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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CTS President Edward L. Wheeler to be named President Emeritus
CTS to begin search for new president immediately

The desire for a smooth presidential transition has prompted the board of trustees of Christian Theological Seminary to accelerate the search for a candidate to succeed the institution's current leader, President Edward L. Wheeler. Hoping that the new president can assume the office by July 1, 2011, Wheeler has been named president emeritus by the board effective July 1, 2011. Wheeler has agreed to serve until a new president assumes the position.

Wheeler will retire on June 12, 2012, the final day of his third five-year contract leading the school, as he and the board had previously announced. Wheeler has been the longest-serving president in CTS's 50 year history.

"This plan provides for a smooth transition to new leadership that will hopefully allow CTS to continue to move forward without a break in its momentum," Wheeler said in a statement he made to CTS faculty, students and staff at a meeting held on March 15. Both the board and Wheeler envision that the new president will be able to draw on Wheeler's expertise and experience during the year of transition.

The process of searching for a new president has already begun. A transition committee formed by the board of trustees will be working with the CTS faculty, staff and students to determine what qualities are needed and desired in a new president. A search committee, yet to be appointed, will be made of up to seven trustees as well as representatives from the faculty, student body, business community and leaders of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), the denomination most closely associated with governance of the ecumenical seminary.

No timetable has been identified for the search committee, except for Board President David Herzog's stated desire for the new president to begin service in July, 2011.

“It has been a wonderful privilege to serve this community and I look forward to continuing my presidency through next year as well as serving in the role of President Emeritus,” said Wheeler. “ I want to thank the Board for the respect they have shown for my years of service by the way they have worked with me to develop a way to meet the institution’s needs. Most of all, I want to thank this community for the love, support and encouragement you have extended.”

CTS is a fully accredited ecumenical seminary and is affiliated with the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). It offers eight graduate-level degree programs, including theology, ministry and counseling, with specializations in ministries that emphasize the arts and programs for life-long learning. More than 25 denominations are represented among faculty and students.

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