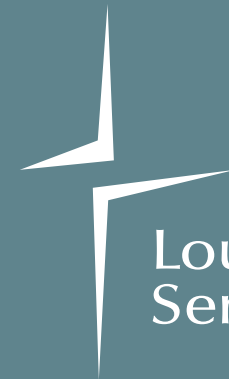


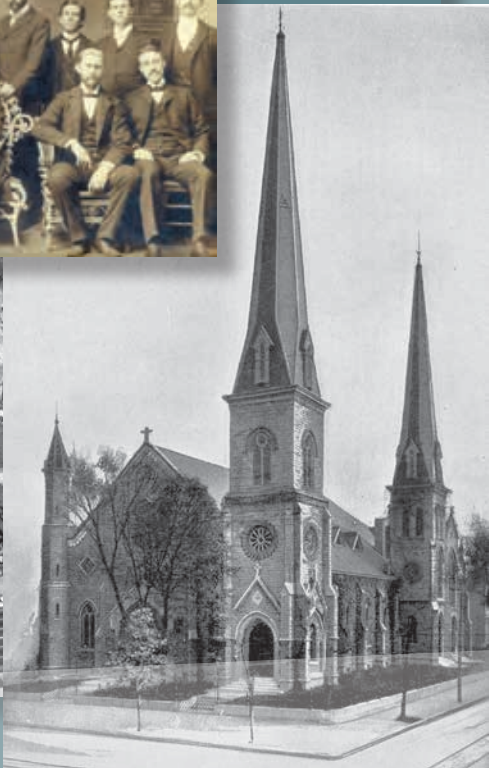
Louisville Seminary's Covenant for the Future



Louisville
Seminary

A History of Openness, Teaching and Scholarship

For more than 160 years...



For more than 160 years, Louisville Seminary has been a haven of intellectual engagement open to everyone recognizing the all-encompassing love of God. The Seminary stood alone in welcoming students from the North and South during a period of great division, and today students from differing theological perspectives find voice in the community. The openness extends to faith, with 50 percent of students representing 12 denominations other than Presbyterianism.

They all come together in a community devoted to the belief that profound intellectual engagement is an essential aspect of a life lived in the service of God. The Seminary's faculty members have earned a reputation for excellence in both teaching and scholarship. With a student/instructor ratio of 10 to 1, professors give seminarians personal guidance through the transformations they undergo.





10/1

*Student/instructor
ratio*

50%

*Percentage of students who
represent 12 denominations
other than Presbyterianism*

Covenant for the Future

-22%

Decline in church membership over the last decade

20%

Congregations without ordained pastors

To remain relevant, the church needs to adapt continuously during these changing times.



Where many see only challenges facing the church today, Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary sees opportunities.

- Membership in Presbyterian congregations has dropped almost 22 percent in the last decade.
- While the vast majority of Americans believe in God and many pray daily, the number of Americans who claim no religious affiliation has increased markedly.
- More than a fifth of Presbyterian churches have no ordained pastors. And the world has become dangerously polarized, with people demonizing differences instead of celebrating similarities. Justice, peace and reconciliation remain outside our grasp.

Deeply unsatisfied with the status quo, Louisville Seminary built on its strengths to address these challenges with a plan: The Covenant for the Future.

The Covenant is based on a premise: To remain relevant, the church needs to continuously adapt during these changing times. Louisville Seminary firmly believes this flexibility will come from leaders educated to practice ministry across the religious, cultural and political lines that divide us. The Covenant for the Future will produce these leaders.



Attracting Students with Potential for Ministry: Graduating the Best-Prepared Leaders



“The scholarship component will be a huge change for the Seminary. We will attract students with the strongest calling, not just those able to pay, and they will have the freedom to be creative in how they serve God. This will set the Seminary apart.”

—Dr. A. Paul Schaap, trustee

The Covenant for the Future provides a quality theological education to students who are well prepared to leave Seminary for a lifetime of ministry in a diverse world.

In developing our strategic vision, we asked church leaders the question: “What kind of seminary graduates will be in the best position to make a real difference in the church of the future?” In addition to strong teaching, powerful preaching and biblical expertise, we were told that the church needs the following:

- creative and adaptive leaders who possess a capacity to work well in multi-cultural situations;
- ministers who are good conflict managers and self-starters;
- leaders who embrace ambiguity and the challenges that come with living in a fast-paced, diverse society and who possess promise for ministry in today’s world.

Thus, we’ve learned that many of the characteristics of the best prepared seminary graduates are not things that a traditional seminary education can teach. These traits must be inherent in our students before they are admitted. And, while seminary education cannot teach these qualities, it can powerfully and actively shape traits they already possess and teach them how to use their gifts in service of the church. Therefore Louisville Seminary will provide scholarships to attract students with the greatest promise for ministry, and send them out into the church and the world without additional debt, so they can serve wherever God calls them.



Making the case for Covenant for the Future

The Covenant will attract students extraordinarily gifted for ministry and counseling via a two-part campaign with five-year horizons:

VISIONARY GOALS

2013–2018: phase I

- Covenant for the Future Scholarship: full tuition and housing
- Ongoing program support including provisions for Doors to Dialogue and Black Church Studies, unique programs that foster religious and cultural diversity

2018–2023: phase II

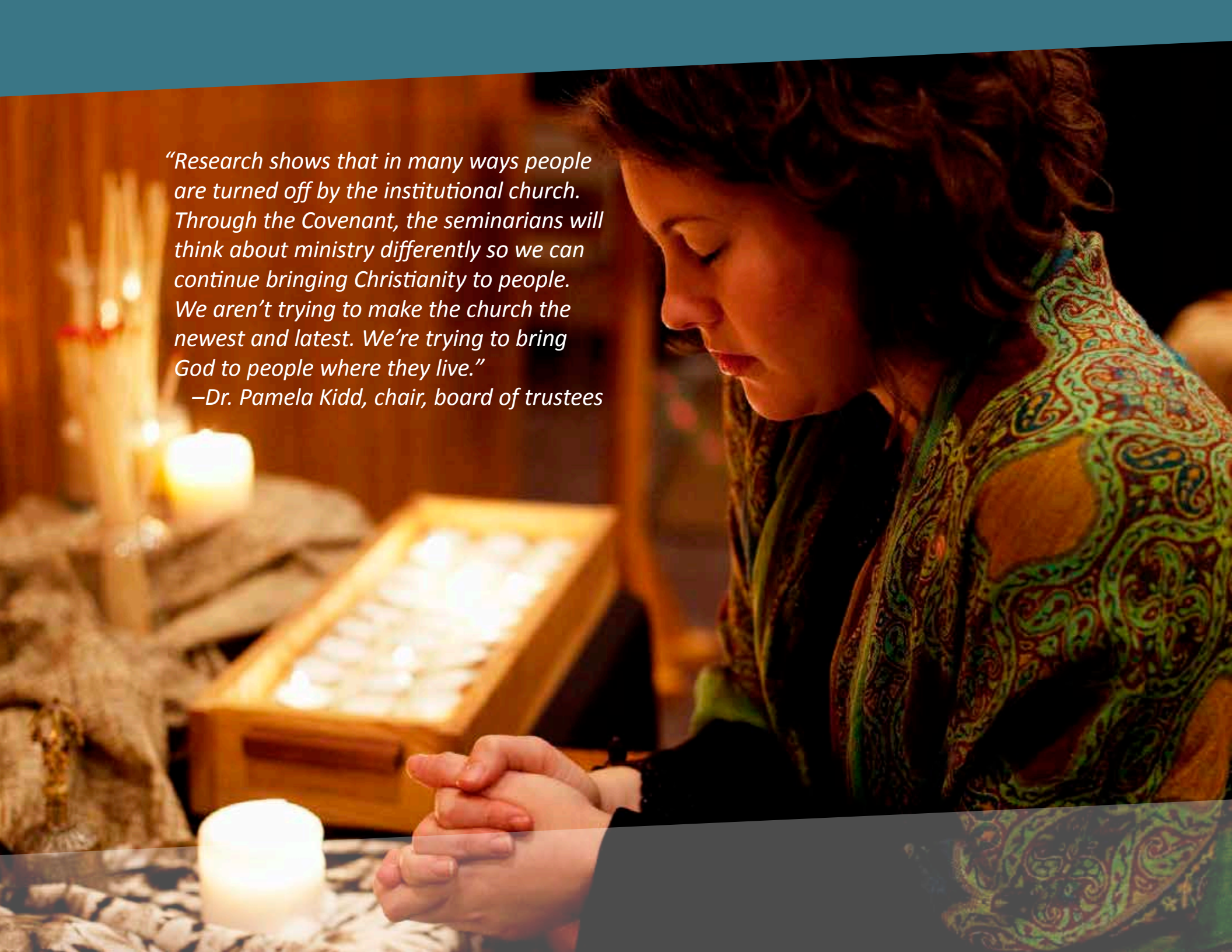
- Endowments for Doors to Dialogue and Black Church Studies
- Improved campus computer capabilities and housing

The church we knew as children no longer resonates strongly with many in our diverse world. However, the need for spiritual guidance and sustenance has grown. A strong church promotes understanding, nurtures spiritual transformation and gives voice to all people. A strong pastor builds a strong church and offers leadership and hope in uncertain times.

The church's strength in the future will come from counselors and ministers who not only see opportunities but act on them, forming communities to carry out Christ's mission.

A real impediment to the preparation of visionary pastors is the cost of education. Student debt debilitates the church. It prevents gifted students from even entering the seminary. It keeps extraordinary leaders from serving congregations, starting new churches and pursuing promising – but risky – new ministries. It even forces graduates to abandon ministry and counseling for better-paying jobs. A very high percentage of pastors who leave ministry cite financial struggles as one of the top reasons for leaving. The church cannot afford to lose talented leaders.





“Research shows that in many ways people are turned off by the institutional church. Through the Covenant, the seminarians will think about ministry differently so we can continue bringing Christianity to people. We aren’t trying to make the church the newest and latest. We’re trying to bring God to people where they live.”

—Dr. Pamela Kidd, chair, board of trustees

Visionary Goals: phase I



PHASE I

- The Seminary's already-existing programs will continue to enrich the lives of students.
- In return, students will add community service to their Seminary education, benefitting ministries and missions all over the country.
- By 2021, every student admitted to a Master's-level program at Louisville Seminary will receive the full Covenant Scholarship, which will cover the cost of tuition and housing.

Seminary education requires sacrifices. Without assistance many promising students cannot afford to uproot families and leave full-time employment. The Covenant Scholarships will enable such students to attend Louisville Seminary and to leave as visionary leaders able to pursue their passions without overwhelming levels of debt that could compromise their work as ministers and counselors..

These extraordinary graduates will have the skills to discern genuine needs in our diverse world and to satisfy them in creative and life-changing ways.



"Learning to respect and collaborate with people who don't share our views is at the heart of Christianity. We can't be the body of Christ if the foot and hand and head don't work together."

—Dean Susan R. Garrett

Visionary Goals: phase II

PHASE II

As the Seminary achieves all goals set forth in phase I, a second set of goals will follow.

- Doors to Dialogue and Black Church Studies programs will be endowed
- Campus computer capabilities will be improved
- Student housing will be renovated

BRIDGING DIFFERENCE

The days of communities of people who all think alike have long passed, not just in the largest urban areas but in the towns and cities across the heartland. Your children and grandchildren go to school with persons of different faiths and cultures. In fact, 100 different languages are spoken throughout the local public school system, which is the largest in the state of Kentucky. Fellow residents in your area come from Nigeria, Vietnam, India. We may have different backgrounds and hold different convictions, but we all share common needs.

Time and again, misunderstandings and a lack of leadership divide us; social justice and the sense of community suffer. Two Seminary programs will allow our pastors to bridge the divides.

The Doors to Dialogue program exposes students to religious differences as a source of spiritual strength and creativity, not tension and constraint. The new Black Church Studies program prepares leaders for the challenges of ministry in the African-American community while introducing all students to the rich history and traditions of the black church in America.

DOORS TO DIALOGUE

Doors to Dialogue equips students to help parishioners communicate across religious and cultural lines on issues of importance to all God's people. The program prepares seminarians to participate in ecumenical and interfaith conversations and collaborations with respect, compassion and thoughtfulness.

In addition to many relevant course offerings, these four opportunities combine to make Doors to Dialogue valuable:

- Travel and service-learning experiences across religious lines;
- Professors uniquely equipped to teach ecumenical studies, global ministries and religions other than Christianity;
- Interfaith Marriage and Family Therapy training in clinical settings;
- "Dinners to Dialogue" where Seminary and other Louisville-area students of different denominations and faiths meet monthly to develop relationships and share views and insights.



Visionary Goals: phase II continued



BLACK CHURCH STUDIES

Passionate, heartfelt worship and deep spirituality have characterized the black church from the beginning. Today, daunting challenges confront black churches and the communities they serve. Establishing and building relationships with key partners in the local region and beyond is essential.

The Black Church Studies program at Louisville Seminary educates students theologically and biblically, gives them leadership skills to guide black congregations in challenging times, adds important voices to the classroom and incorporates the rich history and traditions of the black church in to the Seminary community. Its strengthening will benefit all Louisville Seminary students and the churches they serve.

A Visionary Goal of the Covenant for the Future is to bolster the Black Church Studies program by providing funds to:

- Conduct major national studies
- Bring noteworthy religious scholars to campus
- Attract conferences and lectureships



“Traditionally, black ministers have not gone to divinity school, but the world is too diverse now for uncritical thinking. The Black Church Studies program gives African-Americans the perspectives needed to address the changes and complex issues of today.” –The Rev. Dr. Lewis Brogdon, director of Black Church Studies

Visionary Goals: phase II continued

BRINGING HOUSING, COMPUTER SYSTEMS IN LINE

Gifted instructors guide our students. An extensive field education program gives our seminarians choices. And the community nurtures spiritual transformation. Against this background, two facets of life at Louisville Seminary stand in stark relief: dated student housing and an inadequate computer network.

STUDENT HOUSING

All but one of the five buildings used for student housing on campus date from the late 1960s. Built of masonry blocks with facades of hand-chipped limestone, the structures remain solid, but the 40-year-old plumbing, heating and air-conditioning systems are failing. To create a warm and welcoming space that fosters learning, we need to:

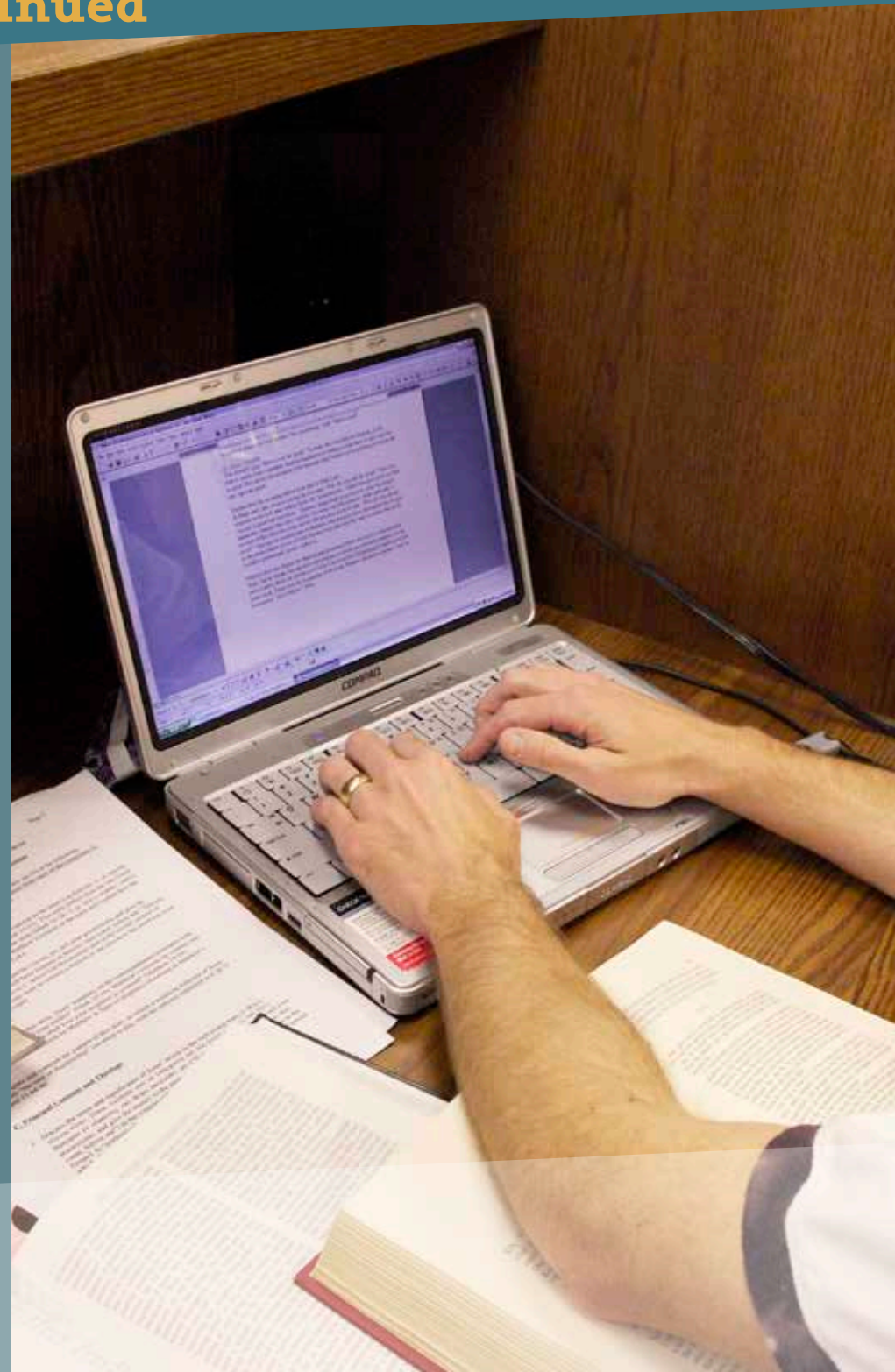
- update the mechanical systems,
- modernize the kitchens and baths and
- provide the wireless Internet connectivity today's students expect and need.

Modern and attractive living space will help keep Louisville Seminary competitive in attracting students with strong gifts for ministry.

COMPUTER CAPABILITIES

Adequate just a decade ago, Louisville Seminary's computer network now hinders educational and community needs.

Additional bandwidth will allow professors to use the Internet in class and will allow the Seminary to better support its high-quality educational program.



Covenant's Cost



VISIONARY GOALS: PHASE I

- Covenant Scholarship: full tuition and housing \$15.5 million
- Ongoing Program Support including provisions for Doors to Dialogue and Black Church Studies \$7.2 million

VISIONARY GOALS: PHASE II

- Endowment of Doors to Dialogue \$1.5 million
- Endowment of Black Church Studies \$1.3 million
- Housing renovation \$6.5 million
- Information Technology \$3.1 million



*A strong church promotes understanding,
nurtures spiritual transformation and
gives voice to all people.*



“To keep the church vibrant and bring in new worshippers, we must do things differently. The Covenant provides the answers. The board is passionate about making it a success. The status quo is not an option for us.” –Dan Ellinor, trustee



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