

2011

From the Publisher

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Wilhelm, Mark (2011) "From the Publisher," *Intersections*: Vol. 2011: No. 33, Article 2.

Available at: <http://digitalcommons.augustana.edu/intersections/vol2011/iss33/2>

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Purpose Statement

This publication is by and largely for the academic communities of the twenty-eight colleges and universities of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. It is published by the Vocation and Education unit of the ELCA. The publication has its home at Augustana College, Rock Island, Illinois, which has generously offered leadership and physical and financial support as an institutional sponsor for the publication.

The ELCA has frequently sponsored conferences for faculty and administrators that have addressed the church-college/university partnership. The ELCA has sponsored an annual Vocation of the Lutheran College Conference. The primary purpose of *Intersections* is to enhance and continue such dialogue. It will do so by:

- Lifting up the vocation of Lutheran colleges and universities
- Encouraging thoughtful dialogue about the partnership of colleges and universities with the church
- Offering a forum for concerns and interests of faculty at the intersection of faith, learning, and teaching
- Raising for debate issues about institutional missions, goals, objectives, and learning priorities
- Encouraging critical and productive discussion on our campuses of issues focal to the life of the church
- Serving as a bulletin board for communications among institutions and faculties
- Publishing papers presented at conferences sponsored by the ELCA and its institutions
- Raising the level of awareness among faculty about the Lutheran heritage and connectedness of their institutions, realizing a sense of being part of a larger family with common interests and concerns.

From the Publisher

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America's vocation in higher education remains vibrant. The articles in this issue of *Intersections* from the 2010 Vocation of a Lutheran College conference demonstrate that strength.

Nonetheless, the landscape of leadership in ELCA higher education has shifted significantly since the vocation conference of summer 2010. A redesign of the churchwide organization, which was announced in October 2010, radically revised churchwide ministries with colleges and universities. The Vocation and Education unit ceased to exist as of February 1, 2011. Churchwide work in higher education is now carried by the Congregational and Synodical Mission unit in the redesigned churchwide organization. And, as most readers know, familiar churchwide staff from the Vocation and Education unit either have left the churchwide organization (Marilyn Olson and Kathryn Baker) or have been reassigned to another unit (Arne Quanbeck). I continue to work with colleges and universities, although higher education is only one of four assigned portfolios.

Given this reduction in human resources, staff and faculty from ELCA colleges and universities have stepped up their leadership of our community. For example, our annual administrator conferences have been more directly managed by college and university leaders. I deeply appreciate those who have helped to sustain our network during these days of transition.

Many of you have led much of the work of maintaining our network for years. To name a few examples: Bob Haak at Augustana (IL) has served faithfully as the editor of this publication; George Connell at Concordia has overseen the Lutheran Academy of Scholars until recently and has now passed the baton to Jacquie Bussie (one of the authors of the articles in this issue); and Tom Morgan at Augsburg has provided leadership for gatherings of the Vocation of a Lutheran College Conference. In many respects, the health and vibrancy of our network has resulted from the willingness of many of you to take on leadership of the network for many years.

So I welcome the increased participation by all of you in the leadership of our network. And, even though I regret the loss of capacity in the churchwide organization brought about by the changing economy of the ELCA, this apparent change is really nothing new. As I noted above, the ELCA has long been a church in which its higher education network has taken the lead in directing its own common mission. To the extent that we do need new ways of maintaining our network, the Council of Presidents at ELCA colleges and universities has begun exploring the changes that might be required. Thanks to all who continue to contribute toward sustaining the gift of ELCA higher education.

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