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About Rooted and Open : The Common Calling of the Network of ELCA Colleges and Universities

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About *Rooted and Open: The Common Calling of the Network of ELCA Colleges and Universities*

Rooted and Open is the Network of ELCA Colleges and Universities' statement on Lutheran identity (or institutional vocation) in higher education. The full text is between pages 30-31 of this special issue of *Intersections*.

The development of this articulation of the "common calling" of our 27 institutions was a major project of NECU in its first years as our collegiate association in the ELCA. The statement was written to serve as a resource for NECU institutions. Since its adoption in January 2018, many NECU institutions have found *Rooted and Open* to be a helpful tool. We hope this issue of *Intersections* will encourage further use of this foundational document and assist with its interpretation.

Thank you to the faculty working group who donated their knowledge, wisdom, and time in the development and drafting of *Rooted and Open* in an 18-month period during 2016-17. Its members are listed below. Asterisks denote the persons who formed the writing team for *Rooted and Open*:

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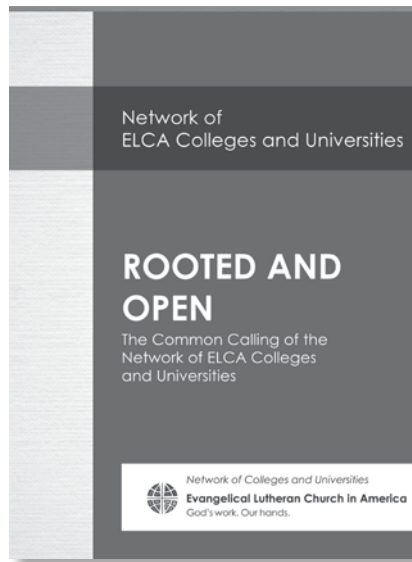
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Samuel Torvend, Pacific Lutheran University

*Mark Wilhelm, NECU

Ned Wisnefske, Roanoke College



By providing comments on a draft in the summer of 2017, NECU presidents gave further shape to *Rooted and Open*. A penultimate version was revised by Darrel Colson, President of Wartburg College, in collaboration with Mark Wilhelm, Executive Director of NECU, and members of NECU's Executive Committee. The presidents of NECU institutions unanimously adopted the document as an accurate and aspirational articulation of our shared institutional calling in January 2018.

This issue of *Intersections* begins with an essay by Mark Wilhelm that further elaborates on the background and goals of *Rooted and Open*. The other three members of the writing team offered additional context and analysis when presenting a draft to the NECU presidents in summer of 2017; revised versions of their remarks are included here as well. The remainder of the essays mark a variety of ways that *Rooted and Open* is being discussed and employed on NECU campuses—from a deep dive into its major claims with one university board of regents, to a case for moving from common calling to the particular callings of each institution (and back again), and again to the ways that our unique institutional callings can help us better support the "faithful nones" in our classrooms and to teach self-care to our students so that they might more reflectively and intentionally live out their own callings. May the issue be informative and inspirational as you live out your part of the shared vocation of Lutheran higher education.