

Abstract for ACLE Paper Presentation

Title: The Changing Landscape of Lutheran Education in the USA

Description: Many factors have contributed to a series of changes in the organization, sustainability, and structure of Lutheran schools in the past decade, including demographics shifts, decline in church membership, and economic challenges. Innovative new approaches to supporting Lutheran education have arisen, as the desire to carry out the same historic mission and purpose of Lutheran schools has been renewed. Participants in this session will receive information about the U.S. Lutheran education system (P-12 and university), hear stories about successful models, and address the global vision for Lutheran education. Discussion will focus on the need for education leaders to “wise up” regarding the future of Lutheran schools.

Why this topic is important: Changes in communities, government, society, and the Church have caused Lutheran entities around the world to take a new look at how and why Lutheran education is important to continue.

Method of delivery: This presentation will be a combination of lecture with Powerpoint slides and dialog.

Presenter: Dr. Jonathan C. Laabs has served as Executive Director of Lutheran Education Association since 1997. Prior to that, he had been a practicing Lutheran educator for 20 years, serving as teacher and administrator at Lutheran schools and as Director of Teacher Education at Concordia University, Ann Arbor, Michigan. Dr. Laabs received his BA and MA from Concordia University Chicago and earned his Doctor of Education degree from The University of Michigan, Ann Arbor.

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