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## From the Publisher

Arne Selbyg

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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 Division for Higher Education and Schools of the ELCA. The publication has its home at Capital University, Columbus, Ohio 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 which 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.

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## **FROM THE PUBLISHER**

When I meet with my counterparts in other denominations, they are sometimes envious that the colleges and universities that are related to the ELCA have remained very loyal to the church and to Lutheran traditions and principles of higher education, compared to what has happened to many colleges and universities that once were related to Baptist, Congregationalist, Episcopal, Methodist, Presbyterian, or other church bodies. I know of only one college in the USA that has formally severed its ties to the Lutheran church (Hartwick College in New York in 1968). There are other Lutheran colleges that want to avoid too close an embrace by the church as an institution, but they continue to honor the Lutheran ideals for higher education.

One of the main places where these Lutheran ideals are developed is in this journal, *INTERSECTIONS*. And since its founding in 1996, the journal has been edited by Dr. Tom Christenson, professor of philosophy at Capital University, and has been supported by that institution. This issue marks the ending of that service. Beginning with the next issue, the editor will be Dr. Bob Haak, professor of religion at Augustana College in Rock Island, Illinois; and Augustana will help the church with its publication.

For the ELCA this is quite a change. Tom has been an outstanding editor, and we are very grateful to him. He has done all the practical things, so we have not had to worry at all about getting the journal out; this has been outsourcing at its best. But more importantly, he has set an editorial tone that his faculty colleagues at colleges and universities across the country have responded to with enthusiasm, and he has generated articles and other content for the journal so we have had to increase the frequency of publication. Sometimes he has done cover art; sometimes he has added poetry. But in many ways this has been his journal, and through this journal he has strengthened the Lutheran identity of twenty-eight colleges and universities. Tom, we deeply appreciate all you have done for Lutheran higher education through this journal during these nine years, and we thank you for your service.

Living in God's amazing grace,

## **Arne Selbyg**

Director, ELCA Colleges and Universities

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### **FROM THE EDITOR**

What adjective should we use to talk about this issue? It's thicker than usual, in case you hadn't noticed, and it has more pieces than usual. But I hesitate to call it "fat" because that suggests that it has unnecessary overages, which it doesn't. Should we choose "weighty"? That suggests verbiage both long and dense as well as important. I doubt that's what we want to say either. Perhaps "muscular"? Someone once referred to my physique as "well-developed." I appreciated their kind efforts at euphemism. People used to use the word "fleshy." Incarnationists, particularly Lutherans, should have little quarrel with that. So here we go once again, fleshing out our thoughts for sharing.

This issue contains both some of the papers shared at last summer's Vocation of a Lutheran College Conference as well as two papers commissioned by *INTERSECTIONS* from persons who have been at the heart of the ELCA's efforts at higher education, the two directors of the Division for Higher Education and Schools, Robert Sorenson and Leonard Schulze. We thought it was appropriate to hear from them at this point in time, when the ELCA is considering restructuring and re-prioritizing the offices that oversee higher education in the church.

Arne Selbyg insisted that I use this letter as a kind of valedictory, since I am stepping down as editor of *INTERSECTIONS*. This is the last issue that I will edit. The editorship will be passed to Bob Haak at Augustana, Rock Island. I wish him well and I'm extremely happy that *INTERSECTIONS* will continue under his leadership and the support of Augustana College. Our thanks are due to Bob and the leadership at Augustana for picking up the ball and moving it on down the field.

When I first took the idea for this publication to Naomi Linnell and then to Jim Unglaube at DHES in 1994, they were both interested in the prospect but somewhat skeptical about its practicality. I think they figured it was a momentary enthusiasm (I've been known to have such) that would soon be replaced by something new. I didn't quit hounding them about it, and they finally agreed to take a proposal to the council of presidents. The presidents showed some enthusiasm for the idea, even if not for paying for it. And so the project was launched on a shoestring, where it's been hanging ever since. DHES agreed to pay for the printing, and Josiah Blackmore, then president at Capital University, agreed to pay for everything else. Subsequent presidents here have continued that commitment.

We sent out a "Birth Announcement" in the spring of 1996. Here's part of what it said:

We are pleased to announce the birth of a new publication. It will be called *Intersections: Faith+Life+Learning*. ... Why do we need such a publication?

At some recent conferences I've had a chance to talk with faculty colleagues from other ELCA colleges. From them I have heard comments such as these: "Many of the faculty at my institution don't even know we're church related, to say nothing of knowing what that means." "Is being church related anything more than a public relations device?" "Most of the faculty at my college are afraid of our church connectedness. They assume it implies another Inquisition and want nothing to do with it." "I didn't realize that we had any 'sister colleges' or that I had colleagues beyond my institution