



SUPPORTING LUTHERAN PASTORAL EDUCATION IN AFRICA

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FALL 2020 NEWSLETTER

CHANGES AFOOT

From Rev. Christopher Maronde, Saint Philip Lutheran Mission Society

You don't need anyone to tell you that 2020 has been a year that has brought many changes and challenges to every facet of our world. Indeed, you are probably tired of hearing about the changes and challenges of 2020. Our world has been altered in significant ways, but one thing remains: the faithfulness of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. 2020 has not altered his promises one bit, particularly his bold word which closes St. Matthew's Gospel: "Behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

While they seem small compared to the titanic forces that are affecting our world, changes are afoot at the Saint Philip Lutheran Mission Society and at Lutheran Theological Seminary-Tshwane as well. These have little to do with global pandemics or political unrest, but instead, though a combination of circumstances, both SPLMS and LTS will enter 2021 with new leaders.

At the Fall 2020 meeting of the Board of Directors of the Saint Philip Lutheran Mission Society, I submitted my resignation as president of SPLMS. Another project has come my way that will prevent me from giving the time and attention to SPLMS that is required of its president. Therefore, for the good of the organization, and the work that the Lord has seen fit to do through us at LTS-Tshwane, I believed it was time to step down. I will remain on the board as an at-large member.

The board took action, voting to accept my resignation and then moving to fill the vacancy. The Rev. Jesse Burns, vice-president of SPLMS, was elected president, and at-large member Rev. Samuel Wirgau was elected vice-president. President Burns, a founding board member of SPLMS, introduces himself below.

At LTS-Tshwane, Rev. Dr. Carlos Winterle, who has been faithfully serving the seminary since 2018, will retire, as planned, from his position, and the Rev. Dr. Heinz Hiesteremann will take his place. Dr. Hiesteremann (pictured at the bottom of page 2) has been serving as professor and registrar since arriving at the seminary last year. What follows is his brief biography from the LTS website: "After completing his BCom degree in Business Management at the University of Pretoria (1999-2001), he started his theological studies with a B.A. degree (2004-2006), again at the University of Pretoria. Thereafter he studied at the Lutherische Theologische Hochschule in Oberursel, Germany (2007-2012), including some semesters at the Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz and the Goethe University Frankfurt. He completed his Ph.D. in New Testament Studies at the University of Pretoria (2016). He served as pastor of the St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Congregation, Greytown, South Africa (2014-2019) (FELSISA). Since 2017 he serves as chairman of both the Theological and Examination Commissions of the FELSISA. He and his wife, Renate, have two daughters."

The board of directors of SPLMS expresses its appreciation to Dr. Winterle for his faithful leadership of LTS in the past several years. There have been many challenges, but Dr. Winterle's steady leadership has brought a large measure of stability to LTS in all of its facets. His dogged advocacy for the seminary, its students, its campus, and its stakeholders, was greatly needed, and has borne much fruit. We give thanks to God for Dr. Winterle, a man for 'such a time as this,' and we pray that the Lord would bless him in retirement. Thank you, Dr. Winterle!

2020 has brought many changes, but the future of LTS remains bright. Since Rev. Burns and I sat in a public library in Cherokee, Iowa to draw up the incorporating documents for SPLMS, this organization has been blessed by the Lord of the Church to serve LTS in ways that I never imagined. In addition to regular and necessary tuition support, we have sent two of our own board members to teach, have purchased books for an entire term and shipped them to Pretoria, provided emergency support after a fire, and most significantly, funded an entire structure on campus, the beautiful new library. SPLMS is now positioned as the advocate for LTS in the United States, and as the conduit for funding from private donors and congregations, and we still do this without using a cent of donors' money for overhead. Thank you for your support of SPLMS and LTS; this organization cannot do its work without donors, and we appreciate each and every one of you. It has been my honor to serve as founding president of SPLMS, and I know that the Lord will bless our work under the leadership of Rev. Burns.

From Rev. Jesse Burns

Since its inception, the Saint Philip Lutheran Mission Society has operated with the conviction that good, solid theological education is a must for Lutheran pastors. We remain convinced that LTS is uniquely positioned to positively impact the future of confessional Lutheranism throughout Africa, as she trains men for the ministry from multiple countries in Africa. This November, LTS has provided ten congregations in four different countries with pastors. We see this as no small blessing. The Lord of the harvest has provided laborers for His harvest! Thanks be to God.

By God's grace, SPLMS will continue to be dedicated to the support of LTS, the students who study there, and the professors who provide the solid theological education needed by Lutheran pastors.

I want to take this opportunity to thank the Rev. Christopher Maronde for his outstanding work as founding president of SPLMS. Rev. Maronde has been dedicated, driven, and tireless in his work over the years. The board of directors is grateful for all he has done, and we are thankful that he is remaining with SPLMS, even as he takes on a new challenge.

I, especially, want to thank each of you for your kind support. In reality, it's you who support LTS with your prayers and generous donations. We are pleased to be a means for that support, and we look forward to continuing to partner with you in the future to support the training of confessional Lutheran pastors in Africa.



Financial Stewardship

- SPLMS remains committed to ensuring that every dollar you donate goes to LTS.
- In 2019, only 3.9% of incoming funds (\$379 total) were used for overhead (wire transfer fees, banking fees, website fees, logo design, etc.).
- All overhead is paid for by the donations of SPLMS board members. 100% of all other donations go to LTS.

2020 THIRD QUARTER FINANCIAL REPORT

Tuition aid sent to LTS: \$2,500

Overhead: \$87



TO SUPPORT

Saint Philip Lutheran Mission Society
c/o Rev. Anthony Oliphant, Redeemer Lutheran Church
123 E. St. Charles Rd., Elmhurst, IL 60126

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