

Dear siblings in Christ,

Greetings from Capital University! I'm grateful to share with you a report on religious and spiritual life here as we conclude the 2021-2022 school year. My contact information is at the end of this report, so if you have questions or would like to better connect with Capital, please reach out.

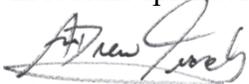
Since my last report, the Board of Trustees dropped the interim tag from President Dave Kaufman's title and welcomed him into permanent leadership at Capital. As a lifelong Lutheran, Dave is a champion of Lutheran higher education and the gifts our church has to offer the wider world. Under Dave's leadership, we've emerged as a more fiscally sound institution, seen both in the increased giving of our partners and the first raises given to faculty and staff in multiple years. After a few years of considering our nickname and mascot, our community voted overwhelmingly to become the Capital Comets, which has allowed members from across our institution to rally as one community. To the delight of many, our Christmas Festival returned this year to an in-person format. Perhaps most importantly, our COVID cases and infection rates have been far lower than Franklin County, and our vaccination rate is much higher (over 90%). Enrollment projections for the Fall show a solidly rebound from pandemic struggles, an encouraging sign for our longterm mission.

One area where our mission is palpably enacted is in our commitment to student success. This is an interconnected network of priorities. One, Project Indigo, is an initiative that uses digital resources to collapse the resource gaps between students. Another, our Office of Student Success, provides coaches to help students achieve not only their academic goals, but their broader purposes.

The administration recognized the value of the Center for Faith and Learning in supporting student success by approving a second full-time ministry position in our office for the first time in over thirty years. Rev. Dikiea Elery, ordained in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), came to us from Bluegrass Community and Technical College in Lexington, Kentucky. Rev. Elery also served as Assistant Pastor at East Second Street Christian Church, one of the historically Black Disciples congregations. We're thrilled with not just her work, but her leadership among us and the relationships she's already built with students, faculty, and staff in just a few short months.

In the coming months, Capital will hire a new Director of Athletics, launch an actionable master plan to prioritize investment in and use of our facilities, return to summer camp programming, and host Bexley's Juneteenth and 4th of July celebrations. It's a new day at Capital University and we'd love to welcome you to campus

In radiant splendor shine!



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