STATEMENT OF INTENT

In light of the purpose of the Graduate School of Concordia Seminary “to provide for the church and, through the church, for the world, both clergy and lay scholars of the highest level of competence, to bear witness to the truth and to the Gospel of God” and its motto “Addressing Contemporary Issues with the Historic Christian Faith,” describe what you as a theologian, if accepted, would hope to contribute to Concordia’s community of faith and learning focused upon a creedal understanding of the Christian faith and the Great Tradition.

List the scholars and books that thus far have influenced most the questions that are driving your interest in pursuing a PhD. What are some of your present, primary research questions? How have each of these thinkers and texts informed those questions?

List the fields and disciplines in which the above-mentioned thinkers and texts are located. What methods do they employ and in what ways do you find them useful for your research interests?

List the names of graduate programs to which you are considering applying, including Concordia Seminary. In each case, list at least one scholar in that program with whom you have an interest in working. Discuss the research interests of the scholar(s) with whom you are interested. In what way does their research align with your own interests and questions?

List the names of people, places, organizations, and institutions that have shaped you theologically. List and discuss its/their influence on your personal and theological formation. List the names of people, places, organizations, and institutions that have shaped you intellectually. List and discuss its/their influence on your intellectual formation.

Rank in order (1–5) the major professional activities and goals you feel called to undertake and achieve. What contribution would that activity or accomplishment make to your chosen field or discipline?