 Welcome, Paul Berkbigler

in assuming responsibility for

Your creativity and passion for

communicating through the visual

arts will add much to this publication.

Assumptions CAN Be Dangerous

This edition of Issues in Christian Education unpacks many frequently

held assumptions about campus ministry. For example:

•Rev. Carl Selle challenges the assumption that our culture is “still

permeated with the content of the Christian message.”

•Rev. Mark Heilman confronts the assumption that “young

people want to go to college to leave home and have their

freedom and independence.”

•Dr. George Kirup contends that on Ivy League campuses, where

many assume quite the opposite, “there is a desire for greater

intellectual understanding of the faith.”

•Greg Witto reveals intriguing statistics and an inspiring portrait

of the Millennials for those who assume this generation is just

like the Baby Boomers or Generation X. He notes that “as a

group, Millennials are unlike any other youth generation in

living memory . . . [and] will entirely recast the image of youth

from downbeat and alienated to upbeat and engaged.”

•Rev. Greg Fairow reminds us that assumptions about methods

of funding campus ministry are changing rapidly, and without

careful thought, prayer and attention, the church may lose some

of its most important mission outputs.

•Rev. Kent Pierce observes from first-hand experience in campus

ministry that “there isn’t a ‘one size fits all answer’ as to how a

missionary campus ministry is to be formulated.”

Wow! Assumptions. Assumptions about campus ministry are many.

Some of them are dangerous. However, the reality about the min-

istry taking place through campus ministry on or near hundreds of

college and university campuses across our nation may surprise

you. With “over 16 million college students on 3,700 campuses in

the United States [and] approximately nine million are between the

ages of 17 and 25” (Pierce), the opportunities for outreach, Gospel

proclamation, leadership development, bridge building between

campus and community, volunteer service and service learning are

enormous and have the potential to have “seismic consequences

for America.” Campus ministry is vital if we are to continue to be

salt and light to all people everywhere. It is another mission field

for America.”

May God bless all who minister to college and university students as the Good News of Jesus Christ is

proclaimed and lived.

Brian L. Friedrich, President