

May 3, 2019

Grace and Peace to you, Members of Region 1 of the ELCA, from the Subcommittee of the PLU Corporation.

It is with great excitement that we write to you today on behalf of the PLU Corporation. As most of you know, Pacific Lutheran University is a non-profit corporation owned by the member congregations of Region I of the ELCA; six Synods covering the geographic areas of Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Montana and Alaska. Member Representatives from each synod form the PLU Corporation, one of the governing bodies of the University. As owners, we have a responsibility to provide oversight and leadership along with The Board of Regents of PLU and the President of the University.

The PLU Corporation Member Representatives gather annually on campus to do the work of the Corporation, which includes confirming nominees to the Board of Regents, voting on bylaw changes, and other various business needs of the University. Beyond the annual meeting, responsibilities of the Member Representatives are to be an advocate for PLU and a conduit between campus and our local church communities.

At the September 2018 meeting, a Subcommittee was formed to study the size, structure, mission, and purpose of the PLU Corporation, and to recommend changes based on its findings. That Subcommittee, with representation from each synod and major geographic area, has met several times via conference/video call and once in person since its conception. The eleven Member Representatives of the Subcommittee have discussed the current status of the Corporation, its purpose, and multiple possible changes to increase the Corporation's efficiency and active involvement of the Member Representatives in the life of PLU throughout the year.

Through this process, which included feedback from additional current Member Representatives, we have formalized recommendations for changes we expect will provide a more defined purpose as well as a recommendation to reduce the size of the Corporation and create a stronger more engaged group of Member Representatives by adding a leadership committee.

These initial changes provide a clearer identity for the Corporation, structure for its members, and active involvement from the regional Synods to the PLU Community on an ongoing basis. While there is more work to be done as part of this process, we are asking for support in the work that has already been done and in the proposals being put forward. Complete recommendations of this Subcommittee include a reduction in overall size, the addition of up to two student representative positions and up to two faculty or staff representative positions to the PLU Corporation, and a leadership subcommittee (with one representative per synod, from among the existing pool of Member Representatives) which will help direct the broader Corporation agenda and mission.

This is just the beginning, we are optimistic about what this means for the future of the Corporation and the growth and change the ELCA congregations of Region 1 can be a part of within PLU. Our work will continue until the meeting of the Corporation in September 2019. As we continue our work, we will be focusing on the specific mission and responsibilities of the Member Representatives, including ways to create greater collaboration with The Board of Regents and finding more opportunities for increasing awareness of Lutheran Education in our church communities.

This current Subcommittee presented recommendations to the PLU Board of Regents at its May 3, 2019 meeting. These recommendations were almost unanimously approved by the Board of Regents and will be brought to the full PLU Corporation for a vote at the Corporation's September 2019 annual meeting. We invite your questions and feedback to any committee member, email addresses listed below.

Blessings,

PLU Corporation Committee

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