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The Rev. Randall Lee reviewed briefly the history of the development of Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ (LCMC), a movement that began as an association of congregations of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. With its incorporation and the development of a pension program, Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ has recently declared itself to be another Lutheran church body in North America. Pr. Lee went on to report that some 48 congregations had affiliated with LCMC when it was considered an association of congregations. Since declaring itself to be another Lutheran church body, three ELCA congregations have voted to disaffiliate with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and join LCMC. At this time, the status of the congregations that joined the association of congregations is unclear and he suggested that synodical bishops likely will have to inquire of those congregations what their intention is. The Rev. Grant Abbott pointed to the similarity in the pattern of parishes leaving The Episcopal Church in times of controversy.

The Rev. Jon Enslin said another issue that needs to be addressed in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America relates to synodical and churchwide leadership. In the past, he said, such leaders were often the pastors of large congregations who were selected for service based upon their experience and expertise. Pr. Enslin said this is rarely the case today because that kind of leadership and experience is often rejected. He said he believes this is not a helpful development in the life of the church. Ms. Midge Roof asked whether this development is related to the rejection of authority throughout the culture. Chair Brown said he was not certain but that the problem also is a problem for The Episcopal Church.

## **Adjournment**

The third meeting of the Lutheran-Episcopal Coordinating Committee concluded at 12:55 p.m. on February 5, 2002, with a prayer offered by the Rev. Grant Abbott.