

*2005 Western Mission
Cluster Report
to Synods of the
Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America*

Re-Visioning Theological Education for the Ministry of the Baptized



*Western Mission Cluster
[www.luthersem.edu/
wmcluster](http://www.luthersem.edu/wmcluster)*

*Luther Seminary,
St. Paul, Minn.
www.luthersem.edu*

*Pacific Lutheran
Theological Seminary,
Berkeley, Calif.
www.plts.edu*

In our rapidly changing and diverse society, the viability of the church depends on well-equipped lay and rostered leaders. The Western Mission Cluster (WMC) – a partnership between Luther Seminary and Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary – is committed to providing educational experiences that help individuals to live out their faith in their daily lives. In 2002, the Cluster partnered with congregations, academic institutions, Augsburg Fortress and churchwide organizations in Regions 1, 2 and 3 to form the Western Mission Network.

WMC is best known for its work with the Fisher's Net and Centered Life. Fisher's Net delivers online theological education and resources to learners around the world. Centered Life helps congregations prepare members to connect their faith to their daily lives.

Over 60 representatives from organizations in the Network attended this year's WMC Consultation. "Re-Visioning Theological Education for the Ministry of the Baptized in the World" was the theme. The primary foci were theologically equipping the laity for ministry and discipleship in daily life, and re-visioning theological education for ministry in the world.

Some highlights from the Consultation:

- Contextual Leadership Initiative (CLI) – Through CLI, Luther and PLTS

share a common internship program and cross-cultural immersion experiences. The seminaries will eventually share contextual education, clinical pastoral education and faith-based community organizing initiatives. For more information go to www.plts.luthersem.edu/cli.

- Winter Theological Symposia – Hosted by Pacific Lutheran University, the symposia focus on current issues in society and faith. This event is a cooperative venture of lifelong learning partners in Region 1 with Luther and PLTS.

- "Faith in Daily Life" discussions with ELCA churchwide leaders – Discussions explored the current state of ministries in the ELCA that help congregations support members in their vocation and ministry in daily life. Insights from this discussion will inform churchwide leaders who are involved in a restructuring process that will enable the ELCA to better support vocation and education initiatives.

- Reformation Mall – This idea for an online collection of lifelong learning resources that help people live faithfully every day was proposed at the Consultation.

For more information about the Western Mission Cluster or the consultations, visit [www.luthersem.edu/
wmcluster](http://www.luthersem.edu/wmcluster).