

**LUTHERAN THEOLOGICAL SOUTHERN SEMINARY TRUSTEE  
RESPONSIBILITIES:**

**STEWARDS OF THE CALL AND KEEPERS OF THE VISION**

**I. BASIC COMMITMENTS:**

1. Commitment to the Gospel of Jesus Christ, the Church, and the Lutheran theological heritage to be lived out in a life of service.
2. A positive conviction regarding the necessity for a faithful, educated, responsible and committed leadership for the public ministries of Christ's Church.
3. Knowledgeable enthusiasm about the seminary's mission and probing concern for the integrity of theological education.
4. Commitment to the integrity of the Board's decisions, and accurate interpretation of the Board's actions and policies.

**II. BOARD PARTICIPATION:**

1. To attend fully prepared for Board meetings.
2. To be involved and to participate creatively in a Board committee.
3. To seek clarity in Board discussions and actions regarding the distinction between the Board's proper role in the establishment of policy and the Administration's responsibility for administration of the policies and management of the seminary.
4. To develop expertise in an area of the Board's concern.
5. To communicate with the Board Chair and President, remembering that the President and staff report to the Board and not to individual members of the Board.
6. To listen actively, to ask boldly questions, and to seek information and data in the Board meeting for wise decision making.
7. To evaluate the Board's own procedures and life periodically.
8. To discern in an astute manner the time and pace for change.
9. To resist pressures from individuals or single issue interest groups who do not have regard for the seminary's course set by its mission as an institution of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

10. To exercise with the Board its authority only as a group. Individual members, unless authorized by the board, shall not commit the institution's resources nor bind it to any course of action, nor shall they intrude upon the administration of the institution.
11. To be alert for any conflicts of interest. Ordinarily, members should not be engaged in business relationships with the institution, nor should they derive any material benefit from serving on the board. In the event that conflicts of interest arise, a board member must recuse himself or herself from any vote or participation in the board's decision on that issue.

### III. OVERSIGHT OF THE SEMINARY AND ITS MISSION FOR THE CHURCH:

1. To know the seminary's Constitution and By-Laws, history, and policies adopted by the Board.
2. To provide leadership by electing qualified officers for the Board and selecting qualified faculty and administrators for the seminary.
3. To set responsibly policies for and to maintain oversight of the fiscal management of the seminary.
4. To participate periodically in the life of the seminary (classes, Chapel worship, student and community events, campus tours, lectures, et cetera) in order to be an informed Board member.

### IV. STEWARDSHIP; LONG-TERM FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY

1. To contribute enthusiastically to the seminary's Annual Fund as a response to the gifts of God and as a model for others.
2. To identify, cultivate, solicit, and thank donors.

### V. ADVOCACY FOR THEOLOGICAL EDUCATION:

1. To watch attentively for opportunities to be an advocate for theological education in congregations, synods, and the Church.
2. To support publicly and to advocate for the mission, teaching, and administration of this seminary.
3. To identify potential leaders for the Church and potential students for the seminary who can be challenged to consider a call to ordained or lay professional ministry in the Body of Christ.

### VI. UPHOLDING THE SEMINARY, THE CHURCH, AND THE BOARD:

1. To pray unceasingly for the seminary community, the Church, and our stewardship of that which Christ has given to us.

Approved 3/2/96