



Network of Colleges and Universities

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

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THE VOCATION OF LUTHERAN HIGHER EDUCATION

The Twenty-Seventh Annual Conference
Convened by the Network of Colleges and Universities,
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Why All This Talk about Understanding
the Mission of NECU Member Institutions
as a Vocation?

Augsburg University, Minneapolis, Minnesota
July 18-20, 2022

Monday, July 18, 2022

4:45-5:00 pm **Welcome and Conference Overview**
Mark Wilhelm, NECU, Executive Director
Paul Pribbenow, Augsburg University, President
(150 Hagfors Center)

PLENARY SESSION I

5:00-6:15 pm **Claiming that Lutheran Higher Education Has a Vocation**
Mark Wilhelm, NECU, Executive Director
(150 Hagfors Center)

6:15 - 6:30 pm **Evening Reflections**
Drew Tucker, University Pastor, Capital University
(150 Hagfors Center)

7:00-7:45 pm **Opening Dinner**
(Hoversten Chapel)

8:00-9:00 pm **Refreshments/Reception**
(Hoversten Chapel)

Tuesday, July 19, 2022

7:30-8:30 am **Breakfast**
(Christensen Center, Commons)

Optional Breakfast Session. If you wish to participate, pick up breakfast and gather in the Augsburg Room at 7:30 am for this session.

Teaching Womanist Thoughts at Lutheran Institutions: A Conversation with Rev. Dr. Beverly Wallace, Luther Seminary and Rev. Yolanda Norton, Global Arts and Theology Experience

As is the style of Womanist who engage in and appreciate the importance of dialogue, this breakfast conversation has the hopes of uncovering how Womanist Thoughts are being taught and explored at Lutheran institutions. Participants will learn about the ELCA Womanist Pilot Initiative with ELCA Seminaries and the imaginative hope that this vision can be expanded to other Lutheran institutions. Collaborative conversation partners will also hear about the Black Girl Magic Academy for college women students through the Global Arts and Theology Experience.

8:45-9:00 am **Morning Reflections**
Drew Tucker, University Pastor, Capital University
(150 Hagfors Center)

PLENARY SESSION II

9:00-10:15 am **Diversity of Vocations Among Lutheran Colleges and Universities**
Panel: Paul Pribbenow, Augsburg University, President;
Drew Tucker, Capital University Pastor;
Marit Trelstad, Pacific Lutheran University, Prof of Religion

Moderator: Krista Hughes, Newberry College Muller Center for Vocation, Director
(150 Hagfors Center)

10:15-10:30 am **Break**

10:30-11:20 am **Concurrent Workshops #1**
(Breakout spaces as assigned in Hagfors Center. Full description of each session at the end of the itinerary.)

THE V WORD--RESISTANCE AND RESPONSE (Concurrent Sessions 1 and 2)
Presenters: Deanna Thompson and Alyssa Melby, St. Olaf College (*Hagfors 103*)

RETELLING YOUR INSTITUTIONAL STORY (Concurrent Sessions 1 and 2)
Presenters: Paul Pribbenow, Augsburg University; Drew Tucker, Capital University; and Chris Bowen, Roanoke College (*Hagfors 106*)

BEYOND THE PLAYING FIELD (Concurrent Sessions 1 and 3)
Presenters: Casey Cline and Aslynn Halvorson, Newberry College (*Hagfors 152*)

**COFFEE SHOPS AND CLASSROOMS AND DORM ROOMS (OH MY!);
VOCATIONAL PROGRAMS ACROSS CAMPUS** (Concurrent Sessions 1 and 3)
Presenters: Colleen Windham-Hughes, California Lutheran University; and Melinda Pupillo and Michelle Crouch, Augustana College (*Hagfors 263*)

11:20-11:30 am **Break**

11:30-12:20 pm **Concurrent Workshops #2**
(Breakout spaces as assigned in Hagfors Center)

THE V WORD--RESISTANCE AND RESPONSE (Concurrent Sessions 1 and 2)
Presenters: Deanna Thompson and Alyssa Melby, St. Olaf College (*Hagfors 103*)

RETELLING YOUR INSTITUTIONAL STORY (Concurrent Sessions 1 and 2)
Presenters: Paul Pribbenow, Augsburg University; Drew Tucker, Capital University; and Chris Bowen, Roanoke College (*Hagfors 106*)

TEACHING VOCATION – SYLLABUS SWAPPING AND STEALING IDEAS
(Concurrent Session 2 only)
Presenter: Lori Brandt Hale, Augsburg University (*Hagfors 250*)

VOCATIONAL DISCERNMENT BEYOND THE CURRICULUM
(Concurrent Sessions 2 and 3)
Presenters: Kristina Fruge and Jeremy Myers, Augsburg University(*Hagfors 151*)

VOCATION TOOL-KIT FOR PEDAGOGY OR PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT (Concurrent Sessions 2 and 3)
Presenter: Erin VanLaningham, NetVUE (*Hagfors 301*)

12:30-1:45 pm **Lunch**
(*Christensen Center, East Commons*)

2:00-2:50 pm **Concurrent Workshops #3**

BEYOND THE PLAYING FIELD (Concurrent Sessions 1 and 3)
Presenters: Casey Cline and Aslynn Halvorson, Newberry College (*Hagfors 152*)

COFFEE SHOPS AND CLASSROOMS AND DORM ROOMS (OH MY!); VOCATIONAL PROGRAMS ACROSS CAMPUS (Concurrent Sessions 1 and 3)
Presenters: Colleen Windham-Hughes, California Lutheran University; and Melinda Pupillo and Michelle Crouch, Augustana College (*Hagfors 263*)

VOCATIONAL DISCERNMENT BEYOND THE CURRICULUM
(Concurrent Sessions 2 and 3)
Presenters: Kristina Fruge and Jeremy Myers, Augsburg University(*Hagfors 151*)

VOCATION TOOL-KIT FOR PEDAGOGY OR PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT (Concurrent Sessions 2 and 3)
Presenter: Erin VanLaningham, NetVUE (*Hagfors 301*)

2:50 - 3:00 pm **Break**
(*Hagfors Center Lobby*)

PLENARY SESSION III

3:00 - 4:15 pm **DEI and Justice as Integral to the Vocation of Lutheran Higher Education**

Panel: Rebecca Bergman, Gustavus Adolphus College, President;
Monica Smith, Augustana College, Vice President for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion;
Victor Thasiah, California Lutheran University, Assoc. Professor of Religion

Moderator: Melissa Maxwell-Doherty, VP for Mission and Identity, California Lutheran
University
(Hagfors 150)

- 4:15 - 4:30 pm **Break**
- 4:30-5:30 pm **Reception**
(Hagfors Center Atrium)
- 5:30 pm **Dinner and Evening on Your Own**

Wednesday, July 20, 2022

- 7:30-8:45 am **Checkout**
(Anderson Residence Hall, Lobby)
- 7:30-8:45 am **Breakfast**
(Christensen Center, Commons)
- 8:45-9:00 am **Break**
- 9:00-9:15 am **Morning Reflections**
Drew Tucker, University Pastor, Capital University
(Foss Center, Chapel)

PLENARY SESSION IV

- 9:15-10:30 am **A Commitment to Vocation and Vocational Reflection: Views from Outside
Lutheran Higher Education**
Panel: Mary-Paula Cancienne, Conference on Mercy Education, Associate Director for
Mission Integration
Erin VanLaningham, Network for Vocation in Undergraduate Education, Director of the
NetVUE Scholarly Resources Project
Mark Wilhelm, NECU, Executive Director
- Moderator: Jason Mahn, Augustana College, Director of the Presidential Center for Faith
and Learning
(Foss Center, Chapel)

10:30-10:45am **Break**
(Foss Center, Atrium)

PLENARY SESSION V

10:45 am-12:00 pm **Identifying Practical Take-Aways for Your College or University**

Moderator: Katherine Tunheim, Gustavus Adolphus College, VP for Mission, Strategy and Innovation
(Foss Center, Chapel)

12:00-1:00 pm **Lunch**
(To-go boxes available)
(Foss Center, Concourse)

1:00pm **Departure**

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CONCURRENT SESSIONS

THE V WORD--RESISTANCE AND RESPONSE (Concurrent Sessions 1 and 2) - Hagfors 103

Presenters: Deanna Thompson, Director of the Lutheran Center for Faith, Values, and Community, and Martin E. Marty Regents Chair in Religion and the Academy, St. Olaf College; and Alyssa Melby, Program Director, Academic Civic Engagement, St. Olaf College

Description: Let's name it: for different people, the word "vocation" can be capacious and/or fraught, grounding and/or grating. How do we allow space for resistance to "the V word" to bubble up, be recognized, and be responded to in an inclusive way? This workshop will allow space for participants to share stories of resistance to "the V word" and brainstorm concrete questions and actions for inviting resistance into the conversation.

RETELLING YOUR INSTITUTIONAL STORY (Concurrent Sessions 1 and 2) - Hagfors 106

Presenters: Paul Pribbenow, President, Augsburg University; Drew Tucker, University Pastor and Director of the Center for Faith and Learning, Capital University; Chris Bowen, Dean of the Chapel, Roanoke College

Description: Many Lutheran colleges and universities are critically interrogating the histories and stories that they tell of themselves so that they can better become the institutions they are called to be. With a NetVUE "Saga" grant, Augsburg University is currently asking whether its history adequately informs and reflects the

university's aspiration to be an anti-racist, inclusive teaching and learning community. Also with a Saga grant, Capital University and Trinity Seminary are exploring together what it means to be a university founded by and still associated with Lutherans while also committed to robust interfaith collaboration. Roanoke College is a founding member of the Universities Studying Slavery project, a collaboration of nearly 65 U.S. and international colleges and universities addressing historical and contemporary issues dealing with race and inequality in higher education. Presenters will tell stories about how they are reframing and rethinking their institutional stories, prompting participants to do the same.

BEYOND THE PLAYING FIELD (Concurrent Sessions 1 and 3) - Hagfors 152

Presenter: Casey Cline, Director of Career Services, Newberry College; Aslynn Halvorson, Assistant Professor of Exercise Science and Human Performance, Newberry College

Description: Student-athletes are a special subgroup within higher education. They spend much of their time outside the classroom on the field. While there are myriad positive skills that being a team member provides student-athletes, playing a sport while in college often leaves these students with less time to participate in other campus events and programs. Meanwhile, a majority of student-athletes leave competitive sports behind after college. How do we, as Lutheran institutions dedicated to the formation of our students as whole persons, help student-athletes appreciate the importance of life beyond their sport? How can we best assist these students in participating in the full college experience? What specific programs and resources might support them in exploring purposefully beyond the playing field? Come ready to exchange ideas about how we serve this special student population.

COFFEE SHOPS AND CLASSROOMS AND DORM ROOMS (OH MY!); VOCATIONAL PROGRAMS ACROSS CAMPUS (Concurrent Sessions 1 and 3) - Hagfors 263

Presenters: Colleen Windham-Hughes, Wilbert and Darlene Carlson Endowed Chair of Youth and Family Ministry, Associate Dean of Interdisciplinary Programs and Community Outreach, California Lutheran University; Pastor Melinda Pupillo, Campus Chaplain and Director of Spiritual Development, Augustana College; Michelle Crouch, Music Professor and Faculty-in-Residence, Augustana College

Description: Vocation, calling, meaning, and purpose are capacious categories that span the work of academic curriculums and co-curricular activities. Still, building partnerships on campus between administrators, student program leaders, and faculty is easier said than done. Leaders of this workshop will showcase some recent initiatives at California Lutheran University and Augustana College—including “Vocational Reflection Exercises” that can be used inside and outside of the classroom and a sophomore residential vocational program where students and faculty live and reflect in close proximity. Participants will have ample time to share their own challenges and successes related to joint programming around vocation.

TEACHING VOCATION – SYLLABUS SWAPPING AND STEALING IDEAS (Concurrent Session 2 only) - Hagfors 250

Presenter: Lori Brandt Hale, Professor of Religion and Department Chair, Augsburg University

Description: Many religion and other courses at NECU institutions use vocation/calling as central themes and sometimes even as the title of courses, as with Augsburg University's two part religion requirements: Religion, Vocation, and the Search for Meaning I and II. Participants in this workshop will learn best practices for design of courses that focus on vocation (to whatever degree). Lori will share syllabuses from the required course at Augsburg and then facilitate a conversation as the other participants do the same. Please email your own syllabus (or one from your colleagues) to hale@augsb.org before attending so that she can share with the workshop participants.

VOCATIONAL DISCERNMENT BEYOND THE CURRICULUM (Concurrent Sessions 2 and 3) - Hagfors 151

Presenters: Kristina Fruge, Managing Director, Christensen Center for Vocation, Augsburg University; Jeremy Myers, Executive Director, Christensen Center for Vocation, Augsburg University

Description: A large extent of Augsburg University's vocation-work happens beyond the curriculum, specifically with Christian congregations across the Twin Cities. The Riverside Innovation Hub, an initiative of Augsburg's Christensen Center for Vocation, helps congregations develop practices for place-based vocational discernment in the public square for the common good. This workshop will share how Augsburg extends its vocation work beyond the curriculum and their plans for connecting faculty and students to this work. We will pose and discuss the following questions: Do we have a responsibility and permission to do vocational work beyond the curriculum and student body? If so, how might we do this work in a way that combines our efforts with students and our efforts with external partners to enrich the experience for all involved?

VOCATION TOOL-KIT FOR PEDAGOGY OR PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT (Concurrent Sessions 2 and 3) - Hagfors 301

Presenter: Erin VanLaningham, Director, NetVUE Scholarly Resources Project and Professor of English, Loras College

Description: Are you looking for new and innovative ways to bring students and colleagues into the conversation about vocation? In this session, participants will be engaging with the various tools available through NetVUE (blog, podcast, and other materials) as well as trying out different short assignments and strategies to bring these into the classroom, professional development workshops, or small group conversation. This workshop will allow space for participants to brainstorm further ways to pair these resources with assignments, programs, and classes.

Plenary Presenter and Moderator Biographies

Rebecca M. Bergman became the first woman to be named president of Gustavus Adolphus College in its 160-year history in 2014. During her tenure, Bergman has focused on the inherent strengths of the Gustavus community, the passion of the faculty and students for teaching and learning, and the commitment of the College to its core values. Prior to assuming the presidency, Bergman had a 26-year career at Medtronic, Inc., a leading medical technology company. She most recently served as Vice President of Research, Technology and Therapy Delivery Systems for Medtronic's Cardiac Rhythm Disease Management (CRDM) business, where she led a research and development team of scientists and engineers. She previously served as Vice President, CRDM New Therapies & Diagnostics as well as Vice President, Corporate Science and Technology, where she directed biomaterials and biosciences R&D, new therapy development and information management initiatives. President Bergman holds a B.S. degree in Chemical Engineering from Princeton University, completed graduate studies in Chemical Engineering and Materials Science at the University of Minnesota, and has received honorary doctorate degrees from Drexel University and St. Catherine University.

Mary-Paula Cancienne, RSM, is a theologian who presently serves as Associate Director for Mission Integration for the Conference for Mercy Higher Education. Her background includes a doctorate in Systematic Theology from Duquesne University, and master's degrees in Theology from Marquette University, Spirituality from Santa Clara University, Psychology from the Institute of Transpersonal Psychology, and Fine Arts from Louisiana State University. Mary-Paula taught at Georgian Court University, leaving there having served as chair of the Religious Studies, Theology, and Philosophy Department. She co-developed and continues to teach in a for credit/certificate five course program, Mercy Spirituality Online that reaches students globally. Mary-Paula's research includes ethics, Earth, and the integration of action and reflection. She writes and speaks on the contemporary religious/spiritual landscape. Prior to higher education, she served alongside people with mental illness/addiction, who were without housing in Philadelphia and the Bay Area in California. She is a trained spiritual guide and supervisor, and she writes contemporary icons.

Krista E. Hughes is founding director of the Muller Center for Exploration & Engagement and Associate Professor of Religion at Newberry College in Newberry, S.C., where she facilitates programming in vocational exploration, ethical inquiry, and civic engagement in the curriculum and co-curriculum. Her teaching, writing, and facilitation currently engage themes of vocation in higher education, theology of place, the U.S. South, and pathways for personal and institutional racial reckonings. She is a facilitator with the community transformation organization *Speaking Down Barriers* and co-founder of *White Women Reckoning*, LLC equity consultants.

Jason Mahn is the Conrad Bergendoff Chair in the Humanities, Professor of Religion, and Director of the Presidential Center for Faith and Learning at Augustana College, Rock Island, IL. He served as editor of *Intersections* for the past decade and now chairs the planning committee for the Vocation of Lutheran Higher Education gathering. He is author of *Fortunate Fallibility* (Oxford 2011) and *Becoming a Christian in Christendom* (Fortress 2016), and co-author and editor of *Radical Lutherans/Lutheran Radicals* (Cascade 2017) and *The Vocation of Lutheran Higher Education* (Lutheran UP, 2017). His most recent book considers our individual and collective callings—even and especially in turbulent times: *Neighbor Love through Fearful Days: Finding Purpose and Meaning in a Time of Crisis* (Fortress 2021). He lives with his wife, two teenage sons, their dog Gracie, and urban six chickens in Rock Island, IL.

Melissa Maxwell-Doherty is Vice President for Mission and Identity at California Lutheran University, Thousand Oaks, CA. She has served as a member of Cal Lutheran's leadership team since 2007. She was co-pastor at Cal Lutheran with her husband, Scott Maxwell-Doherty prior to her current role. She is a graduate of Cal Lutheran and its seminary, Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary. Prior to returning to Cal Lutheran, Melissa served as a pastor of churches in Glendale, CA; Phoenix, AZ; and Grand Forks, ND. She received the President's Award for Distinguished Ministry from PLTS in 2001 and has been very active within the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. She served on the Habitat for Humanity Ventura County Board of Directors for four years.

Paul Pribbenow is the 10th president of Augsburg University in Minneapolis, MN. Since joining Augsburg in 2006, Pribbenow has enhanced the university's role as an active community partner in its urban setting. By identifying and embracing initiatives that mutually benefit Augsburg and its neighbors, the university has achieved national recognition for its excellence in service learning and experiential education. Pribbenow serves on the national boards of the Coalition for Urban and Metropolitan Universities, Council of Independent Colleges, and the National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities. He is also active in the Anchor Institutions Task Force. Locally, he chairs the Central Corridor Anchor Partnership, serves on the Minnesota Governor's Workforce Development Board and the executive committee of the Minnesota Private College Council. Before coming to Augsburg, Pribbenow served as president of Rockford College (now Rockford University). He holds a bachelor's degree from Luther College (Decorah, IA) and a master's degree and doctorate in social ethics from the University of Chicago. He lives in Minneapolis with his wife Abigail and their two children, Thomas and Maya.

Monica M. Smith is Vice President and chief diversity officer at Augustana College in Rock Island, IL. She is dedicated to education and awareness for cultural competence, social justice, peacemaking, and reconciliation with extensive experience in matters related to diversity, inclusion, and equity. Dr. Smith has played a pivotal role in helping the college receive national recognition by INSIGHT Into Diversity magazine, receiving the Higher Education Excellence in Diversity (HEED) award in 2019 and 2020 and Diverse Organization Impact and Transformation (DOIT) certification (2021) for cultivating a diverse, equitable and inclusive campus climate. She is a recipient of the 2021 Women of Influence Award at the 2021 ATHENA Leadership Awards from Women Lead Change, a national leadership organization. She is the author of several articles which appear in the NECU journal, *Intersections* (Fall 2019, 2020).

Victor Thasiah is a professor of religion and an affiliated faculty member of the environmental studies program at California Lutheran University, Thousand Oaks, CA. He is also the founder and executive director of Runners for Public Lands, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that builds inclusive running communities dedicated to protecting the environment. Vic has a background in humanitarian work in East Africa, working across Rwanda with former Rwandan refugees and survivors of genocide. His current teaching and research span the fields of religious studies, environmental studies, and violence studies. Drawing on classical Chinese (Daoist-Buddhist) nature poetry and its influence on American nature writing and environmentalism, Vic is working on a book that develops a contemporary Asian-American philosophy of nature supportive of environmental stewardship in the United States.

Marit Trelstad is the University Chair of Lutheran Studies and Professor of Constructive and Lutheran Theologies at Pacific Lutheran University in Tacoma, WA. Her scholarly work combines feminist, process and Lutheran theologies. She published *Cross Examinations: Readings on the Meaning of the Cross Today* (Fortress, 2006) and contributed chapters to *Luther from the SubAltern – the Alternative Luther* (Lexington, 2019), *Theological and Ethical Perspectives on Climate Engineering*, (Rowman & Littlefield, 2016), *Transformative Lutheran Theologies* (Fortress, 2010), *Lutherrenaissance: Past and Present* (Göttingen: Vandenhoeck & Ruprecht 2014), *Theologies of Creation: Creatio Ex Nihilo and Its New Rivals* (Routledge, August 2014) and *Creating Women's Theology: A Movement Engaging Process Thought*, (St. Louis: Chalice, 2011).

Drew Tucker is University Pastor, Director of the Center for Faith and Learning, and part-time faculty at Capital University in Columbus, OH. His research passions include vocational exploration and identity formation, as well as the practice of ministry, especially in worship and preaching with young adults. Drew's publications include a number of articles and reviews, as well as his first book, *4D Formation: Exploring Vocation in Community*, which is forthcoming in August 2022 from Fortress Press. Drew holds

degrees from Ashland University (B.A.), Duke University (M.Div.), Lenoir-Rhyne University (S.T.M.) and is currently completing a Doctor of Ministry from Lexington Theological Seminary. His most recent research explores the nature of resilience in ELCA campus ministry communities, which have survived the last decade of church decline at a much higher rate than ELCA congregations. In Drew's spare time, he loves making music, cooking new foods (especially in a smoker), being around the water (especially swimming and paddleboarding), and traveling with his partner, Michelle.

Kathi Tunheim serves as the Vice-President for Mission, Strategy, and Innovation at Gustavus Adolphus College in St. Peter, MN. As an Associate Professor of Management for 12 years prior, she founded three distinguished organizations at Gustavus: Gustavus Women in Leadership, Gustavus Alumni-Student Mentoring Program, and the Gustie Entrepreneur Cup. She holds a BA from Concordia College in Moorhead, MN, an MA from the University of Wisconsin in Milwaukee, WI, and her Ph.D. from the University of Minnesota. She currently serves on the boards of Lutheran World Relief-IMA World Health/Corus International and Thrivent Financial. Kathi and her husband Bob are parents to Rob (31), Amie (28) and Kristie (25). Her two oldest are St. Olaf grads and her youngest is a proud Gustie. Kathi was recently honored to receive the Distinguished Alumni award from the University of Minnesota in the College of Education and Human Development.

Erin VanLaningham is Professor of English at Loras College in Dubuque, Iowa and Director of the NetVUE Scholarly Resources Project. In her NetVUE role, she facilitates a series of seminars for the contributors to the forthcoming volume on vocation and the common good, for which she serves as editor. She also co-hosts NetVUE's podcast, *Callings: Conversations on College, Career, and a Life Well-Lived*. As an English professor, Erin teaches courses in the British novel, the spiritual memoir, and Irish literature, and her research includes art, gender studies, and vocation. She recently co-edited and contributed to the volume *Cultivating Vocation in Literary Studies* (Edinburgh University Press). Erin holds a B.A. from Luther College, the M.A. from Northeastern University, and the Ph.D. from Saint Louis University, all in English.

Mark N. Wilhelm is a pastor of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, serving as Executive Director for the Network of ELCA Colleges and Universities. He has been called to various churchwide ministries of the ELCA since 2000. He previously served as Associate Director of the Center for Theological Education at Auburn Theological Seminary, New York NY, and a pastor of congregations in New York and Maryland. He holds a BA from St. Olaf College, an MDiv from Luther Seminary, St. Paul, Minnesota, and an MPhil and PhD from Union Theological Seminary in New York. Mark and his wife, Laura, live in Chicago. They have two grown sons and four grandsons. He is a native of New Waterford, Ohio.

2022 VLHE Conference Leadership

NECU Planning Team

Krista Hughes, Newberry College
Jason Mahn (Chair), Augustana College
Jeremy Myers, Augsburg University
Monica Smith, Augustana College
Lisa Sethre-Hofstad, Concordia College
Mark Wilhelm, Network of ELCA Colleges and Universities

Augsburg Planning Team

Janice Dames
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Special Thanks to ...

Speakers and Presenters
Concurrent Session Leaders and Panelists
Augsburg Event Services
University Catering
Paul Pribbenow, Augsburg University
Mark Wilhelm, NECU

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Save the Date for next year's
Vocation of Lutheran Higher Education Conference
July 2023, dates TBD

“So That Educators, Too, May Flourish”

The foundational document of the Network of ELCA Colleges and Universities has it that we are "called and empowered to serve the neighbor so that all may flourish." Echoing this central purpose, a new book by 15 educators at NECU institutions is entitled, *So That All May Flourish* (Fortress Press 2023). And yet, we all know—and many experience first hand—the unprecedented degree of fatigue and burnout among educators these days, which is culminating in a “great resignation.” How do we educators care for ourselves and “neighbor” one another, even as we care for students experiencing their own stresses and anxieties? What Lutheran theological roots and institutional practices empower educators not simply to survive our overlapping crises, but to become fully alive—to flourish—in mind, body and spirit? The 2023 Vocation of Lutheran Higher Education Conference will bring together faculty, staff, and administrators from the NECU community to envision, plan for, and partake in a community where all may flourish.

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