



NAVIGATING A YEAR OF DISRUPTION

2020 was a year of intense disruption, challenge, and uncertainty brought on by one pandemic – COVID-19 and intensified by another – systemic racism. AS highlighted in our redeveloped *In Trust* magazine's autumn issue "The Promise of Renewal in the Wake of the Pandemics," 2020 was also a year of resourcefulness, strength, and hope. We experienced creativity, partnerships, and openness to change across the membership. And we heard from you in a year-end survey about the many ways you are embracing change and innovation. The In Trust Center pivoted alongside of you expanding our resources and spaces to best support you during this critical time. We are grateful to be your partners in fulfilling your mission.

ABOUT US

232

MEMBERS
& AFFILIATES

52

INDIVIDUAL
DONORS

7

FULL-TIME
STAFF

3

SUPPORTING
FOUNDATIONS

LILLY ENDOWMENT INC.

provides generous program
and organizational support.

M.J. MURDOCK CHARITABLE TRUST

provides major program support.

KERN FAMILY FOUNDATION

provides additional support.

THE MISSION of the In Trust Center for Theological Schools is to strengthen theological schools by connecting their leaders to essential resources for mission vitality.

OUR VISION:

- ◆ To be a center for change and renewal in theological education
 - ◆ A critical partner and leader in theological education
 - ◆ A major innovative and coordinating organization
 - ◆ A collaborator on transformative initiatives

OUR VALUES:

- ◆ Excellence
- ◆ Service
- ◆ Trust

The In Trust Center for Theological Schools is a membership organization serving theological schools and their leaders throughout the United States and Canada. We are a resourcing center providing customized consultation via **Resource Consulting**, including templates and guides on our website, **initiatives**, **publications**, including the award-winning *In Trust* magazine, and **learning communities**, including live and on-demand webinars and facilitated conversations all dedicated to furthering theological education in North America.

RESOURCE CONSULTING

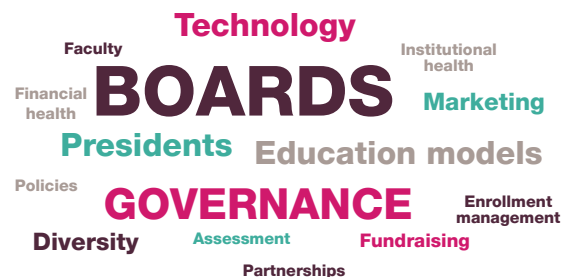
Resource Consulting is a benefit for In Trust Center members and affiliates that supports institutions as they focus on achieving their mission. Our Resource Consultants connect you with the best resources, then walk alongside as you define challenges, discern directions, and initiate solutions.

86
Schools
served

21
New
downloadable
resources

Some of the challenges and opportunities explored:

- ◆ How do we understand where our school is on the innovation spectrum within theological education?
- ◆ Do you have suggested resources for the presidential search process and transition management?
- ◆ What are some of the wise practices and tools available for assessment and evaluation of boards and presidents?
- ◆ Can you provide resources for board orientation and development?
- ◆ What resources are available for alumni engagement?
- ◆ What models of partnerships and collaborations are schools exploring?
- ◆ How can we take our board through a process of strategic thinking and planning?



TOP TOPICS FOR RESOURCE CONSULTING IN 2020

◆ Boards ◆ Governance ◆ Education models ◆ Presidents ◆ Technology ◆ Marketing

INITIATIVES

Resource Grants

Funded by Lilly Endowment Inc., the Resource Grant initiative provides matching support of up to \$10,000 to In Trust Center members seeking to use external resources in innovative ways. In 2020, we awarded 19 grants for projects that addressed: diversity, equity, and inclusion; student services; marketing; and online learning, among other areas.

2020 GRANT RECIPIENTS: Acadia Divinity College, Assemblies of God Theological Seminary at Evangel University, Columbia Biblical Seminary of Columbia International University, Covenant Theological Seminary, Grace Theological Seminary, Interdenominational Theological Center, John Leland Center for Theological Studies, Lancaster Theological Seminary, Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago, Meadville Lombard Theological School, Northwest Baptist Seminary, Saint John's University School of Theology and Seminary, Shaw University Divinity School, St. Tikhon's Orthodox Theological Seminary, The Seattle School of Theology & Psychology, Trinity Evangelical Divinity School, United Lutheran Seminary, Wesley Seminary at Indiana Wesleyan University, and Western Seminary.

"The In Trust Resource Grant gave us the means to concentrate on the central issues confronting the future of our institution. It allowed us the space to step back, gather information, and consider new possibilities for what the future can hold."

– Resource grant awardee

Building Capacity for Sustainability in Historically Black Theological Schools



Funded by Lilly Endowment Inc., the Building Capacity initiative was a three-year initiative providing Historically Black Theological Schools with opportunities for coaching, peer learning, and collaboration. In 2020, the schools began developing a concept that became The Gift of Black Theological Education & Black Church Collaborative. It is designed as an innovative learning experience purposed to transform the Black experience by exploring and seeking resolutions through a theological lens to address systemic inequality in the public square. Programming for this work began January 2021.

PARTICIPATING SCHOOLS INCLUDE: Hood Theological Seminary, Interdenominational Theological Center, Payne Theological Seminary, Samuel DeWitt Proctor School of Theology at Virginia Union University, and Shaw University Divinity School.

Wise Stewards Initiative (WSI)

Funded by the M. J. Murdock Charitable Trust, the WSI utilizes a cohort-based learning module that includes coaching, assessment, and peer-learning opportunities to strengthen board governance and provide opportunity for board development. In 2020, we held our first virtual seminar for 10 freestanding schools and their governing boards and kicked off our third cohort consisting of embedded schools and their advisory boards.

THE 2020-21 SCHOOLS ARE: Earlham School of Religion, George W. Truett Theological Seminary of Baylor University, Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary at Lenoir-Rhyne University, Perkins School of Theology at Southern Methodist University, Providence University College and Theological Seminary, Trinity Lutheran Seminary at Capital University, and Wesley Seminary at Indiana Wesleyan University.



Dr. Rebekah Basinger, WSI project director, in a seminar.

"I'm incredibly grateful for this process. Notwithstanding the virus, the Wise Stewards project comes at an important time for our institution given the need for significant strategic financial planning improvements and focusing on opportunities to think more creatively about ways to expand our capabilities to maximize the impact of our mission."

Thanks to the In Trust team and the Murdock Trust!"



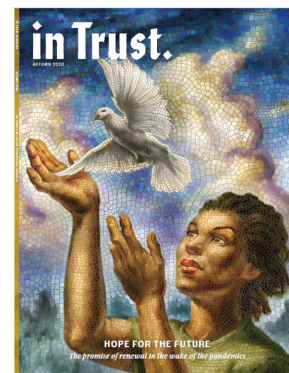
"This was really worth it. It will help us improve the governance of our Board."

– 2020 WSI participants

PUBLICATIONS

In Trust magazine

First published in 1988, *In Trust* magazine has been the flagship publication of the center and has long shared stories of trends and news in theological education in North America. In 2020, the center undertook a redevelopment of the award-winning magazine to find new ways to tell stories. The result has been a magazine with a fresh design and more perspectives and voices combined with expanded content and visuals to engage readers and help leaders think through issues in theological education.



4

Issues

57

Articles

39

Contributing
writers

29,430

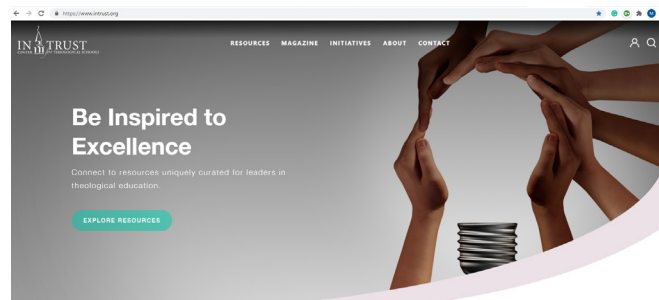
Magazines
mailed

4

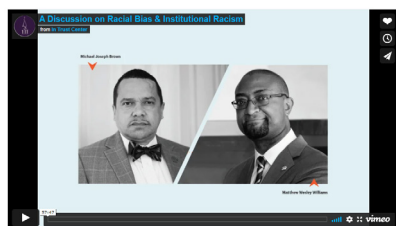
Magazine
awards

Website and newsletter

The In Trust Center website underwent a redevelopment to improve the design and help people find needed resources quickly and easily. The new website had earned positive reviews from member schools who can download and view dozens of resources, webinars, guides, templates, and how-tos, and articles, including years of back issues of *In Trust* magazine. The center also publishes a monthly email newsletter that reaches more than 7,000 people, with a readership that is active - people not only open the newsletter but also forward it to others. The newsletter links to stories on the In Trust Center blog, webinars, learning communities, and a variety of opportunities.



LEARNING COMMUNITIES



In 2020, we increased our learning community opportunities by offering confidential space for theological school leaders to discuss important issues facing their schools and creating COVID-specific webinars related to what we heard from the field. On-demand webinars can be found on our website.

Webinars

14
Total

1,137
Live viewers

**Facilitated
conversations**

20
Total

244
Participants

CONTACT US

To think through issues at your school, discuss trends in theological education, or to find new resources or connections, contact the In Trust Center team at: (302) 654-7770, resources@intrust.org, or www.intrust.org.

