

Resolution Number 3 Eastern Washington-Idaho Synod Assembly 2011  
Crisis in Funding Campus Ministries

**WHEREAS**, the Churchwide ELCA, in response to God's command and Jesus' commission, have continued to share the faith and call people to discipleship through the Campus Ministries; and,

**WHEREAS**, the congregations of the Eastern Washington-Idaho Synod entrust many of their college student members to the care of the Campus Ministries of Washington State University, Eastern Washington University, and University of Idaho; and

**WHEREAS**, young people of college age are identifying their individual gifts and making some of the most important decisions of their lives—what their vocation will be, whom they will marry, what faith direction to take; and

**WHEREAS**, the Campus Ministries at Washington State University, Eastern Washington University, and University of Idaho provide non-judgmental, grace-filled support, community and service opportunities; guidance and spiritual direction to many students, not all of whom are Lutheran. They also provide ministry of word and sacrament, pastoral care, teaching, leadership development, and a ministry of transformation; and,

**WHEREAS**, Synods of Region 1 have had to make difficult funding decisions and the Churchwide ELCA has had to cut 80% of the funding for Campus Ministry programs; and,

**WHEREAS**, Campus Ministry programs are having to rely more on outside funding through fund raising events and direct gifts from individuals and congregations; and,

**WHEREAS**, fund raising pressures take a significant amount of the campus ministers' time leaving less time for ministry; therefore,

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that congregations of the Eastern Washington-Idaho Synod be encouraged to increase their contributions to the Campus Ministry programs in our synod; and,

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that future Mission Interpreters and other congregation leaders be invited to share stories with the congregations of how Campus Ministry is making a difference in young people's lives; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that congregations explore creative ways to provide direct support for Campus Ministry such as adding Campus Ministry as a line item in the church budget; an annual special offering or Sunday of emphasis; making a gift through the congregation's endowment; encouraging memorial gifts to Campus Ministry, and providing information to the congregation as to how individual gifts can be made.

**From Vice President, Eastern Washington-Idaho Synod Gary Gemar  
November 4<sup>th</sup> 2011**

The ELCA supports Campus Ministry in over 180 colleges and universities. Churchwide reduced grants to Campus Ministry by 38% for fiscal year 2011 and 2012 because of the reduction in income (\$20 million dollars in 2009 and 2010). Ten synods sent memorials to the Churchwide Assembly this past summer encouraging the Assembly to find ways to support funding for Campus Ministry. The Eastern Washington-Idaho Synod passed a resolution at our Assembly to support Campus Ministry. As you develop your budget for fiscal year 2012, please consider Campus Ministry in your Outreach Support. Additionally, throughout the year consider other ways to support Campus Ministry e.g. hold a Campus Ministry Sunday, invite a campus minister from one our universities to speak at an adult form, encourage giving gifts from your endowments, hold a friendly competition for supporting Campus Ministry among the different alumni in your congregation. If you want to learn more about Campus Ministry go to the following link on the ELCA website [www.elca.org/Growing-In-Faith/Ministry/Campus-Ministry.aspx](http://www.elca.org/Growing-In-Faith/Ministry/Campus-Ministry.aspx) Please keep this vital ministry for young adults in your prayers.

## Campus Ministry

Lutheran Campus Ministry at **Washington State University** is a word and sacrament ministry of the ELCA. LCM continues to be faithful to its 1920's roots as a mission site. Wednesday evenings BREATHE worship and a meal is offered on campus. We are a Christian community in the Lutheran tradition that gathers for worship, service, support, fellowship, and education. Students of all faiths and denominations or no faith background are welcome to visit and participate. Student comment: "To me LCM is where I can complete my education at WSU, classes will educate my mind, but Lutheran Campus Ministry educates my soul"; "Lutheran Campus Ministry gives me a break from the hectic life of being a student, when I walk through the door on Wednesdays all my worries about classes and papers and homework melt away, and I am left with a feeling of peace and home". "Go Cougs!"

Randall "Nick" M. Nicolai, Lutheran Campus Pastor at Washington State University, Pullman

Each Wednesday at the **University of Idaho**, students gather for a home cooked meal and Bible Study. A few are young adults not in school at the moment. Some are Lutheran, some are not. Young adults who would have no other reason to come together form a community of faith called Lutheran Campus Ministry. This fluid community changes significantly each semester, calls the Campus Christian Center home. The Campus Christian Center, on Old Greek Row at the University of Idaho, is a cooperative "owned" by the ELCA and six other protestant denominations. LCM partners with these groups to learn from each other, worship together and to reach out into the community in service. One such project is a student garden which grows produce for a community organization called Backyard Harvest, providing fresh fruits and vegetables to those who access local food banks. Thank you for your partnership in ministry.

Karla Neumann Smiley, diaconal minister, Lutheran Campus Minister at the Univ. of Idaho

This quarter, students at Lutheran Campus Ministry at **Eastern Washington University** have been invited to ask questions about life, faith and God. Some of the questions include, "Can you take back a prayer?" "Are guns ethical?" "Why do churches have different traditions?" "What does God want me to do with my life?" and more. These questions are the basis of what we discuss during worship. The students are also very interested in service projects. We put in a garden, have helped with Habitat for Humanity, bought toys for children in need, and have served the hungry at 'Feed Cheney'. What the students are most thankful for, however, is the community that they have found with each other. As one student commented, "LCM-EWU is a weekly opportunity to fellowship with other students who are experiencing the same issues we are." LCM-EWU provides a safe place for students to ask questions, help one another and the community, and grow in faith. We are so thankful for the support that you provide for us. Blessings to you and to your ministries.

Pastor Shelley Bryan Wee and the students at Lutheran Campus Ministry at EWU