

Dear siblings in Christ,

Greetings from Capital University! After over 2½ years as University Pastor, I'm grateful to report on the life of the entire university, as well as the particular developments in religious and spiritual life. As usual, my email and phone number are at the end of this letter. If there are ways I can help you to better connect at Capital, please be in touch.

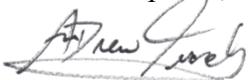
Fall 2019 was bittersweet for Capital. We recruited a record 721 students for the undergraduate first year class and we also received news that President Beth Paul planned to resign in June 2020. Capital's Board of Trustees elected to begin a hiring process, which as of this writing is on track to conclude in June of 2020, with an anticipated start for the new president of July 1, 2020. Trinity welcomed a strong first year class as well, with a healthy mix of recent Capital graduates and others from across the church.

I'm thrilled to announce new partnerships thanks to generous donors and innovative academic departments at Capital. For instance, we've brought on four Trinity seminarians from three different synods in part time roles to provide campus ministry programming and support. This was made possible by a combination of university funding and generous donors who've invested in the development of seminary and undergraduate students. Further, through internships with both the Electronic Media and Film major and the Religion major, we've empowered undergraduate interns to utilize their skills in ways that benefit ministry, offer academic credit, and provide high impact practices to student development.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, much of our lives changed. Yet, I'm incredibly proud of the university's response. The flexibility and expertise of our IT Department, which enabled us to offer online education to our students within days, rather than the weeks many institutions required, is commendable. The leadership of our Student Learning and Development Team to meet not only the academic, but the housing, hunger, and relational needs in the midst of mandated social distancing measures, is inspiring. Further, the many partner congregations who donated money, who brought food, who prayed for our students, and who otherwise provided tangible and spiritual support, boosted the spirits of faculty, staff, and students alike. As Bishop Eaton reminds us, *we are church together*. This was incredibly evident through that transition.

Much has changed since Fall 2019. Much more will change between this writing and our assemblies, including perhaps digital assemblies or a delay of in person assemblies. Rather than report on what might be, instead I close with what I know to be true. We are grateful for our partner synods and for the ways that you support us with finances, with relationships, and with prayer. We pray for you, too, and rejoice that we're church together for the sake of the world!

Grace and peace,



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