A. BACKGROUND

Each year, the campus ministry sites of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) are asked to submit a report on their programs and activities. The information from these reports is used to prepare an annual summary report to the Domestic Mission unit and the ELCA Church Council.

The annual summary report reflects the ways in which the work of the churchwide organization, synods, and local campus ministry sites is coordinated to advance the mission of campus ministry throughout the ELCA. The report provides significant data as the ELCA makes decisions regarding the future direction of campus ministry and the allocation of programmatic and financial resources.

B. DEMOGRAPHIC AND SITE INFORMATION

- **Type of Ministry**: 29% of the sites reported being ELCA center-based, 28% reported being ELCA congregation-based, and 22% identified themselves as ecumenical center-based. 5% of the sites described themselves as cooperating congregations in campus ministry. These percentages are roughly the same as the percentages reported in the 2016 annual reports.

- **Ethnic and Racial Background**: 96% of the campus ministry sites reported working with white/Caucasian students, 60% of the sites reported working with African-American students, 41% with Hispanic/Latinos, 38% with Asian/Pacific Islanders, 24% with Middle Eastern/Arab-Americans, and 12% with American Indian or Native Alaskan students. These findings indicate a significant increase in the number of campus ministry sites serving students from other Christian denominations and from non-Christian faith traditions. Over 70% of the Lutheran Campus Ministry (LCM) sites reported working with students who have no religious affiliation. This last statistic is
important because it refers to those students who are often identified as the “Nones”, and recent studies indicate that the number of “Nones” continues to increase, especially among young adults. This is obviously a critical population of college and university students with whom to connect and build relationships.

- **Sexual Orientation**: Over three-quarters of the sites (78%) reported working with students who identify as gay/lesbian/bisexual/transgender. This represents an increase over previous years.

- **Disability**: About one-third (34%) of the Lutheran Campus Ministry sites reported working with disabled/differently-abled students, which also represents an increase over previous years.

### C. Campus Ministry Stories: Beyond the Numbers

In the 2017 annual report, LCM staff were invited to share stories from their ministry they would like people in the ELCA to hear. The stories shared were often filled with hope, creativity and grace. They are stories that affirm the importance and value of campus ministry in the life of the ELCA. While there isn’t room to tell all the stories described in the reports, seven examples follow:

1. University Lutheran Church (UniLu) of Philadelphia was recognized as a “Zone of Peace” by the Religious Leaders Council of Greater Philadelphia. UniLu is the congregation and campus ministry serving the universities in the greater Philadelphia area. Pastor Fritz Fowler provides leadership for the ministry. The “Zone of Peace” award was presented to the people of UniLu with these words: “The Steering Committee is impressed with your exemplary efforts to address the root causes of violence in your community and beyond. Your focus on providing a warm, hospitable welcome to students and people from all walks of life creates a community that experiences the power of diversity within unity: surely a witness to the possibility of peace in our diversely populated city and region . . . we are gratified to learn that both worship and community activism express the congregation’s values of respect and inclusion for all.”

2. Pastor Ben Morris, the Lutheran Campus Pastor at the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse, provides special adventure trips for students at various times during the academic year. These are often transformational experiences for students as described on their ministry website: “We strive to facilitate trips that will change your life. The world is big, its people are various and its problems loom large. We believe that by stepping out of our comfort zone, meeting people in new places, God can form us to be people engaged in helping heal what is wrong. So from an adventure trip to Thailand, to a remote village in the High Cascade Mountains, to being a guest on the sacred lands of the Pine Ridge Reservation, God might be calling you to leave the safety of home and come back a different person.”

3. Frank Anderson is the Lutheran Campus Pastor at the University of South Carolina. During the various commencement exercises across the university campus last spring, Pastor Anderson was asked to provide six invocations and seven benedictions for ceremonies involving 8,000 graduating students. This is a clear sign of the level of respect people have for Pastor Anderson’s ministry, and his unofficial status as the “Chaplain” of the academic community.

4. The University of California in Santa Barbara is a challenging place to do campus ministry. The university is widely regarded as a “party school”, and the beautiful coastline and sunny beaches offer students many ways to fill their time. Scott Claassen, the Campus Pastor of the Episcopal and Lutheran Campus Ministry at UC-Santa Barbara, has found a unique entry point into the lives of some students. An avid surfer himself, Pastor Claassen meets with a group of students two mornings each week for a “Surfing and Spirituality” gathering. They spend time talking about the events of their lives, their connections to God and each other, and their prayers for the world. Those moments of conversation and reflection are followed by the thrill of surfing some of the best waves along the California coast. The Santa Barbara beach has become a special sanctuary for Pastor Claassen and these early morning surfers.

5. Lutheran Campus Pastor Rebecca Boardman, who serves the campus ministry at St. Louis University and Washington University, initiated a grant-funded project targeting low-income neighborhoods surrounding the universities. The project involves university students as tutors and mentors for students from Sumner High School in St. Louis. Sumner High opened in 1875 as the first high school for African Americans west of
the Mississippi. This tutoring and mentoring project is designed to support the Sumner High students who have the greatest academic needs, and it has become a growth experience for both the high school students and the university students who mentor them.

6. This past winter Jim Norlie, who retired at the end of this academic year as the Campus Pastor at Oregon State University, was nominated to represent the ELCA and the Lutheran World Federation as the delegate to the Pontifical World Congress on the “Pastoral Care of International Students” in Rome. Jim was also invited to present a paper regarding the Lutheran perspective on this important topic as part of the global gathering. Jim’s presentation was a deeply theological, insightful and thoughtful consideration of our role in caring for international students. This experience in Rome also included an opportunity for Jim to be greeted personally by Pope Francis. We might say instead that this was Pope Francis’ opportunity to meet Pastor Jim Norlie – one of the most gifted and talented members of our Lutheran Campus Ministry community.

7. Gail Riina, the Lutheran Campus Pastor at Syracuse University, shared the following story: “In our ministry, we are intentional about involving students in service that is related to their field of study or personal interests. Here are some examples. I connected School of Information Studies students to faith based organizations that needed a website or social media campaign. We recruited 15 public health students who received academic credit to augment the curriculum of our intergenerational ESL Class for refugee parents and toddlers. We provided over 20 students the opportunity to tutor refugee middle and high school students. I supervised a group of management interns who assisted me with the administrative tasks of the ministry. In the process, career paths and faith journeys have been redirected – a Chinese student attended an Easter Vigil to further explore what Baptism means; an athlete discovered he has a gift for teaching; and a geology major decided to devote his career to providing clean water in the developing world, instead of seeking a job mapping GPS coordinates. We are domestic missionaries called by God to accompany our brothers and sisters at the university, from the center of our faith. Campus Ministry outreach is seed planting - God brings the fruit from the seeds we plant in God’s time.”

D. HIGHLIGHTS: BY THE NUMBERS

The 2017 annual report invited the Lutheran Campus Ministry sites to summarize their yearly activities in ten categories. The report is intended to highlight both the strengths and areas of potential growth of each program as a way of providing feedback to the churchwide organization and synod offices. The content of the 2017 annual report was similar to the reports from 2010 through 2016 in order to identify and clarify ministry trends and statistical patterns. Data was collected from a total of 147 campus ministry sites (131 sites submitted information using an electronic report form, and 16 submitted hard copies of the annual report).

1. Worship
   a. It is clear that worship remains at the heart of Lutheran Campus Ministry. Nearly all sites (90%) reported that Holy Communion was provided for students one or more times per week. Over half of the sites (60%) reported providing 1 to 5 worship services per month, while 36% provided 6 services or more each month. This pattern of a strong worship life within Lutheran Campus Ministry has held steady over the last several years.
   b. Student attendance at worship has trended slightly upward. 43% of the sites reported 11 to 25 students on average per week. Approximately 15% of the sites reported 26 to 50 students participating in worship each week, and about 7% reported over 50 students on average per week. Over half (55%) of the sites reported 25 or more students worshipping at least once per semester.
   c. The campus ministry sites reported that approximately 5,000 students attended worship at least once during the academic year, and many of these students attended worship gatherings on multiple occasions.
   d. The presence of a lively worshipping community on campus continues to be a key element of ELCA Campus Ministry, and it serves as a gift to college and university students across the country.

2. Evangelism and Outreach
a. Lutheran Campus Ministry sites reported initial contacts with a little over 11,000 new students last year, which is an increase in the number of initial contacts made during the previous year. This averages approximately 75 contacts per reporting site.

b. Personal invitation from other students remains one of the most popular ways to make the ministry known to the campus community (84% of the sites reported this approach). Electronic communication was also a widely used method for outreach and evangelism, with almost all ministries using social networking sites like Facebook, their own websites, e-mail announcements, and text messaging to connect with students. Most of the campus ministry sites (83%) also had an active presence at student orientation and activity fairs at the beginning of each semester.

c. Peer ministers was an important outreach tool for almost half of the sites (47%).

d. The campus ministries reported 46 baptisms of individuals over the age of 18.

e. Outreach activities also included LCM staff officiating at 123 marriages, and conducting 56 funerals or memorial services.

3. Faith Formation and Christian Education

a. Providing opportunities for young adult faith formation is a key component of Lutheran Campus Ministry programs across the country. Nearly all sites (88%) reported offering Bible studies for students. Many campus ministries also offered retreats (68%), spiritual direction (53%), and lecture series (34%) for the purposes of Christian education and faith formation. All of these are increases over the previous year. The use of a catechumen program is a growing means of faith formation among college and university students, with 15% of the sites making use of a catechumen program.

b. Campus ministry staff and student leaders continue to be creative in selecting and developing materials for education and faith formation. Sites have utilized materials that focus on important questions about vocation, grace, doubt, ecumenism, interfaith relationships, faith and politics, the care of creation, and other relevant topics.

c. This year, the report invited the campus ministry staff to share what they are learning about faith formation in young adults. These insights are being shared across the campus ministry community and will eventually be posted on the Lutheran Campus Ministry Network (LuMin) website at: www.lumin-network.org.

4. Creating a Welcoming and Caring Community

a. Providing hospitality and community building opportunities on campus are important tools for demonstrating the wonder of God’s grace. These spaces of hospitality continue to attract a wide range of students and help ministries reach out to underserved and marginalized populations on campus. This aspect of ministry has been a key to connecting with students who have no affiliation with a religious community, with 71% of the sites reporting that “Nones” have become a part of their ministry community.

b. Almost all ministries offered weekly meals for hospitality and community building (96%). Many offered an informal gathering space at their campus ministry facility on a daily basis (89%), with 74% of the sites also providing wireless internet access for students at the facility.

c. Annual or semi-annual retreats and trips continued to be strong components of the campus ministry programs, with some groups participating in international travel experiences as a means of expanding student horizons and building community.

d. Designations of Reconciling In Christ or as a “campus safe zone” have continued to increase each year. Many Lutheran Campus Ministry sites, particularly those with a Reconciling In Christ designation, reported that they are the only religious organization on their campus that actively extends a gracious welcome and open hospitality to students regardless of sexual orientation.

e. Nearly all ministries (95%) reported that pastoral conversation was a means of providing a caring community. Most LCM staff also offer regular office hours to be present with students during the ups and downs of their university life. The amount of time per week dedicated to pastoral care conversations has held steady at an average of approximately 8-10 hours per week.
f. Training peer ministers with basic support, listening, and referral skills continues to be an effective method of building a welcoming and caring community, as 47% of the sites reported having a structured peer ministry program.

g. Many campus ministry staff (43%) help provide university-wide worship services, and about 30% also serve on university care or emergency response teams.

5. **Service, Justice and Advocacy**
   a. Campus ministries continue to undertake a broad range of community service programs and projects. Participation has increased slightly over previous years, with 35% of the campus ministry sites drawing 6 to 15 students at least once, 28% involving 16 to 50 students, and 20% drawing over 50 students. Ten sites reported the participation of over 150 students in separate community service projects last year.
   b. The most popular kinds of service projects included working at a food pantry/kitchen/shelter as reported by 77% of the sites, and participating in programs serving children and youth (55%). Many sites also participated in the construction and rehab of homes, working with older adults, and assisting with environmental cleanup projects. It is estimated that students provided approximately 48,000 hours of service through these programs and projects during the last academic year.
   c. Half of the sites reported offering a service-learning opportunity involving travel. Of those offering such opportunities, some trips drew a dozen students while others involved over 50 students. These service-learning trips included a variety of domestic locations, plus Mexico, Central and South America, and even Thailand.
   d. With respect to justice and advocacy efforts, the ministries participated primarily in discussion, direct action, and educational programs. Other activities included hosting speakers with specialized knowledge, coalition-building, and sponsoring forums.
   e. Justice and advocacy programs related to hunger issues have continued to be strong with 66% of the sites reporting programs focused on hunger, as well as issues surrounding poverty (47%). Other significant areas of focus were racism (63%), sexuality and gender issues (59%), homelessness (52%), and care of the environment (50%). Activities related to immigration have become more prominent with half of the sites reporting programs on that issue.
   f. Campus ministry staff also observed that efforts to provide a caring and welcoming community, particularly for persons and groups who are underserved, marginalized or unpopular, are inseparable from acts of justice and advocacy.

6. **Leadership Development**
   a. Lutheran Campus Ministry sites continue to provide many opportunities for the development of young adult leadership. Most sites reported students assisting in worship, planning and coordinating events, and developing new programs and sources of funding, while others have students that represent the ministry at university-sponsored events and on university committees.
   b. Peer ministry programs continued to be strong, while participation in special leadership retreats was a popular method for cultivating leadership skills among students.
   c. Enrollment in seminary remained steady among LCM-involved students who have graduated within the past five years (147). The ministry sites also reported 131 recent graduates in the candidacy process.
   d. ELCA-related service programs continued to be popular (Young Adults in Global Mission, Lutheran Volunteer Corps), as well as non-ELCA programs (Peace Corps, AmeriCorps), with 131 recent graduates currently involved in those programs. Campus ministry sites also reported 243 recent graduates involved in congregational or synodical leadership roles.

7. **Connecting with the Wider Academic Community**
   a. Again this year, LCM staff were asked to respond to the question: “In what specific ways were you involved in the wider academic community this past year?” Some interesting examples of the responses to that question were:
   - Providing pastoral and spiritual support during a campus crisis
   - Developing an on-campus food pantry for students in need
   - Providing educational programs in the residence halls
- Serving on various university boards and committees
- Providing programs for new student orientation and for parents of new students
- Leading memorial services following deaths within the academic community
- Providing support for student groups on campus that are “marginalized” such as undocumented migrant students, LGBTQ students, and students with disabilities
- Teaching university classes and serving as a guest lecturer
- Co-sponsoring interfaith forums for the entire academic community
- Serving on the university research ethics committee
- Offering a free meal on campus for anyone and everyone
- Serving as an advisor or chaplain for various student organizations

8. **Stewardship and Fundraising**
   a. The most popular strategies for raising financial support continued to be fundraising letters (67%), face-to-face solicitation (61%), special fundraising events (57%), e-mail messages (48%), print newsletters (47%), and electronic newsletters (41%).
   b. Continuing a trend over the last several years, applying for and securing grants increased in popularity as a source of funding. Funds were also raised through congregations and congregation-based WELCA groups (57%), and annual appeals (52%). Over 40% of the sites also have funds available from an endowment, while planned giving is now a source of funds at 26% of the sites.
   c. Most of the ministries encourage student giving, and do so primarily through worship offerings.
   d. Trends continue to show an increase in the amount of staff time devoted to fundraising activities. Most Lutheran Campus Ministry staff reported devoting anywhere from 10% to 25% of their time to fundraising efforts.

9. **Ecumenical and Interfaith Connections**
   a. Ecumenism and interfaith issues continue to be important on college campuses across the country. Lutherans cooperate closely with Episcopal ministries, and regularly coordinate events among other Protestant groups. Lutheran Campus Ministry staff also work closely with Roman Catholic, Jewish and Muslim colleagues in serving the academic community. Over 100 of the Lutheran Campus Ministry staff reported that they serve in some official capacity in ecumenical groups or interfaith committees at their respective universities.
   b. There appears to be increased interest in campus-wide interfaith educational events on the part of many university administrators, and approximately 25% of the Lutheran Campus Ministry sites reported helping organize and co-sponsor these events.
   c. Cooperative educational programs (65%), shared meals (63%), and joint service projects (51%) continued to be popular as important components of ecumenical and interfaith work. Many ministries also engaged in joint worship (50%) and in co-sponsorship of speakers (44%).

10. **Connections with the Wider Lutheran Community**
    a. In terms of involvement in the wider Lutheran community, 67% of the campus ministries reported that the LCM staff person led worship or preached in local congregations. The campus ministry staff also worked with local congregations in service projects (63%), assisted with local youth ministry and young adult programs (53%), and provided educational forums for congregational members (40%).
    b. At the synod level, 72% of the sites reported that they provided displays and other types of presence at synod assemblies. There were 51 LCM staff members who reported that they serve on synod committees or boards. About 30% of the sites indicated that they provide educational programs for synodical groups.
    c. In partnership with Lutheran Outdoor Ministry (LOM), 57 Lutheran Campus Ministry staff reported that they served as a resource for training and educational programs at one of the LOM sites.
    d. The Lutheran Student Movement (LSM) continues to operate in some regions, and there has been a renewed interest in providing an annual LSM gathering for college and university students. The second of these LSM gatherings took place in Chicago at the beginning of 2017, and was attended by over 60 college and university students. A Lutheran Student Movement board has now been formed consisting
of a college or university student representing each of the nine ELCA regions. This board has been given the responsibility and opportunity to set the direction for this newly revived Lutheran Student Movement organization.

E. CLOSING COMMENTS

1. We are grateful for the support we receive from the ELCA to continue our work at over 230 campus ministry sites on college and university campuses across the country. This support means that each week, thousands of college and university students gather under the Lutheran Campus Ministry banner for worship, fellowship, faith formation activities, and service.

2. We also recognize that ours is a call to walk alongside the entire academic community of staff, faculty, administrators, and alumni, as well as students. We believe we are called to serve the whole campus population and be the very real presence of Christ on campus in times of stress, tragedy and celebration. We believe the entire campus is our cathedral!

3. As Lutheran Campus Ministry seeks to engage the wider academic community, it’s also important to note that on many campuses, university faculty and administrators are now reaching out to ELCA campus ministry staff as participants with them in the educational enterprise. There is renewed interest within the academic community to provide a framework in which students might consider what it means to live lives worth living, which is a significant vocational thrust of campus ministry in the ELCA.

4. Another element of the call in campus ministry is to share with the church the many observations and insights growing out of our work on college and university campuses. Some of those discoveries are related to the world of young adults and effective approaches to ministry among them. It also means sharing with the church what is being discovered about the evolving elements of our contemporary culture and how that might impact the future shape of the church and its work in the world. Lutheran Campus Ministry is currently conducting a major research project that we hope will shed additional light on these issues, and we expect the research findings will be available in January 2018.

5. Campus ministry is one of the few places in our culture where the church can have conversations and interaction with young adults who have no affiliation with a faith community. It is estimated that up to 40% of the university student population will fall in this category. Lutheran Campus Ministry staff have the unique opportunity to build relationships with people across the campus without regard to their religious or non-religious affiliation, and to have conversations with them about important life topics like meaning, identity, vocation, values and ethics, justice and service, relationships and faith. We hope these conversations will help nurture a fresh perspective on the church as a community of grace, welcome, and compassion.

6. The campus ministry staff across the country are excited about the continuing development of the Lutheran Campus Ministry Network, referred to as LuMin. LuMin is designed as “an association to sustain and strengthen Campus Ministry in the ELCA by forming collegial relationships, training professional campus ministry leaders, and advocating for the church’s ministry on college and university campuses.” Over the past year, LuMin has:
   ▪ Planned and implemented the “2017 LCM Staff Conference” last June at the University of Texas in Austin attended by 125 people;
   ▪ Provided a monthly online newsletter for LCM staff called “The LuMin Lantern”, and expanded the LuMin website (please see: www.lumin-network.com);
   ▪ Updated the student referral system on the LuMin website. The system now allows a student or family member to get current information about a Lutheran Campus Ministry program at a college or university where the ELCA is represented, and to send student contact information to that campus ministry site;
   ▪ Built new partnerships with a variety of ELCA-related offices and organizations, including the ELCA Advocacy office, the Lutheran Outdoor Ministry Network, and the ELCA Youth Ministry Network; and
• Partnered with the ELCA Strategy on HIV and AIDS to send four university students to the United States Conference on AIDS in Washington, D.C.

7. Campus ministry continues to be a vital field of mission within the ELCA. Students, pastors, lay ministers, board members, congregations and synods continue to work together to shape the work of ELCA campus ministry in adaptive and creative ways, while asking challenging but important questions about how we might best support and sustain these ministries into the future.

8. In closing, I would end with words written by Pastor Jim Norlie, former Campus Pastor at Oregon State University, in a 2014 document entitled, “What We Do and Why It’s Important: A Theological Framework for Campus Ministry in the ELCA.” Pastor Norlie writes: “Lutheran Campus Ministry in the ELCA and its predecessor church bodies is more than 100 years old. Alumni include bishops, pastors, camp directors and counselors, teaching theologians, professors, physicians, administrators, government workers, engineers, ambassadors, researchers, farmers, technicians, teachers, and countless others who serve the common good through their daily work. Throughout its history, Lutheran Campus Ministry has served campuses big and small, in many different contexts. Of necessity, it has adapted to changing circumstances and social or cultural shifts. Often it’s been on the forefront of liturgical change, social justice movements, international affairs, ecumenical and interfaith engagement, and more. It has supported individuals and communities through times of transition, turmoil, and testing. Each new generation has brought new opportunities. Yet, faithful in its mission, it serves a vital role as it invites those in academic settings more deeply into Jesus Christ and the community that bears his name so that they may discover and fulfill their calling as Christ’s disciples. God has entrusted us with this ministry. We are wise to tend it well.”

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