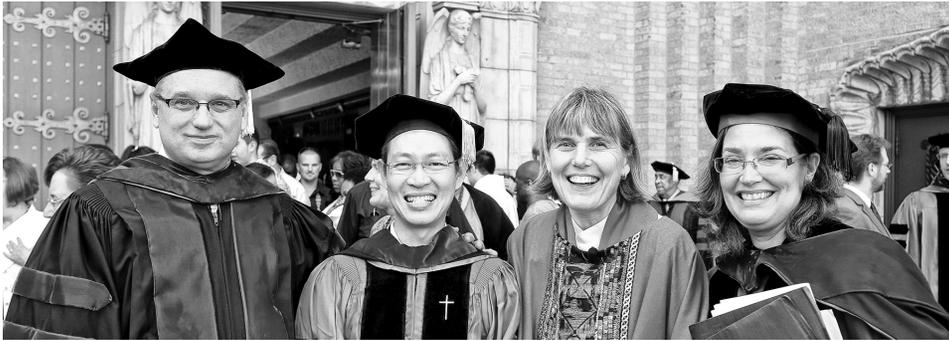


STORIES OF FAITH IN ACTION



PREPARING FAITHFUL, WISE AND COURAGEOUS LEADERS

The ELCA has a long, rich tradition of identifying and preparing pastors and lay leaders to share the good news of Jesus Christ, and to inspire and equip congregations to participate in God's work in the world. Just ask the Rev. Robin Steinke, president of Luther Seminary in St. Paul, Minn., who says that the "need has never been greater for leaders of many forms who can bring to bear biblical, theological and confessional wisdom concerning the ways that God is at work in the world."

"There is a need for more diversity of institutional forms and educational models which serve the expanding mission of (our) church. A strength of our ELCA network of theological education is that our formation models are deeply embedded in richly diverse ministry contexts. We are distinctly positioned to respond well to the growing need for multiple kinds of leaders," she says.

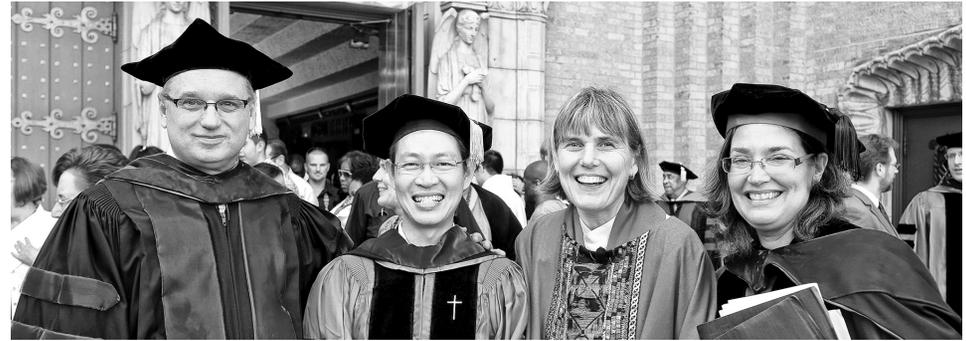
Steinke co-chairs the ELCA Theological Education Advisory Council. Authorized by the Church Council, the council is addressing in a holistic way issues in theological education, leadership development, candidacy, rostered leadership and more.

"The work of the advisory council is critical as it convenes conversation across the church, listens to creative ideas, hopes, challenges and possibilities in order to synthesize recommendations to the Church Council that can further strengthen theological education for the flourishing of the gospel," says Steinke, adding that the collaboration among congregational, institutional, synodical, ecumenical and global partners "is lively."



The Rev. Robin Steinke, president of Luther Seminary in St. Paul, Minn.

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