

LUTHERAN THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY, SASKATOON

Honorary Degree Principles, Policies, and Procedures

Purpose of Conferring Honorary Degrees

We confer honorary degrees to:

1. celebrate exceptional achievements or exceptional service to the church, community, or society that goes beyond the normal duties of current and past appointments and contributes significantly to the reputation and/or mission of the LTS;
2. inspire our students and past graduates; and
3. connect extraordinary persons to our university, providing opportunities to develop an ongoing connection to the mission, values, teaching, research, or priorities of LTS

The process for nomination and selection of honorary degree candidates and for conferral of honorary degrees shall be informed and guided by the vision and shared values of LTS, and the teaching and faith of the ELCIC.

Honorary Degree Review Committee

1. The Committee consists of two (2) faculty members and two (2) members of the Board of Governors, at least one of which must be a layperson.
2. The LTS Dean of Studies chairs the Committee.
3. The LTS Dean of Studies appoints the Committee annually to review nominations received.
4. Quorum for Committee meetings shall be 50% plus one of the current Committee membership either in person or by teleconference or video conference.
5. A two-thirds majority of members present and voting shall be required to advance a nomination to an approved list of candidates for honorary degrees.
6. Discussion and deliberations on all nominations shall take place in camera and shall remain confidential. Decisions of the Committee on the selection of honorary degree candidates shall be kept confidential until the award of an honorary degree to a candidate is announced by LTS.
7. The Committee will consider only complete nominations, and may:
 - a. add the nominee to the Approved List to be considered for an honorary degree;
 - b. invite the nominators or others to resubmit the nomination, with more information, for future consideration; or
 - c. reject the nomination

Nominations

1. Any person may nominate another person for an honorary degree, regardless of membership or affiliation with LTS, its supporting synods, or affiliate ministries. Priority will be given to those who serve, or have served, the ELCIC.
2. LTS is committed to the principles of equity, diversity and inclusivity. Nominations for honorary degrees are welcomed for all qualified persons. LTS encourages nominations of women; First Nations, Métis, and Inuit persons; members of visible minority groups; persons with disabilities; persons of any sexual orientation or gender identity and expression; and all those who may contribute to the further diversification of ideas and ministries of the LTS and the ELCIC.
3. Nominations will be received throughout the year but must be received before April 1 of the year prior to granting the degree. Only complete nominations received by the deadline

will be considered. The nomination form and deadlines shall be published on the LTS website.

4. The Academic Committee Chairperson shall ensure that all completed nominations received from the LTS Dean of Studies are forwarded in confidence to all Committee members for review prior to each meeting.

Principles Governing the Selection of Candidates for Honorary Degrees

1. When evaluating a nomination for an honorary degree, the Honorary Degree Review Committee shall consider:
 - a. whether the nominee is a person of upstanding character and respected in the community;
 - b. whether the nominee's achievements or ministry are extraordinary and inspirational and have had a transformative impact; and
 - c. why LTS, in particular, should confer an honorary degree on that nominee, including whether the nominee has a past, current, or potential connection to the mission, values, teaching, research, or priorities of LTS.
2. Through the selection of honorary degree candidates, the Honorary Degree Review Committee shall seek to recognize:
 - a. individuals with diverse backgrounds and fields of service;
 - b. individuals with a diversity of breadth of impact (local, regional, national, and international); and
 - c. both established and emerging leaders.
3. Honorary Degree Review Committee members shall review the nomination form and other information available to the Committee. The Committee may request that additional information be provided to it respecting the nomination before making its decision. The Committee shall consider both the character and the record of achievement of the nominee. Committee members shall seek to determine whether a nominee has displayed a consistent, ongoing commitment to integrity and ethics that extends throughout the nominee's life.
4. Honorary Degree Review Committee members must act fairly and objectively in selecting candidates for honorary degrees. Committee members must disclose to the Committee any relationship they may have with a nominee before consideration by the Committee of that person's nomination. If a Committee member determines that such Committee member's relationship with a nominee is such that the Committee member cannot act fairly and objectively in considering that person's nomination, or if the Committee determines that the nature of the relationship is such that there is a reasonable perception that the Committee member cannot act fairly and objectively, that Committee member shall be recused from the discussion of that nomination and the vote on that nomination.
5. In reading the nominations before the Committee meets, members should attempt some tentative evaluation of the nominations but should refrain from making a final decision until all members of the Committee present at the meeting have had an opportunity to express their opinions.
6. Current members of the Board of Governors, members of the academic and non-academic staff at LTS, and current or former bishops will not normally be considered for an honorary degree unless their contributions and/or service to the Church demonstrate a significant contribution made above and beyond the work normally attributed to their office.
7. The two degrees that may be offered are

- a. Doctor of Divinity (DD) for outstanding leadership in denominational or ecumenical contexts and/or outstanding commitment and contribution to ministry for rostered persons;
 - b. Doctor of Christian Letters (DCL) for outstanding leadership and service in ministry, social justice, and/or advocacy, whether rostered or lay.
8. Following their considerations, the Honorary Degree Review Committee shall forward the updated Approved List of Candidates for Honorary Degrees to the LTS Dean of Studies.

Procedure

1. The LTS Dean of Studies shall receive the updated Approved List of Candidates for Honorary Degrees from the Honorary Degree Review Committee.
2. Prior to the fall meeting of the Board of Governors, the LTS Dean of Studies, President, and Faculty will review the honorary degree candidate(s) from the Approved List and select one or two candidates to recommend to the Board of Governors for selection at the fall meeting.
3. Before making an offer to confer an honorary degree on an individual, the President may refer a decision to approve a candidate for an honorary degree back to the Honorary Degree Review Committee for reconsideration, based on new information received subsequent to the Committee's review.
4. Over the course of a few academic years, reasonable efforts shall be made to ensure reasonable diversity among the persons receiving honorary degrees.
5. Normally one or two degrees may be conferred each academic year and presented at Spring Convocation.
6. Honorary degrees shall not be conferred posthumously. An honorary degree may be conferred in absentia for cause.
7. If a candidate is unable to accept an invitation to receive an honorary degree at a given convocation, then that candidate, at the discretion of the President, may be invited to receive a degree at a Convocation within three years of the date of invitation. If a candidate is unable to accept an honorary degree within three years after an invitation is first given, that candidate's name shall be removed from the Approved List and kept on file as a matter of record.
8. The candidate will be informed of a decision to confer an honorary degree following approval by the Board of Governors. The decision is only made public and only by the LTS following the candidate's acceptance.

Withdrawal of Offers and Revocation of Conferrals

1. The LTS Board of Governors, upon receipt of a signed letter outlining in detail the rationale for a request of Withdrawal of an Offer or Revocation of the Conferral of an honorary degree from a member of the Board, the LTS President, the LTS Dean of Studies, a faculty member, or a current or previous student of LTS, may refer the matter to the Honorary Degree Review Committee to compile information and make a recommendation to the Board.
2. The Honorary Degree Review Committee shall compile and consider all available evidence relating to the matter under consideration. This review shall consider whether the inactions or actions of the honorary degree candidate or recipient are or were so egregious that they violate provincial or federal law, significantly endanger the reputation and/or mission of the LTS and/or the ELCIC, or violate principles of behaviour expected by the LTS and/or the ELCIC of anyone affiliated with the LTS and/or ELCIC. To

reiterate, this review shall take into account all relevant information about the honorary degree candidate or recipient as well as relevant laws and standards of behaviour.

3. The Honorary Degree Review Committee shall then make a recommendation to the Board of Governors that includes a detailed summary of the Committee's research and discussion.
4. Withdrawal of an Offer or Revocation of the Conferral of an honorary degree shall require two-thirds approval vote of the Board of Governors. The LTS President and LTS Dean of Studies shall be present at the meeting and invited to participate in the Board's discussion of the matter but shall not vote.
5. The Chair of the Board of Governors shall inform the honorary degree candidate or recipient of the Board's decision with a brief statement of the rationale, but shall not share the details of the Honorary Degree Review Committee's work or the Board's discussion of the matter.