

Minutes of LECC Session, Wed 30 May 2012

Present: Don Kreiss (ELCA), Nedi Rivera (TEC), Alan Scarfe (TEC, Co-Chair), Mitzi Budde (ELCA, Co-Chair), Kay Beach (TEC), Don McCoid (ELCA Staff), Margaret Rose (TEC Staff), Jon Perez (TEC), André Lavergne (ELCIC, JALC), Peter Wall (ACC, JALC), Mark Burkhardt (ELCA Staff), Bill Petersen (TEC Staff).

01. Organizational Matters:

Co-Chair M. Budde called the meeting to order at 08h30 and appointed B. Petersen to be recording secretary for this and tomorrow's LECC session.

Canadian guests from the Joint Anglican-Lutheran Commission were recognized and welcomed.

Minutes of the October 2011 meeting were reviewed and corrections noted; after several corrections were noted, adoption was moved, seconded, carried.

The 17 Feb 2012 redaction of LECC's "Six Year Plan 2008-2013" was distributed; after a brief review, adoption of this edition of the plan was moved, seconded, and carried.

Announcements were made about the existence and use of Face Book pages for LECC and JALC.

J. Perez brought an addition to the agenda regarding a proposal to recommend inclusion of the "Four Chaplains" to cycles of commemoration in TEC and ELCA; after a presentation and questions, the proposal to recommend this action was adopted by consensus.

02. Reports:

TEC

A. Scarfe distributed copies of the Standing Commission on Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations report published in the TEC pre-General Convention *Blue Book* and commented briefly on two matters of interest to LECC: (1) progress of proposal for full communion between TEC and the Svenska Kyrkan (Church of Sweden) and (2) the progress of the TEC-UMC conversations toward full communion;

Attention was called to *Blue Book* Resolution A 036 proposing the reopening of an ELCA-TEC dialogue to deal with concerns about ecclesiological differences of practice between the two

churches – a discussion was begun, but at the suggestion of M. Budde, further consideration of the matter was postponed until tomorrow’s session;

The report was concluded by a reflection on the possible fates at GC of the *Anglican Covenant* and the proposed liturgies for same-gender blessings.

ELCA

D McCoid reported on the status of ELCA dialogues and full communion relationships, including an admonition according to Formula of Agreement from RCA relative to the ELCA sexuality study. A particular focus was the method for making ethical decisions in consultation with partner churches. In June 2012 the model provided by the ELCA in this regard is to be shared more widely.

It was noted that the Lutheran-Orthodox dialogue will continue with engagement of questions around ministry in their historic development in both traditions. Also mentioned were the ELCA dialogues with the traditionally African-American Methodist churches (AME, AMEZ, CME and some other small ones).

His report concluded with reflections on the impact of congregations leaving ELCA as a result of its adoption of the sexuality study.

Eucharist

This session was suspended until 1:30 p.m. so that LECC & JALC members could attend the celebration of the Eucharist in the Lutheran Center’s Chapel.

The meeting was recalled to order with A. Scarfe in the chair at 1:30 p.m.

Reports (continued)

JALC

P. Wall spoke for the Canadian guests and conveyed their gratitude for attendance; greetings were brought from the ELCIC co-chair who could not be present. It was noted that JALC is within one year of the conclusion of its six-year mandate from ACC and ELCIC. Much work is going into the plan for common national church conventions to be held at Ottawa in July 2013. JALC has also published a booklet detailing *Waterloo Ministries*. This booklet will be constantly updated.

Also high-lighted was a new Epiphanytide 2013 Bible Study series tied to the Revised Common Lectionary Gospel texts (for inclusion in church bulletins) jointly authored by several members of JALC and LECC. Each devotional includes a meditation on the text, a collect, and an example of full-communion ministry. This JALC initiative will result in electronic distribution of these Bible Studies among four churches: ELCIC, ACC, ELCA, and TEC. D. McCoid cautioned that

the content would need approval from an ELCA office before distribution could be authorized through ELCA channels.

In March 2011, the national church staffs met together for a weekend conference that was quite successful. Such meetings will occur occasionally in future.

JALC officially invites LECC to a joint meeting in Niagara Falls, ON, 6 - 8 February 2013 at the Carmelite retreat house near the falls.

It was noted that in late April, the Canadian Primates and co-chairs of JALC spent time with Anglican & Lutheran communities in Jerusalem. Conversations promoted models of cooperation developed in North America for consideration of the Lutheran and Anglican communities in Jerusalem and the Middle East (there are basically co-terminus jurisdictions in this area) covering. A joint pastoral letter to these communities resulted from the meeting and reception is in process.

Andre Lavergne (ELCIC Ecumenical Officer) added that, as a result of full communion, he is serving as one of the Anglican representatives to the renewed Anglican-United Church of Canada dialogue. Because of this fact, another outside observer will need to be added to that dialogue.

Bruce Myers (ACC Ecumenical Officer) indicated that it has become second nature for the ACC and ELCIC not to move forward on matters without consulting the other full communion partner (*e.g.*, not starting new bi-laterals without such consultation; meeting of staffs on regular basis; and not only working together but giving each other work).

In questions and discussion which followed the report, M. Budde asked about experience in Canada with issues around lay presidency and diaconate. Response indicated that basically “we understand that there are differences of practice” in regard to these matters, but the issues do not appear to excite controversy.

M. Rose addressed the monitoring authority of JALC and after October 2011 meeting of LECC raised the question of what we might learn from the Canadian approach or how this can be addressed in United States. The matter probably ought to be a matter of future thought for LECC.

A. Lavergne remarked upon how much depends on good will (especially of the respective primates and of the JALC membership) for furtherance of specific manifestations of full communion.

03. Introduction of New Member

Jill Dierberg (Evanston, IL), faculty member at Carthage College in Kenosha, WI, was introduced as a new young adult member of LECC. She shared with the group her own ecumenical pilgrimage stemming from family experience. Jill indicated that would be defending

her doctoral dissertation next week and, after those present introduced themselves to her, she was assured of our thoughts and prayers. D. McCoid reminded the meeting that TEC still needs to appoint a young adult member to LECC.

04. “Four Chaplains” Proposal

J. Perez “Four Chaplains” proposal made and discussed with respective processes for adding commemorations to the *sanctorale* in respective churches. How it works in TEC; send proposal to PB of ELCA for processing by church council; date of 3 Feb (now St Anskar).

N Rivera moved that LECC recommend commemoration of the Four Chaplains of the Dorchester on 3 February to the appropriate agencies of TEC and ELCA, 2nd Perez, carried.

05. Organizational Matters.

How to respond to JALC invitation to meet jointly in Canada next Feb? Thank you for kind invitation and table consideration until after we have met with the Moravians.

General discussion about various commissions, their mandates, and the possibilities of joint meetings. Adjournment to 1:30 p.m.

Meeting continues Thursday 31 May with remaining agenda items:

06. Announcement. W. Petersen noted that the *Anglican Theological Review* is now housed at the Lutheran Center due to the move of Seabury-Western Seminary to this venue. He presented five copies of the ATR for interested parties. This came as a gift to LECC from the ATR’s Managing Editor.

07. Terms & Appointments. During a review of LECC’s six-year terms and the present membership, it was noted that the committee is two members short on the Episcopal side, especially in regard to a young adult appointee. A. Scarfe volunteered to follow-up on this matter.

08. Date and Venue of Next Meeting.

A. Scarfe proposed a pattern of “home/away” for future meetings. Our 2013 “away” meeting would be, for instance, in Canada with JALC. In 2014 we would meet at “home” with the Moravians. A refinement to this pattern envisions a LECC-JALC plenary once in a six year period and a second meeting with half the Canadian commission. This suggestion was received with approbation.

It was then decided by consensus to accept the JALC invitation to meeting from a noon arrival on Wednesday through Friday, 6-8 February 2013 at the Mount Carmel Retreat House, Niagara

Falls, ON.

09. Consideration of General Convention Resolution A036.

The resolution proposes reopening a TEC bilateral with ELCA to deal with issues regarding lay presidency at a celebration of the Eucharist and the diaconate in regard to ordained ministry. After discussion, it is the wisdom of LECC that any such questions should be dealt with in and through LECC as an officially appointed agency of the full communion that exists on the basis of *Called to Common Mission*.

With regard to strategy in regard to this resolution at General convention, LECC formally requested that A. Scarfe, N. Rivera, W. Petersen, and M. Rose be in communication about arrangements for pre-convention testimony before the GC ecumenical committee. One outcome discussed was the specific goal of ensuring that the issues of this resolution be referred to LECC.

10. Moravian Connection with LECC. A. Scarfe asked whether it is not reasonable for the Moravian full communion representatives to ELCA and TEC, being the same persons, to be blended into LECC in so far as possible when we have common matters about which to deliberate. This suggestion was received positively with only the caveat that resource and geographical limitations might provide difficulties for the Moravian representatives. This is, of course, a matter to discuss with them when we meet jointly.

11. Announcements. All were reminded that expenses incurred in travel to this meeting should be reported to the respective ecumenical officers on the forms provided or on-line.

This part of the meeting was adjourned. After a 10 minute break, the group reassembled to continue for the remainder of today and tomorrow our Strategic Planning Session with ELCA facilitator Mark Burkhardt. Report of the results of this exercise was recorded by Mark Burkhardt and is attached below.

Respectfully submitted,

William H. Petersen, Consultant
TEC Ecumenical Office

**Lutheran - Episcopal Coordinating Committee
Appreciative Inquiry Process Notes
May 30 - 31, 2012**

The group engaged in an Appreciative Inquiry/Asset-based Planning Process (see Appendix A) facilitated by Mark Burkhardt - Director for Congregational Centers for Mission, churchwide staff in the ELCA Congregational & Synodical Mission unit.

STEP 1 - DISCOVER

- + **Appreciative storytelling about recent LECC work**
 - ***The 10 Year Celebration*** – something to take home, stimulus for additional conversations, brought clergy and lay together, planted seeds for deeper engagement in the future
 - ***Coming of Age*** - moving past differences, looking for opportunities, congregation conversations in October 2011, etc...
 - ***Chaplain Cooperation*** - word & sacrament on bases, cooperative training
 - ***Resource Sharing*** - federated and union congregations
 - ***Information Updates & Support*** - direct communication of concerns
 - ***A Model for Others*** - dialogues, coordinating committees and full communion agreements; TEC w/Methodists, ACC/USA, Presbyterians, etc....
 - ***Shared Churchwide Ministries & Resources*** - chaplaincy for federal ministries, Office of Governmental Relations for TEC/ELCA Washington Office (international policy position).
 - ***Engaging Difficult Issues*** - sexuality, ministry, ethics, economics etc....
 - ***Heard from NWCU*** - mapping Lutheran/Episcopal shared congregations
 - ***I've Learned So Much!*** - continued cooperation between denominations, 10th anniversary observance, military chaplains, stories of joint congregations, shared campus ministry, etc....
 - ***Web X with Pastors/Chaplains*** - opportunity for leaders to meet, talk and learn about LECC
 - ***Military Chaplains*** - October 2008 meeting with follow-up letters and resolutions and DOD engagement
 - ***Building Relationships*** - connecting joint congregations and ministries
 - ***Expanding Outreach*** - pushing for joint Hispanic ministry in Detroit

- *Calendar* - variety of pictures representing churchwide ministries
- *Listening to the Farmers* - relief work in Iowa, college work in California
- *Expanding the Field* - conversations asking, “Who else can we work with?”
- *Putting Flesh on the Bones* - four-way meetings and initiatives, offering a witness to other parts of the global Church, joint assembly, joint meetings of bishops
- *Four-Way Conversation* - meeting of four head bishops in U.S. and Canada
- *JALC: Joint Assembly* - a “headache” to plan but pushing boundaries
- *JALC: Jerusalem* - new commission
- *This Could Happen!* - cataloging and connecting what is happening at the congregational level

+ **Identification of LECC Assets, Gifts, Strengths**

- Friendship between individuals
- Bishops Fred, Susan, Katherine and Mark - personal relationships/friendships, collegiality, visionaries
- Nedi Rivera - knows that things in the church can change, thinks strategically and long-term, vision, passion
- Workers that carry the ball
- Strong friendships between church leaders
- Chris Epting - a founding connection, history, practice
- Culture - a general desire for positive cooperation
- Worship and prayer together at every meeting
- Ability to look beyond ourselves to others who have experience and expertise
- All move ahead as friends
- Passion for partnership
- Spend time beyond the meeting together
- Websites - to share stories and connect people and communities
- Not stuck to old ways, but know and care about traditions
- Success = More ministry
- Committed to the work
- Mike & Peter - pragmatic/endgame
- Ecumenical vigour

- Jon Perez - practical on the ground work, mover and shaker, creative, he does it everyday, techno-savvy, asks “impertinent” questions, names “elephants,” personal life experience, support, climate builder
- Simplicity of design
- Bill Petersen - history carrier, institutional memory/work, meticulous, committed to the future
- Success = Partnerships
- Many Lutheran and Episcopal congregations doing cooperative ministry
- Don McCoid - memory, history, passion, incredible knowledge, big picture, the “Don” of the group, mentor, sense of history and future, dedicated and engaged staff support, wisdom, breadth of ecumenical understanding
- Relationships of trust
- Kay Beach - gift of hospitality, focus, practical on the ground experience
- Openness to new and different things
- Lowell Almen – juridical knowledge – how to put things into play
- Necessity becomes the parent of invention
- Listens well
- Relationships with JALC
- Keeping track of progress/outcomes
- Mitzi Budde - leadership, fun, organized, lives in both worlds, gracious, sense of humor, accountability, patient, persistent, planner, keeps us focused
- Success = Change
- Positive Energy
- Alan Scarfe - puts it into play on the ground
- Commitment to Mission
- Humor
- Nedi Rivera - Bill Petersen - more than 30-year friendship
- Enthusiasm for ecumenism
- Strong ELCA/TEC staff participation/encouragement/commitment
- Petersen (LECC) - Leggett (JALC) – 30-year friendship
- Fred Hiltz - long institutional memory
- Tom Ferguson – encyclopedia
- Jill Dierberg – media expertise
- LECC bishops - steady support, interest, faithful attendance
- Chafing
- Energetic and Open
- Canadian partnership
- Bruce the Canadian - relative youth
- Waterloo Ministries
- Faithfulness to the work - committed to the process of CCM
- Going to where CCM is happening
- Margaret Rose - dedicated and engaged staff support

- The six-year plan - transformative
 - Brooding across borders
- + **Name what LECC does best:**
- Convene
 - Connect
 - Make believers of COM
 - Bring this ecumenical work to light
 - Look for new opportunities
 - Name and map progress
 - Identify mission points
 - Ask: How else can we work together?
 - We leave it in the hands of others to implement

STEPS 2 & 3 – DREAM & DESIGN (combined report)

- + **Identification of Task Groups to carry LECC work forward:**
- 1. Plan the February 2013 LECC Meeting** – Canadian hosts + Margaret Rose, Don McCoid, Alan Scarfe and Mitzi Budde
 - 2. Respond to Episcopal Resolution A036 (only if required)** - Alan Scarfe (lead), Kay Beach and Lowell Almen
 - Look for ways to expand what is interchangeable
 - Look at diaconal ministry without first looking at “orders” of ministry
 - 3. Write an Annotated Notebook for “Federated Congregations” (on-line resource)** - Nedi Rivera (lead), Jon Perez and Sherman Hicks
 - 4. Explore First Call Formation** - Don Kreiss (convener) and Alan Scarfe
 - 5. Develop a LECC Communication Plan** - Jill Dierberg (lead), Mitzi Budde and Jon Perez
 - Do appreciative storytelling
 - Newsletter or other effective way to share stories
 - Facebook
 - Epiphany Marina website
- + **Other key topics for LECC attention (no task group assigned at this time):**
- **Lutheran and Episcopal Bishops**
 - Shared meetings (national and regional)
 - Training, Orientation and Formation of new bishops

- **Support Blended Congregations**
 - Joint bishop visitations and ordinations
 - Conference of joint congregations to learn from one another
 - **Shared Staff, Ministry and Space**
 - Centralized partnership in one location
 - Joint promotion of Lutheran and Episcopal Relief efforts
 - Foster a culture of ecumenical thinking at all levels
 - Do “mandated trainings” together, e.g. antiracism, misconduct prevention, antiracism
 - Look for ways to avoid duplication of effort
- + **Future Meeting Topics/Locations:**
- **February 6-8, 2013, Niagara Falls, Canada w/JALC**
 - Build on JALC experience & energy
 - Continue cooperation w/LECC
 - Learn from Epiphany 2013 devotions experience
 - Learn about joint confirmation guidelines
 - Theological education – learn from JALC (compare & contrast)
 - Lifelong faith formation
 - **2014 w/Lutheran - Moravian Coordinating Committee, location TBD**
 - Focus: Youth, Young Adult and Campus ministries
 - **2015 in Oregon**
 - Focus: Synod/Diocese partnership (look at possible pilot test of joint judicatory)
 - Congregational partnerships
 - **2016 in Washington, DC**
 - Focus: Public Voice/Advocacy
 - Environmental policy initiatives
- + **LECC Advancement and Self Care:**
- Fill open Episcopal clergy position
 - Add Episcopal young adult member
 - Fill other open positions when they occur
- + **Topics for future exploration and work by LECC:**
- Welcoming and advocacy for GLBT persons
 - Same gender covenant liturgy

- Cooperative work in Hispanic ministry and other multicultural ministries
- Transitioning LECC work through changes in leadership (bishops, ecumenical officers, LECC members)
- Institutional cooperation, e.g. pensions, insurance
- Revitalization/Renewal of congregations at middle judicatory level
- United Methodist cooperation
- Other developing ecumenical partnerships
- Other areas of potential work, e.g. worship, church starts

Appendix A – Appreciative Inquiry/Asset-based Planning Process

The process we will be using is a combination of two very effective techniques which are used in community-based and organization-based planning. These two proven techniques are known as **Appreciative Inquiry and Asset Mapping**.

Appreciative Inquiry is “the study and exploration of what gives life to human systems when they function at their best. This approach to organizational change is based on the assumption that questions and dialogue about strengths, success, values, hopes and dreams are themselves transformational.” It is a simple process based on identifying strengths and best practices. We will use a four-step process: **Discover, Dream, Design** and **Do**.

Asset Mapping is a related process which we will use as part of the **Discover** process to identify a wide range of gifts or assets that we can use to build an exciting future for the work of the group.

In the **Discover** step we will:

- identify God’s action in the past and present through the work of the group
- identify what’s working well
- identify the positive core of our work
- map our assets, gifts and strengths

In the **Dream** step we will:

- ask what God is calling our group to be in the future
- ask what the Church is calling our group to be in the future
- imagine an exciting and positive future for our work.

In the **Design** step we will:

- identify positive assets we will carry forward from our past work
- identify positive assets that we can utilize more effectively in the future
- identify key strategies for implementing our dream
- identify organizational changes that may be necessary to implement our dream

In the **Do** step we will:

- write specific measurable goals
- assign responsibility
- set timelines
- take action!

Appendix B – JALC Dreams

- JALC as a model to share with ARC, ACC-UCC etc...
- Affirm and support our heads of churches and their colleagues
- Explore the Moravian question
- Mission: local and international working together
- Joint COGS/NCC meeting
- Sharing staff and staff resources
- Urge office and judicatory amalgamation
- Joint synods and synod assemblies
- Joint clergy/conference gatherings
- Nurture the Jerusalem Commission
- Complete unfinished work: Confirmation guidelines
- Episcopal pastorals
- Joint assembly as birthing space
- Affirmation and support of Waterloo Ministries
- Joint national publication (Anglican Journal/Canada Lutheran)