

**Minutes of the Lutheran Episcopal Coordinating Committee (LECC)  
October 14-15 , 2008  
Des Moines, Iowa.**

Present for all or part of the sessions:

*Representatives of The Episcopal Church (TEC):* The Rt. Rev. Alan Scarfe (13) (*co-chair*), The Rt. Rev. Nedi Rivera (12), Ms. Kay Beach (12), Ms. Emily Perow (reappointed-14 ), the Rev. Jon Perez (14), The Rev. Jeanne Lutz, (14) and the Rt. Rev. C. Christopher Epting (*staff*)

*Representatives of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA):* Dr. Mitzi Budde, (*co-chair*). Bishop Jon Anderson, the Rev. Nancy Curtis (08), the Rev. Sherman Hicks (12), and the Rev. Donald McCoid (*staff*)

*Absent:* Bishop Elizabeth Eaton and the Rev. Lowell Almen of the ELCA

*Invited Visitors:* Rev. Darrell Morton and Rev. George Packard, federal chaplains, representatives

**Opening Devotions, Agenda and Minutes Adoption, Introductions and Personal Updates**

Co-chair Alan Scarfe opened with prayer in the St. Paul's Episcopal Cathedral in Des Moines, Iowa. The proposed agenda was adopted and introductions of new members were made. The churches have decided to reduce the number of members to the minimum of six each rather than seven. Mitzi Budde and Alan Scarfe have been appointed co-chairs of the LECC by their respective presiding bishops.

Addressing new members, Christopher Epting summarized the history and challenges of the LECC and its role. He recalled the formation of the charter and the tense atmosphere of the original meetings. Since the LECC's inception, meetings have been held around the country so as to witness what is happening on the ground. Reports about the work of the Committee are made annually by the ecumenical officers to each church. Diaconal ministry has been extensively studied by LECC, and for a while, Lutheran ordinations under exceptions were being closely followed in detail. Jon Perez added there is a need for people to be given a direction for problem-solving in areas involving both churches. Prior to lunch, personal updates were made and the Eucharist was celebrated together, as it was also the next day.

**Shared Local Ministries between ELCA Domestic Disaster Response and Episcopal Disaster Relief**

*Postville:* Postville, Iowa has the largest kosher packing plant in the world. In May 2008 the United States government conducted a raid on the plant and arrested 496 people who were prosecuted for identity theft, the first time arrest for a felony was used to lead to