



**Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.

College Corporation Meetings

Luther College, Decorah, Iowa

Wartburg College, Waverly, Iowa

Sixteenth Churchwide Assembly

August 9–12, 2022
Columbus, Ohio

Report of the President

This 2021–2022 academic year has been one of renewed energy and celebration of the gifts of the Luther College community. We are grateful for the dedicated, thoughtful, and conscientious group of leaders who monitored and managed our COVID-19 response these past two and half years, allowing for a safe, healthy, and active campus community.

This Churchwide Assembly marks a transition for Luther College, as we shift our corporation membership from the ELCA Churchwide Assembly to the ELCA Churchwide Council. Luther College seeks to maintain our deep connection to the ELCA, while moving to a governance structure that better serves the practical needs of institutional leadership.

Our ongoing affirmation and celebration of the gifts of our Lutheran heritage and ELCA partnership is evident in the life and work of Luther College. We continue to build a community that is rooted and open, grounded in Lutheran intellectual values, and committed to the work of shaping lives of meaning and purpose for the sake of service to the neighbor, the flourishing of communities, and the seeking of justice to heal divisions.

Luther College has received a \$40,000 Reframing the Institutional Saga grant from the Network for Vocation in Undergraduate Education. This grant will be used to prepare and publish a collection of essays that explore the college's identity as a Norwegian-Lutheran liberal arts college. The grant began in February of this year and runs through January 2024, when the anthology will be published and made available to the public.

Luther College continues to be strongly involved in the Network of ELCA Colleges and Universities, and I currently serve on the board of the Lutheran Educational Conference of North America. Luther College continues to raise up leaders on behalf of the church, continuing a strong tradition of sending students into service years through Young Adults in Global Mission and Lutheran Volunteer Corps, celebrating students who serve as summer staff members at Lutheran camps, and discerning with students who feel called to pursue vocations in ordained ministry.

The Office for College Ministries welcomed Pastor Melissa Bills as its new Director for College Ministries and College Pastor at the beginning of the 2021–2022 academic year. College Ministries continues to sustain weekday chapel and special event worship services, as well as supporting the ongoing spiritual needs of Luther's entire campus community—students, staff, faculty, and alumni/emeriti. College Ministries, in collaboration with the Luther College religion department, has convened a new student advisory board called the Council for Faith and Life. Students nominated to this council have the opportunity to engage deeply with intersections of faith and learning and to serve as faith and justice leaders on campus.

While we have welcomed a number of valued Regents to our Board since the last Churchwide Assembly, we want to lift up one appointment of particular interest to this body, namely Bishop Felix J. Malpica, who is also an alumnus of Luther College!

Luther College is entering into the final year of our current strategic plan, "Inspired. Empowered. Engaged." As we look to the development of our next plan, we are focusing on four key vision themes that describe our mission and invite imagination for the future. These themes are 1) stewardship; 2) integration, coherence, and focus; 3) adaptability; and 4) grounded and global. A series of gatherings this past spring, focused on these vision themes, brought staff, faculty, and administration together to collaborate and dream about our shared future.

This future includes a campus master planning process, which we have recently begun, in order to continue to think creatively about how we are stewarding our land, our campus, and the spaces therein. This future also includes recently adopted revisions to the college's general education curriculum, and we are grateful for the dedicated leadership of our faculty curriculum committee and the thoughtful and supportive deliberation of the entire faculty in this work.

In short, Luther College continues to be a community of learning, service, and vocation, where students can expand their knowledge, open their hearts, and build relationships that will nurture them now and into the future. We are proud of our students and grateful for all who teach, lead, and support them.

We encourage you, your congregations, and your high school students to visit the Luther College campus and the Decorah, Iowa, community. Please help spread the word that in addition to offering a series of Church Leadership Scholarships, Luther College participates in the EPIC (Educational Partners in Covenant) grant program, which matches up to \$1000 per year in support of each student from your congregation.

We are proud to be one of the colleges in the Network of ELCA Colleges and Universities and thank you for your continued support of our mission.

Soli Deo Gloria!

JENNIFER K. WARD, *president*

ACTION ITEMS: *The Luther College Board of Regents met in May 2022 and made a number of resolutions relative to amending several Articles of Incorporation as well as electing and renewing Regents. The resolutions and the resulting amendments follow.*

Resolutions from May 2022 Luther College Board Meeting:

Resolution 22-19

The Luther College Board of Regents hereby approves (i) terminating membership of the voting members of the ELCA Churchwide Assembly as members of the Luther College corporation, and (ii) approves the appointment of the members of the ELCA Church Council as members of the Luther College corporation, subject to approval by those members of the Luther College corporation who also are members of the ELCA Churchwide Assembly.

Resolution 22-20

Be it resolved that the Luther College Board of Regents hereby approves amending the following provisions of the Luther College Articles of Incorporation to reflect terminating membership in the Luther College corporation of the voting members of the ELCA Churchwide Assembly and adding the members of the ELCA Church Council:

- Article IV, Revise Sections 4.01 and 4.02
- Article V, Revise Section 5.01
- Article VI, Revise Sections 6.01 and 6.02
- Article VI, Delete Section 6.03
- Article VI, Revise and Renumber Section 6.04 as 6.03, and Section 6.05 as 6.04

Resolution 22-21

Be it further resolved that the President and officers of Luther College are hereby authorized to prepare and submit the necessary documentation to the ELCA and/or the ELCA Churchwide Assembly associated with seeking approval to terminate the Luther College corporation membership of the voting members of the ELCA Churchwide Assembly and adding the members of the ELCA Church Council, such review and approval to occur in August 2022 during the 2022 ELCA Churchwide Assembly meeting.

I. Amendments of Articles of Incorporation

Recommended Action by the Corporation:

On May 14, 2022, the Luther Board of Regents considered and approved amendments to the Luther College Articles of Incorporation and submits the following such amendments for approval by the Corporation:

ARTICLE IV

Membership

4.01. The members of this corporation shall be those individuals holding the following positions and offices:

- a) The members of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America Church Council, or the succeeding body of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America or its successor (the “Church Council”), as such members are appointed in accordance with the discipline and usage of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, or its successor. Such members of the Church Council shall remain members of the Corporation until they no longer serve as members of the Church Council
- b) The members of the Board of Regents of this corporation.
- c) The president of the College operated by this corporation.
- d) The officers of the administration of the College.

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 VI

Meetings

6.01. The meetings of the members of the Corporation shall be held on an annual or less frequent periodic basis and shall be held at such time and place as is set forth in the notice of meeting.

- 6.02. Notice of meetings of the Corporation shall be given to the members at least ten (10) days before such meeting by the Secretary of the Corporation. The Secretary of the Corporation shall take fair and reasonable steps to notify all of the members, including providing written notice of the meeting to the President, the Board of Regents, and the Secretary of the Church Council. Proxy voting is prohibited at a meeting of the members of the corporation.
- 6.03. All matters submitted to a vote of the members at any meeting shall be decided by a majority of the votes cast.
- 6.04. The presiding officer of the Church Council of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, or its successor ("Church Council") , shall preside at meetings of the membership of the corporation.

II. Ratification of the 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:

- Willie Davismckennie (Mundelein, Ill.)
- Vanessa Frazier (New York, N.Y.)*
- Mark Larson, (Rochester, Minn.)
- Ann Leon (Madison, Wisc.)
- Felix Malpica, (LaCrosse, Wisc.)
- Corey Schmidt (Naperville, Ill.)
- Leah Vriesman (Los Angeles, Calif.)
- Liang Chee Wee (Decorah, Iowa)
- Alessandro Raniolo (Singapore)

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:

- Shannon Duval, (Castle Rock, Colo.)
- Pete Espinosa, (Edina, Minn.)
- Chris Gade (Rochester, Minn.)
- Allen Green (Waterloo, Iowa)
- David (Chip) Norris, (Champlin, Minn.)*
- Michael Osterholm, (Minneapolis, Minn.)
- Anjie Shutts (Des Moines, Iowa)

**Resigned effective May 2022 for personal and family reasons*

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:

- Katherine Johnson-Becklin (Monona, Wisc.)
- Robert Paulson (Medina, Minn.)
- Connie Plaehn (South Salem, N.Y.)
- Jim Thomsen (Eden Prairie, Minn.)
- Chinyere Ukabiala (Urbandale, Iowa)
- Lance Vander Linden (Dallas, Texas)

Wartburg College Waverly, Iowa

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

Wartburg envisions a bright future:

- In Oct. 2019, the Board of Regents authorized a collaborative planning effort involving Regents, faculty, and staff to clarify a vision for the College and produce a plan of action. Work commenced and in Feb. 2022, the Board approved the new strategic plan: *Our Brightest Days: Realizing Purpose, Leading Change*. Work continues to prioritize strategies and establish timelines.
- In Oct. 2021, Wartburg launched the public phase of a \$9 million capital campaign to renovate Centennial and Vollmer halls, the College's oldest residence halls. Construction commenced in December 2021; other work will be completed in summer 2022 and summer 2023. The campaign marks the largest fundraising goal for a single project in the College's history.
- The new Meyer Strength & Conditioning Annex to the Wartburg-Waverly Sports & Wellness Center better meets the needs of our academic program in exercise science and a growing intercollegiate athletics program. Dedicated at Homecoming 2021, the
- \$3.7 million project included the Wuerz Health & Human Performance Center, featuring labs and faculty offices.
- A \$750,000 challenge from Jack '82 and Sarah '82 Salzwedel of Madison, Wis., spurred enhancements in 2021 for the soccer, baseball, and softball facilities, the lacrosse/multipurpose field, and the Max Cross Country Course.

Wartburg fosters a rich community of learning:

- The Higher Learning Commission approved Wartburg's first complete online programs – an English as a Second Language (PK–12) endorsement and a Master of Arts in Leadership.
- Dr. Stephanie Toering-Peters was inducted into the new Dr. Richard L. and Sandra K. Wahl Professorship in Biology in October 2019. Richard '74 is an internationally recognized physician scientist and Sandra is an accomplished math educator.
- Kay Grigsby was named the Grant Price Endowed Archivist, established in 2021 with a \$1.2 million gift from David McCartney and James Petersen of Iowa City to support the College's Archives and the Archives of Iowa Broadcasting. This marks the 21st endowed faculty or staff position and 8th in the past decade.
- Shelby Davis, co-founder of the Davis United World College Scholars Program, received an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degree from Wartburg in February 2021. Wartburg has enrolled 255 students from 91 countries with Davis-UWC scholarships.

Wartburg is positioned for the future:

- In September 2021, President Darrel Colson announced his retirement effective June 2022, bringing a close to a 13-year tenure. On March 21, Dr. Rebecca Neiduski was announced as Wartburg's 18th president and first woman to hold the position. She is the dean of the School of Health Sciences at Elon University and the daughter of Lutheran educators.
- Dr. Debora Johnson-Ross was named vice president for academic affairs and dean of the faculty in January 2021. Prior to Wartburg, she served in administrative roles at Baltimore City Community College, BridgeEdU, and McDaniel College.
- Rick Willis was named vice president for student recruitment in August 2021. He brings 25 years of leadership and recruitment experience to the position as Wartburg's former executive director of athletics and wellness and head football coach.
- In January 2022, the Rev. Halcyon Bjornstad joined the College as Interim Dean of Spiritual Life.

God continues to work in and through people's lives:

- In Fall 2019, Rebecca Baird '18 became the first four-year pastoral intern at an ELCA college when she joined Wartburg in August. Baird pursues her M.Div. online through Wartburg Theological Seminary's Collaborative Learning Program.
- Marking the Wartburg Chapel's 25th anniversary in 2019, the College dedicated *Lebenskreuz* (Life Cross), a sculpture based on the wooden crosses from Neuendettelsau, Germany, that depict the Seven Acts of Mercy found in Matthew 25.
- The Rev. Kevin Jones, bishop of the Northeastern Iowa Synod, and the Rev. Amy Current, bishop of the Southeastern Iowa Synod, joined the Wartburg Board of Regents in Fall 2021.
- In its fourth year, the Accelerated Ministry Program welcomed five students in Fall 2021, bringing the total number to 17.
- In 2020, the Graven Award, annually highlighting lay vocation, was presented to Felecia Boone '93, diversity, equity, and inclusion consultant for Hennepin County, Minn.; in 2021, it was presented to O. Jay and Pat Tomson of Mason City, longtime supporters of private, liberal arts education.

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

DARREL D. COLSON, *president*

Recommended Action by the Corporation:

Wartburg College presents no items for action by the Corporation.