

GARRETT-EVANGELICAL THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary is looking to the future with a strategic plan emphasizing the preparation of highly regarded spiritual leaders – **bold leaders for the church and the world**. Over the past year we have listened to students, faculty, pastors, lay and clergy conference leaders, and persons outside the church to discover how we might better accomplish our **core purpose**: “**To know God in Christ and, through preparing spiritual leaders, to help others know God in Christ.**” The result is a strategic plan that guides our seminary into the future.

Our strategic plan anticipates a number of exciting initiatives, including:

- Dramatically increasing the number of full-tuition scholarships for persons preparing to be pastors and teachers;
- Providing for weekend classes and courses taught in the Chicago Loop and other off-campus sites;
- Providing resources for our exceptional faculty, including the hiring of a new faculty person in Wesleyan and United Methodist Studies;
- Revitalizing our D.Min. program, the Center for the Church and the Black Experience, and the Asian and Hispanic Centers.
- Expanding opportunities for lay education and continuing studies for pastors through online and extension education;
- Developing an *M.Div. Plus* program that provides executive education opportunities for our graduates for three years after graduation and works with annual conferences during preparation for ordination;
- Remodeling Loder Hall extensively, allowing for a large classroom, a conference center, offices and housing.

I joined the Garrett-Evangelical community in June after six years as president of the Claremont School of Theology in greater Los Angeles and 21 years as pastor in Indiana, my home state.

We have made several outstanding additions to our leadership team:

- **Mark Fowler, Vice President for Vocations in Ministry.**
- **Lallene Rector, Vice President for Academic Affairs and Academic Dean.**
- **Pamela Lightsey, Dean of Students.**

In the fall of 2007, through the James and Sharon Walker Initiative, we will have a **new faculty position in Wesleyan and United Methodist Studies**.

We are delighted to report that our **capital campaign**, “Honoring Our Heritage, Forging Our Future” surpassed its goal of \$35 million last year. The Board of Trustees, seeing the needs and great opportunities before us, has increased our campaign goal to \$60 million by 2012.

The seminary currently serves about **400 students** in degree-related courses. We also serve about a **150 faithful women and men** who are trained in our **summer Course of Study School** in English, Spanish, and Hmong. We encourage you to visit our website (<http://www.garrett.edu>) and, if at all possible, to visit us on campus. We are proud to serve The United Methodist Church, and we ask for your continuing prayers and support as we pursue our mission and our renewed vision. Thank you.

Philip A. Amerson, president