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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 financial support as an institutional sponsor for the inauguration of the publication.

What is the purpose of such a 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

It is good to have the first issue of INTERSECTIONS become a reality. It represents a great deal of labor, primarily by Editor Tom Christenson. We appreciate his labor of love and Capital University's willingness to be the locus for this publication.

The Vocation of a Lutheran College lives, yes, in the words of institutional mission statements. But it comes to life when the academic community becomes engaged in conversations about these intersections of faith, life and learning. We have now put in place an annual Vocation of a Lutheran College Conference where campus representatives come together to engage these topics. The publication of INTERSECTIONS will enhance these conferences. More important, it will enhance the continuing dialogue which we hope will take place on each of the campuses. Our future as colleges and universities in partnership with the church depends on it.

We are thrilled that the Lilly Endowment has made a sizable grant to support the 1996 Conference, to encourage campus dialogues, and to assist in birthing INTERSECTIONS. Our appreciation to Lilly for this commitment.

James M. Unglaube
Director, Colleges and Universities
ELCA Division for Higher Education and Schools

From the Editor

I am feeling like a proud parent. This publication has been talked about, hoped for, planned for and worked on for what seems like a long time - now here it is! I sincerely hope that all of you who read it will celebrate with those of us who have been in attendance at its birth.

I want to personally recognize the contributions of three people. First, Naomi Linnel, recently retired from the ELCA office for Higher Education and Schools, encouraged the idea of such a publication from the beginning. Second, Jim Unglaube, the real publisher, has made it turn the corner from plan to viable process. Third, Josiah Blackmore, president of Capital University, has given advice, encouragement, and personal and institutional support to the project. Without each of these people INTERSECTIONS would still be just an idea waiting to happen.

This is a publication in process. All of us connected with it invite your reactions and suggestions for improvement. Most of all, of course, we seek your active involvement. We will need, as we go along, editors, reviewers, authors, artists, and critics. We are anxious for people to engage in dialogue over the issues they see raised here and to advance to INTERSECTIONS the form that dialogue takes in the variety of campuses that make up this ELCA college/university family.

Tom Christenson
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