

**Board Notes
Christmas 2019**

Tex Sample, Chair of the Saint Paul School of Theology Board of Trustees

The Word became flesh and dwelt among us. This word from the gospel of John juxtaposed with the babe in Bethlehem of the birth stories in Matthew and Luke speaks to the ultimacy of God's coming in Jesus and to God's vulnerability as a babe in a manger. In relationship to this ultimacy and vulnerability I often think of two comments with genuine appreciation. The first is that God gets with us in order to get to us, and, the second, God becomes like us so that we can become like God in Christ. I wish you a deeply Blessed Christmas.

New Trustee: Dr. Amy S. Browne Hogan

As a Board, we are delighted to announce a new member, Dr. Amy S. Browne Hogan. She holds a B.S. and an M.A. from Baker University, and a Ph.D. in Education from Capella University in Minneapolis, Minnesota. In addition, she has Teaching Licensures in the State of Kansas for Elementary K-9. Presently, she is Dean of the School of Education and Professor of Education at Ottawa University. She brings to her work a long history as an academic dean, an associate dean, a director of education, an assistant professor of teacher education, and a partnership in a family-owned business. In her work as Academic Dean of Education at Ottawa University she facilitates and has oversight over the School of Education and its operations, including monitoring and determining accreditation assessment data collection (CAEP/HLC); participating in state (AZ/KS) and university-wide functions; assigning faculty to professional development schools; overseeing state (AZ/KS) approval reviews; serving as lead faculty for Elementary Education and Building Leadership; delivering fifteen credits (graduate and/or undergraduate) per annual (face-to-face or online); and coordinating program reviews/major requirements with lead faculty and faculty. Over the course of her career she has had rich experience as an elementary school and collegiate teacher. She is a frequent presenter at conferences and national meetings and has served on many councils and educational agencies and committees. Dr. Hogan has been awarded grants to pursue her work and has been recognized for outstanding service by the Shawnee Mission Public Schools and the Kansas Department of Education Regulations Committee.

As a person of faith Dean Hogan describes herself as one "surrounded by a cloud of witnesses, for many saints have guided me, continue to nurture me, and keep me accountable." She grew up in a home where Ephesians 3:14 – 19 was "soaked into my heart," especially the lines "rooted and grounded in God's love." She sees the church as "the body of Christ, and Christ has set a large table, a table that is available to all who are willing to be in relationship with Christ." Describing herself as "a prayer warrior" and "a listener," she and her husband, Brad, respond to local needs and those beyond the immediate community. She reports that as a child, her parents frequently took her to events at Saint Paul, and she says, "I continue to have a fondness for the institution. We are intentionally praying to recognize stewardship opportunities" within the school's framework. On behalf of all our trustees, I wholeheartedly welcome Dean Hogan onto our board.

Donald C. Houts

I am sad to report the passing of the Rev. Dr. Donald C. Houts, a member of the faculty at Saint Paul from the late 60s through the 70s. Holding degrees from the University of Iowa (B.A.), Garrett Biblical Institute (M.Div.), and Northwestern University (Ph.D.), Don served as pastor in Rowley, Iowa, as chaplain at Bethany Hospital, in Kansas City, Kansas; as professor of pastoral care and counseling at Saint

Paul School of Theology; and as director of pastoral care and counseling for the Illinois Area of the United Methodist Church before his retirement in 1993. He was active in many professional and ecumenical associations and conferences including the Association of Clinical Pastoral Education, the College of Chaplains of the American Health Care Assembly, and the American Association of Pastoral Counselors for which he served as president from 1980 to 1982.

Don was on the faculty when I arrived in 1967. I will always remember him as a warm and caring man who went out of his way to respond to need and to be a friend. He was especially attentive to students and the issues they addressed. His beloved wife, Charlotte ("Char"), was an active and loving part of the Saint Paul community.

As I read his obituary I could not agree more with this statement:

"Donald Houts is remembered for his humanity, his commitment to spiritual and clinical healing, his love of family, friends and colleagues and for his lifelong campaign for peace with justice that dates back to his college years at the University of Iowa, where he picketed barber shops that discriminated against African-Americans. His concern for social justice issues continued to influence his life shaping his scholarly interests as both a divinity and doctoral student, and in his professional career that includes a focus on the topic of sexual ethics in the pastoral and mental health professions. Not only is he recognized as an expert on the subject, having published and lectured widely, but for establishing a set of guidelines which serve as the standard in those professions today."

As a member of Pastoral Counselors for Social Responsibility, the Rev. Dr. Houts was active in pursuing international peace efforts; as past president of the American Association of Pastoral Counselors, he worked diligently to internationalize the organization and began a grants program to aid pastoral counselors from developing countries, which continues to this day. His empathy and selfless concern for the well-being of others continued after retirement and was most notably displayed when he served as a counselor to families of the 9/11 tragedy in New York. As one of only 90 pastors nationwide who were trained to assist survivors of catastrophic aviation disasters, the Rev. Houts spent two weeks counseling hundreds of individuals and families who tragically and so unexpectedly lost loved ones on that day. Closer to home, he helped to assist victims of fire and other emergencies through his volunteer work with the local Emergency Services Support Team, where he served as team captain. He was active in and delighted to serve the community by participating in the food pantry at Wesley United Methodist Church. Dr. Houts continued to write for a number of professional journals and was instrumental in providing training for many denominational and ecumenical clergy.

December 31, 2019

Finally, let me remind us all that the end of the tax year is coming up. It is a good time to give to Saint Paul and take advantage of charitable deductions. I love this time of year because it gives me opportunity to give to the church, to Saint Paul, and to other institutions of mercy and justice. Any number of tools for giving are available. Two examples that involve no expense are: develop a Donor Advised Fund (DAF) and/or transferring required distributions from your IRA or retirement account directly to Saint Paul. Both provide income tax reductions. President Blair in his work in development has helped others utilize these and other significant tax savings. Let us together make a difference as trustees in providing scholarships, program, capital campaign, and endowment giving by year's end. Our leadership in our giving as board members will not only make a difference but will encourage others to do likewise.

May God in Christ bless you in this Advent and Christmas season and all through the New Year!