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From the Publisher

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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

| In this issue of *Intersections* we feature articles based on presentations made at the 2005 conference on “The Vocation of a Lutheran College.” Those presentations were focused on the upcoming ELCA Social Statement on Education. At that time we had before us a study document from the Task Force that is working on that social statement. Now we have a first draft of the statement itself: “**Our Calling in Education**”. If you have not seen that draft, I urge you to download it from the ELCA website at www.elca.org/socialstatements/education.

The task force would like you to respond to the draft. **Please send them your response before October 15, 2006.** There is a response form at the end of the draft document. The task force will study the responses, and then produce a second draft, which will be submitted to the 2007 ELCA Churchwide Assembly for approval. This is the way the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America establishes its policies: a study, hearings and feedback, a first draft, more hearings and feedback, a second draft, final consideration by a representative body. It is a very democratic process, but like all democratic processes, it only works well if a large and representative set of citizens/members is engaged, gets informed, and participates in the process.

I worry about how many people will participate in this process because at the same time another ELCA Task Force is working on a social statement on sexuality, with a timeline culminating in the 2009 Churchwide Assembly. My impression is that many more people care about what the official position of the ELCA will be on sexual issues than about our stand on educational issues. But for Martin Luther, and for us as who work at or with Lutheran educational institutions, education is as important as sex. It is likely that the social statement on education will establish the priorities of the ELCA unit for Vocation and Education, and that it will urge the colleges that are related to the church to do certain things and not do other things. So please, take the time to become an informed citizen, think about the issues raised in the first draft, and tell us what you think **before the October 15 deadline**. After an election, it does not help to say “Oh, I should have voted, but I just never got around to it.”

Living in God's Amazing Grace,

ARNE SELBYG | Director for Colleges and Universities