



*From the Office of the Interim President  
Dr. Kristine M. Stache*

## **RESPONDING TO COVID-19: UPDATE AS OF AUGUST 1, 2020**

In our ongoing efforts to care for one another and our neighbors, Wartburg Theological Seminary continues to put into place temporary policies that will remain effective indefinitely to help us steward our shared life together.

We find ourselves in a time where our federal, state, and local governments are reopening various areas, businesses, and public gatherings. Out of our own Christian witness and deep love and care for one another, we will continue with our modified operations indefinitely and **all Prolog Week, Fall Semester, and January Term courses will be delivered entirely digitally**. We continue to rely on the wisdom of our public health agencies and medical science to guide us in our discernment and decision-making process.

Wartburg is not alone in arriving at this decision. We support the reasoning of denominational judicatories in advising congregations to be informed by public health considerations in any decision to reopen, encouraging them to do so only when it is deemed safe. We intend to continue doing what we can to preserve health, minimize the spread of the virus, and decrease anxiety where possible. *Care for one another during this time continues to be our top priority!*

### **Updated Temporary Policies for Wartburg Seminary as of August 1st:**

1. It will not be possible to convene our fall on-campus Prolog Week in a way that ensures the well-being of the Wartburg community, regardless of our best efforts at safe practices. In lieu of our traditional gathering, we will celebrate the new academic year with a digital Prolog Week, reconfigured to start us off strong.
2. Fall Semester (2020) and January Term (2021) courses will be delivered digitally in synchronous and asynchronous modes. This includes all master's level courses, TEEM courses, weekend intensives, and travel courses.
3. Students, faculty, and staff are expected to follow COVID-19 best practices as prescribed by the seminary—including **mandatory mask use** in campus buildings outside of private offices and residences.
4. Current students, incoming students, and families who live on campus transitioning into student housing are encouraged to implement best practices while making these transitions.
5. Modified operations have been extended indefinitely. Campus will continue to remain closed to the public but remain open with modified library and food pantry hours for students, faculty, and staff.



6. All students are expected to follow the policies set forth by the governments, organizations, and synods where they are serving.

7. The whole WTS community is encouraged to practice care and consideration for yourself and others. This includes staying home if becoming symptomatic, consulting with medical staff if symptoms persist, and asking for help when needed.

The WTS COVID-19 Task Force continues to monitor the situation carefully and will do our best to keep you updated as things change. We continue to pray for all who are ill, for the most vulnerable, for healthcare workers, public health officials, for local, regional, state, national and international policy makers, and all who are fearful about this virus.

We are looking forward to the promise of a new academic year, even as it takes new shape among us. We are confident in Wartburg's continued ability to deliver a robust curriculum that is both academically rigorous and community-focused with strong support services. In the meantime, we look forward to a time when we can once again gather in person at the Castle!

Our prayers for your well-being abound.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kristine M. Stache". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of each name being capitalized and prominent.

Dr. Kristine Stache  
*Interim President*