Report from the Council on Theological Education to the General Board
of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
March 2013

The CTE is comprised of the presidents and deans of the four seminaries, and the heads of the
two divinity houses and the Disciples Seminary Foundation along with staff from the Atlantic United
Divinity Center. Rick Spleth represents the College of Regional Ministers and Dennis Landon
serves as staff support from Higher Education and Leadership Ministries.

CTE met twice in the past year. The Council participated in a symposium September 13-15, 2012,
in Indianapolis. Charisse Gillett (Lexington Theological Seminary) and Richard Spleth facilitated
the planning and coordination of the event. The Pension Fund was a significant partner in the
gathering and primary underwriter. The topic was “The Role of Theological Seminaries in
Sustaining Pastoral Ministry.” The speakers included a researcher from Notre Dame doing work on
clergy health, and representatives of the Lilly Endowment and the Association of Theological
Schools.

The Council met in its regular annual meeting February 27-28, 2013, at Christian Theological
Seminary in Indianapolis. As is CTE’s custom, the meeting opened with institutional updates. In
oral reports, representatives of each school described what life is like at their school—the ethos,
the rhythms, and how such is experienced by students, faculty, and staff. The schools are united in
their mission to provide quality graduate theological education to and for the church; but the
schools are taking different and innovative paths to pursue that mission.

CTE was reminded that Gary Peluso-Verend (Phillips) serves as chair and Matt Boulton (CTS)
represents CTE on the General Board.

The funding formula for how DMF funds are divided has not been examined by CTE for about ten
years. This matter should be on our next year’s agenda.

Members spent much of the meeting deliberating about the work we could and should do together
for the sake of strengthening graduate theological education in the Christian Church and how best
to promote the work of the schools in the Church.

The next meeting of CTE was set for February 26-28, 2014, in Indianapolis.

Respectfully submitted,
Gary Peluso-Verend
Phillips Theological Seminary
Chair, Council on Theological Education (April 2012 – March 2014)

The General Board has reviewed Report No. 1308 from the Council on Theological
Education. The report is submitted to the General Assembly for consideration and
discussion. No action is required. (Discussion time 12 minutes)