

As student leaders of close to 190 Northern students and alumni, we want to express the wide range of emotions that are being felt upon finding out Dr. Shiell has resigned as President of our seminary. First, we are relieved that healing can begin in our community, particularly for those who have bravely come forward with their stories. Second, we are grateful for the many ways in which students, faculty, and staff have worked to support and encourage one another and to seek justice together over the past month. This is the tov community we all signed up for when we came to Northern, and we are thankful to see those core values are still in place. We welcome the interim leadership of Dr. Bowling, who already is beginning to work for the good of Northern. Finally, however, we still have deep concerns about how this whole situation has been handled by the board. Students have sent two separate letters, one in February and one just four days ago, with specific requests for how we believe the board could have acted more victim-centered and trauma-informed. Unfortunately, a victim advocate was never brought in to our knowledge, nor was Dr. Shiell de-centered in the process. The letters which were sent out today actually did the opposite, and we feel deep sorrow and also honestly, anger, for how victims have been treated throughout this process. This all must be addressed moving forward in order for full healing to take place. We look forward to students continuing to have a voice and a seat at the table when it comes to the future of Northern Seminary.

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