

• ANNUAL REPORT FROM GUSTAVUS CHURCH RELATIONS — DECEMBER 2015 •

Greetings to you from Gustavus Adolphus College! The network of institutions and relationships which holds our Lutheran congregations, synods, camps, colleges, seminaries, and social agencies together plays a vital role in nourishing and advancing our collective and important contribution to the world. We all make a greater impact because of this diverse network to which we belong.

Many years ago we established the Gustavus Adolphus College Association of Congregations as way of living our Lutheran identity and to create a tangible structure through which we might serve the wider Lutheran church.

This year we were excited to announce that Gustavus is investing in the long term health of the Gustavus Association of Congregations network by fully endowing the Office of Church Relations. The creation of the Endowment for Church Relations Fund is a continuation of our commitment to our Lutheran roots and a means to ensure our ongoing investment in offering congregation resources. More details and information on how to make a contribution to the fund can be found at: www.gustavus.edu/churchrelations/endowment.

As you gather for your annual assembly, we hope you are inspired by the reminder of the many others who walk along side you in mission. We are blessed to be able to share numerous resources with your congregation. Thank you to the many of you who have made good use of our church and college ministry partnership.

MARK YOUR 2016 CALENDARS AND JOIN US FOR THESE SPECIAL EVENTS:

- **STEP UP — MARCH 10, 2016**, a leadership development resource for high school youth. Students will be introduced to college level concepts of leadership that will help them develop a stronger personal plan for continuing to grow as a leader. For more information: www.gustavus.edu/churchrelations/stepup
- **Annual Gustavus Faith Conference**
and Association of Congregations Business Meeting — APRIL 23, 2016
The theme for the 2016 conference is *"Lutheran Convictions for Creation Care."* Rev. Dr. David Rhoads, Professor Emeritus of New Testament at Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago will speak on the topic, *"Embracing an Eco-Justice Reformation."* Dr. James Dontje, Director of Johnson Center for Environmental Innovation at Gustavus Adolphus College will speak on the topic, *"The Radical Freedom of Creation Care."* The Gustavus Faith Conference is free and open to the public. The Annual Business Meeting of Gustavus Adolphus College Association of Congregations will take place during the luncheon meeting. Thank you for sending your lay and clergy delegates to this important annual meeting. For more information: www.gustavus.edu/faithconference
- **MAYDAY! Peace Conference—APRIL 27, 2016** *"Divestment: A Tool for Peace?"*
- **Annual Nobel Conference®— SEPTEMBER 27-28, 2016** *"In Search of Economic Balance"*
- **The Gustavus Academy for Faith, Science, and Ethics — JUNE 24-30, 2016**, an exciting new resource for high school youth coming in 2016! More information to follow.
- **Christmas in Christ Chapel—DECEMBER 2-4, 2016**

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

Rev. Grady St. Dennis
College Chaplain/Director for Church Relations

MAKE YOUR LIFE COUNT