***What will happen to the Crumley Archives?***

Members of the Board of Trustees of the James R. Crumley Jr Archives have heard that question a lot over the last few weeks, as news has spread of the move of Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary from Columbia, South Carolina, to the main campus of Lenoir-Rhyne in Hickory, North Carolina, as of January 1, 2025. You may read the letter from Dr. Chad Rimmer, LTSS Rector and Dean, to Seminary alumni (https://www.lr.edu/ltss-future/updates/chad-rimmer-ltss-move-to-hickory) announcing this news.

Since the Crumley Archives are housed in Lineberger Library on the Seminary campus, the question is a good one. As one of the largest regional archives in the ELCA, the Crumley Archives contain records dating back to the 18th century, including documents, treasures, and artifacts ranging from the 1700’s into the 2000’s.

The Archives Board of Directors will have the primary role in making the final determination of the new location of the Archives. The Board is made up of representatives of each of the Region 9 synods, as well as representatives of various partners of the Archives, such as Novus Way, who have deposited their records there for safekeeping.

A “Relocation Task Force” has already been appointed and has held its initial meeting. The Task Force has also heard from and met with Dr. Rimmer to discuss the future. A few things are already clear:

* **The Archives does not need to move immediately.** Lenoir-Rhyne has no immediate plans for the campus, and so we will not be required to vacate the Lineberger Library building by January 1, 2025.
* **The Task Force will explore the best possible location** for the Archives that will provide continued central access to records for our patrons.
* **A new site actually presents some new and exciting opportunities** to expand both our collection space (which we were already outgrowing), and will provide an opportunity to obtain more display space that could be become a center for recognizing the story of Lutheranism in the South.
* **Any such move is going to require significant funding**. Under a partnership arrangement with LTSS, the Seminary made our archival space available to us free of charge. In exchange, the Archives provided care and oversite for the Seminary’s collection and records. That situation will obviously not remain the same going forward.
* **Our mission will remain unchanged: t**o safeguard the documents, records, and artifacts of Lutheranism in the Southeast that help us understand where we have come from, the struggles we have faced, and the adversity we have overcome. The Crumley Archives will care for and preserve the precious records of that history with the same care it has always provided.

You will hear much more about the work to relocate the Archives in the coming months. To follow the progress of the Seminary’s move, please check in often on the website, “Frequently Asked Questions” (<https://www.lr.edu/ltss-future/faq>) as it will be updated to provide the most current information.

If you have questions, comments, or suggestions about this issue, please feel free to contact Dr. Susan McArver, Chair of the Board of Directors of the Crumley Archives at susan.mcarver@lr.edu, or Shannon Smith, Archivist, crumleyarchivist@gmail.com.