

LECC Minutes June 2-3, 2009

Present: Budde, Scarfe, Beach, Perow, Almen, Anderson, Easton, Perez, Lutz, Hicks

Staff: McCoid, Epting

Regrets: Rivera

1. The meeting was opened at 9:10 a.m. on June with brief Morning Prayer led by Alan Scarfe
2. A brief time of check-in and sharing of ecumenical moments followed.
3. Budde shared various international Anglican – Lutheran meetings and developments.
4. Minutes of October 14-15, 2008 were approved with thanks to Nancy Curtis.
5. Agenda adopted as amended.
6. Perez raised the issue of seat, voice, and vote in Diocesan Conventions and Lutheran Synod Assemblies. There seems to be some ambiguity between “Called to Common Mission” and the “Orderly Exchange of Pastors and Priests” document. The LECC believes that the preferred customary would be for dioceses and synods to grant voice and vote to Episcopal clergy serving Lutheran congregations and Lutheran clergy serving Episcopal congregations.
7. Epting updated the LECC on the recent meeting of the Anglican Consultative Council. The Inter Anglican Standing Commission on Ecumenical Relations submitted its final report “The Vision Before Us.” The developing Anglican Covenant was referred to the Joint Standing Committee of the Primates and ACC for final revision before being sent out to the Provinces for potential adoption.
8. The Eucharist was celebrated according to the Book of Common Prayer with a Lutheran presider and Episcopal preacher.
9. After lunch Perez gave a demonstration of his parish web site www.epiphanymarina.org which has the most complete list of joint CCM congregations and ministries available.
10. From there, the LECC moved into a discussion of a three-year plan of work based on a draft produced by Budde-Scarfe. It was approved as amended (see below).
11. McCoid reported on the upcoming ELCA Churchwide Assembly including a full communion proposal with the United Methodist Church, a social statement on human sexuality, and recommendations on ministry policies flowing from that statement.
12. Epting reported on the General Convention theme of “Ubuntu” and an emphasis on healing and mission; full communion proposal with the Moravians; an interreligious statement; and a mission proposal with the Presbyterian Church USA. There will also be resolutions on human sexuality as usual.
13. A discussion was conducted around the feasibility of **the tenth anniversary of CCM on Jan. 6 or 8, 2011**. Pros and cons of whether national or regional celebrations might be the most successful.
14. Wednesday June 3 began with the celebration of the Eucharist according to the ELCA rite with an Episcopal presider and ELCA preacher.
15. The first session on this day began with The Rev. Steve Bouman sharing about his evangelism and congregational development unit at the ELCA Church

- headquarters. Faced with declining membership, level giving, and mixed results with new church starts, the emphasis is on mission support, new church starts, renewal of congregations – staffed by one person related to each of the synods, linked with a “missionary” bishop. Lay training/formation schools will be key in this new strategy.
16. The Rev. Suzanne Watson, the most recent director of evangelism and congregational life at the Episcopal Church Center, affirmed Bouman’s use of the term “nimbleness” as a need in mainline churches in today’s context. Also the concept of God’s mission rather than the Church’s mission. The reorganized structure of the Church Center now includes an evangelism officer, church planter to coordinate a network of such planters, a multicultural officer to strengthen the work of our ethnic desks.
 17. One thing the LECC might encourage is for TEC and ELCA bishops reflecting together on what being a “missionary bishop” might be. Also what are our seminaries doing or could do in this area? NW Iowa might be a pilot area for a new strategy Watson suggested of training and deploying newly-retired clergy to support a strongly lay-led small church.
 18. Bouman and Watson are considering now a joint retreat for staffs during similar work. We have to learn to think ecumenically from the very beginning.
 19. **Next meeting: April 6-7, 2010 back at ELCA headquarters, Chicago** and in Feb. 2011 in Marino, CA hosted by Jon Perez and TEC.
 20. Lunch included members of the Lutheran-Moravian Coordinating and Lutheran-Episcopal committees and discussion about common issues.
 21. A small committee headed by Alan Scarfe and made up of Jon Perez, Emily Perow, Mitzi Budde, staffed by McCoid and Epting, will continue to work on a 10th Anniversary celebration for January 8, 2011 perhaps at Reformation Lutheran Church in Washington, DC featuring the two Presiding Bishops and planned by the local LECC.
 22. The members of LECC will also be asked to bring to the March 2010 meeting a one page summary of local activities which could be engaged in to celebrate that same 10th year observance.
 23. Almen presented the provisions for a **Federated or Union Congregation** in the ELCA. Federated congregations are one church; united congregations are two churches existing separately but cooperating. There is no parallel provision currently in The Episcopal Church’s Constitution and Canons, but some movement toward it could take place in the 2009-2012 triennium.
 24. Epting presented guidelines **“Concerning Voice and Vote for Clergy Serving Under Exchangeability Provisions of Full Communion Relationships”** in both ELCA and TEC. Both were passed unanimously as amended (see below). The two ecumenical offices were asked to distribute these guidelines as information to bishops, dioceses and synods as appropriate.
 25. Sherman Hicks moved that the bishops on LECC submit a resolution to the 2009 General Convention of The Episcopal Church seeking to have the substance of these guidelines included in the Constitution and Canons of The Episcopal Church.

26. Kay Beach moved that the LECC encourage specific cooperation between the youth and young adult offices of both church. Motion carried.
27. Alan Scarfe reported on an invitation from Lutheran Social Services in Iowa for Episcopal Diocese of Iowa to cooperate in their mission and ministry.
28. At our next meeting, April 6 will focus on “traditional” seminary education – given the challenges facing seminaries today, what are the ecumenical possibilities which can help. On April 7 we will focus on local ministry formation.
29. Meeting was adjourned at 3 p.m. with thanks to the ELCA for hosting.

Respectfully submitted,

Christopher Epting