

**Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary
Presidential Search Committee
Meeting September 18-19, 2009**

Report

The LPTS Presidential Search Committee (PSC), elected by the Board of Trustees to conduct the search for an individual who will fill the office of President, following the retirement of President Dean Thompson in August 2010, began its work September 18 and 19, 2009. The PSC, which will make its recommendation to the Board, is chaired by Conrad Sharps and comprised of trustees and representatives of the LPTS community (faculty, alum association, administration, staff, and student body). Members of the committee are: Barbara Barnes, Bobi Bilz, Pat Cecil, Karen Devaisher, Christine Coy-Fohr, Dan Ellinor, David Hester, Melinda Johnson, Pam Kidd, Sumpter Logan, Irvin Moxley, Debra Mumford, and Rick Nutt.

The first meeting was begun on a foundation of meditation and prayer.

The Committee invited Barbara Wheeler, Director of the Auburn Center for the Study of Theological Education, to lead discussions on what search committees should know about effective seminary presidencies and what presidential search committees should know about searches.

Her consultation, based on research conducted by the Auburn Center, helped the committee focus on initial consideration of the essential skills, experience, character, and qualities desired for the unique mission and diverse culture of LPTS. A work group was formed to prepare a presidential profile and position description. To build a deeper and broader understanding necessary for the construction of these documents, representatives of the PSC will meet with essential constituencies to ascertain future needs and aspirations of the LPTS community. These insights, distilled through prayer and committee discernment, will lead to the creation of a presidential profile and position description to be presented to the Board of Trustees for consideration and review, in October 2009.

The PSC also discussed the absolute requirement and covenant for confidentiality and fairness, reviewed the 2006-2010 Strategic Plan, and established a working budget and an independent office with part-time administrative executive assistance to support the work of the committee.

The PSC plans to make periodic reports to the Board of Trustees and LPTS community on both its process and progress. We hope to complete the creation of a presidential profile and position description in a timely manner to provide context and guidance for referrals of potential candidates, which will be vigorously sought from all quarters of the LPTS community and the church at large.

Please keep the Presidential Search Committee, its work, and all those whom God will invite into this process in prayer.

Sincerely,
Conrad C. Sharps
Chair