

Resolution SA 23.03

Creation of a Synod Campus Ministry Team

WHEREAS:

In 2020, the Church Council of the ELCA approved the Future Church program to guide our denomination for the next decade in ministry together. A central commitment of this program was to reach 1 million new, young, and diverse people. Today, young adults are increasingly attending higher education in various forms from technical schools and community colleges, to liberal arts colleges, and to the large state regional and flagship universities. We also know that currently we are not reaching all of the young adults we could if we worked more cooperatively with congregations, ecumenical partners, and our own campus ministries. Our hope in creating this ministry team is to provide vision, advocacy, and development of stronger communities of faith with young adults attending higher education institutions in our Synod.

By using our collective resources and interest, we envision development of best practices for the ministries and partner congregations within the Central States Synod. As the Covid-19 pandemic demonstrated, campus ministry provides a place of belonging and of faith exploration, which are vital to the development of the whole person. To that end, campus ministry is a part of the greater faith community that we share. The support of parish and campus ministries of and for one another demonstrates a desire to grow faithfully and healthfully with one another in our shared journey.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The Central States Synod take the following actions:

- Approve the creation of the Synod Campus Ministry Team to help provide vision, advocacy, and develop partnerships beneficial for our ministry with young adults.
- Invite the Synod Campus Ministry Team to work cooperatively in finding ecumenical partners and incorporating them into the work of ecumenical campus ministry.
- Empower the Synod Campus Ministry Team to advocate to the congregations the importance of campus ministries to the future of the church
- Encourage the Synod Campus Ministry Team to work with congregations and community partners in finding opportunities for new ministries that reach young adults.

Central States Synod, Lutheran Campus Ministry:

Rev. Dan Baldwin, Campus Pastor, LCM-KU, Lawrence, KS
Rev. Kevin Clark, Campus Pastor, LCM-K-State, Manhattan, KS
Rev. Andrew Patty, Pastor, Trinity Lutheran Church, Topeka, KS
Rev. Tina Reyes, Campus Pastor, LCM-St. Louis, St. Louis, MO
Rev. Melissa Woeppel, Campus Pastor, Bethany College, Lindsborg, KS