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Dear Colleagues,

As we approach a full month of state-mandated sheltering in place, I hope and pray that you and the people you care about are well. The times are challenging, but our Lord is faithful and our people are resilient!

There is some emergent news out of Portland. Yesterday, the online program management company HotChalk sued Concordia-Portland, the LCMS, and others in connection with that university's announced closure. As I understand it, Concordia-Chicago is not named in the suit. I don't have enough information to comment on the suit at this time.

I'm sure all of you want to know how Concordia-Chicago is faring during the pandemic. On one hand, the times are very challenging and getting more so. Please have your eyes open to the gravity of the situation brought upon us by COVID-19. On the other hand, we're managing this weighty situation well – thanks to so many outstanding members of our faculty, staff, and administration.

We're responding effectively to the significant initial financial impact of COVID-19, maintaining our stability and taking steps to preserve cash. In addition, the federal government under the CARES Act has allotted up to approximately \$900,000 in emergency aid for our eligible students, and we're in the process of determining the means of making that aid available. Concordia will eventually receive a like amount for different purposes on terms the government has yet to disclose fully – more on that when we know more. Although we employ too many people to be eligible for the largest slice of CARES Act funding through the SBA loan program, I'm thankful for all we do have.

As you might expect, we're focusing on admission and retention efforts, which the pandemic makes much more challenging and uncertain. And because of that uncertainty, we're planning for financial contingencies should revenues suffer a significant setback. We're also exploring further options to stabilize the University's financial position and ensure our viability into the future.

I'm proud of our people as we're rising to the occasion, not shrinking in the face of it. I'm highly confident that we'll get to the other side of the COVID-19 crisis. Not without difficulties and hard choices, but we'll get there and be poised to flourish as we carry out our mission.

Indeed, we've never stopped carrying out our mission. We all do so each and every day. Perhaps you're finding new ways to convey to potential students how special CUC is, or to keep current students engaged in university life beyond the virtual classroom. Or maybe you're continuing to provide a top-notch education for our students, regardless of modality. Or maybe you're navigating a constant flow of new situations on the business side of the university. Perhaps you're bringing the new website to fruition, managing the complexities of our response to the COVID-19 crisis, or keeping our IT humming amidst

new burdens. Whoever you are, whatever your role, you're making the mission happen as part of the CUC team. You're contributing, and I thank you!

We know that through all these difficulties – related to health, family, church, education, work, finances, politics, and more – we ultimately must rely upon God. As C.S. Lewis said, “the trouble is that relying on God has to begin all over again every day, as if nothing had yet been done.” Thankfully, every day God pours out upon us His abundant, merciful love in Christ Jesus. May we live, by God's grace, in complete reliance upon that love.

Grace to you,

Dr Dawn

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