



# The BULLETIN

The Newsletter of Lexington Theological Seminary

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## MINISTRY FOR LIFE

### President James P. Johnson

The new model of education at LTS is no longer a concept as the months of careful planning are now growing toward fruition.

The technological systems are in place to connect our faculty to students where they are -- physically and figuratively in their individual journeys through life and the congregations they serve. Course schedules are taking shape. Applications are being processed. Faculty and staff are busily readying themselves for the months ahead as we begin a new chapter in the life of

this seminary.

And yet the halls of the Seminary are not empty. Our classrooms and library remain active with current students and will serve future students who will engage in intensive on-site courses during their journey through seminary.

This new model is flexible and adaptable. It is designed especially for students who cannot move to a residential seminary setting, and it provides students with a holistic approach to pastoral development in which the intellectual, practical and spiritual are fully integrated throughout the curriculum. This model is designed to provide

lifelong learning and ministry opportunities for Master of Divinity and Doctor of Divinity students, as well as those who desire continuing education to equip them for lay service.

For the person wanting a Master of Divinity Degree, this new model:

- \* Establishes the congregation as a primary center for learning
- \* Provides a pastoral mentor to each student
- \* Uses short-term modules of two to eight weeks rather than three-month courses.
- \* Incorporates distance learning and short-term residency experiences.

(Continued)



*Tim Graves, a second-career student from Wheeling, W.Va., engages in a class discussion.*

## New program takes shape

(continued from page 1)

- \* Develops online, interactive covenant groups with students and professors.

- \* Involves parish ministers in the modules and covenant groups to provide practical counsel.

- \* Operates on a year-round schedule and monthly registration.

- \* Offers flexibility to a variety of students, from those seeking a degree to lay leaders who want to enhance their service to the church by furthering their education. It also reaches more students who represent the textured, diverse face of today's church and the depth of voices needed to shape the church of tomorrow.

We believe many who feel called to ministry will now find

themselves empowered and equipped to answer that call. Founded in 1865, LTS is the oldest seminary of the Christian Church (DoC), now embracing the newest form of shaping church leaders.

In this issue, you'll meet two of our new students and see how this program is indeed making a difference in their lives and in the lives of those they serve now and will serve in the years to come. They are part of a growing number of people who are telling us that they are grateful for the opportunity to gain a theological education in this way.

If you know someone who is interested in the pastoral life or in serving God's church in other meaningful ways, please refer them to our web site, [www.lextheo.edu](http://www.lextheo.edu). Students may now apply online.

## Commencement speaker 2010

**Dr. William L. Lee**, senior pastor at Loudon Avenue Christian Church in Roanoke, Va., will be the commencement speaker **Friday, May 14**, at Memorial Hall.

A former Disciples of Christ moderator, Dr. Lee is a graduate of Duke Divinity School and serves as

a dynamic motivational speaker, lecturer, mediator and clinical counselor.

Dr. Lee is active in community outreach in the Roanoke area, helping to meet health & wellness and educational needs as well as providing spiritual guidance.

## Latest @ LTS

### GILLETT NAMED VP OF ADMINISTRATION AND SPECIAL PROJECTS

**Dr. Charisse L. Gillett** joined LTS in February as Vice President of Administration & Special Projects. Dr. Gillett will supervise student recruitment and work with staff and faculty on admissions and scholarships. She will also develop a special project with the Pension Fund of the Christian Church, with the goal of creating programs and materials to equip ministers with the skills to weather the rigors of ministry and enable them to make better choices about their own health and wellness over a lifetime of ministry.

### SUMNEY HONORED

**Dr. Jerry Sumney**, professor of biblical studies, is among Lipscomb University's 2010 Distinguished Alumni. Sumney was selected as the distinguished alumnus from the College of Bible and Ministry.

### WYATT JOINS LTS

LTS welcomes Ben Wyatt, the instructional designer/education technologist. Ben brings his expertise in instructional technology in higher education to enhance the Seminary's new education model.

### IN PRINT

**Dr. Margie Ralph**, Director of the Program for Roman Catholic Students, *A Walk Through the New Testament: An Introduction for Catholics*, Paulist Press. Dr. Ralph also is a contributor to *The Catholic Faith and Family Bible*, HarperCollins Publishers. Lastly, Dr. Ralph wrote "Scripture insights for ordinary time" in *At Home with the Word, 2010*, Liturgy Training Publications.

**Dr. Jerry Sumney:** *The Bible, an Introduction*, Fortress Press.

**Dr. O. Wesley Allen**, Associate Professor of Homiletics and Worship, editor, *Elements of Preaching*, a series including Dr. Allen's *Determining the Form*, Fortress Press.

# A new LIGHT

## Beth Goins LTS Communications

Sometimes God speaks in a still, small voice.

At other times, God speaks through a rear-end collision with a compact car.

At least, that's how it happened for Trudy Betts.

A young wife and mother of three, Betts had been quietly wrestling with a call to ministry.

"I kept saying to myself, 'Surely this isn't right,'" Betts recalled. "I kept feeling nudges from God, but I didn't want to tell anyone."

On the way home from a spiritual retreat in which the theme was "Nudges from God," Betts was rear-ended by a small car. When she got out of the car to inspect the damage, she was stunned to see the woman driving the other car was wearing a priest's collar.

"This is all God's fault," Betts told her.

"Oh, no, I'm just a representative," the woman, an Episcopal priest, told her.

Betts explained that she was feeling conflicted about her call to ministry, and the priest responded, "You'd better answer it. I'm a car. Next time, God will send a Mack truck!"

Betts relented and embarked on her education with the goal of attending seminary. Betts will graduate with a BA in History and a Judaic Studies Certificate in May 2010. She became a licensed minister through the Disciples of Christ in 2006 and is now serving her second Disciples congregation as Associate Pastor at Tropical Sands Christian Church (Disciples of Christ),

a growing congregation with four services each weekend. Her desire to attend seminary has not wavered, but Betts worried how to balance seminary education with her service to her congregation, her children's needs and her husband's job in the local school district.

"When I read the mission statement of LTS, I just knew it was the place for me, and when I made a campus visit, it felt like home," Betts said. "But getting there was going to be very tough."

When Betts learned of the Seminary's plan to offer a new model of theological education, she wept for joy.

"It's all in God's perfect timing," Betts said. "It's an answered prayer—a great relief financially and emotionally."

Betts will take her first seminary course at LTS in the fall. In the meantime, she has hardly tried to contain her excitement about the new M.Div. program at LTS. At a recent youth event, she shared her plans with a colleague who is also an associate minister but has been searching for a way to attend a seminary with a rich tradition of pastoral training like LTS.

"Because of this new program, it is now possible for him to attend seminary. This is going to fill a lot of needs," Betts said.

It also will help span the

physical divide between Disciples congregations scattered throughout the U.S., she noted.

"I can already see the sense of community this is creating," she said. "It demonstrates how seminary is still relevant to our churches, and that together, we're much stronger than we can ever be standing alone. I think we have to be open to seeing things in a whole new light."

### NEW TRADITIONS

The son of Disciples ministers, Peter Harper already had a sense of what it means to be a pastor when he made the decision to answer a lifelong call to ministry.

"I have always had a call to ministry," Harper said. "I grew up watching my father, an ordained minister, and now both my parents are ministers. It has always been my passion, my goal, to be a pastor."

Harper's father is an LTS graduate who had impressed upon his son the importance of the Seminary's focus on the pastoral life and caring for a community.

Now 22 and a senior majoring in religion and philosophy at Barton College in North Carolina, Harper isn't alone in his journey, however. His fiancée, Abigail Walton, was offered a promising job in her own calling, working with the elderly, and with

*(continued from page 3) (Continued)*



*Trudy Betts, Associate Pastor  
Tropical Sands Christian Church*

# WHAT ARE YOU READING?

## Nadine Burton

New Church Ministries/  
Church Extension  
Indianapolis, Ind.

*The Missional Renaissance:  
Changing the Scorecard  
for the Church* by Reggie McNeal

## Susan Gabbard

St. John's United Church of Christ  
Mifflinburg, Pa.

*Tending to the Holy: The Practice of the  
Presence of God in Ministry*  
By Bruce & Katherine Epperly

## Willard Knipp

First United Methodist Church  
Henderson, Ky.

*Momentum for Life*  
by Michael Slaughter

## Don McLaughlin

First Christian Church  
Madisonville, Ky.

*The Practicing Congregation:  
Imagining A New Old Church*  
By Diana Butler Bass

## Mary Baber Reed

The Presbyterian Church of Dover  
Dover, Del.

*Bodies in Motion and at Rest:  
On Metaphor and Mortality*  
by Thomas Lynch

## Ruben Rodriguez

Iglesia Cristiana (Discipulos de Cristo)  
El Aposento Alto  
Forest Park/Lake City, Ga.

*An Unstoppable Force*  
by Erwin Raphael McManus

## Cindy Stratton

Bon Air Christian Church  
Richmond, Va.

*Becoming a Praying Congregation*  
by Rueben P. Job.

## David Yonker

First Christian Church  
Sterling, Ill.

*Leading Beyond the Walls*  
by Adam Hamilton

a wedding approaching, moving to Lexington wasn't a prospect easily within reach for the young couple. Harper is also ministering to youth in his congregation at Rocky Mount First Christian Church, where he leads a weekly youth worship service, teaches a high school Sunday school class, and is worship leader for a weekly program.

"I didn't want to ask her to move," Harper said. "When I learned about the distance learning program, I felt it would be very supportive to where I am at this stage in my life."

Most important, Harper said, is the Seminary's continued focus on preparing students to pastor a faith community.

"That being one of my central roles, I'm glad that will be the focus of my education," Harper said.

As he moves toward beginning seminary this fall, Harper is committed to developing a sense of community with his classmates.

"One of my biggest concerns

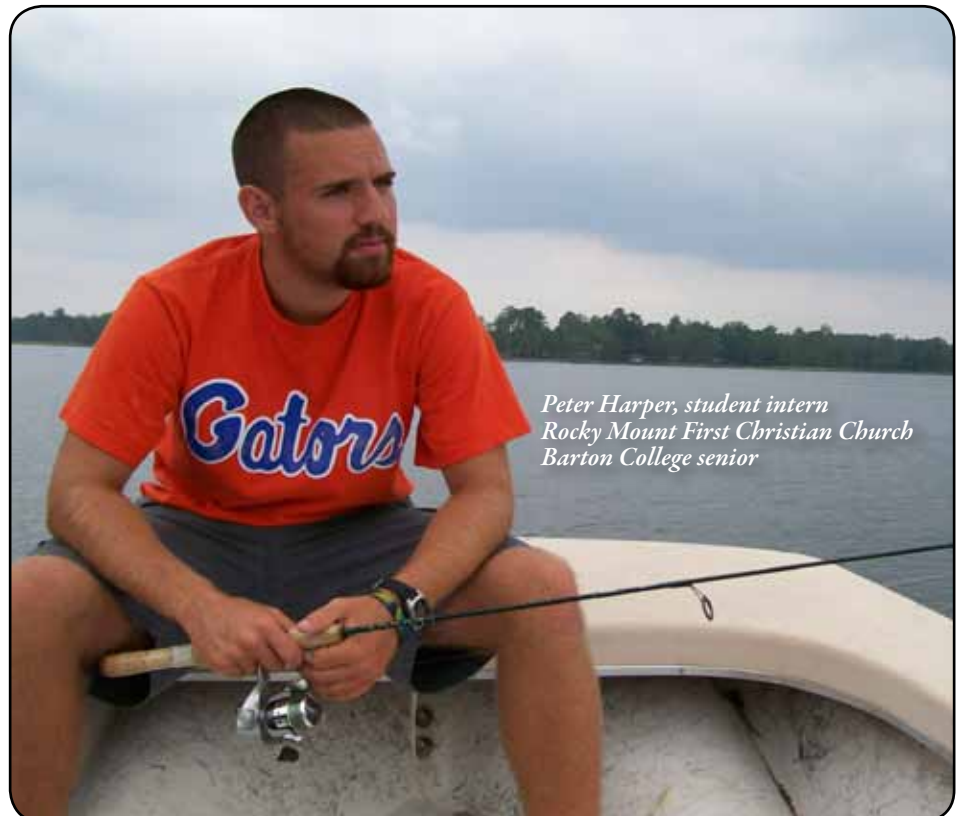
initially was a perceived lack of community or a sense of isolation, but the Seminary has done a very good job of addressing that. I think they are working very hard to promote open discussion, community groups and involving other pastors so that we are very connected to one another and our congregations through this process," Harper said.

Harper eventually hopes to be a senior pastor. For now, he is happy working with youth.

"I have a great love for youth and look forward to working with them and also moving into a senior role when the time is right," Harper said. "One of the reasons I'm thankful for this program is that I'm blessed to be in a congregation that's so supportive of me."

"I'm looking forward to getting into the program, and it's very exciting that I will be able to go to my father's alma mater and follow in his footsteps."

"I think they are working very hard to promote open discussion, community groups and involving other pastors so that we are very connected through this process."



*Peter Harper, student intern  
Rocky Mount First Christian Church  
Barton College senior*

# Alumni/ae *notes*

1964

**Larry Pigg's** wife of 50 years, Nancy, passed away suddenly in June 2009. He is the Chi Rho Camp Director for the Christian Church in Ohio.

1966

**Thomas Norvell** is serving as Interim Minister of Century Christian Church, Owensboro, Ky.

1967

**Craig Frederickson** returned to his prior job as director of YouthBuild after serving 10 years as the founder/administrator at the MAAC Community Charter School.

**Donald Mertz** is retired and doing wood carvings. Visit [www.woodbeecarver.com](http://www.woodbeecarver.com)

1970

**Nik Donges** will complete his service as Intentional Interim at First Christian Church in Wilmington, Ohio in mid-April 2010.

**Robert Parvin** is serving as pastor of Pfafftown Christian Church, Pfafftown, N.C.

1976

**Bruce Merton** is the minister of Peace Community Church, Fort Myers, Fla.

**Robert Stauffer** is serving as Interim Minister for First Christian Church, Corbin, Ky.

1978

**Herb Lynskey** retired as the Coastal Plains Area Minister in the Southwest. He is currently serving as Interim Minister at Central Christian Church, Austin, Texas.

1979

**Johnny Wray** is a part-time associate minister at Lindenwood Christian Church, Memphis, Tenn.

1980

**Charles Ellis** is part-time minister of Ledbetter Christian Church, Meherrin, VA and Relief Chaplain at Centra Health, Lynchburg, Va.

1981

**Betsy Steier Goehrig** is the Senior Minister of First Christian Church in Richmond, Ky.

1982

**Kathy Ellis** is Executive Director of Miriam's House, a half-way shelter for homeless woman and their children, Lynchburg, Va.

1982

**Linda Kemp** is doing a yoked interim ministry at First Christian Church, Smith Center, Kan., and Gaylord Community UCC at Gaylord, Kan.

1983

**Phil Nevius** retired in June 2009 from Old State Road Christian Church in Charleston, Ill. He has been supply preaching since then and serves as a volunteer Chaplain for Sarah Bush Lincoln Hospital in Coles Co., Ill. and Sarah Bush Lincolnland Hospice.

1987

**Lori Lynn Martin Wachter** is serving at Orlando Regional Medical Center as the Chaplain in a Level One Trauma Center.

1988

**Martha Hutchinson Rucker** has moved positions from Chaplain at Our Lady of Bellefonte Hospital, Ashland, Ky., to Christian Care Communities, Hopkinsville, Ky.

1991

**Mary Anne Glover** was called to be the Interim Regional Minister of the Northeastern Region effective Feb. 1, 2010.

1996

**Kristen Bentley** is the Senior Minister of Arlington Christian Church, Lexington, Ky.

1997

**Nathan Day Wilson** is Senior Minister at First Christian Church in Shelbyville, IN. He earned the Certificate in Fund Raising Management (CFRM) and is now consulting with congregations about fundraising and conflict resolution,

1998

**Rev. Mary Baber Reed** became the pastor of

the Presbyterian Church of Dover in January 2009.

1999

**M. Douglas Harvey**, Chaplain with Christian Care Communities, Louisville, Ky., earned board certification with the Association of Professional Chaplains in 2009. As of February 2010, he is also serving as interim pastor of Third Central United Christian Church in Louisville, Ky.

2000

**Joby Brown** is a Chaplain at Christian Care Communities, Hopkinsville, Ky.

2002

**Beth Rupe** became the Senior Minister of First Christian Church in Moline, Ill. in November 2009.

2003

**Susan Warren** is the Senior Pastor at Beamont Presbyterian Church, Lexington, Ky.

2006

**Elizabeth McManis** is the Associate Minister, First Christian Church, Frankfort, Ky.

2007

**Barbara Murray** is the Adult Faith Formation Coordinator for Saint Luke the Evangelist Parish in Beavercreek, Ohio.

2008

**Miranda Dolive** is Pre-K/Kindergarten Music Teacher at Jessamine Early Learning Village in Wilmore, Ky.

**Greg Kuper** is the pastor at Summersville Presbyterian Church, Summersville, W.Va.

2009

**Jake Caldwell** was called to be a Minister in Residence at Central Christian Church, Lexington, Ky., following graduation in 2009.

**Evan Dolive** is a chaplain with Hospice of the Bluegrass, Lexington, Ky. The Dolives welcomed their first child, a daughter, Violet, in February.

**Susan Ellis** has been called to serve as the minister of North Side Christian Church in Omaha, Neb., beginning May 2010.

Send your updates to [swray@lextheo.edu](mailto:swray@lextheo.edu).

## In memoriam

**Janis W. Bell, FS**

*October 29, 2009*

**Caroline A. Bloomfield '77**

*January 1, 2010*

**Franklyn Brooks '61**

*March 7, 2009*

**M. Tim Browning '86**

Former LTS Librarian

*January 26, 2010*

**Rose Mary C. Brooks,**

Trustee Emerita

*March 4, 2009*

**Theophilus M. Carroll '58**

*February 1, 2010*

**Virginia A. Cully**, Professor Emerita of Religious Education

*February 24, 2010*

**Marilyn G. Digweed '62**

*August 22, 2009*

**Jack R. Hudson, FS**

*June 5, 2009*

**Alberta E. Jones, FS**

*January 26, 2010*

**Ronald T. Keaton, FS**

*September 10, 2009*

**Fred W. Nall**, Former Trustee

*January 28, 2010*

**Brook Schneitman '08**

*January 21, 2009*

**Sally A. Smith '53**

*February 5, 2010*

**Jean D. Stewart, FS**

*October 1, 2009*

**Jack T. Vaughn '62**

*February 15, 2009*

**Richard C. White '55**

Professor Emeritus of Homiletics

*June 6, 2009*

**Lively M. Wilson, Trustee Emeritus**

*July 22, 2009*

# Appreciation Gifts

December 1, 2009 - March 15, 2010

*In memory of...*

**Louise F. Allen**

Harry R. and Emily Ann Allen

**Rev. M. Tim Browning**

Dr. and Mrs. David Sharrard

**William D. Carpe**

Ellis Fowler, Newton Fowler, III  
and Allen Fowler

**Frank & Anna Bales  
Congleton**

Marjorie C. Rouse

**Charles Crafton**

Don and Stephanie McLaughlin

**Charles E. Crank, Jr.**

Melba C. Crank

**Sarah G. Cromer**

Marvin O. Cromer

**Anthony L. Dunnivant**

Bruce and Esther Breeding  
Terry and Patricia Dunnivant  
L. Leon and Nellie D. Durham

**Ezra L. Dunnivant**

Terry and Patricia Dunnivant

**Martha Featherson**

Richard Featherston

**Newton "Fig" Fowler**

Bruce and Esther Breeding  
Ellis Fowler, Newton Fowler, III  
and Allen Fowler

**Dr. Ronald W. Graham**

Charles H. and Lou Brooks  
Mr. and Mrs. William D. Kirkland

**Dewey Grant**

Don and Stephanie McLaughlin

**James A. Hilton**

Mrs. Carolyn J. Fuller

**Dana Bly Horan**

Mr. and Mrs. R. Michael Bales

**Alberta E. Jones**

James C. Suggs  
Harold R. and Evelyn N. Watkins

**Thomas Jones**

Harold R. and Evelyn N. Watkins

**Patty Justice**

Mr. and Mrs. Ted Kuster

**Marcia Kump**

Charles H. and Lou Brooks

**Olive B. & John C. Long**

Rhodes and Lois Thompson

**Dr. Jane E. McAvoy**

Charles H. and Lou Brooks

**Carl Merritt**

Mrs. Carl S. Merritt

**Rufus T. Mills**

Mrs. Sharon Anderson

**Fred Nall**

Harold R. and Evelyn N. Watkins

**Sally Osborn**

Mr. and Mrs. Paul R. Whitworth

**Roscoe M. Pierson**

Ellis Fowler, Newton Fowler, III and  
Allen Fowler  
Dr. Calvin H. Sydnor, III

**Rev. and Mrs. L.M. Sanders**

Ann and Leonard Kaufman

**Charles W. Schoeninger**

Mrs. Kathleen Schoeninger Frank

**Rev. and Mrs. Ronald B. Scriven**

Mary Scriven Haley

**Rev. Edward N. Spry**

Rev. Marilyn Williams Spry

**Dr. Dwight Stevenson**

Dr. and Mrs. Marcus D. Bryant

**Frances C. and Rhodes  
Thompson, Sr.**

Rhodes and Lois Thompson

**John A. Ward, Jr.**

Mrs. Kate H. Ward

**Dr. and Mrs. H.T. Wood**

Mr. Steve D. Wood



*In honor of...*

**Dr. William Baird**

Dr. and Mrs. Edwin C. Linberg

**Dr. and Mrs. Wayne Bell**

Charles H. and Lou Brooks  
Revs. Steven and Donna Doan

**Loren and Catherine Broadus**

Charles H. and Lou Brooks

**Bud and Lou Brooks**

Mrs. Peggy Ann Brooks

**Cathy P. Brown**

Dr. Charisse L. Gillett

**Jake Caldwell**

Harry and Carolyn Richart

**David Clark, Sr.**

Dr. Charisse L. Gillett

**Alan and Lynn Cole**

Steve and Sandy Monhollen

**Lee Cox**

Jean and Edward Cox

**Cropper Christian Church  
Former Student Ministers:**

**Minor Bottom, Ed Bruce,  
Harvey Quenette, John Jackson,  
H.C. Hillard, Don Richardson,  
Richard Stone, Ben Poage, &  
Lon Oliver**

Given by the Children of Charles and  
Doris Barnett: Wayne, Sue, Sally & Lee

**Phil and Nancy Dare**

Charles H. & Lou Brooks

**Phil Dare**

Bruce and Esther Breeding

**John Davidson**

Sharla and John M. Davidson

**Dr. Sharyn E. Dowd**

Bruce and Esther Breeding  
Rev. Anne E. Gregory  
Molly and Leon Smothers



*From left: Chris Stark, Kimberley Proctor and Lakeya Chase, Social Ministries Leadership students, listen to a panel of parent mentors who have children with disabilities.*

**Dr. Michael Kinnamon**

Bruce and Esther Breeding  
Rev. Anne E. Gregory

**LTS Faculty, Staff  
And Students**

Harold R. & Evelyn Watkins

**Revs. Crystal and Keith McAliley**

Bridgeport Christian Church

**Dawn Montgomery**

Mrs. Ruth L. Martin

**Mary Nall**

Harold R. and Evelyn N. Wakins

**Dr. Donald A. and Lillian Nunnely**

Steve and Sandy Monhollen

**Marvin Osborn**

Mr. and Mrs. Paul R. Whitworth

**Don Richardson**

Don and Jo Richardson

**Transy & TEAM**

Transylvania University

**Revs. Charles and Ruth Wallace**

Roland W. and Phyllis D. Jones

**Dr. Robert K. Welsh**

Rev. and Mrs. William H. McDonald

**Rev. David M. Woods**

Mr. and Mrs. Daniel L. Woods

**Mrs. Lola B. Wright**

Roland W. and Phyllis D. Jones



Through ATLAS for ALUM, LTS graduates will have access to **ATLASerials**<sup>®</sup>, the American Theological Library Association's full-text collection of more than 140 major religion and theology journals.

ATLAS for ALUM is also partnered with The Text This Week web site (<http://textweek.com>). Please contact Ronda McClain ([rmclain@lextheo.edu](mailto:rmclain@lextheo.edu)) or Barbara Pfeifle ([bpfeifle@lextheo.edu](mailto:bpfeifle@lextheo.edu)) for the LTS ATLASforALUM username and password.



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- *The new M.Div. program at LTS* provides students with a holistic approach to pastoral development. The intellectual, practical and spiritual are fully integrated throughout the curriculum.
- *In partnership* with pastors and congregations throughout the program, the seminary will apprentice students into ways of thinking, doing and being that are central to the vocation of a pastor.
- *Students will serve* in an accountable ministry in a congregational setting and participate in a covenant group of seminarians led by a faculty member and a pastor.

Lexington Theological Seminary admits students of any race, color, sexual orientation, national and ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs, and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the school. It does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, sexual orientation, national and ethnic origin in the administration of its educational policies, admissions policies, scholarship and loan programs, and other school administered programs.