

Community of Faith Breakout Session 5/18/11 – Discussion Answers

How does our Lutheran tradition inform a community of faith?

- Inclusivity – more open to modern ways of thought, accepting (inclusivity not necessarily exclusive to Lutheran)
- Open to all walks of life
- Graduate student/adjunct/commuter student disconnect?

- CLU needs to stand firmly behind their beliefs.
- If represent as Lutheran than model university experience on more traditional Christian model such as daily chapel service
- Don't represent as Lutheran in name only to recruit diverse students, quality faculty or good athletes

- School's actions – lead by example
- Something greater than just school itself – create service, love, acceptance – brand statement

- How do we define our Lutheranism? Is this complicated by the existence of synods that embrace differing definitions of Lutheranism and by the fact that the ELCA is evolving in this respect and is engaged in publicizing that?
- Can we more explicitly define our particular brand of Lutheranism? (i.e. the Jesuits)

- Need a “what does this mean” for staff/faculty/students of why they are here (a statement)
- Need Lutheran 101 for staff/faculty/regents

- Better definition if what it means to be institution of Lutheran higher education. How does that make CLU distinctive?
- Education session for new regents to orient them in Lutheran tradition

- Freedom to express Christian faith
- Welcoming, inclusive
- History of inclusivity in higher education as organization (organizational not theological)

- Basis of Lutheranism is to question – if this is allowed then we are following Lutheran tradition. If we can articulate that it would be beneficial. We don't have answers, we have questions. Tying it to Luther is important. Luther believes in raising up people, challenging people to find their answer. Walk with us with the questions.
- Role of Lutheran university to explore vocation to serve community

How is everyone included in a community of faith?

- We need to embrace other religious beliefs
- Profanity in campus-sponsored plays, some campus members find it offensive
- Academic freedom?
- Does it belong at CLU?
- Difficult to implement certain values when we want to be welcoming to individuals from other faiths and with other values

- Appreciate décor and reminders of faith
- Other faiths are welcome and should be made aware that our basic belief is the same – love your neighbor as yourself, love your enemies
- It is a choice, not mandated but encouraged
- Would it be helpful to open a space for non-Lutheran religious observance?
- Helpfulness of LGBTQ nucleus
- Provide services for Catholic students
- All-inclusive for all religious backgrounds, beliefs; everyone is welcome
- Clubs for all different faiths, beliefs
- Other religious leaders coming to speak/preach at chapel
- As a Catholic, I feel comfortable here – not threatened, not wanting to connect. Etc
- Lutheran name can be good or bad for marketing. Studies show Lutheran a positive.
- Other services? Not really
- Other holidays/traditions – interested and accommodating – Ramadan – allowed to fast and take holiday
- In classroom, allows students to provide their unique voice and explore vocation
- Journey together
- Feel of freedom
- Think about deep questions value and meaning
- This faith has benefits. The way they interact with community is a choice. (i.e. not hold bird tight in their hands.)

How can we enhance practices to encourage expression of CLU as a community of faith?

- Commuters/adjunct faculty/graduate students disconnected
- Religion course alone might not be enough to connect individuals to campus life
- Different faith-based speakers during chapel to cater to everyone's needs
- Promote beauty of Lutheran ways of faith
- Support for integrating Lutheran identity into graduate education
- Alternate space for meditation during chapel
- More ecumenical services for faculty/staff/students
- Find other ways to incorporate with other community congregations
- More inter-faith interaction starting with admissions process to find out about religious backgrounds and how to help them incorporate into campus community

- People choose whether they want to be part of community or not
- More Catholic services or at least a Catholic speaker at chapel occasionally. With 33% Catholic students, it would seem very appropriate. There was a time, not long ago, when my husband and I would attend a Catholic mass here on Sundays.
- Continue to “improve” on all fronts
- Guy’s ordination – exciting to see faculty there, High church experience
- Reach out – crisis – good job rallying – service, responsibility to others
- Encourage discussion campus wide

Graduate program

- ADEP and graduate students – how do we find out where they worship?
- Students interested and not accustomed to articulating faith issues (coming from public sector)
- Graduate students do not want required “faith” related courses. Elective courses in spirituality a good option.
- Adjunct and graduate population not as integrated or included by their nature. Ways to change this?