



Meadville Lombard
Theological School

changing lives to change the world

November 21, 2008

Dear Students, Faculty, Staff and Friends of Meadville Lombard Theological School

The Board of Trustees met this past weekend and continued, among other important issues, our consideration of the Integrated Educational Design as recommended by the faculty and administration. The board consists of a broad array of Unitarian Universalists including alumni/ae, academics, ministers and lay leaders all of whom care deeply about Meadville Lombard and its future. After hearing enthusiastic support from all but two members of the faculty, the board voted the following resolution: "The Board endorses the Integrated Education Design as presented to the Board and authorizes its implementation." All trustees save one voted "yes" to this motion.

Before endorsing the Meadville Lombard Educational Model, we reviewed several critical issues. First, we hoped that the model would include the possibility of a full-time internship and it does. Second, we wished to see evidence that the faculty is fully engaged in the development of the model and it is. Third, we wanted to make sure that it served the ever-changing needs of theological students and the communities they will serve and it does. And, finally, we looked for evidence that the model could be implemented effectively. We believe it can.

The discussion preceding this vote was intense and serious, taking into account the views of everyone who cares about the School's traditions and future. We regret how much misinformation about the plan is extant and ask skeptics to give it a fair chance.

The Board is pleased with the thoughtful work the school's faculty and administration has done to envision and plan for liberal ministry in a time when progressive religious leadership is so desperately needed.

We know the Meadville Lombard Educational Model is groundbreaking for all of theological education. We are especially proud that Meadville Lombard is a leader in this effort.

Yours in faith,

Lawrence R. Ladd, Chair
Board of Trustees