

## Campus Ministry Committee

The Indiana-Kentucky Synod Campus Ministry Committee is charged with providing oversight for the five campus ministries within our synod. The committee will also work with congregations near college and university campuses to help them reach out to the student population in those settings. The past few years have been challenging ones for our campus ministries. The reduction in synod funding has caused some anxious moments as reserve funds have dwindled and in some cases have been exhausted. In light of the funding challenges, the committee developed a strategic missional funding plan and presented it to the Synod Council in November of 2007, with the intent of implementing the new strategy in 2009.

We are thankful for the Synod Council's leadership in their commitment to campus ministry, and the affirmation of that commitment by the Synod Assembly last year. The approved budget for 2009 included an increase for campus ministry, which coupled with ongoing fundraising, allows us to implement the strategic missional funding plan and continue our ministry presence at our five sites. We have also worked - through the efforts of Bishop Stuck and assistant Bill Gafkjen - to strengthen our partnerships with the Episcopal dioceses in Kentucky and Indianapolis. This includes developing an expanded covenant to partner in ministry with the Indianapolis Diocese at both Ball State and in Indianapolis at Butler University and IUPUI.

Each of our campus ministry staff were invited to provide a glimpse into their ministries:

### **Purdue University - Pastor Steve Rye**

Purdue Lutheran Ministry and Our Savior Lutheran Church offer Purdue students three worship services each week. (Two multi-generational worship services on Sunday morning and a Sunday evening service) A Sunday Night Supper follows the evening service that is brought in from members of OSLC & surrounding congregations. (Kudos to them!) Education classes offered to Purdue students include two classes between the morning worship services, a staff-led bible study in the Lutheran Fraternity & Sororities on Campus (open to all students), and two graduate student discussion groups. Throughout the year we engage in a variety of service and fellowship projects and host two retreats, one in the spring and one in the fall. This year we celebrate expanding our Justice and Advocacy program through participation in the LWR Study Tour to Nicaragua. Our intention in future years is to offer similar trips to Purdue students through a sizable scholarship fund. We also celebrate staff-member participation on Purdue's Campus Safety and Emergency Planning Committee. In this capacity, Pastor Steve will help maintain a close relationship between emergency planners and the University Religious Leaders community at Purdue.

### **Butler University / IUPUI - Chaplain Charles Allen, Episcopal Priest**

It is rather cumbersome to refer to this as the Indianapolis Lutheran-Episcopal Campus Ministry, so we have named ourselves Grace Unlimited. We meet each Sunday evening for dinner and a service of Word and Sacrament. This year we started using ELW, and both Lutheran and Episcopal students love it. Students always bring nonperishable food to donate during the offering. We participated in two Habitat builds in the fall and have begun to assist in an urban meal program sponsored by Trinity Episcopal Church. We meet on alternate Thursday nights to watch a video from Rob Bell's NOOMA series. One of our officers is running for president of Butler's Student Government Association. We are especially looking forward to the confirmation of two students this May.

### **University of Kentucky - Pastor Barry Neese**

Lutheran-Episcopal Campus Ministry at the University of Kentucky gathers for 'Food 4 Body & Soul' Sunday evenings for worship and a home-cooked meal. Out of this gathering we have participated in a student-led Bible Study; an interfaith Habitat build; a homeless ministry-Room In The Inn; provided Christmas gifts for a family of three; developing student leadership as students plan and carry-out activities such as a Ski Retreat, mini-golf and go-karting. Students have also participated in Dance Blue,

a fund raiser for the UK Pediatric Oncology Clinic/Hospital. Students will attend an alternative spring break to New York City with students from a Presbyterian campus ministry to serve at a center for support for victims of AIDS. We are grateful students have found a 'home away from home' and welcome others into a community centered in the grace of God.

### **Indiana University - Pastor Kelli Skram and Diaconal Minister Jeff Schacht**

We worship each week on Sunday mornings with our partner congregation, St. Thomas. We have also co-hosted worship services with several other groups this school year (one joint communion service with the Episcopal Campus Ministry, an ecumenical Ash Wednesday worship service, and a monthly interfaith Taize worship and meal). Every Wednesday at Rose House there is a mid-week gathering for students which includes dinner and an activity (student-led worship, a service project or discussion). There are three student-led Bible Studies meeting at various times during the week. We held a fall retreat/work-day at Lutheran Hills and sent a group to the national LSM gathering in Chicago over New Year's. Service projects this year have included monthly meal packaging at our local Hoosier Hills Food Bank and a letter writing campaign initiated by our Student Advocacy Team. Students also hosted the third annual Campus Cornhole Championships on March 28 and donated all the event proceeds to the Keep a Child Alive Foundation. Graduate students gather for breakfast at Rose House one Saturday morning each month and all students are invited to attend "Late Night LCM" at various locations each Thursday at 10:30 pm. Several of our students are also active with organizations like Middle Way House, Hoosier Hills Food Bank, and Big Brothers/Big Sisters.

### **Ball State University - Mike Ashley, Interim Episcopal Campus Chaplain**

The close of 2008 brought with it the retirement of campus minister Rodelyn McPherson after over twenty years of ministry at Ball State. A celebration of her ministry was held in January. The ministry continues at The Lutheran Center with an interim chaplain, a peer minister, and many volunteers. On Thursday evenings there is worship, dinner, and games. A Bible Study meets on Monday evening. The center is open for people to drop in throughout the week. The ministry participates in two regional Lutheran Student Movement retreats each year, and the national gathering over New Year's. We are in the process of revising the covenant with the Indianapolis Episcopal Diocese to include the ministry at Ball State. A search is underway for a Lutheran campus pastor.

I would like to thank those who have served on the Campus Ministry Committee during the past year: Julie Slavens, Dale Austin, and Pastor William Peugeot. Charles Sweet and Pastor James Hilleson have completed turns on the committee and we have welcomed Nancy Ensweiler, Eric Owen, and Robert Abner. We are joined by Pastor Bill Gafkjen from the synod staff and all of the campus ministry staff also serve as advisory members of the committee. A special thank you goes to Pastor Marcus Pera, the ELCA Coordinator for Campus Ministry in our region, who has provided invaluable guidance and support for many years. Due to restructuring in the national office, his position is being eliminated and we will miss his presence with us.

We still have a couple of seats available for those who have an interest in campus to join our committee. If you - or someone you know - would be interested, please contact me.

For the I-K Synod Campus Ministry Committee,

Pastor Mitch Phillips, Chair  
Resurrection Lutheran Church, Indianapolis  
PrMitch@RLCIndy.org