

FALL 2011 LECC MEETING NOTES

Gathering at Epiphany Lutheran Episcopal Church, 19 – 20 October 2011, Mitzi Budde & Sherman Hicks opened our meeting with Morning Prayer from the Lutheran Book of Worship.

LECC Members Present:

Mitzi Budde, Bill Petersen, Jon Perez (host), Sherman Hicks, Kay Beech, Nedi Rivera

Present by Webex:

Don McCoid (Exec Asst to the PB Ecumenical Officer ELCA, Exec for Ecumenical & Interreligious Relations), Ian Reed Twiss (Holy Faith Church, Saline, Michigan), Walter Fohs (Lamb of God Church, Ft Myers, FL)

Guests present:

Bishops Mary Gray-Reeves (TEC Diocese of El Camino Real) and Mark Homerud (ELCA Sierra Pacific Synod); the Rev Ron Dybvig (Lutheran Pastor/Rector St Paul's Episcopal/Emmanuel Lutheran, Santa Paula, CA); Deacon Joan Anderson (deacon at Epiphany); the Rev Rick Matters and Ed Fincke (All Saints, Carmel Rector and Senior Warden); Nancy Cohen, Esq. (Chancellor Diocese of El Camino Real)

WEDNESDAY, 19 OCTOBER 2011

M/S/C (Rivera/Perez) to approve the minutes as distributed.

M/S/C (Hicks/Rivera) to adopt the agenda as presented.

Guidelines Concerning Voice & Vote for Clergy Serving Under Exchangeability Provision of Full Communion Relationships

Ron and Nedi reported that at Diocesan Conventions in LA and Episcopal Diocese of Eastern Oregon clergy are granted seat, voice and vote at organizing of conventions

We have asked Don McCoid and will ask Margaret Rose (the new TEC ecumenical officer) to remind our judicatories (chancellors, bishops) that we have a guideline document on these issues available.

Canadian Joint Anglican-Lutheran Commission (JALC)

Jon reported on the JALC Meeting. Highlights:

- Canadians want a joint meeting with us.
- Canadians are planning a joint churchwide assembly/general convention in 2013.
- Wrestling with questions on joint confirmation process/materials.
- Moving forward on shared office space in Ottawa but slowly because of personnel issues

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- The LECC in Canada is the main thrust of ecumenical work there. (Several reasons for this.)

Don also reported on JALC:

- The Pastoral Statement drafted by the four Presiding Bishops addressed cultures and the imperative for cooperation as well as some of the issues
- Celebration services could have been better attended, but still raised awareness & appreciation for full communion in US & Canada
- The four PB's and the Ecumenical Officers will meet in NYC 7-8 December, 2011.
- SW Iowa ELCA Bishops meeting with Alan about deepening cooperation – looking at CCM with eye to new possibilities for common mission and ministry

ELCA Churchwide Assembly 2011

Don reported that there was a general feeling of a good climate after previous difficult assembly. Keep working on partnerships with others. AMEZ – shared mission statement

Report on Anglican Lutheran International Committee (ALIC)

Bill Petersen reported on the work of ALIC – a diverse Lutheran/Anglican group with representatives from nearly every continent. They have been focused on *diakonia* or mission and are producing a paper: To Love and Serve the Lord in which a central idea is that the *diakonia* of God interprets the church to the world; liminal, on the boundaries.

Diakonia:

- Is the way to relate Faith & Order with Life & Work
- Is an antidote to clericalism
- How we can realize goals of mission together

As ALIC met around the world they engaged with the church where they were and learned about mission and ministry in the local church they were visiting:

- Tanzania – AIDS, poverty, women's issues
- Halifax, Nova Scotia – Immigration Museum considering metaphor of immigration (not as melting pot but) as mosaic
- India – ministry with Dalit community and CSI
- Sweden – urban questions; Church of Sweden's engagement in diaconate.
- Columbus, Ohio – theological education (Bexley Hall) and visit to Cincinnati's Underground Railroad Museum
- Jerusalem – completed the report

Considered questions about diaconate (as well as *diakonia* as mission)

- How to speak of specific ordained ministries?
- How can deacons be representative of ministry we all have (especially not for others or in place of others)

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- Deacons as liminal presence

CAMPUS MINISTRY

Stanford University (The Rev Greg Schaefer Campus Minister and partnership between Canterbury Chaplaincy & University [Lutheran] Church)

- Gregg related the history of the Stanford Chaplaincy (Episcopal) – culminating in a model that the Canterbury Board contracted with University Lutheran Church for Greg to serve this joint ministry. This has become important to congregation too and now the congregation is no longer University Lutheran Church they are University Church whose logo is a superimposition of the Episcopal Church Shield over the Lutheran World Globe. There is a time certain for re-evaluation (three year agreement in place).
- Started from a description of the vision, when the two ministries (congregation & chaplaincy) are working together, this is what we will do.

California State University, Monterey Bay – (The Revs Clark Brown & Jon Perez, Lutheran Pastors & Campus Chaplains, the Rev Laurel Alexander, Chair of LCM Board for CSU-MB & UCSC) Partnership among Diocese of El Camino Real, Sierra Pacific Synod & Messiah Lutheran

- Board is joint ELCA and LCMS; informal partnerships with Dio ECR, Synod, local congregations
- University gave the ministry an office and receptionist and a pat on the back, “Go at it!”
- Chaplain began work as interim and continues without official call
- Works in Counseling & Personal Growth Department of UCMB
 - E.g., called when there is a death on campus
 - Can be in prisons, jails, etc.
- Teamwork allows participants to access all traditions

The Rev. Clark Brown also reported on UCDavis – The Belfrey (The Rev. Jocelyn Hughes, Episcopal priest serving joint Lutheran-Episcopal campus ministry)

- Site based joint ministry
- Jocelyn there since 2008
- Recently brought Episcopal Service Corps on board – one way to diversify and support the ministry.
 - This makes sense because service ministry is ‘where it’s at’ for this age group
 - (Also happening at UC Berkeley) and there is interest in bringing program to Stanford

Sharing national conferences of chaplains on a regular basis.

Wonder how these ministries will be funded in the future

Dioceses willing to let ministries think outside the box.

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What do you want from us?

- In Sierra Pacific Synod and three related Episcopal dioceses working together to provide common support campus ministries – to answer the question, How can we help insure that these ministries are healthy and sustainable?
- Perhaps a letter to the related TEC dioceses commending them for their Lutheran/Episcopal Campus Ministries?

OUTCOME: LECC Communiqué of Support: Text adopted and sent to Donald McCoid for distribution:

Addressed to

The Rt. Rev. Marc Andrus
Diocese of California
The Episcopal Church
Bishopmarc@diocal.org

The Rev. Mark Holmerud, Bishop
Sierra Pacific Synod,
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Greetings from the Lutheran-Episcopal Coordinating Committee, meeting October 19-20, 2011 at Epiphany Lutheran and Episcopal Church in Marina, California.

Part of our meeting has focused on joint Lutheran-Episcopal campus ministries in various expressions and places throughout the church, particularly here in California. During that meeting, we heard about the resolution that has been passed by the Sierra Pacific Synod Council to “create, expand and deepen” their partnership with the dioceses sharing territory with the synod, specifically “toward the creation of a joint strategy to ... sustain and grow a Lutheran/Episcopal presence at colleges and universities.” We understand that a parallel resolution is now coming before the Diocese of California that would authorize participation in the joint commission.

We are excited about this work, and we commend the Sierra Pacific Synod and the Diocese of California for this vision. This is the kind of work that we as the Lutheran Episcopal Coordinating Committee seek to foster and encourage, and we want to support this effort. You can become a model for others throughout our churches as you live into our call to be in common mission together.

Cc: The Rev. Rob Keim, President of the Stanford Canterbury Foundation,
rkeim11@gmail.com

Cc: The Rev. John Sutton, President of the Cal Berkeley Canterbury Foundation,
suttonj@comcast.net

CONGREGATIONAL MINISTRIES

Bridging Joint Ministries (The Rev. Rick Matters, Rector & Ed Fincke, Senior Warden, All Saints, Carmel and Diocese of El Camino Real Chancellor, Joan Cohen)

Only one Lutheran-Episcopal congregation has been able to complete the Federation Process

- Process is difficult, especially on TEC side
- In LA the bishop had two questions:
 - One has to do with property, especially who owns it
 - The other has to do with discipline (although this is spelled out clearly in CCM)
- Why is it more important to be a Federated Congregation than to be a Union Congregation?
 - Seems to be about incorporation at Epiphany
 - Deeper relationships?
- How can LECC help?
 - Clarify difference between federated/union congregation?
 - Help get the Lutheran document on federated congregations translated into Episcopalspeak/polity
 - Can this be a workbook?
 - The workbook may be a project where we can take some leadership

CHURCHWIDE CONVERSATIONS

The Episcopal Church & the Church of Sweden – the Rev. Dr. William Pedersen

- TEC's relationship with the Church of Sweden precedes the establishment of TEC structures, but has been a tacit understanding of full communion. Resolution will be submitted to General Convention to spell out this understanding more fully, and referencing CCM.
- Questions of transitivity are resurfacing, and are growing with theological rationale and ecumenical discussions are calling them forth; statements of transitivity are in the report To Love and Serve the Lord

We celebrate the first shared full time staff position in International Advocacy, Sarah Dreier, Legislative Representative for International Policy, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America & The Episcopal Church and welcomed her October 18th letter of introduction to us.

Ten Year Celebrations of Called to Common Mission

- E Great celebration in Southern Ohio of what had been done together and hopes and plans for future ministry together – grounded in reality not just pipe dreams
- E Two celebrations in Chicago
- E Hopes for common ministry project in Eastern Oregon did not materialize
- E Something happened in Iowa, but we weren't present at the celebration

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E Bishops Mary Gray-Reeves & Mark Holmerud presided together at our Eucharist today

E Mitzi reported that after months of planning a two-day learning and liturgical event for the Metro Washington DC area, the event had to be cancelled due to insufficient registration

E Our challenge is how do we keep a vision, the excitement, the possibilities before the Church?

THURSDAY, 20 OCTOBER 2011

CONGREGATIONAL MINISTRY REVISITED

St Paul's Episcopal & Emmanuel Lutheran, Santa Paula, CA

The Rev. Ron Dygbig told the story of his congregation: he founded a new congregation that didn't have a building, and then moved into an Episcopal building. When the Episcopal rector left, the congregation he was called to be pastor (since according to CCM, he cannot be rector*.) The congregations are about equal in size, use a blended rite, are in a neighborhood that is more Hispanic than white, but they are not connecting with Hispanic people. History of town is racially division (long ago enforced by KKK). ASA is 50, and just lost key leader who was one of the founders, pastor for five years, key donor.

Successes are missional: VBS, healing ministry, traditional ministries in community (feeding the poor, winter shelter, food pantry)

Stumbling blocks: completing the federation process, some in the diocese seem to be unwilling to help them do this, but trying to live out the Constitution, single meeting, single treasury, they base assessment & apportionment on total income so they find it difficult to comply. Ron full time for half time pay. (Ian: give ½ of each and then the difference to mission)

Membership: all members are both Lutherans and Episcopalians, both annual reports, but ASA is recorded ½ to each

Perhaps without good strategy to invite the 4th generation Hispanics in the neighborhood, there is little other potential for growth.

* *The "Orderly Exchange" guideline document states that one cannot serve an open-ended call, so a Lutheran cannot serve as an Episcopal rector; for Lutheran to be a Rector, must change Rosters.*

There followed more conversation about difference between Union & Federated congregations and possible ways for congregations to formalize their relationships within their congregations.

NB:

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1. While ELCA has much experience working with congregations across various lines, including their work toward becoming ELCA, TEC only has experience in dioceses welcoming congregations into TEC as Episcopal congregations.
2. Different approach to property disputes has ramifications in this conversation.

Holy Faith Church, Silene, Michigan – the Rev. Ian Reed Twiss, via WebEx

Ian told us a short history of this congregation – beginning with shared Sunday School and coffee hour. When they each began to have concerns about viability, Holy Cross Church and Faith Lutheran came together under diocese and synod to begin Redevelopment work. Ian followed the ‘founding’ pastor in 2006.

Working: members have genuine affection for one another, real willingness to try new things, friendly, have some success in bringing in new folks, (brought 3 children to seed Sunday School), reports full ASA and membership on both TEC & ELCA sides, Lutheran members have been gracious in Ian’s lack of knowledge of Lutheranism and Lutheran culture. Congregation had generous funding for a time and has doubled. Now half membership has no history of ‘before’. Much joy in shared worship and ministry – especially creative worship and community garden that donates whole harvest. Uses Sundays and Seasons – and resources from whatever resource they need. (e.g., use Safeguarding God’s Children to train SS teachers.)

Stumbling block: don’t have working constitution.

Property: Foundation called Venture in Faith owns the property. (Joint ELCA & TEC behind that)

Other canonical issues: Juggling three documents – (not yet approved) Constitutions, By-Laws (adopted under incorporation), letter of agreement (one hard copy only) [both Venture in Faith & Faith Lutheran Church dba Holy Faith Church.]

Lamb of God, Ft Myers, Florida – the Rev. Walter Fohs, via WebEx

Walter reported that they have been together 11 years. In the beginning the Lutherans were moving into a new building and the Episcopalians were struggling, and decided that if they were moving, why not use CCM and move together? A small group met regularly to decide to wrestle with questions of finance, property, etc., Episcopalians would join the Lutherans. First Sunday of 2001 Episcopalians had their last service and then went in procession to new Lutheran Church where Lutherans waiting to welcome them with flowers, etc.. Started by ‘living in sin.’ There was some resistance about ‘we’re building this new building and you’re inviting *them* to join us’ – ‘well, yes.’

At beginning there were two identities sharing one building. Then Walter hired Becky, an Episcopalian (with history as attorney) who had gone to a Lutheran seminary, and went on sabbatical visiting every joint congregation he could find, collected their papers and dropped them on her desk when he returned. Three documents emerged from this process:

1. Constitution & By Laws Incorporated for TEC

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2. Constitution & By Laws Incorporated for ELCA
3. Constitution & By Laws Incorporated for Lamb of God

They have become very progressive, informal congregation, about 300 ASA, considering issues about Science and Faith, worshiping in a contemporary style, open table, have big mortgage. e.g., They hosted a Lenten series with an imam and a liberal rabbi attended by more than 100 people.

Governance: They have a TEC Vestry & ELCA Board (that meet rarely) *and* a Lamb of God Board.

Issues: neither their bishops nor their judicatories really understand who they really are.

Budget: \$700-800K but cannot afford full time assistant clergy. This has become an issue for the TEC people so Walter is looking for part-time TEC clergy.

Biggest challenge 11 years down the road is Lamb of God is/may = Walter.

Invitations for Joint Meetings with Lutheran-Moravian and Canadian Anglican-Lutheran

We were blessed to receive both an invitation to meet jointly with Moravian Coordinating Committee 1-3 February, 2012, and one to meet with our Canadian counterpart (Joint Anglican-Lutheran Commission) at Niagara Falls, 16-18 February, 2012.

We decided to accept the Moravian invitation by sending a sub-committee of LECC (Don McCoid & Sherman Hicks for the ELCA, Bp. Rivera and new ecumenical officer, if available for TEC);

We decided to accept the Canadian invitation by sending a sub-committee of LECC (Bishop Elizabeth Eaton for the ELCA, Bill Petersen and new ecumenical officer if available for TEC);

NEXT MEETING OF THE FULL LECC

We decided to hold a special planning meeting for LECC in Chicago 30-31 May (travel days 29 & 31 May (the meeting will end by 3 p.m. to facilitate travel home from Chicago.) This will be a special visioning meeting of the LECC: "Imagining our Future Together." Purposes:

- To identify 5-6 markers of this full communion relationship
- To examine the road blocks or impediments to deepening the relationship
- How do we cooperate together? Reception focused on middle judicatories, congregations
- What's the long-term vision for this full communion relationship? Where do we want to be 5, 10 years from now?

The ELCA will arrange for an outside facilitator for the meeting.

ELCA Churchwide Request

We recommended a number of synods in response to an ELCA Churchwide request for each coordinating committee to help identify synods to address how to develop and facilitate

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networking and coordinated ministry with ecumenical partners, to challenge middle judicatory leaders to do cooperative missional planning. List given to Don McCoid via WebEx.

Committee brainstormed possibilities for middle judicatories sharing, i.e. possibility of a joint synod/diocese.

Discussion of Questions about Full Communion Judicatories

- Who's going to oppose this kind of structure?
- Whether a bishop is post/pre CCM bishop?
- In some places where Synods are considering mergers, perhaps the better merger would be with a TEC diocese.
- Will/how will this be threatening to the system?

Need clear process (flow chart?) of LECC's relation to the Standing Commission on Ecumenism (TEC).

Sharing the Good News – publicity of LECC work

The LECC adopted a 4-part publicity strategy to try to spread the word about our work as a LECC:

1. Seek press releases: Bp. Rivera will ask Neva Rae Fox to do an interview with Jon Perez and Mitzi Budde for an Episcopal News Service article.
2. Bp. Nedi will work with Jon to establish a LECC Facebook presence.
3. We need to mirror the ELCA LECC official webpage on the TEC website.
4. Mitzi is writing an article on the task and function of full communion coordinating committees to make professional ecumenists aware. Article submitted to the *Journal of Ecumenical Studies* for publication consideration Oct, 2011.

Follow-up Assignments

- Nedi finish minutes and send to LECC, contact Neva Rae Fox re: publicity, reconnect with Margaret Rose re: guidelines,
- Nancy send out voice & vote guidelines to chancellors; get LECC Facebook up and running; contact JALC re representatives to their Feb meeting.
- Don will post voice and vote guidelines on Lutheran on line bishops' meeting; send out the campus ministry communiqué; contact Lutheran/Moravian group about February meeting; ask Bp Eaton about attending February meeting with Canadians; send 2012 dates to whole committee and arrange for meeting in Chicago.
- Don and Sherman will seek an outside facilitator for the May 2012 meeting in Chicago.

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