



Capital University

DIRECTOR OF CONTEXTUAL AND EXPERIENTIAL FORMATION

Vision: We live in an age where the need for theologically, biblically, and contextually informed adaptive leaders is critical for the sake of the church and the world. Together with Capital University, Trinity has the history, legacy, human assets, missional focus, and divine call to be among North America's premier seminaries in the formation of authentic servant leaders. We perceive those leaders as healthy, vibrant, maturing (self-differentiated), transformative, resilient, and evangelical – marks manifested through love for Jesus and for the sake of the world to which Jesus gives everything. Our reunion with Capital opens opportunities for increased experiential learning through innovative and creative approaches that create purpose-readiness and are apropos for this time in our history and in the life of the church.

POSITION DESCRIPTION

Mission: The value of context and the integration of multiple disciplines in context are hallmarks of Trinity Lutheran Seminary and distinguish Trinity as an exemplary seminary among schools in North America. The Director of Contextual and Experiential Formation is a highly integrative role and is established to create visionary leadership and oversight to the matrix of contextual and experiential disciplines that, together with Trinity's academic rigor, work to form whole persons who are purpose-ready at graduation. The Director will passionately support the vision and strategic direction of the seminary as set by the governing boards and the Dean of the Seminary, and work as a leader with the academic administrative team.

ESSENTIAL DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Role – Contextual and Experiential Formation Leader

The Director of Contextual and Experiential Formation will provide leadership and program management of all contextual learning: Internship (2+2 model and otherwise), Leadership in Context, and Clinically Supervised Experiences and Education through the following avenues:

- Attend to the recruitment of contextual sites, paying attention to diversification in the matrix of sites, excellence in supervision, alignment with Trinity's vision and mission, and collaboratively harvesting the gifts of the faculty so that we have richness and excellence in all kinds of settings;
- Direct the assignment processes (inclusive of applications and other related forms) and matches of students with contextual sites and supervisors;
- Advise students with regard to contextual education possibilities and expectations;
- Review and follow up on multiple internship evaluations throughout the year;
- Conduct student and supervisor orientation sessions for all Contextual Formation programs;

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- Provide for training of supervisors and their contextual committees around missional and faith-hardy expectations;
- Facilitate integration of academic and field experience for interns, including cohort contextual learning experiences;
- With the Associate Dean, select “intensive” cohort sites that create a menu of differing types and locales, particularly paying attention to the integrative benefits of sites;
- Leverage the “intensive” weeks of cohort formation into a robust week of continuing formation for rostered leaders as well as theological education for area parishioners;
- Work with the Associate Dean to provide for faculty instruction in our menu of “Leadership in Context” core coursework;
- Solicit grants to subsidize student costs for participation in qualifying contextual education programs;
- Provide hands-on leadership for all aspects of the CPE and other clinical components, partnering with faculty as needed;
- Ensure that there are sufficient sets of eyes on all of our students so that they get the very best from Trinity in terms of personal awareness and contextual formation;
- Participate in TLS recruiting events;
- On behalf of the ELCA, direct the internship cluster events for interns serving in Region Six of the ELCA;
- Invite and collaborate with pastors and practitioners to help shape, evaluate, and improve contextual education and experiential processes; and,
- Pursue overall excellence in contextual formation and develop innovative and relevant approaches apropos for the culture and church in this age.

Role – Candidacy

- Assist students and prospective students with understanding the ELCA Candidacy processes;
- Work collaboratively with the student’s candidacy committee and the faculty and program advisor on matters of candidacy and curricular assessment;
- Exercise leadership in faculty meetings and other gatherings of discernment dealing with evaluating, empowering, and making recommendations with regard to the status of students and the paperwork that may be submitted to a student’s candidacy committee or judicatory;
- Represent Trinity with the ELCA Candidacy processes; and,
- Advocate for Trinity students and candidates in the ELCA Candidacy and assignment processes.

Role – Leadership Formation through Community Life

- Provide advisory leadership with Trinity’s student and campus organizations, specifically Life Together;
- Equip student leaders to be architects of a healthy and vibrant community culture that fosters leadership formation and discipleship;
- Provide oversight and advocacy in all matters of student housing and residence life in community, in partnership with Capital University Residential Life leadership;
- Bring forth voice from students as it relates to their student experiences and hopes and dreams;
- Oversee community communication processes; and,

- Direct new student orientation in the fall, spring, and summer.

Role – Lutheran Theological Initiative in Atlanta

- Direct this pilot project, on Trinity’s behalf, to identify, raise up, and form African and African-descent Americans for leadership in the church;
- Work collaboratively with the Lutheran Theological Center of Atlanta, the Interdenominational Theological Center in Atlanta, and the Southeastern Synod to deliver a Master of Divinity degree with a Trinity diploma; and,
- In a collaborative effort among the stakeholders, deliver the first cadre of 4-8 students with program and funding secured for a fall 2018 launch.

Role – Across All Areas

- Foster a culture of healthy evaluative feedback and the pursuit of excellence;
- Own the development of annual spending plans in the arena of this position’s oversight and provide budgetary oversight and stewardship of resources;
- With the Dean of the Seminary, Associate Dean, Board of Advisors, Faculty, and Staff, work to create a consistent, unified, and compelling voice for Trinity Lutheran Seminary and its mission; and,
- Be a role model of discipleship and unshakeable hope in the risen Christ.

DESIRED ATTRIBUTES

- Experience with contextual education and experiential learning in higher education or as a supervisor of contextually placed students.
- Ability to put high intellect to work at creating new paradigms and innovative strategies for forming leaders for Christ’s church at work in the world;
- Highly collaborative team member and team creator;
- Strong and facilitative interpersonal skills;
- Seeks outcomes and actions while having regard to the importance of process;
- Understanding of the Lutheran church and the worldwide church - past, present, and future;
- Highly organized;
- Ability to stay focused on top priorities amid a constellation of demands and presenting issues;
- Diversity of experience (church, community, business, and academia);
- Capacity to engender trust and confidence among the faculty, staff, students, supervisors, contextual sites, and bishops and judicatories;
- Demonstrated knowledge of the challenges and possibilities facing seminaries and theological education in the 21st century;
- A deep belief that Trinity can thrive and, in reunion with Capital, can serve as a powerful force for good through transformative theological education.
- Creativity and innovation, particularly regarding interdisciplinary collaboration and other partnerships that enhance contextual education and experiential learning.
- Passionate faith in the Holy Trinity for whom Trinity Lutheran Seminary is named.

Other Position Particulars:

- This role will have faculty status without tenure or tenure eligibility and report to the Associate Dean.
- Must hold a professional ministry degree at least at the Master's level (i.e. Master of Divinity, Master of Theological Studies or other). An earned doctorate is desirable.
- Must possess a *Limited Working Proficiency** in Spanish, or be willing and able to learn and reach that level within a reasonable time period.
- Having rostered status in the ELCA is desirable but not necessary.

* https://careers.state.gov/gateway/lang_prof_def.html

Trinity Lutheran Seminary is an equal opportunity employer and supports a diverse and inclusive campus community.

Trinity Lutheran Seminary does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national or ethnic origin, sexual orientation, sex, gender, age, disability, veteran status, or other characteristics protected by the law.