

April 15, 2009

## Seminary Receives Grant from the Charles A. Cannon Charitable Trusts

Columbia, SC-- During March 2009, the Charles A. Cannon Charitable Trusts (Cannon Trusts) of Concord, North Carolina, announced a grant award of \$100,000 to support the operations of Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary. The grant will be applied to the seminary's New Life Fund, which provides operational funding for everything from faculty salaries to utility bills.

"The current economic challenge is a test for all of us and our institutions," says the Rev. Dr. Marcus Miller, President of the seminary. "It would be easy to become discouraged but we continue to see generous and faithful friends like the Cannon Trusts support this ministry and work with their gifts. The importance of this gift is known both in the generous amount that is given and also in the encouragement it speaks to students, faculty, staff, and administration. We all thank the Trust and its leadership for this wonderful donation."

While the Cannon Trusts normally make awards for brick and mortar projects, the trust administrators recognized that the current economic environment has severely strained the operational budgets of the institutions the trusts support.

Since 1987, the Cannon Trusts and the Cannon Foundation have funded \$970,000 in grants and awards to Southern Seminary. The seminary is a beneficiary of the trust, and is eligible to apply for but is not guaranteed, grant funding each year.

"The Charles A. Cannon legacy has made a profound difference at Southern Seminary. The Foundation and the Charitable Trusts have helped with everything from brick and mortar projects like student housing, disabilities access, and building renovation, to operational support for the seminary's mission of teaching, forming and nurturing women and men for public ministry and Christian leadership. So much has been made possible because of Mr. Cannon's legacy and those who have stewarded that legacy over the past twenty-two years," said Ron Walrath, Vice President for Development at the seminary.

The Charles A. Cannon Charitable Trusts and the Cannon Foundation are the legacy of the late Charles A. Cannon, President and Chairman of Cannon Mills Company for more than 50 years. Mr. Cannon demonstrated his unwavering commitment to the people of Cabarrus County and the State of North Carolina through his philanthropy.

Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary, located in Columbia, South Carolina, is a seminary of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. Founded in 1830, the seminary offers three post-graduate theological degrees for students from multiple Christian denominations.

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