



Lutheran Theological Center in Atlanta
Southeastern Synod of the
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

August 31, 2020

*Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name.
For the LORD is good and his love endures forever; his faithfulness continues through all generations.*
-Psalm 100:4-5

Dear Friends and Partners in Ministry,

On September 1, 2020 after 9 years, my call to lead the Lutheran Theological Center in Atlanta was completed. I give thanks to God, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and the people of Southeastern Synod for this exciting opportunity.

I give thanks for the gifts that you the people of Southeastern Synod and the Domestic Missions Unit of the Churchwide organization have made available to the Lutheran Theological Center in Atlanta (LTCA). We could not have carried out our mission and ministry without your support.

Sometimes God calls us to things that we cannot do alone.

I give thanks for the partnerships and eagerness to participate in Christian education and leadership formation with the Lutheran Theological Center in Atlanta (LTCA). Your participation in our workshops, courses, special worship gatherings and financial support enabled us to live into our mission.

- Your support through congregations, the synod and individuals was the foundation for leadership development and formation so very important to the ELCA and especially African Descent members and congregations.

Starting in 2011 through August 2020, LTCA has given the ELCA 22 ordained pastors and 8 of these pastors are African Descent and Korean.

Three additional students are in the TEEM program and are expected to complete candidacy requirements for ordination in 2021.

- As a result of your help and participation the Center is able to provide continuing theological education and “How to courses” to the baptized

In the years between 2011 and 2020, LTCA taught and trained over 5,200 Lutherans in lay classes, synod assembly workshops, forums and intensives and congregation initiatives; for its evangelizing program. Twelve (12) participants completed the Sending of the Seventy program and six of these participants went to seminary. One of our greatest joys was the Talking Together As Christians Across Barriers on Difficult Issues program where we trained some 84 congregations, in 3 modules, in conversation techniques.

- You encouraged us to seek new ways of forming leaders, especially lay leaders; you opened your sanctuaries, classrooms and meeting rooms to us, and you encouraged congregation members to seek deeper meaning through theological studies, conversations, workshops and emersions which were facilitated or offered by the Lutheran Center.

The general appeal of the programs is evidenced by the appeal to its students and participants from 9 US states: Georgia, Tennessee, Alabama, Virginia, Nebraska, South Carolina, North Carolina, Ohio and Florida.

- Your prayers, care for our adult learners and mentors were both encouraging and inspiring for the work of growing congregational vitality. Your faithfulness was inspiring for the work that the Center does in leadership formation and development for diverse communities and people of color. You faithfully participated in our learning activities.

LTCA has conducted workshops and classes at various locations in the synod: Atlanta, Nashville, Savannah, Huntsville, Birmingham, Mobile, Ocean Springs, Biloxi, Garden City, and Riverdale and East Cleveland, OH. LTCA experimented with adult learning modules, such as TED formatting, and practical approaches to theological education and current life experiences.

The Lutheran Theological Center knows that Lutherans want and expect to make a difference in the world. That is why our teaching and learning ecology consisted of and used congregations and their neighborhoods, civic and government agencies, community advocacy programs, seminaries and universities. Our participants explored and went into their communities to preach, teach, advocated and bring healing in Jesus' name for the sake of the gospel and for the sake of the world.

The Lutheran Center in Atlanta engages in public theology through its joint sponsorship of the Synod's Annual Commemoration Service of the Life and Work of Martin Luther King, Jr. followed by a Day of Service in partnership with Inspiritus (formerly, Lutheran Services of Georgia). In 2020, almost 300 people participated in this

worship service held in metro Atlanta. We were honored to have Representative John Lewis as Preacher of the Day for one of these services. Courtroom, prison and civil rights and Legacy museums, Houses of worship for other Abrahamic faith traditions were also used as learning posts.

The alignment of LTCA's program with ELCA goals and a Program Profile are provided for LTCA, along with teachers/workshop leaders and the annual work plan is provided in on-line formats as part of this report. See Exhibits G6.a-d.

- Ministry final work plan for February1 to January 31 2021.doc
- LTCA Fx a new context a new circumstance.docx
- May 2019 Profile LTCA.docx
- Faculty 2019 final LTCA facilitators

Finally, I am grateful for and appreciate the friendships and opportunities to participate in the preparation of leaders for the Church that I love.

With Prayers and good wishes,

The Reverend Everett Flanigan, PhD