

Intersections

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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.

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:

With the publication of this issue of **Intersections** we have begun our second year of this valuable part of the **Vocation of a Lutheran College Program**. This entire effort has caught the attention of hundreds of people on our 28 college and university campuses and has been able to play an important role in nurturing the Lutheran tradition in higher education. **Intersections** has served as an important bridge between the annual summer conference and the conversations which have been occurring on the campuses.

As I write this, the 1997 conference is just around the corner. This year we will be looking at the Lutheran tradition in higher education from two perspectives. The first is from the outside. Richard Hughes from Pepperdine University will share insights from the Lilly Endowment project which included publication of the book he co-edited: **Models for Christian Higher Education**. David Johnson, President of the University of Minnesota at Morris will look at the tradition from the perspective of someone in the public sector. David is a Luther College graduate and served for many years as the chief academic officer at Gustavus Adolphus College. The second perspective is from the inside. Ann Pederson from the Religion faculty at Augustana in Sioux Falls looks at the tradition from the campus setting. Timothy Lull, President of Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary will give a broader view from the church. We will be gathering on the Carthage College campus in Kenosha, Wisconsin.

An exciting new development in this program will be shared in its initial stages at the conference at Carthage. Eric Eliason, Associate Professor of English at Gustavus Adolphus College, has been working on a model for the development of an Academy of Scholars in Lutheran Higher Education. He will share with us his thoughts on creating such an academy as a vehicle for summer seminars wherein faculty from our campuses will be able to do intensive scholarly research topics related to the sub-title of **Intersections**, namely the intersections of faith, life and learning, enabling participants to venture into this area and out of their more narrow academic discipline. We look forward to his report.

These are exciting days for Lutheran Higher education.

James M. Unglaube
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ELCA Division for Higher Education and Schools
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