

VOLUNTEERISM, SOCIAL WORK, AND THE CHURCH: A HISTORIC OVERVIEW AND LOOK INTO THE FUTURE.

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Abstract:

This article sets forth the relationship between volunteerism, social work, and the church as consisting of three parts: 1) recognition of volunteerism, rooted in the church, as the origin of the profession; 2) a general attempt by the profession to separate and distinguish itself from volunteerism and religiously motivated services; and 3) periods of need. The authors conclude by positing the need for context-specific optimal partnerships between religious professionals and religious and secular volunteers. Two case examples of context-specific optimal partnerships are provided with implications for social work educators and practitioners.

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