Explanation of Concept
The Wesley House of Study at Sioux Falls Seminary was established to better serve the needs of students seeking to minister in the context of the United Methodist Church (UMC) and to provide a platform for UM alumni continuing education and spiritual renewal. For many years, the seminary has served United Methodist students as the second largest denominational body represented among students. The Wesley House of Study allows Sioux Falls Seminary to serve UM students more effectively and with greater intentionality.

Much theological education today involves skills and knowledge that are shared among the various theological traditions: pastoral care, preaching, educational ministries, knowledge of church history, biblical exegesis, church leadership, intercultural ministry, and more. Many classes in these areas are nearly identical whether taken at a Baptist or United Methodist school. It is for this reason seminaries across the country by and large are seeing greater denominational diversity within their student bodies. It is the role of the Wesley House of Study to address those areas where there are significant differences between traditions and to provide continuing education and spiritual renewal opportunities.

Core Mission
The Wesley House of Study at Sioux Falls Seminary was established to provide a context within the seminary that serves the unique needs of United Methodist students, to foster a Wesleyan ethos compatible with UMC congregations, to maintain a network of communication between UMC students and pastors and the credentialing, adjudicatory, and placement services of the UMC, and to provide continuing education and spiritual renewal for alumni.

Specific Functions
The Wesley House of Study at Sioux Falls Seminary will:

• Create an “in house” identity and network of support through regular fellowship meetings, including contact with Bishops, District Superintendents, and UMC clergy
• Provide a United Methodist ethos for students
• Promote United Methodist patterns of worship, the Social Principles of the UMC, and a Wesleyan vision for theological education among students (in keeping with the document, “A Wesleyan Vision for Theological Education and Leadership Formation for the 21st Century”)
• Provide liaison services between students and their various conferences and District Superintendents
• Give accurate and timely information relative to ordination and credentialing requirements
• Offer opportunities for continuing education and spiritual renewal for United Methodist alumni
• Maintain contact with the University Senate of the United Methodist Church, channeling communication on questions of curriculum decisions and preparation for ministry
• Offer courses to meet the unique needs of UM students in polity, doctrine, history, missiology, and theology under the auspices of Wesley House and taught by qualified faculty, including those at St. Paul School of Theology in Kansas City, MO.
• Seek scholarships for United Methodist students at SFS

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