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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 Division for Higher Education and Schools of the ELCA. The publication presently has its home at Capital University, Columbus, Ohio which has generously offered leadership, physical and The financial support as an institutional sponsor for the inauguration of the publication.

The ELCA has frequently sponsored conferences for faculty and administrators which have addressed the church - college/university partnership. Recently 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

This journal, INTERSECTIONS, was started because of a concern that general awareness of the philosophy and theology behind Lutheran higher education was not high, and could become lost due to retirements and preoccupation with other issues. The Division for Higher Education and Schools in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, and some administrators and faculty members at colleges and universities related to the ELCA thought that the issues that had been debated through the years needed to be revisited and brought forward. New deliberations needed to take place, and the arguments that were put forth needed to be published so that many of us could learn from the arguments and continue the discussion.

Among the key people behind the resumption of that debate were two people who now have retired or soon will be retired: Paul Dovre, the former president of Concordia College in Moorhead, Minnesota, and Robert Sorensen, the Executive Director of the ELCA Division for Higher Education and Schools. I know that it gives them great pleasure and satisfaction to see how active the discussion has become over the last few years, and how many people now contribute to it. Not only does "The Vocation of a Lutheran College," the conference on which this journal is based, continue to draw more than a hundred participants each year, most of whom leave it highly enthusiastic, and charged up to take the discussion of the issues to their individual campuses. Not only has the discussion become active on many of the ELCA college and university campuses, but over the last two years three new books were published that added to the debate: Ernest Simmons, *Lutheran Higher Education- An Introduction for Faculty*, Augsburg Fortress, 1998; Paul Contino and David Morgan (eds), *The Lutheran Reader*, Valparaiso University, 1999; and Pamela Schwandt (ed), *Called to Serve- St. Olaf and the Vocation of a Church College*, St. Olaf College, 1999. The Simmons book has been used so widely that it quickly sold out. Now it is being represented as simply *-An Introduction*, not meant for faculty use only.

More publications can be expected, based on the parallel initiative started in 1999, The Lutheran Academy for Scholars in Higher Education. And as you can see from this issue of *Intersections*, the debate continued last year at the "Vocation" conference at Susquehanna University. Next August the conference will take place at Dana College in Blair, Nebraska, just outside of Omaha. The focus will be on what differentiates Lutheran colleges and universities within American higher education, in educational philosophy, in teaching and learning, in research and scholarly endeavors, and in service activities. Welcome to that event.

December 1999
Arne Selbyg
Director for Colleges and Universities
ELCA-DHES

From the Editor

This is the eighth edition of *INTERSECTIONS*. When Bob Sorenson, at the ELCA Division for Higher Education and Schools endorsed the idea of such a publication a few years ago, there had been no Vocation of a Lutheran College Conferences and no Lutheran Academy of Scholars either. Bob, together with his staff, made a commitment to move forward with all of these efforts. Each of them has made a substantive contribution to the dialogue regarding the connection of church relatedness and academic calling at our institutions of higher learning. I think the conversations are livelier, the issues more fully informed and the voices in the discussion more diverse because of these developments. For all of these things we express our gratefulness to the DHES staff and especially to Bob Sorenson, since he has now announced his imminent retirement.

This issue of *INTERSECTIONS* is a good example of the kind of discussion that these efforts have generated. It includes analyses and arguments from people who are insiders to Lutheran theology and from those who are outside, from those who have spent many years at our institutions as well as those recently arrived. All of these voices are valuable, for they point out to us what we ought to be about, what we claim we are about, and what we are actually, in practice, about. What we discover is that these are not always the same thing. What I conclude from reading these essays is that what is can do well to be informed by what ought to be, *and* that what ought to be needs to be informed by what is. The livelier the dialogue between such voices, the better for all of us.

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