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Student reflection on program outcomes: an example

A. Graduates will form and lead Christian communities gathered around Word and Sacrament for bold participation in God's mission.

(2a) With new urgency you will recognize the Holy Spirit's new opportunities for mission here in ever more diverse North American contexts.

(3a) You will understand the dynamics of systems and institutions and work creatively in the midst of them.

(8a) You will seek out opportunities for encounters and shared projects with neighbors that surround your faith communities.

This reflection responds to program outcome A, and specifically competencies 2a, 3a, and 8a.

I have completed two semesters of work at Luther, and feel like I can safely say I have accomplished these three competencies. I know how to ask "what is God up to?" and I know how to "read my audience." I offer as partial evidence of this assertion that I have passed all of my junior level courses.

I think my understanding of "the dynamics of systems" is very good because I can sense when disagreements will lead to conflict and I have learned how to use "I" statements in arguments.

I feel a huge urgency for mission, because I can see how little people are speaking of love for Jesus Christ. We need to proclaim Jesus more directly, and the Spirit will do the work. I believe in working with neighboring churches to help.

I am offering as further evidence of my achievement of these competencies a cartoon I drew as part of a process of reaching out creatively to young adults. This cartoon, which I published on my *tumblr* account, helps to point out why there are so many young adults who are "spiritual but not religious" and shows that I am aware of the systemic dynamics at work around me.

Next year I will turn my attention to competencies 1a, 4a, 5a, 6a, 7a, 9a and 10a. My plan for working on them is to take the worship course, and to try to work on these competencies in a contextual education site.