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 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) period times 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 implications for social work educators and practitioners.

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