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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

| I am really looking forward to holding this issue of *Intersections* in my hands. The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) as a church body is still a teenager; it was established in 1987-88. The journal *Intersections* is even younger. It has been published by the ELCA Division for Higher Education and Schools (DHES) since 1996, so it is only ten years old. But both the church body and the journal have gone through major changes this year.

The ELCA has gone through restructuring. The DHES no longer exists. The work for the church and the colleges and universities that are related to the ELCA continues almost as before, but it is now done within the Educational Partnerships and Institutions (EPI) group within the unit for Vocation and Education (VE). So even though those who work with the colleges and universities do the same work as before, we have new colleagues, new bosses, a new set of budget codes, and as you can see above, a whole new set of acronyms. Soon we will also have new offices on a different floor of the Chicago building where the churchwide offices are located.

*Intersections* has a new editor, Robert Haak, is located at a new college, uses a new printing firm, and has a new design and layout. This issue is devoted to one of the most important issues that the ELCA is dealing with right now, human sexuality. Many of us hate to talk about and read about sexuality, because it used to be a taboo topic, and because so many people have such strong opinions about it that no matter what we say or do we may offend. But a church that serves the needs of its members and the needs of this society must deal with it, and so I am glad that the ELCA is developing a social statement on sexuality, just as it is developing a social statement on education.

The first draft of *Our Calling in Education: A First Draft of a Social Statement* (2006) has now been distributed for discussion and comments. A copy may be requested from 1-800-638-3522, extension 2966, or downloaded from [www.elca.org/socialstatements/education](http://www.elca.org/socialstatements/education). The Task Force on Education would like to receive your comments no later than October 15, 2006, so they can consider them as they prepare the next draft for discussion and action at the ELCA Churchwide Assembly in 2007.

*Living in God's Amazing Grace,*

ARNE SELBYG | Director for Colleges and Universities