Report of the Eastern Cluster
to 2010 Synod Assembly

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Program: Eastern Cluster
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Matters of urgency and joy continue to be the focus of the Cluster and the three Seminaries in the Cluster.

We rejoice that the Lilly Foundation approved the grant request for the continuation of Project Connect. At the March meeting of the Cluster Board, Don Johnson was re-appointed as director of this vital program. This grant allows the program to continue and become a stronger partner with congregations, synods, and other ministries within the Cluster.

Each Seminary in the Cluster has a board committee to discern the faithful future for the institutions. These reports will be considered at the spring meetings of each Seminary and will shape the future of the Seminaries and the Cluster as recommendations are received and implemented.

The cluster board also approved revised governing documents. The new structure streamlines the work of the cluster, reducing the number of members on the cluster board, and allows for more flexibility in programming. The revised structure also reduces expenses for the cluster so that more dollars are allocated for. This proposal provides a helpful way forward for the Cluster intending to keep us working together and providing space for possibilities that will need to be considered by each Seminary.

The cluster continues to seek ways for deeper collaboration between member seminaries and among the seminaries of the cluster.