

Financial challenges for university college

EDMONTON — A post-secondary institution established by Lutheran Church–Canada (LCC) is taking some decisive measures as it faces a mounting deficit and debt load.

Dr. Gerald Krispin, president of Concordia University College of Alberta (CUCA), says in an open letter to LCC that the institution has frozen new hiring, non-essential travel and is looking at other creative measures to control costs.

“It’s like an illness in a family,” said Krispin. “It puts the most important things in perspective. We know what’s important, and we’re making the best decisions we can to remain healthy in the long - term.”

In addition to facing \$495,000 in funding cuts from the provincial government, mounting infrastructure maintenance and debt-servicing costs, CUCA was required to contribute an additional and unanticipated \$750,000 to LCC Worker Benefit Plans this year.

Krispin also noted that overall enrolment in the post-secondary sector is down due to a decline in the student-aged population.



He said the university is already a lean operation and has cut expenditures to the bone.

CUCA will continue to focus on its students’ success, though.

“It means tough choices, but we’re a university at which our students come first,” said Krispin.

Rev. Robert Bugbee, LCC president, said the church shares Krispin’s concerns and appreciates his optimism and vision for solutions.

“Concordia has served our church body well for almost 90 years now and the Lord has blessed our church with pastors, deacons and lay people whom the institution has prepared for service,” said Bugbee. “I believe as we work together as synod, the Lord will continue guiding our way through this current situation.”

Founded in 1921 by The Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod (LCMS), CUCA was established to prepare men for teaching and preaching ministries. Degree-granting since 1987, it now offers undergraduate and graduate degrees, as well as church work, pre-ministerial, certificate and career-development programs.

Acting president on sabbatical



Rev. Dr. Thomas Winger’s over-due sabbatical will involve writing a commentary on Ephesians for Concordia Publishing House.

ST. CATHARINES, Ont. - Beginning in January 2010, Dr. Tom Winger set up a temporary study at home to take up his first, but long overdue sabbatical. Normally granted every seven years, Dr. Winger’s has come after teaching seven and a half years at Westfield House, Cambridge, England, followed by three and a half years in St. Catharines.

This leave follows sabbaticals granted to full-time CLTS faculty members Drs. William Mundt and John Stephenson. The heavy teaching and administrative workload LCC’s professors bear in such small institutions means that research and writing for the benefit of the church often waits until an extended leave can be given.

Dr. Winger spent a little time preparing an essay for the upcoming *LSB Pastor’s Desk Edition*, being prepared by the Liturgy Committee of the *LSB* hymnal project. His major effort, however, is to write on Ephesians for the Concordia Commentary series—a project that has been slowly simmering for over a decade. CPH is providing a generous grant to support the writing leave, which has allowed the seminary to bring back Dean Roger Humann as Acting President on a part-time basis.

Students take a look at seminary life

Dozens of students took a peek inside Lutheran Church–Canada’s two seminaries in March.

Edmonton’s Concordia Lutheran Seminary (CLS) hosted *Saturday@ the Sem* March 6, and St. Catharines, Ontario’s Concordia Lutheran Theological Seminary (CLTS) hosted the annual bring-your-confirmation-classes-to-seminary day, Tuesday, March 16.

In Edmonton, staff, students and potential students participated in an afternoon of worship, presentations, games, pizza and prizes.

Seminary President Manfred Zeuch, and professors Edward Kettner, and Stephen Chambers discussed the process an individual must follow to become a pastor, the seminary’s curriculum and the

qualities of an “overseer,” based on 1Timothy.

Thanks to video-conferencing technology, Prof. Jonathan Kraemer joined the event from Airdrie, Alta. and talked about field education and vicarages.

In St. Catharines, 35 confirmation students and eight adults visited CLTS.

Pastor James Keller, a CLTS instructor, kicked off events with Responsive Prayer, before leading students, parents and visiting pastors in an alphabet logo game.

Visitors then took part in a scavenger hunt throughout the seminary—before playing Frisbee, football and volleyball outside.

The day wrapped up after students took a dip in Brock University’s pool.