

Report of the Campus Ministry Committee Indiana-Kentucky Synod Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Pastor Mitch Phillips

June 5 – 7, 2008

The Campus Ministry Committee is charged with providing oversight for the campus ministries within the synod. Lutheran Campus Ministry has always been a partnership enterprise between the national church, the synod, and the local ministry. The national church brings the expertise in campus ministry and screens candidates for staff positions. The synod determines priorities for placement of campus ministries and provides resources to support the ministries. The local boards guide the ministry in partnership with the ministry staff. The Campus Ministry Committee receives budgeted funds from both the Synod (\$118,000 in 2007 and 2008, down from \$157,800 in 2006) and national church (\$29,892 since 2006). Some additional resources are generated through fundraising. The committee then determines how to allocate these funds among the campus ministries.

Here in the Indiana-Kentucky Synod, we are blessed to have five full-time campus ministries as our partners in mission:

- Associate in Ministry Rodelyn McPherson serves at Ball State University. She is planning to retire this year.
- Pastor Steve Rye is the campus pastor serving at Purdue University.
- Pastor Barry Neese serves our campus ministry at the University of Kentucky in Lexington - a ministry that is in partnership with the Episcopalians.
- We are also in partnership with the Episcopal church in Indianapolis. Episcopal priest Father Charles Allen serves this ministry which is primarily focused on Butler University, but there is also outreach to IUPUI.
- Pastor Kelli Skram and Diaconal Minister Jeff Schacht are the married couple who serve the campus ministry at Indiana University in Bloomington.

You can find links to each of the campus ministry websites on the Campus Ministry page at www.iksynod.org.

Serving on the Campus Ministry Committee during the past year have been: Julie Slavens, Dale Austin, Charles Sweet, Pastor James Hilleson, Pastor William Peugeot, and Pastor Mitch Phillips. We are joined by Pastor Bill Gafkjen from the synod staff and Pastor Marcus Pera, the ELCA Coordinator for Campus Ministry in our region. All of the campus ministry staff also serve as advisory members of the committee.

This group has had some challenging meetings this past year. With the reduction in funding from the synod due to declining congregational benevolence, the committee realized that we cannot continue funding the five ministries as we are now and be able to expect all of the ministries to survive, much less thrive. In 2008, the grants provided to

each campus cover only 49 per cent of the compensation and benefits for the ministry staff. The local ministry has to raise the remainder, plus any costs for facilities and programming. Last summer, each ministry was asked to develop a strategic mission plan that included consideration for generating additional funding. When the committee met in September to determine a strategic missional funding plan, there was a strong commitment to try and maintain a ministry presence on all five campuses. The committee met again in November without the campus ministry staff to approve a Strategic Mission Funding Proposal. This plan identifies targets for funding levels for each campus and is dependent upon the restoration of some of the funds that were cut at the synod level. It is also dependent upon restructuring our partnerships with the Episcopal Dioceses in Lexington and Indianapolis. At the time of this writing, those conversations are ongoing. The plan was shared with the Synod Council at their November meeting.

Even if we are able to fully implement the Strategic Mission Funding Proposal, each campus ministry will still have a significant fundraising responsibility. In addition to reaching out to alumni, parents, and friends as they have in the past, the campus ministries have been encouraged to develop Mission Partner relationships with neighboring congregations, similar to the type of partnerships that are established with mission congregations. A significant difference for campus ministry, however, is that it will always remain a mission outpost of the church, dependent upon partnerships with others to ensure that our mission is carried out on college and university campuses.

We look forward to seeing people at the Synod Assembly in Lexington and invite everyone to visit our booth in the display area or attend our breakout session to learn more about the ministry that is taking place on our campuses.

For the Campus Ministry Committee,

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