

# Westfield House Building Programme

September 2009



*House of Theological Studies*  
*The Evangelical Lutheran Church of England*  
*A registered charity*

*“Westfield House exists, of course, to educate future pastors of the ELCE, but it does more. It stands open to students from other Lutheran churches in other countries to study not only for the public ministry back home but also for other church callings - teachers, deacons and more.”*

Dr. Robert Rosin, Professor of Historical Theology, Concordia Seminary, St. Louis

## **1. Long-Term Goals for Westfield House**

- Achieve self sustaining funding, with continued support from the Friends of Westfield House for tuition fees and scholarships;
- Expand the facilities to meet the demand from students wishing to study at Westfield House, with accommodation for up to 25 students by 2010 and expanded Library Facilities;
- Expand the course offerings to include a diagonal training programme and other lay training courses;
- Provide opportunities for students to study at minimal cost;
- Provide opportunities for more visiting scholars to study and lecture at Westfield House;
- Provide resources (e.g. distance education, published material) in different languages for people around the world;
- Become an even more effective voice for confessional Lutheranism in the world.

## 1. Building Plans

Westfield House has been full to capacity for several academic years. We receive more requests for student places than we can accept, because of the limited in-house accommodation and the prohibitive cost for students to live off-site. Although there are clear opportunities to expand the student base (e.g. to include more African and Concordia University students), and to expand the course offering (e.g. to provide diaconal and laity training), this is not currently an option due to the limited accommodation available.

A new student accommodation block is therefore being built, and it is planned to refurbish the existing House.

- Planning permission for the development was received from Cambridge City Council on 12<sup>th</sup> November 2008.
- Ground breaking took place on 24<sup>th</sup> August. 2009, and construction is due to be completed by 27<sup>th</sup> February. 2010.
- The two major donors for this project are the ELCE and the Marvin M. Schwan Charitable Foundation, via the Friends of Westfield House. To date sufficient funds have been received to construct the building.
- Additional funds are required to furnish the building, landscape the grounds and refurbish the existing House.



Work has begun on the new Student Accommodation. (This picture was taken from Benson Place, looking towards Resurrection Church)

### 3. Additional funding.

Members of the building committee have been asked to contact friends and churches in the LCMS with whom they have contact to see if they would like to support this work in the UK. The following would be possible projects

- a. 11 bedrooms with en-suite for fitting out, decorating and furnishing at approx. \$12,000 each
- b. kitchen, fully fitted out for 22 students \$25,500
- c. dining room to seat 30 \$8,400
- d. Lounge \$10,800
- e. Laundry room \$6,250

### 4. Refurbishment of the Existing House

The refurbishment of the existing house involves expanding the library and creating classrooms on the ground floor, turning several of the upstairs bedrooms into offices, creating two en suite bedrooms for guest accommodation and upgrading the car parking area. **The total cost is estimated to be £250,000.00, but much of this work could be undertaken as servant projects.**



## **Appendix I. Further Information**

### **I. Background**

Westfield House:

- Was inaugurated as a house of theological studies in February 1962
- Is the theological college of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of England (ELCE), which is a registered charity
- Promotes confessional Lutheran theology worldwide, with alumni in all the continents of the world and staff who regularly participate in international events.

The ELCE gives high priority to the support of Westfield House. However, as a small church (only fourteen congregations in the United Kingdom), funds are limited.

### **II. Westfield House Strengths**

- Theology is read at Westfield House with a strong emphasis on the Lutheran confessions and sacramental teachings.
- Nowhere else in the world does a confessional Lutheran seminary have such a close working relationship with a world-class university divinity faculty (Westfield is attached to Fitzwilliam College, University of Cambridge).
- Westfield House is recognised around the world as offering a high standard of training, with small classes, a high teaching staff to student ratio and an emphasis on practical experience.
- Many former students have gone on to undertake graduate studies at noted Universities, been awarded honorary degrees, and attained senior positions within the Lutheran Church in many countries.
- The Westfield House library is the only significant Lutheran collection in Britain.
- Westfield House is an important resource for many parts of the world, receiving students from, for example, Africa, Eastern Europe, and Russia. In addition, there are ongoing exchange programmes with sister seminaries in the USA, Canada, and Australia. The global nature of the student body is unique among seminaries, and enriches the academic and spiritual atmosphere of Westfield House.

### **III. Vision**

Westfield House aims to:

- Further the understanding of confessional Lutheran theology and continue to be a world recognized centre of excellence for providing theological education within the framework of a confessional Lutheran perspective;
- Grow to match the pace of need in the U.K. and internationally for ordained ministers and for suitably trained lay men and women;
- Establish a formally recognized programme of seminarian training for developing nations that do not otherwise have access to such training; and to contribute to the education of Lutheran theology students in the western world.
- facilitate lay training at the congregational level, by exploiting the possibilities afforded by new technologies to make courses and training resources more widely accessible
- ensure a secure long-term financial basis.