



• **ANNUAL REPORT OF THE OFFICE OF CHURCH RELATIONS — DECEMBER 2009** •

Greetings from your colleagues in ministry at Gustavus Adolphus College! Being your partner in ministry is a foundational way we seek to live out our vocation as a college of the Church. We delight in our calling to help students attain their full potential as persons, developing in them a capacity and passion for lifelong learning, and preparing them for fulfilling lives of leadership and service in society.

Our work each year is a mixture of delighting in what God has made us to be and, together as a community, “dreaming, debating and discussing” the ways we sense God calling us forward. Over the last few years, five major points of focus have emerged into a Strategic Plan for the College—one of which is to “Engage faith to inspire understanding and lives of leadership and service.” In 2008, President Jack Ohle led us into Commission Gustavus 150, a major forward-thinking initiative to focus energy upon the integration of the strategic plan and to broadly engage the College’s constituency. The commission was organized into eight task forces comprising more than 225 faculty, staff, students, alumni, parents, board members, church leaders, and friends. The full report from Commission Gustavus 150 can be found at www.gustavus.edu/commission150.

We are proud of our relationship with the Lutheran Church and continue to provide countless resources to our Gustavus Association of Congregations, which has surpassed 545 member congregations! This Association of ELCA congregations is important to the life of the College, being the place where official governing boards of the College are elected each April. As a resource for the Church, we offer an ever-expanding menu of resources available to congregations. To access a full listing of resources we offer, please visit www.gustavus.edu/churchrelations.

PLEASE JOIN US AT GUSTAVUS FOR THESE SPECIAL EVENTS IN 2010:

- **Gustavus Association of Congregations 2010 Convention—APRIL 17, 2010**
The theme for the 2010 gathering will be *Growing Healthier Congregations*. Dr. Pat Taylor Ellison of Church Innovations will bring the keynote address, “Building Agreement and Strategies for Spiritual Discernment.” Our second annual **Youth Leadership Day** is planned separately on this day with the keynote presentation by Tiger McLuen of Youth Leadership. It will be a great opportunity for congregations to bring 2 to 4 key student leaders for this festive and special leadership development event.
- **Trinity Institute® 40th National Theological Conference— JANUARY 27–29, 2010** This year’s conference, *Building an Ethical Economy: Theology and the Marketplace*, will be webcast live from the Trinity Institute, New York. With the Economics and Management Departments at Gustavus, we invite you to join us as we explore the relationship between economics and Christian belief and action.
- **MAYDAY! Peace Conference—APRIL 28, 2010**
- **Annual Nobel Conference®—OCTOBER 5-6, 2010** *Making Food Good*
- **Christmas in Christ Chapel—DECEMBER 3–5, 2010**

For more information about these events and the resources we offer congregations, please contact the Office of Church Relations (507-933-7001) or visit us on-line at www.gustavus.edu/churchrelations. Thank you for your partnership and prayers!

Grady St. Dennis
Director of Church Relations

Office of Church Relations

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