



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
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INDIANA – KENTUCKY SYNOD CAMPUS MINISTRY COMMITTEE

2008 INDIANA – KENTUCKY SYNOD ASSEMBLY REPORT

Last year we celebrated one hundred years of campus ministry in our church. This year we celebrate a new commitment for campus ministry into the next century.

Is campus ministry still needed today? If you had any doubts, read this assessment from a review in *Christian Century* of the recent book *After the Baby Boomers: How Twenty and Thirty Somethings Are Shaping the Future of American Religion*, authored by Princeton's Robert Wuthnow. He observes that today, one in five young adults are nonaffiliated with church. Furthermore, of the affiliated, fifty-five per cent of those are unchurched in the sense of being uninvolved. Wuthnow writes: "My view is that congregations can survive, but only if religious leaders roll up their sleeves and pay considerably more attention to young adults than they have been."

Wuthnow notes "*it is tragic for the young adults because during the years when they make their biggest life shaping decisions, they're outside the church's circle of influence and support.*" **One of the happy exceptions is campus ministry.**

The happy exceptions in Indiana and Kentucky are:

Pr. Steven Rye - Purdue University, West Lafayette

Fr. Charles Allen – Butler University and IUPUI, Indianapolis

Pr. Barry Neese - University of Kentucky, Lexington

Ms. Rodelyn McPherson, A.I.M. - Ball State University, Muncie

Pr. Kelli Skram and Mr. Jeff Schacht - Indiana University, Bloomington

Representing the Indiana Kentucky Synod on the IN-KY Synod Campus Ministry Committee are Ms. Cindy Modlin Adams, Mr. Dale Austin, Pr. James Hilleson, Ms. Darlene Hurd, Pr. Mitch Phillips, Ms. Julie Slavens, and Mr. Charles Sweet. We are grateful for their ministry and the support of the synod.

So often in times of tight budgets, the temptation is to see the campus ministry budget line item as a place to cut back. If the above words are accepted and taken seriously, the very opposite ought to be the case. We are pleased that your synod was part of our recent centennial celebration. We look forward to a renewed and increasing commitment into the next century.

- Dr. Marcus D. Pera, ELCA Coordinator for Campus Ministry - Regions 3, 5 and 6