.
- The Spiritual Life and Campus Ministry Guiding Team, comprising faculty, staff, and students, continues to implement findings of the SLCM program review, made possible through the generous support of the Siebert Foundation and other donors. Efforts include more clearly articulating our identity as a college of the church, more closely integrating it with practices and decision making, and seeking creative ways to expand the ministry beyond the walls of the Chapel.
- The College is planning several events to commemorate the 25th anniversary of the Wartburg Chapel in 2019.

Wartburg’s Strategic Plan lifts up a commitment to vocation and mentoring:

- In August 2018, Dr. Caryn Riswold joined the Wartburg faculty as a professor of religion, serving as the Mike and Marge McCoy Family Distinguished Chair in Lutheran Heritage and Mission. In addition to her years of teaching experience, Riswold is an accomplished scholar in Lutheran and feminist theologies. Riswold succeeds the Rev. Dr. Kit Kleinhans, who now serves as dean of Trinity Lutheran Seminary.
- The Rev. Louise N. Johnson, president of Wartburg Theological Seminary, received an Honorary Doctor of Divinity degree during the College’s 2017 fall Opening Convocation.
- The Graven Award, an annual award highlighting lay vocation, was presented to Bruce Weber, Kansas State University head men’s basketball coach, 2016; Dr. Diane Levy Jacobson, Luther Seminary professor emerita in Old Testament, 2017; and Dr. Gloria Kirkland-Holmes, University of Northern Iowa associate professor of early childhood education, 2018. The 2019 recipient is Adrian Miller, executive director of the Colorado Council of Churches.
- President Darrel Colson has served on the executive committee of the Network of ELCA Colleges and Universities (NECU) and on the Council of Independent College’s NetVUE (the Network for Vocation in Undergraduate Education) Advisory Council. He participated in the multi-year process that produced Rooted and Open: The Common Calling of the Network of ELCA Colleges and Universities, which the Wartburg Board of Regents affirmed at its February 2018 meeting.

Wartburg College continues to find focus in a vibrant mission that transforms the entire college community as we learn and serve together. Thank you for your prayerful support of our efforts to strengthen Lutheran higher education.

DARREL D. COLSON, *president*

Proposed Amendment to the Articles of Incorporation
Recommended Action by the Corporation:

To ratify that the following amendments to the Articles of Incorporation:

Article 6.2 Board Composition

6.2.1 MEMBERS. The Board shall be composed of the following persons:

(a) Persons elected to the Board. The elected members of the Board shall include one (1) person serving on the churchwide staff of the ELCA and two (2) Bishops of ELCA Synods, with a preference that at least one such Bishop shall be serving an ELCA synod in the State of Iowa.

(b) The following persons who serve as ex officio voting members of the Board during the years in which they hold their respective elected positions:

- (i) President of the College.
- (ii) President of the Wartburg College Alumni Board.
- (iii) President-Elect of the Wartburg College Alumni Board.

6.2.2. CHURCH AFFILIATION OF REGENTS.

(a) MEMBERSHIP. At least forty percent (40%) of all the Regents on the Board shall be members of a congregation of the ELCA.

(b) CONSULTATION. The Board shall consult with ELCA clergy, bishops, and other leaders when identifying prospective board members.

Article 8.2 Amendment Ratification

8.2. RATIFICATION. Any and all amendments of the Articles that are approved by the Board shall require the subsequent ratification by the Members of the Corporation by a majority vote of those present and voting. The notice of a meeting of the Members of the Corporation shall include a description of any such proposed amendment(s) to the Articles.