



UNITED THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
OF THE TWIN CITIES

ANNUAL REPORT 2009-2010

July 1, 2009 - June 30, 2010



COMMENCEMENT, MAY 2010, SUE EBBERS AND SUSAN HASTINGS PRESENTING CAMPBELL SCHOLAR JOSEPH AGPAOA WITH THE SEMINARY SEAL



UNITED THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
OF THE TWIN CITIES
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NEW BRIGHTON, MN 55112-2598
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UNITED THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY OF THE TWIN CITIES A LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT



MARY E. McNAMARA,
PRESIDENT

Dear Friends of United Theological Seminary,

It is a pleasure to write to you more than a year after arriving at United. During this time I have had the chance to share conversations with many of you and to be deeply impressed with your wisdom and commitment to care for and lead others in the church and elsewhere. I particularly cherish our longer, more thoughtful conversations, and thank you for being so generous in sharing your time with me.

United continues to be a seminary that provides exemplary theological education to a diverse group of students. According to the Association of Theological Schools' graduating student questionnaire, United is ranked by its students as being well above the median in the quality of theological education offered nationally and by other UCC seminaries, in the quality of community life experience, and in the care given to them by faculty and staff. As part of a very thoughtful discussion, the trustees' Academic Committee observed this seminary enthusiastically welcomes new students. Our faculty not only teach and mentor but they guide students into their future leadership roles in the church and society with confidence and competence. We are all blessed by the distinguished service which our graduates offer.

During my first year in office, several trustee task forces were formed to facilitate planning for United's future. The first one developed a new strategic plan for the seminary giving priority to three important areas of strength: theology, spirituality, and the arts; justice and peace; and preparing entrepreneurial leadership for the church and society. That work was completed during the first half of the year; following that, we sorted through United's many structural options and gave priority to remaining in our current location as an independent seminary. This is the option we are now pursuing. Gary Reiersen, accomplished alumnus and president of the Greater Minneapolis Council of Churches, was the chair of one task force, and Sharon Ryan, extraordinary board chair, convened the other task force. Both deserve a special word of thanks from all of us.

Finally, I want to thank all of you for making my inauguration an outstanding and memorable occasion for the seminary and for me. It was a time to affirm our core commitments of offering high quality progressive theological education to an inclusive and diverse community of students. Blessing and challenging us in our work were special guest speakers Dan Aleshire, president of the Association of Theological Schools, and Joe Hough, former president of Union Theological Seminary.

It is our responsibility to accept this challenge and shape the educational mission of United to address the needs of the future. Thank you for the blessing of being called to share this with you!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Mary E. McNamara". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping underline.

KNOWING THE CHANGING CONTEXT



ELEAZAR S. FERNANDEZ
PROFESSOR OF CONSTRUCTIVE THEOLOGY

Rev. Dr. Eleazar Fernandez, professor of constructive theology, suggests if a sense of call is about finding a vocation that “fulfills the deepest longings of one’s heart,” then he is definitely called to teach theology.

Appointed in 1993, Eleazar commented that over the years students have remained the same in several respects, but there have been important changes. He notes a heightened interest in spirituality, ecology, and the emerging church, and he states that more postmodern thought arises in classroom discussions that “undercuts the dualisms of here and there.”

Eleazar also mentioned the impact of technology, which offers students a different mode of learning, building community, and social networking.

Not one to be left behind in new developments, Eleazar is currently enrolled in an online course from the University of Wisconsin–Madison on how to teach online, while simultaneously teaching his own online course, “Reimagining the Church.”

An interactive teacher, Eleazar describes a mutual transformation between him and his students, saying their feedback assists him in shaping future courses. The joy he finds in teaching is obvious: “My classes are lively, and there’s a lot of laughter and conviviality.”

When asked about his expectations for his students, Eleazar replied, “I hope they will excel in whatever role they find themselves,” adding he will feel fulfilled as a teacher if he

has “empowered his students to think critically, discern well, and become better persons.”

Eleazar also appreciates the interdisciplinary nature of theology that allows him the freedom to pursue his lifelong interest in social justice – “listening to the cries of the poor” – while continuing to expand his knowledge in other areas such as economics and science.

A native of the Philippines, Eleazar refers to his continual efforts to “deepen his understanding of the world” as a willingness to move out of his comfort zone and learn more in order to have more to share with his students.

He has deepened his understanding of the world during his tenure at United by spending vacation and sabbatical time visiting other nations, including Cameroon, Myanmar, and Honduras. In these locales, he has studied theological cosmologies, geography, and ecology, while examining flora and fauna and enjoying the different sights and smells.

Eleazar is scheduled to visit Palestine and Israel in August and will present a paper in Bethlehem; in June 2012, he will lead an immersion trip to that region.

This peripatetic professor also accompanies students on regular immersion–exposure trips to his homeland, where he maintains family ties and served as a pastor for 10 years. He continues to hold standing as an ordained minister in the United Church of Christ in the Philippines.

He teaches the course “Global Encounters on Your Doorstep,” where he takes students to southwestern Minnesota to introduce them to the culture of rural areas. Some of his students, Eleazar explains, have never seen farm machinery up close or toured a meat packing plant.

A spokesperson for United on immigration and global mission, Eleazar has traveled to Germany, Poland, and most recently Texas to speak about immigration. In light of the foregoing, Eleazar is offering a new course on migration, hospitality, and changes in demographics. He asks, “How can we teach theology if we don’t know the changing context?”

In addition to immigration and global mission, the interfaith movement is another of his passions. A member of the Interfaith Relations Commission of the National Council of Churches USA, he drafted the commission’s statement on evangelism.

And in an era when a controversial pastor in Florida oversees the burning of several copies of the Qu’ran and ignites violence in Afghanistan, Eleazar contends, “The substance of one’s own religion should be informed by other religions.”

Both a scholar and an author, Eleazar has published numerous articles and four books. He recently signed a contract for the publication of his next book, *Burning Center, Porous Borders: The Church in a Globalized World*. He expects his edited anthology, *New Overtures: Asian North American Theology in the 21st Century*, to come out this October.

For a complete listing of Eleazar’s areas of research, publications, and the courses he teaches, go to www.unitedseminary.edu/faculty/efernandez.asp.

STRENGTHENING A CHURCH AND COMMUNITY

An advantage Rev. Sara Morse '03 enjoys as pastor of Hazel Park United Church of Christ is proximity to United Theological Seminary, which she describes as "a safe haven for ideas, a place where you can express differences of opinion and ask questions without fear of judgment."

Currently, Sara is a member of a Pastoral Care Consultation Group offered by the Institute for the Support of Pastoral Ministries. The groups are facilitated by Christie Cozad Neuger, director of the Institute. Sara meets monthly with eight clergy members to discuss what's going on in their churches and receive guidance from Christie and other group participants. She said, "It helps us avoid sweeping things under the rug and, instead, figure out the most effective ways to resolve problems and concerns."

Sara assumed her position at Hazel Park UCC following her five-year tenure as pastor of Bethel UCC in Elkhart Lake, Wis., where neighbors have lived side-by-side for generations. In contrast, Hazel Park is located in a diverse, transient urban neighborhood, and Sara finds herself asking, "How do we reach out to people who may not be here in a couple of months due to low income, unemployment, or possibly illegal activities? How can we welcome our neighbors, despite the barriers, and invite their children to participate in church-sponsored activities?"

In keeping with her belief that "Hazel Park UCC needs to be present in the neighborhood," Sara's long-term goal requires "shifting the focus from what we don't have to a focus on the church's strengths and why our neighbors should know about them."

One of Hazel Park's strengths is undoubtedly the mutual love the congregation shares with Sara, which reminds her of a comment by Jann Cather Weaver, associate professor of worship, and theology and the arts. Jann, a former pastor, told her students: "You have to love your congregation, and if it happens that you don't love it anymore, perhaps your work there is done, and you need to move on."

Based on the lively energy created inside her church, Sara stated the obvious, "I love my people here at Hazel Park; they love me back, and I am committed to this place for many years."

If above all else, ministry is about relationships, Sara got off to a good start on the family-owned dairy farm in Wisconsin where she learned to work hard and get along with her siblings despite occasional disputes.

When she was 14 years old, however, the family gave up farming and moved to nearby Athens, population 1,000. The local United Church of Christ became a source of stability for Sara during the transition from the country to town. She recalls the confirmation process, singing in choir, and teaching Sunday School classes.

By the time she entered college, Sara had settled on a career in medicine and eventually earned a Bachelor of Science degree in medical microbiology and immunology at



AN INTERVIEW WITH
SARA MORSE

the University of Wisconsin–Madison. But events changed her career goal after attending First Congregational UCC in Madison and seeing a woman in the pulpit for the first time; she began to experience a call to ministry.

Over that Thanksgiving, Sara talked to her pastor, a United alum, and checked out United's Web site. She followed up by calling Sandy Casmey, then director of admissions. "Her warmth and friendliness brought me to United, and it 'felt right.'" She subsequently enrolled in the Master of Divinity program.

A Brown Scholarship provided by the United Church Foundation, as well as some financial assistance from United and the Northwest Association of the Wisconsin Conference of the UCC, supplemented Sara's theological education.

Sara strengthens her ministry at Hazel Park by making use of United's Spencer Library, attending its annual Convocations to renew relationships with alums and professors, and participating in other events and programs. She is grateful to the seminary for supporting her call to ministry.

AN INTERVIEW WITH
ZOE KUESTER

Graduating senior Zoe Kuester's life journey has zigzagged a few times over the years. As an undergraduate, she majored in psychology and also took courses in journalism. She later went into technical writing and marketing, but found the work was not a good fit.

When her two children were small, Zoe, a former dancer, returned to the theater as a singer and director. Coincidentally, she happened to read Joseph Campbell's *The Power of Myth*, which offered insights into humanity's search for meaning and helped her understand Christianity as a path toward God.

She subsequently recognized the parenting process as a spiritual undertaking and set out to find the resources she needed. While homeschooling her children, she discovered a network of progressive families electing a similar model of education.

These experiences motivated her to return to school and earn a master's degree in family social science at the University of Minnesota. However, she was unable to find coursework at the university relevant to her interest in the spirituality of parenting.

When her husband, Rev. Lanny Kuester, a UCC pastor, suggested she take a class at United, Zoe enrolled in Pastoral Care for Couples and Families. "That was the piece I was missing."

Zoe spent much of her energy at United integrating her background in family psychology with spirituality. In addition to graduating with a Master of Divinity degree, she's begun leading a workshop on parenting as a spiritual practice.

Reflecting on her seminary experience, which includes serving as student representative on the United Board of Trustees, Zoe commented, "I've deconstructed and reconstructed my thinking several times at United, and each time I've deepened my values and my faith. I now have a solid foundation for what I've known intuitively."

She looks forward to weaving together her experiences as a parent with her diverse background in music, theater, writing, and family psychology and with her theological education to lead a nascent congregation.

Zoe added that United has empowered her to address cultural changes key to her interest in the National Center for Progressive Renewal in the UCC and her "desire to help renew, revitalize, or start new churches."

AN INTERVIEW WITH
DOMINIC PAPATOLA

Dominic Papatola was a successful journalist for two decades before enrolling at United. Most recently he served 10 years as arts and entertainment writer with the *St. Paul Pioneer Press*.

"I enjoyed every minute of it, but over the years, it became somewhat harder to find new challenges. I wanted to walk into a place where I didn't know all the answers." He graduated from United in May with a Master of Arts degree with a concentration in theology and the arts.

A practicing Roman Catholic, Dominic chose United for several reasons: "It was a combination of proximity and affordability; it had the program I wanted; and it offered the right blend of academic and theological vigor."

United has satisfied Dominic's yearning for growth and change. Assessing how the seminary has prepared him to deal with the turmoil in today's world, Dominic said, "Many conflicts arise from differences between religions. At United I've learned to acknowledge, honor, and respect the traditions of others without necessarily subscribing to them. If you can disagree civilly about radically different images of God, what's more basic than that?"

Dominic spoke of improving his listening skills: "As a journalist, I had to be a good listener, but now I'm a more empathic listener; I listen with my soul."

He finds deep listening skills an asset in all kinds of relationships. In his new position as a program officer with the Otto Bremer Foundation, a philanthropic organization, he visits communities in Minnesota, North Dakota, and Wisconsin, where he listens to people's hopes and dreams. "In response," he said, "we can offer expertise and financial grants to help them realize those dreams."

Dominic comments that although he entered United a Roman Catholic and remains anchored in that tradition, he feels seminary has enriched him both theologically and culturally. "The single best thing about the experience is that I'm now much more willing to walk in the shoes of others."

UNITED THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION 2010

	\$'000
Assets	
Cash and cash equivalents	\$463
Accounts receivable, net	200
Other current assets	43
Long-term investments	10,581
Beneficial interest in assets held by others	270
Land, buildings and equipment, net	5,730
Total Assets	\$17,287
Liabilities	
Line of credit	\$435
Accounts payable	44
Deferred revenue	32
Accrued liabilities	127
Grant funds held for others	52
Capital lease obligations	27
Total Liabilities	\$717
Net Assets	
Unrestricted	\$4,242
Temporarily restricted	983
Permanently restricted	11,345
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$17,287

6/30/2010

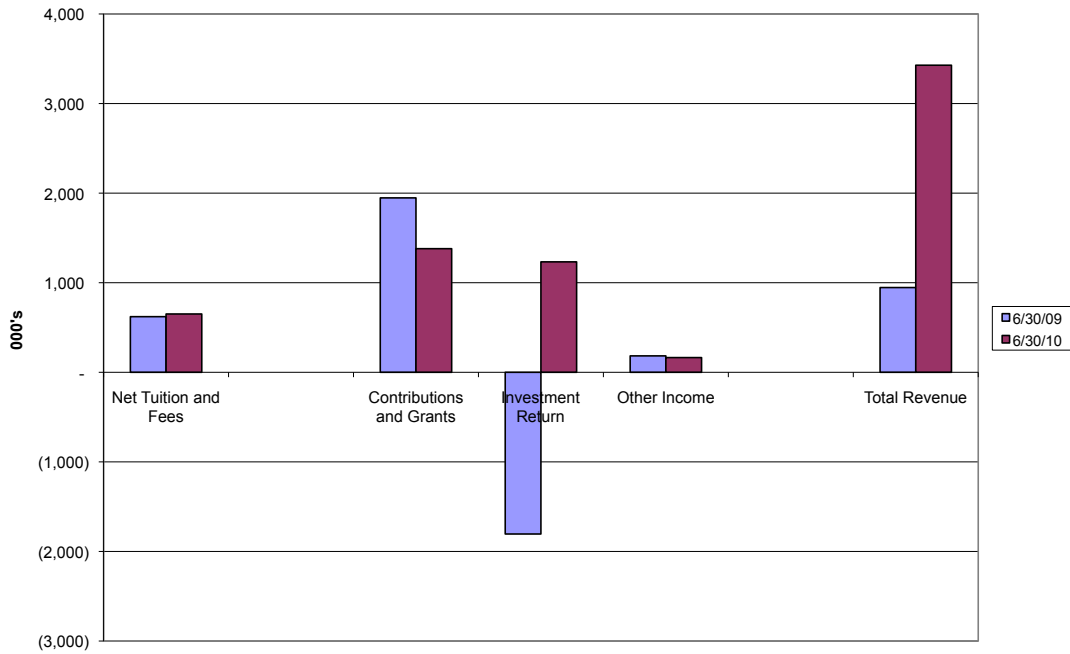
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION 2009

	\$'000
Assets	
Cash and cash equivalents	\$549
Accounts receivable, net	384
Other current assets	43
Long-term investments	9,391
Beneficial interest in assets held by others	259
Land, buildings and equipment, net	5,969
Total Assets	\$16,595
Liabilities	
Line of credit	\$340
Accounts payable	41
Deferred revenue	38
Accrued liabilities	119
Grant funds held for others	71
Capital lease obligations	10
Total Liabilities	\$619
Net Assets	
Unrestricted	\$4,262
Temporarily restricted	1,028
Permanently restricted	10,686
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$16,595

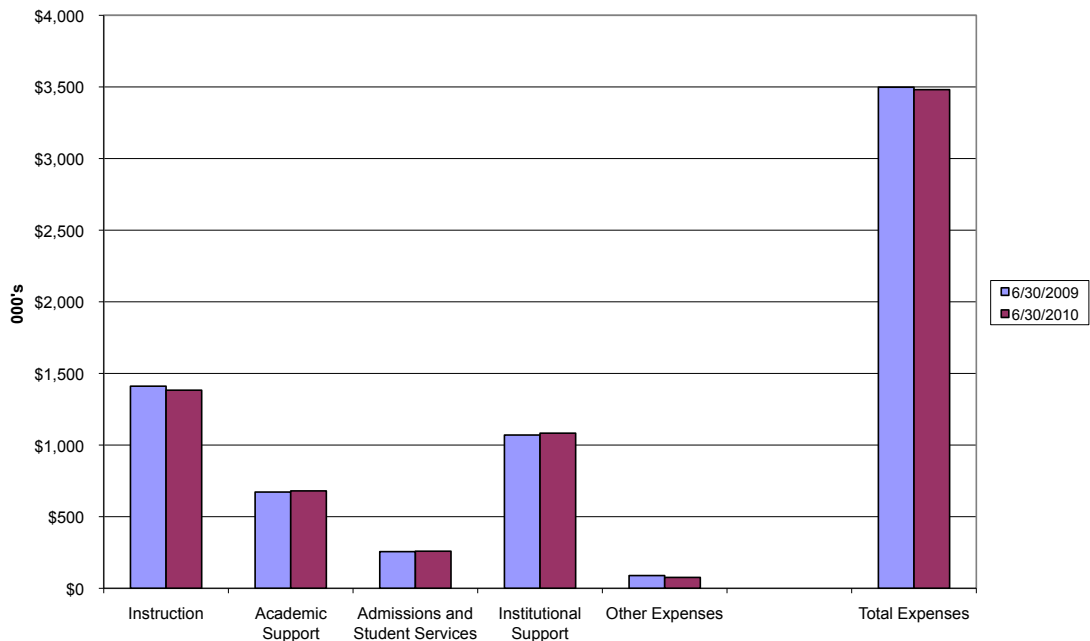
6/30/2009

UNITED THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

INCOME 2009 VS 2010



EXPENSES 2009 VS 2010



THANK YOU



JULIE BROWN,
DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT

Dear Friends of United,

It's an honor for me to be able to offer my deep gratitude on behalf of United Theological Seminary to all of you who have contributed so generously to the seminary's vitality and viability for the fiscal year July 1, 2009 to June 30, 2010. Thank you for your extraordinary generosity. Thank you for increasing your giving, making a first time gift, or stretching your giving. You provided the funds needed to make the 'life changing' and 'life enhancing' education United offers students one of excellence and relevance.

Your stewardship reflected extraordinary confidence in United during these times that are critical for seminaries and their ability to survive the changing landscape in the church and society. Your gifts signify your hope for United's future.

Each year, I like to highlight a few donors as examples of those who have renewed or initiated a new gift and contributed to a different facet of the seminary's operation.

- Katherine B. Andersen Fund of The Saint Paul Foundation offered United a \$30,000 matching grant for new and increased gifts to the Annual Fund. We were delighted to have exceeded this goal.
- The Mickelson Media Foundation made a first-time gift to the Annual Fund.
- United trustees contributed generously to the Annual Fund and the capacity building fund.
- Many individuals, churches, and foundations, including the McVay Foundation and the MAHADH Fund of HRK Foundation, supported the increased financial/scholarship needs of our students.
- Joyce '73 '77 and Robert Rosene contributed to the maintenance of the buildings, and Judith '90 and Jim Scoville continued their crucial support of the prairie landscape.

In addition, United is deeply grateful to new Joshua Society members Carolyn '99 and Peter Hendrixson, Kim Lund,

and Linda and Warren Mack. They were honored for their generosity and for contributing cumulative gifts of \$50,000 or more. Frank Bennett '10 was honored as a new member of the Bossard-Ward Society as an alum who contributed cumulative gifts of \$10,000 or more.

So crucial to the seminary's longevity and future vitality are people who make a bequest or other kind of estate gift. I want to extend our deep appreciation to the new members of the Barnabas Heritage Society as listed in this report whose gifts are an enduring legacy to United.

It's clear every year that it's not a few large donors who sustain and provide financial resources to United, but it's all of you 'united' together that are our hope for a vibrant tomorrow. As German theologian Meister Eckhart so eloquently stated, "*If the only prayer you ever say in your entire life is thank you, it will be enough.*"

Thank you very much!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Julie Brown". The ink is dark and the signature is fluid and personal.

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Retired Senior Vice President, American Express Financial Advisors
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Rev. Dr. John Ross

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Coordinator of Transition into Ministry, Plymouth Church, Des Moines, Iowa

[♦]Honorary Doctorate

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Paul E. Capetz

Associate Professor of Historical Theology

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Professor of Theological Bibliography

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Professor of Constructive Theology

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Associate Professor of Spiritual Formation

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Marilyn Salmon

Professor of New Testament Theology

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Professor of Preaching

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Assistant Professor of Christian Ethics, supported by
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Dean of the Seminary

Professor of Old Testament Theology



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Adjunct Professor

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Acquisitions Editor, Fortress Press

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Ministry Consultant, United Church of Christ
Contextual Studies Coordinator, United Theological Seminary of the Twin Cities

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Independent Scholar

Carol Hepokoski

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William Mate

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David McMahill

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David Mwhia

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Cynthia Sautter

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Judith Scoville '90

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Jeanyne Slettom '99

Co-pastor, Brea Congregational United Church of Christ, Brea, Calif.
Theology Adjunct and Director, Process and Faith, Claremont School of Theology

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Pamela Wynn '06

Poet
Instructor

Wilson Yates

President Emeritus and Emeritus Professor of Religion, Society and the Arts, United Theological Seminary of the Twin Cities

SEMINARY PERSONNEL

(as of June 30, 2010)

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Assistant Director of the Library

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Renee K. Flesner

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Community Programming Assistant
Webmaster

Trish Greeves

Contextual Studies Coordinator

Susan Hastings

Registrar

Glen Herrington-Hall '82

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Music Coordinator

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SEMINARY OF THE TWIN CITIES FOSTERS
RELATIONSHIPS AMONG ALUMS, AND BETWEEN
ALUMS AND THE SEMINARY, WHILE PROMOTING THE
WELLBEING AND INTERESTS OF UNITED.

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Kathy Nelson, secretary

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Term ends 2010

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Term ends 2011

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Term ends 2012

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Rev. Richard Fyelling '85
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Bonnie Johnson '90
Rev. Mary Samuels '96



INAUGURATION OF REV. MARY E. MCNAMARA, SEVENTH PRESIDENT OF UNITED THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY OF THE TWIN CITIES, APRIL 11, 2010

*“We are fisher folk waiting for God
to show us how to cast our nets on the side of the future,
and we are beginning to learn.”*

-Mary E. McNamara, from her inauguration speech



SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY, YANKTON COLLEGE, YANKTON, S.D.



“OLD MAIN,” MISSION HOUSE THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY, PLYMOUTH, WIS.



UNITED THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY OF THE TWIN CITIES

WATCH FOR ANNOUNCEMENTS OF
UNITED'S 50-YEAR ANNIVERSARY
BEGINNING IN FALL 2011-2012
