



THE STRATEGIC PLAN



SVS2010

ST VLADIMIR'S ORTHODOX

THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY *2004-2010*

MISSION

OUR MISSION

To support the Church and inter-Orthodox cooperation

- * To support the preservation and growth of Orthodoxy
- * To work for inter-Orthodox cooperation and unity
- * To extend existing services to a broader personal and geographic constituency

To educate priests, deacons, and lay leaders

- * To prepare clergy and lay leaders to serve the Church
- * To emphasize spiritual formation as well as theological education
- * To ensure that learning is connected with “life after seminary” via practical / pastoral theology training
- * To ensure that finances will not be a barrier to attracting students / workers for the Church

To perform theological research

- * To be a world center for Orthodox theological research and communication
- * To address difficult issues confronting the Church in the world

Enhance formation of seminarians for service to the Church

Initiate a new focus on training for ministry, especially priestly / practical / spiritual formation

- * Strengthen factors that influence spiritual formation of students in key areas: worship, community life and service, curriculum and teaching, faculty, father-confessors, trustees, alumni, and staff
- * Secure additional professorial / counselor positions in pastoral theology
- * Examine the role of trustees, alumni, and staff in the spiritual formation of students
- * Expand students' exposure to parish life
- * Ensure that curriculum continuously focuses on pastoral education

Develop a more open and cooperative relationship with Church hierarchy and authorities

- * Foster a common vision, practical cooperation, and an atmosphere of mutual respect
- * Ensure that hierarchs stay informed of the seminary's mission and programs
- * Communicate the seminary's deep concern for students' potential for church service
- * Cooperate with jurisdictions in the practical training of students within their respective ecclesial contexts



- * Increase presence of hierarchs / senior pastors on the seminary campus
- * Assist non-ordained graduates in finding an effective role in Church service

Enhance formation of seminarians for service to the Church

Engage alumni / faculty / staff in the effort to recruit potential seminarians

- * Develop ways to communicate an accurate and positive image of Church vocations and seminary study
- * Utilize faculty in communicating the seminary's mission, resources, and degree programs
- * Identify and utilize alumni who are willing to seek out and encourage potential students

Improve student life, particularly married student housing, financial issues, and infrastructure

- * Enable all married students to live on campus to maximize their community experience
- * Relieve students of financial pressures / obstacles
- * Encourage regular and open input from students on seminary infrastructure
- * Develop an atmosphere for dialogue in which there is mutual accountability and respect



Improve scope and effectiveness of SVS outreach

Develop new distance education and offsite extension programs

- * Develop phased online courses beginning with existing hardware / software at SVS
- * Develop a more structured program of on-campus and offsite lectures, retreats, and mini-institutes to achieve better use of existing resources
- * Address technology education and workload needs of faculty

Increase communication with alumni and outside media; develop theological primers for parish use

- * Continue evolution and progress of communications and public relations programs
- * Enhance the mission-based efforts of SVS Press / bookstore to bring attention to the work of the seminary
- * Strive to become the world resource for information about the Holy Orthodox Church

Deepen involvement of clergy mentors in seminarian parish assignment program

- * Continue to enhance the parish interaction already taking place

- * Maintain and develop local extension programs; develop regional seminary institute
- * Increase effectiveness of parish assignment program; encourage mentors to be more involved



Enhance SVS resources in order to provide better service

Continue to develop faculty; address staff support, sabbatical, and housing issues

- * Assist current faculty members in honing their skills and becoming more effective
- * Establish priorities to balance faculty workload; replace retiring faculty; provide administrative help
- * Consider the option of providing more faculty homes on campus

Ensure that initiatives can be realized via increased annual, major, capital, and planned giving

- * Develop additional sources of funds as expenses, fueled by new initiatives, continue to grow
- * Strengthen annual giving as donor base is aging and remaining numerically stagnant
- * Foster greater involvement of development associates to pursue special and major gifts
- * Prepare for next major advancement campaign

Increase dialogue and cooperation with other schools / institutions; explore PhD program

- * Expand student exchange program to include St Tikhon's Orthodox Theological Seminary in South Canaan, Pennsylvania; reinvigorate Orthodox Inter-Seminary Movement (OISM)



- * Seek more formal opportunity for faculty to address issues of common concern
- * Investigate joint Orthodox PhD program with nearby university



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