

## **New Wine: The Lutheran and Episcopal Campus Ministry at Temple University**

The Temple Campus Ministry entered its sixth academic year of existence this fall and continues to grow and thrive on the main campus of Temple University.

Over the past academic year, the ministry was re-accredited by the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America as a funded Lutheran Campus Ministry. The re-accreditation report sung praises for the ministry; its work with students, presence on campus, board development and fundraising. The ELCA enthusiastically re-accredited the Temple Ministry.

In addition, the Episcopal Diocese of Pennsylvania and the Southeastern Pennsylvania Lutheran Synod renewed their Memorandum of Understanding, a document which governs the joint nature of the ministry. The two bodies renewed the agreement governing staffing, funding, accountability, and liability for an additional 4 years in an agreement signed by the Lutheran and Episcopal Bishops, the Standing Committee, and Synod/Diocesan Councils.

Programmatically, the Temple Ministry has formed a new partnership with Church of the Crucifixion at 8<sup>th</sup> and Bainbridge (an aided parish within the diocese). The partnership provides the campus ministry with space and a parish community as home. Students help with parish clean-up projects and now have a venue for ministries to the wider community. One recent event that has garnered a lot of success has been a monthly cooking event for area homeless shelters. Students have attended this event in droves to cook and break bread together in a ministry based out of Church of the Crucifixion. In addition to the homeless ministry, the Temple Ministry and Crucifixion partnered up to plan and implement a joint Easter Vigil for the first time this year. The event was a success with many new and old faces alike.

The Temple Campus Ministry has also gained recognition from then Lutheran Theological Seminary as an ongoing field education site for its students. In 2008/2009 the ministry hosted one field education student. This academic year, it will host two students. The ongoing placement for field education students shows the vitality and importance this ministry has as a model ministry for seminary students to experience.

Finally, the Temple Ministry has continued to raise a significant portion of its operating budget. Each year fundraising exceeds the Lutheran contribution by 1:2 dollars and matches or exceeds the diocesan contribution dollar for dollar. The Board and Students are deeply grateful for the support of the synod and diocese. Fundraising in 2009 has reached its capacity. With a steep economic recession, it's hard to imagine increasing fundraising overall in any way – fundraising which now exceeds \$42,000/year. The ministry continues to seek funding partners and ongoing funding from those parishes and individuals who have stood with it through the last six years.

In all, the diocese has much to be excited and enthusiastic about when it looks at the ministry at Temple. So many lives have been changed and we have found a way to connect with a new generation!

Submitted By:

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