

## Floor Committee 6 – Board for Ministerial Education (RTTD 69-94)

The role of the Board for Ministerial education is the preparation of candidates for the public ministry of the gospel. Pastors, teachers, staff ministers and missionaries are prepared to proclaim Christ's love in the congregations, schools and mission fields of our fellowship. The Board for Ministerial Education oversees four schools:

- Two college prep schools: Michigan Lutheran Seminary (Saginaw, MI); Luther Preparatory School (Watertown, WI)
- Martin Luther College (New Ulm, MN); Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary (Mequon, WI)

Ministry of the BME encompasses the ministry activities of these four schools. Some of this will be/has been covered in the reports of the individual schools. Highlights of their ministry from the RTTD

- Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary
  - 2021-22 Enrollment: 131 (20 enrolled in the PSI)
  - More than half the faculty is new
  - The vicar program costs about \$43,000 per vicar (health insurance, subsidizes rent, modest stipend); Board for Home Missions partners with seminary to share the cost of the program, WLS commits about \$200 to \$250K on an annual basis.
  - Grow in Grace – institute for pastoral growth (classes) and ministry celebrations (3, 10, 25 and 35 year celebrations)
  - Accreditation – help WLS become better version of themselves (no change in teaching/doctrine)
- Martin Luther College
  - Enrollment: 633
  - High vacancy rate – prayers and recruitment
  - Graduate and continuing education programs (like master's degrees and summer courses)
  - Offering some special education courses (BS, MS, and MS Ed w/Sped emphasis)
  - Financial gifts to MLC have increased (300% increase!), thanks be to God
  - Working hard at reducing student indebtedness, especially the Congregational Partner Grant (currently up to \$1,200 for 22'-23' school year); it has been going down over the past few years.
  - Betty Kohn Fieldhouse completed March 2022; 36,000 ft<sup>2</sup>; practice areas for baseball/softball; golf, etc.
  - Equipping Christian Witnesses campaign raised \$9.3 million in gifts and pledges. Goals: increase enrollment, provide more financial aid, upgrade facilities
- Michigan Lutheran Seminary
  - Goal is to prepare students for Martin Luther College

- Enrollment: 182 students
- Applications for 22-23 are higher than anticipated
- Project Titus ministry experiences in addition to curriculum designed to prepare for MLC
- Mental health pilot program, licensed counselor is available on campus throughout the week
- Financial reserves of about \$1 million.
- Luther Preparatory School
  - Purpose to encourage and prepare high school students for public ministry
  - Enrollment: 425
  - Strong recruitment for ministry (4500 student visitors from grade schools across country touring)
  - Taste of Ministry programs and curriculum designed to prepare for MLC
  - Participating in Wisconsin Parental Choice Programs, voucher program which pays tuition costs of students from qualifying households

### **What's ahead?**

- Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary
  - Master Site Planning (new student space, update or add classroom and office space, gathering hall attached to gym)
  - Hope to have a general timeline for that work over this coming year
  - New faculty will be offered additional studies
- Martin Luther College - New strategic plan: Pursuing Excellence Under the Cross –
  - recruitment and retention
  - making MLC significantly more affordable (increase financial aid 10% each year, first year students no loans, vocation not finances by matching private peer college net price of attendance; develop more options to avoid government loans)
  - Well-rounded college experience (facilities and programs)
  - Faculty and staff pursuing spiritual, emotional and physical growth
- Michigan Lutheran Seminary
  - Developing strategic plan
  - Goal of 20-plus endowed scholarships for MLS grads who attend MLC
  - Grants for students who attend from out of state are available
  - New legislation in MI may allow MI taxpayers to contribute portions of their state individual income tax or corporate tax to a scholarship-granting organization.
- Luther Preparatory School
  - 109 year old LPS music center being replaced
  - New music center is designed, financial feasibility study being conducted

On behalf of the Pacific Northwest District of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod the Board for Ministerial Education is to be commended for their faithful work in overseeing these very active

ministries. Each individual school, its governing boards, the faculties and staff are also to be commended for their hard work at preparing men and women for full time ministry. We all know how important this work is, especially now with the high vacancy rate. We encourage this conference to join in prayer for this Board and these schools and we further encourage our congregations to financially support these schools with their CMOs.

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. James Wilcox

Secretary Justin Eternick

Listing of faculty and staff celebrating ministry milestones or retiring (for your quick reference):

- Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary: Additions: Joel Russow (professor of Practical Theology & Systematic Theology, installed); Paul Waldschmidt (professor of education and Old Testament); Jonathan Bare installed as professor and director of Pastoral Studies Institute (subsequently took a call to serve as professor of Asia Lutheran Seminary); Paul Wendland has announced 22-23 will be final year; John Schuetze celebrating 40 years (25 at seminary).
- Martin Luther College: Peter Baganz (25 years); Paul Bases (40 years); William Pekrul (40 years); Mark Zarling (40 years); Gregory Diersen (25 years); Joel Fredrich (40 years); Jennifer Krause (25 years); Cheryl Looms (40 years); James Pope (40 years); Mark Tacke (40 years); Robert Klindworth (40 years); Theodore Klug (25 years); Douglas Lange (40 years); Thomas Nass (40 years); James Unke (40 years); Lori Unke (40 years); Retirements/conclusions of services (20-21): Paul Bases, Catherine Biedenbender; Daryl Hanneman, Cheryl Loomis, Mark Stein, Steven Thiesfeldt; Additions: Aaron Robinson (English and Cultural Diversity coordinator); Philip Schroeder (tutor and instructor theology); Orie Thomford (tutor and instructor theology); Luke Thompson (history and theology); Daniel Waldschmidt (Greek)
- Michigan Lutheran Seminary: Leonard Proeber (retired); Marcus Bode (retired); calls accepted: Dan Westendorf; Matthew Prost; Mr. Bret Witkowski new business manager; Mr. Chuck Beach (retiring). Mr. Clark Rux (retiring)
- Lutheran Preparatory School: Steve Ehlke (retired 2022); Tom Lindloff (retired 2022)