

## 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 connect congregations near college and university campuses to resources 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 for some ministries 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 went into 2009 with the strategy in place and on a good footing with thanks to the Synod Council's leadership and an affirmation of commitment to campus ministry by the Synod Assembly in 2008. However, the end of 2009 and early 2010 have once again presented challenges to our campus ministries. We learned after the synod assembly last year that our ministry at the University of Kentucky would no longer be a partnership with the Episcopal Diocese in Lexington as they chose to unilaterally withdraw from that agreement. That now places the full cost of funding that ministry on the resources of our committee. In addition to this, the campus ministry budget was reduced by the Synod Council - as were all areas of the synod budget - in the effort to bring expenses in line with income. The good news is that we are still able to provide the grants in 2010 that we projected last fall to each of our ministries. This will, however, almost totally deplete the reserves the committee has at its disposal.



Our partnership with the Episcopal Diocese in Indianapolis is flourishing. Originally this partnership focused only on the Butler University and IUPUI ministry. During the past year, this partnership has expanded to include the ministry at Ball State. We take primary responsibility for staffing and funding of the Ball State ministry, with a smaller funding contribution for programming from our Episcopal partners. The reverse then holds for the ministry at Butler University and IUPUI.

The funding for the campus ministry committee flows from three sources: the synod budget (\$145,616 in 2010), from the national church (\$29,892), and donations to the campus ministry mission partners fund. The strategic missional funding plan has a goal of funding the ministries at 75% of the compensation and benefits (according to synod compensation guidelines) for the campus ministry staff. This grant ends up covering 42-64% of the total expenses of the ministries. The local ministry must then raise the remaining funds for staff compensation, programming, and facilities. This amounts to anywhere from \$30,000 to \$75,000 to balance the budget. And for every hour the campus ministry staff has to spend on fund raising, that is an hour they are not spending in ministry to the students, staff, and campus to which we have called them.

As the committee meets in April, we will once again review the strategic missional funding plan with an eye toward ensuring that the ministries we support will not merely survive, but thrive. Each of our ministries is unique in its own way. It remains an open question of what level of funding is necessary to ensure the survival of each ministry. It is certainly true that their ability to thrive is in question at the funding levels permitted by our currently available resources.



Our campus ministries are served by a very dedicated staff:

- Purdue University is served by Pastor Steve Rye. Purdue Lutheran Ministry has a covenant relationship with Our Savior Lutheran Church. The ministry owns and operates out of a house right on the edge of campus.
- Indiana University is served by the married team of Diaconal Minister Jeff Schacht and Pastor Kelli Skram. Lutheran Campus Ministry - Indiana University is in a covenant relationship with St. Thomas Lutheran Church, which is located a few miles from campus. The ministry owns and operates out of a house that is about a block from the edge of campus.
- The University of Kentucky is served by Pastor Barry Neese. The ministry has been housed in an Episcopal Chapel on the edge of campus. With the ending of the partnership with the Episcopal Diocese, we have not been told to vacate the premises, but Barry is considering other options.
- The ministry at Ball State University has not had a called staff person since Rodelyn McPherson retired at the end of 2008. The ministry continued in fine fashion, however, with interim staffing by both a Lutheran and Episcopalian, and peer ministers. With the developing covenant with the Episcopal Diocese, the Ball State board has voted to rename the ministry “Grace Village” and is taking steps toward revising its bylaws to include Episcopal representation. The search for a full-time ordained staff person continues.
- The ministry at Butler University and IUPUI is served by Episcopal Priest Charles Allen. This ministry shares space at the Center for Faith and Vocation on the edge of Butler’s campus and Charles has a “moveable office” as he staffs a listening post in commons areas of Butler and IUPUI.

I would like to thank those who have served on the Campus Ministry Committee during the past year: Julie Slavens, Dale Austin, Pastor William Peugeot, 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 serve as advisory members of the committee. Marilyn Smith, Region VI Coordinator for Ministry Leadership, represents the national church on our committee. We still have a couple of seats available for those who have an interest in campus ministry to join our committee. If you - or someone you know - would be interested, please contact me.

For the I-K Synod Campus Ministry Committee,  
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