



October 29, 2024

Dear LPTS Community,

Last week, the Board of Trustees gathered for its annual fall meeting to continue the important work of LPTS.

Since we last met in April, our committees have been hard at work and brought several action items to us. We approved the following:

- Approved the sabbatical reports from Dr Lesley Ann Earles and Dr Chris Elwood, and the sabbatical proposal from Dr Justin Reed.
- Granted the title of Professor Emeritus to Dr Loren Townsend, upon retirement, specifically the Henry Morris Edmonds Professor Emeritus of Pastoral Ministry.
- Granted the title of Professor Emeritus to Dr J. Bradley Wigger, specifically the Second Presbyterian Church Professor Emeritus of Christian Education.
- Approved the Revised Operating Budget for 2024-25, celebrating the fact that it is balanced and includes cost of living raises (4%) for all seminary employees, significant capital investments including a new chiller for Laws Lodge, fire alarm system upgrade, and technology improvements to the Winn Center.

Trustee and Louisville Institute Advisory Board member, Michael Gilligan, and I attended the forum with President Pomerville and dozens of students, faculty, and staff. We came to hear the community's concerns, engage in dialogue, and offer clarity around decisions regarding the Louisville Institute. We are thankful for those who attended - asking thoughtful questions, seeking understanding, and demonstrating genuine care and concern for LPTS as an institution and a community.

The LPTS Board of Trustees and Louisville Institute Advisory Board are in full agreement with the restructuring plan that will position the Institute for greater success for years to come. It's important to understand that decisions about the future of the Institute were made in consultation with both boards after thorough, independent research and deep reflection. We relied on the insight, experience, and wisdom of our members as well as our partners at the Lilly Endowment to chart the best path forward. We're aware that some community members disagree with those decisions. We hear your concerns and we honor those dissenting viewpoints. During our meeting the board members spoke of different ways we can hold the pain of those affected by this decision as well as care for the long term success of both the seminary and the Louisville Institute. We're grateful to be part of a community that speaks boldly, listens attentively, extends grace, and seeks to stay in community even as we work through challenging times.

In the weeks ahead, we want to provide different opportunities for the community to engage with the LPTS Board of Trustees about the care of all people, the healing of our community, and other issues important to the institution.

We look forward to working together in the spirit of unity and open to God's vision for LPTS.

Grace and peace,

Elizabeth Clay, Board Chair