Synod Talk #2

Introduction

I begin today's Synod Talk #2 with an analogy from the movie, Matrix. You should know that I have borrowed this analogy from someone else. <u>The Matrix</u> is a science fiction movie with a plot set far in the future.

Imagine that human beings are farmed as sources of power by evil machines of the future. In order to control human beings, they are being fed false sensory information by a giant virtual reality computer so that human beings are kept content and happy. The central character, named, Neo, is searching for a mysterious character called, Morpheus, in order to discover, "What is the Matrix?" When Neo and Morpheus meet, Morpheus offers Neo two pills. The red pill will answer the question, "What is the Matrix?" (by removing him from the control of the Matrix computer). The blue pill will restore Neo to a life of blissful ignorance in the habits he has come to believe and enjoy under the Matrix.

Before he takes the pill Morpheus says, "...this is your last chance, after this, there is no turning back. You take the Blue Pill and the story ends and you wake up in your bed and believe whatever you want to believe....or.....you take the Red Pill ... and find out how deep the rabbit hole goes....remember, all I'm offering is the truth and nothing more."

The astute layman who presented this analogy said, "I'm thinking that most of you, you took the red pill long ago."

The beauty of this analogy from my perspective is two-fold. <u>One, there are many who</u> just don't want to know the truth. It will ruin the false dreams, which they have constructed about their Synod, their congregation, and the world around them. Pastors would rather have comfortable jobs, respected professional status, and be well-liked. Laymen would rather enjoy their pseudo-emotional spiritual experiences, large congregation perks, and family acceptance. The truth promises none of these. There are many advantages to going with the *status quo*. Those who are doing well will not buck the system. When Pastor Harroun received opposition from speaking the truth, he was asked by his ecclesiastical supervisor whether he really wanted to retire in this way.

<u>Two, simply to know the truth doesn't mean that the options are any easier.</u> It doesn't mean that there is an easy solution to the problem, or furthermore any solution at all. The truth is just that—the truth, nothing more. Pastor Harroun responded that he had a conscience. What else could he have done? Like the rest of us, we don't know what the future holds.

Without a strong conviction in the importance of the truth, we will not allow ourselves to be unplugged from the system. Even though it may be dysfunctional, it's our system and we are a part of it. And we know how it works. The twelve year old, who still claims to believe in Santa Clause knows the benefits that come from ignorant belief.

I conclude this introduction with Jesus' words, "Do not think that I came to bring peace on earth. I did not come to bring peace but a sword. For I have come to 'set a man against his father, a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law'; and 'a man's enemies will be those of his *own* household.' He who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me. And he who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me. And he who does not take his cross and follow after Me is not worthy of Me. He who finds his life will lose it, and he who loses his life for My sake will find it" (Matthew 10:34-39). At our first Synod Talk, I gave an update on our State of Confession and the Dissent Process. In addition, I gave a broad overview of the responses which we received from our overtures to the Southern Illinois District Convention.

Today I wish to give you an overview of the various articles/letters from President Kieschnick, other Synodical officials, and from official Synodical commissions and publications. Although, only the Synod in Convention can officially speak for the Synod, I hope that this excursus will give you a better feel for why I maintain that there will not be any resolution to even one of our six points. Finally, I will give you a few samples of the actions or lack of actions from other pastors and congregation who don't like what is going within Synod.

At our third Synod Talk scheduled for January 28, 2007, we will examine the various options available to those who have left the Missouri Synod.

Six Points

<u>1. Closed or Open Communion</u>

--Pres. Kieschnick at the SID Convention.

2. Contemporary Worship

<u>Letter to Pastors</u>, Kieschnick, Sep 1, 2006 under title of "Ignite Events Reminder" for regional workshops to focus on "active mission mobilization and increasing weekly worship attendance" see <u>http://www.centerforusmissions.org</u> (same stuff as from Letter to Pastors, Aug 1, 2005)

<u>Letter to Pastors</u>, Kieschnick, Oct 20, 2006 under the title of "Districts *Ablaze!*" reports on "cluster meetings" with "the presidents, mission directors, or other mission representatives from every district of our Synod" and their "own unique strategies for implementing *Ablaze!*" The 10 districts with new presidents are "to be brought up to speed on the implementation of *Ablaze!* in their districts."

Note the following paragraph: "In my view, the meetings went very well. Some district presidents did report on obstacles to *Ablaze!*-pastors and congregations who haven't yet become engaged, or who wonder how (or why) to count Gospel-sharing contacts, or, in some cases, express theological concerns about the movement. Nevertheless, there is a lot of excitement and enthusiasm for *Ablaze!* in many parts of the Synod! *Ablaze!* is not just another program. Reaching lost people with the Gospel is what we do as Christians!"

Letter to Pastors, Kieschnick, Oct 20, 2006 under the title of "**The Theological Basis for** *Ablaze!*" points to two resources. <u>https://www.lcms.org/pages/internal.asp?NavID=8953</u>

- 1. "*Ablaze*!: Origins, Theology, Structure, Impact" in the Fall 2005 edition of "Issues in Christian Education," (Vol. 39, No. 2) from Concordia University in Seward, Neb.
- 2. A document produced by LCMS World Mission titled "The *Ablaze!* Initiative in the LCMS Theologically Considered."

Letter to Pastors, Kieschnick, Nov 13, 2006 "Articles in the next *President's Leadership News* discuss theological issues involving mission outreach; hopes and dreams for the Synod that I shared at the National Circuit Counselors Conference in September; and answers to the questions "Why *Ablaze*??" and "Why the LCMS?" from Dr. Robert Roegner, executive director of LCMS World Mission. The insert also will include where to find resources for outreach and answers to frequently asked questions about missions.

7-02 A Committee: Worship Diversity

The Center for U.S. Missions(CUSM) has three office staff positions.

Rev. Michael R. Ruhl, executive Director

Rev. Glenn Lucas, director of Training

Rev. Michael Zehnder, National Worship Consultant

-is listed as needing funding of \$180,000/year for LCMS World Mission

-It is a partnership between LCMS World Mission, Concordia University Irvine, and the North American Mission Executives of the LCMS.

-Ruhl worked with Rev. Larry Reinhardt, director of Outreach and Stewardship Ministry for LCMS District and Congregational Services

-from (<u>www.centerforusmissions.org</u>) "With the addition of National Worship Consultant **Rev. Michael Zehnder** to our staff in August 2006, the Center now offers a growing number of services, resources and seminars to help congregations and other ministry bodies apply worship diversity to congregation renewal which, in turn, fuels mission outreach. Offerings include:

• Worship Consultations regarding worship health, personnel searches, expanding current practices to a desired outcome, etc.

• Worship Resources - worship planning tools, worship flow tools, song commendations and analysis, links to useful external sites, orders of worship, etc.

• Worship Seminars - to help grow congregations, circuits, and districts in areas of worship diversity, etc.

In 2004, Lutheran Church Missouri Synod Convention Resolution 2-04 affirmed respect for diversity in worship practices, and encouraged pastors, musicians and worship leaders to exercise this freedom responsibly and biblically. This new ministry of the Center for United States Missions has been created to assist congregations and ministries navigate the exploration of diverse worship practices."

-Called Michael Zehnder, who was formerly with Dave and Barb Anderson's Fellowship Ministries. Zehnder wrote the Contemporary Worship for the Ablaze! Start Up Friendship Sunday. He was also connected with "Break Forth Canada" of New Creation Ministries. -Zehnder's article "How a Classically Trained Church Musician and Pastor Changed His Views On Contemporary Worship" <u>www.new-creation.net/v1/point_of_view.html</u> -Center of U.S. Missions was included in the Pray For Us Calendar – February 2006, put out by LCMS World Mission, from February 15-28, 2006.

-Other conferences and programs advanced by CUSM

--Mission Planters Institute held in Orlando, FL and Irvine CA are trained by them.

--"Edge" and "Advancing the Edge" gatherings

--"GroupsAblaze!" church revitalization ministry

--"Igniting Congregation" events

--"Friendship Ablaze!"

Jesus First, August 2006 – has an article by David S. Lueke on the CUSM, Worship Diversity, the new Center Director, Rev. Michael Ruhl and Mike Zehnder.

3. Unionism and Syncretism

--"Guidelines for Participation in Civic Events" (April 2004)

--Marquart's Minority Report

-- December 2005 Issues in Christian Education from Concordia, Seward publishes, "Religious Expression in the Public Square"

--ELCA News Service September 1, 2006 "Lutherans Planning to Remember Fifth "... In the New York City area -- where leaders and members of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) and the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod (LCMS) worked together to respond to people in need --Lutherans will commemorate the fifth anniversary with worship and reflections Sept. 8, at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, an ELCA congregation in Manhattan.

The commemoration event is sponsored by Lutheran Disaster Response of New York (LDRNY), a joint ministry of the ELCA Metropolitan New York Synod and the LCMS Atlantic District. Planned for Sept. 8, the event will include special music and reflections by the Rev. Stephen P. Bouman, bishop, ELCA Metropolitan New York Synod, and the Rev. David H. Benke, president LCMS Atlantic District, according to an LDRNY news release....

http://www.elca.org/news/Releases.asp?a=3433

4. Lay Ministers

Spring of 2004 Dr. Sam Nafzger, executive Director of the CTCR publishes a paper in "Issues" (from Concordia University Seward) on "The LCMS on the Lay Performance of Pastoral Functions."

December 23, 2004 LCMS enews "Conference to focus on who's 'in charge' in congregation" "In other business at its Dec. 2-4 meeting, the CTCR responded to a letter of dissent from a pastor regarding 2001 Synod convention Res. 3-08B, which authorized districts to continue training "lay deacons" and rescinded a 1995 resolution that required licensed laymen to enter a seminary program leading to ordination.

The pastor wrote that his **dissent "concerns the continued endorsement by the Synod of socalled 'lay ministers' or 'lay deacons' preaching, teaching, and administering the sacraments without a 'regular call' (Augsburg Confession and Apology Article XIV)." He added, "Article XIV of the Augsburg Confession seems quite clear and leaves no room for exceptions to this doctrine."**

The CTCR responded, "The LCMS has understood that the Lutheran Confessions (Treatise 67-68, Tappert 331) recognize that there may be situations where those who are not called and ordained may carry out pastoral functions. The Commission is aware that discussion will and needs to continue in the Synod regarding the nature of these exceptions."

September 29, 2005 LCMS enews "COP looks at church workers concerns" will discuss lay deacon topic at Nov 15-17 meeting

December 2005 Reporter: COP Continues discussion of "nurturing relationships"

"The council also continues its discussion of lay deacons or elders serving under special circumstances in congregations. District presidents reported on their districts' use of **licensed deacons and the kinds of ministries in which they serve**.

COP Secretary Vernon Schindler, president of the South Dakota District, said a large number of deacons tend to be in ethnic ministry.

"It is done carefully in the districts, and there is concern for training and ongoing supervision," Schindler noted. "I think there is a fair uniformity in the districts as we are very carefully administering the provisions of the Wichita Convention. All district presidents are mindful that we abide by what Augustana Article 14 says about the call. All expressed that there needs to be a proper ordering of the use of people in special conditions."

In their ongoing consideration of the supply of pastors, the district presidents reported 434 actively calling congregations — 326 calling a sole pastor, 42 calling a senior pastor, and 66 calling an assistant or associate. Another 412 congregations are not actively calling because they are

receiving pastoral services through other arrangements. Schindler said the number of actively calling congregations increased by 39 from September. While he said there are no overall clear trends, the number of non-calling congregations continues to rise.

April 2006 Pastoral Letter from Pres. Kieschnick

"...The listing above relates to {*seven*} programs that lead to ordination. Under the Colloquy Committee for the Pastoral Ministry, there is reference to laymen who are licensed by their district presidents. These men serve in Word and Sacrament ministry under the supervision of an ordained minister "in exceptional circumstances or in emergencies," as authorized by 1989 Synod convention Resolution 3-05B and 2001 Resolution 3-08B."

LCMSNews, No. 66 (October 4, 2006) COP continues study on 'leading together'

The COP members heard from its members who are on the **Synod's DELTO-oversight** committee about the concept of a proposed <u>"Pastor Supervised" alternate-route program in the</u> <u>Synod that would lead to ordination</u>. After that discussion, the council members voted unanimously to support the general direction of the concept as well as further study of the concept. Essentially, the concept of the program would include a special curriculum which would take four years to complete. That program would be divided into a **pre-ordination curriculum** and **a postordination curriculum**. In addition, each student would participate in at least four weeklong residential and field seminars aimed at cultivating ministry skills for his specific type of ministry. Dr. Gerhard Michael, president of the LCMS Florida-Georgia District, explained that the concept grew out of the Pastoral Formation Leadership Summit held last spring. Dr. Robert Newton, California-Nevada-Hawaii District president and a member of the oversight committee with Michael, referred to the concept as "thoughtful and forward-looking." "It forms a genuine partnership between the seminaries and the districts," Newton said.

Letter to Pastors, Kieschnick, Nov 13, 2006 under the heading "Lay Ministry"

"As you know, I have been highlighting a different church-worker career in each "Pastoral Letter" for much of this year. Each highlighted career has been one of the categories included in the designation, "Ministers of Religion-Commissioned." The final one is **lay ministry**.

Concordia University Wisconsin, Mequon, offers a program for men and women over the age of 25, including those who may have begun another career, to prepare for service to congregations as lay leaders. Students who complete both levels of training offered in the program are eligible to join the Synod's roster as commissioned ministers.

The Board for University Education (BUE) notes that **lay ministers** serve as business administrators, evangelism coordinators, assistants to pastors, administrators of homes for the aged, and Bible translators. The program includes practical field work."

Examples from Two Districts

1. Lutheran Witness, insert for Mid-South Lutheran, July-August 2006, page E

Deacons train to serve in Tennessee's Quad Cities by Pastor Jack Mc Wherter

- 1. See Insert page
- 2. Scope of a Deacon's ministry (<u>http://www.mid-</u> southlcms.com/Congregations/DeaconScope.htm)
- 3. The letter from the District President Ken Lampe concerning this article.

2. Northwest District (www.nowlcms.org) and (www.cu-portland.edu/lap/)

"155 students in training provided by Leadership Advancement Process...

"There are at least 15 pastors in the Northwest District who teach groups...

"In additions to the 155 students in classes there are 42 students who register through LAP but take courses through the Missions Training Center, Bronxville NY...

"Since June 1, 2005 there are 23 new students to LAP/MTC!"

5. Service of Women (Order of Creation)

Reporter October 2006.--Plans for two consultations on "The Scriptural Relationship of Man and Woman" were approved by the LCMS Commission on Theology and Church Relations when it met Sept. 21-22, a meeting that was abbreviated because of the death of long-standing member Dr. Kurt Marquart.

The commission approved a process involving presentations and discussions designed to provide input as it works toward the completion of a comprehensive study of the Scriptural relationship of man and woman. The consultations are scheduled for Dec. 4-5 and April 16-17, 2007.

Eight men and eight women will participate in the consultations with CTCR members present. After the first consultation, the participants will be invited to provide follow-up observations.

According to Dr. David Lumpp, chairman of the CTCR subcommittee responsible for preparation of the plans, the first consultation will focus on **''key questions that anyone who thinks theologically in the 21st century will need to address to give meaningful guidance to Christians regarding the relationship of man and woman.'' At the second consultation participants will respond to a proposal, prepared by the CTCR, regarding the completion of its assignment from the 1995 Synod convention....**

From the list of participants, reactors, etc.

Dr. Loren Kramer. Not a supporter of Al Barry.

Dr. John Johnson. Former President of Concordia Seminary St. Louis,

Principal writer of the 1985 CTCR doc on the role of women.

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Dr. Marie Meyer. Rabid feminist and pro-women's ordination.
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Dr. Jean Garton. Liberal supporter of JF.

Dr. Mary E. Hilgendorf of Mequon, Wis., should be added as a reactor. She will serve in that capacity at the Dec. 4-5 consultation for Carolyn Schoenborn, who will not attend that consultation due to illness. (LCMSNews Release No. 75, "CTCR OKs plans for consultations on 'Scriptural Relationship of Man, Woman,'") Remember July 2006 Reporter, Hilgendorf is obnoxiously a pro-women's ordination professor.

Reporter November 2006.—"**Nafzger addresses church's action of ordaining women.**" – Lutheran Church of Australia- LCA. (page 2)

Thoughts of both gratitude and concern were expressed by the executive director of the LCMS Commission on Theology and Church Relations following a vote on the ordination of women at last month's convention of the Lutheran Church of Australia (LCA).

"In light of **our LCMS understanding** that the Scriptures teach that only men are to be ordained into the pastoral office, we are grateful that the LCA has made the decision to abide **by their historic position**," said Dr. Samuel Nafzger. "Yet, we know this has been a difficult issue for the members of the LCA and we pray that they will be able to move onward, working together in the mission that God has given them."

A proposal to ordain women into the pastoral office was considered at the LCA convention in early October. It received a majority of votes, but did not gain the necessary two-thirds majority necessary to become a public teaching of the church body. The vote was 194 in favor and 169 against, with 20 abstentions. A minimum of 254 votes was required for adoption by the convention, which had 385 delegates.

"They have gone about this study in a very fair way that has led to a deeper understanding of the Scriptures," Nafzger said. "We pray that, having gone through this process, they will now be able to unite in proclaiming the Good News of the suffering, death, and resurrection of our Savior."

The LCA and the LCMS are both members of the International Lutheran Council.

--The results were "yes" for women's ordination 50.39% and the "no" vote was 43.9% (with 5.19% abstaining). Since a two-thirds vote was required the action failed.

6. Ecclesiastical Supervision and Dispute Resolution

<u>President's Leadership News</u>, September 2006 (Reporter Insert). FAQs on page 4 --There are 9 paragraphs explaining that despite overtures at numerous district conventions to rescind 2004 Resolution 8-01A, because it "made it too cumbersome for charges to be filed against a pastor, commissioned minister, or congregation," the new process

- 1) takes seriously the Synod's Constitutional objective(Art. III "to provide protection for congregations, pastors...),
- 2) replaces the inability of lay members to judge technical points with District Presidents who can,
- 3) does not disenfranchise the laity, is not contrary to the Lutheran Confessions and finally
- 4) does not prevent public rebuke. (but "is now part of the process to be undertake before one files charges" as can be seen in the new CTCR document "Public Rebuke of Public Sin" (2006)).

Jesus First, August 2006 Praises the impact of 7-02a, 7-14 and 8-01a.

Update on Dissent Process and State of Confession

I know someone who spoke with Sam Nafzger, executive Director of CTCR about Dissent, sometime around the end of October. He said that there were about 30 that have expressed dissent (thought they realize there are probably hundreds more who agree but haven't filed dissent). The CTCR is working on a composite response that addressed many of the concerns. After that they may also issue individual responses. They plan on having it completed in time to be a report to the Convention, published in the workbook. However, Nafzger said that most of the issues are not truly a matter of dissent against synod's official position, but of how it has been applied or misapplied by this or that synodical official, etc.

President's Leadership News, September 2006 (Reporter Insert). FAQs on page 4

--In 12 paragraphs, Pres. Kieschnick reiterates those who misunderstood his statements at District Conventions concerning how members of Synod are required to teach and preach in Accordance with Synod's Position. He concludes:

"This matter may be summarized briefly—and this summation also should not be taken out of context—as follows: 1. Membership in the Synod is voluntary.

2. Members of the Synod voluntarily have committed themselves to the covenants of love by which we govern ourselves—rhe Constitution, Bylaws, and resolutions of the Synod (including Article II of the Constitution!}.

3. Members of the Synod may dissent from the position of the Synod. The Synod recognizes that it can err!

4. In dissenting from the position of the Synod, members have committed themselves to the process for dissent provided by the Synod itself in our governing documents.

5. While dissenting according to mandated procedure, members of the Synod have—voluntarily—committed themselves to "honor and uphold" the doctrinal resolutions of the Synod, and not to preach or teach contrary to them."

Doctrinal issues or Opinions

Letter to Pastors, Kieschnick, Nov 13, 2006 Concerning the 2007 Synodical Convention, he writes, "As in 2004, so this year also we are encouraging pastors, church workers, and lay people-**men and women of all ages and opinions**-to devote six hours to prayer and repentance on a "Day of Prayer, Repentance, and Spiritual Renewal" as we approach the convention. The guide for the "Day of Prayer" is accessible on the LCMS convention Web site, <u>www.lcms.org/convention</u>.

What else is Going on?

Blue Ribbon Task Force

Letter to Pastors, Kieschnick, Sep 1, 2006 announced that his Blue Ribbon Task Force on Synodical Structure and Governance, met for the first time in July with the task of looking at a zero-based assessment of the entire Synodical system.

LCMS E-news, posted 8/29/2006 **"Task force offers plan for funding 'common goods & services"**

"Emphasizing the need to strengthen the understanding and appreciation of the "common good" activities of the Synod, the Blue Ribbon Task Force for Funding the Mission recommends a "Stewardship Renaissance," improved communication to congregations and their members, exploration of additional management efficiencies, triennial Synod-district fiscal conferences and support from corporate entities and Recognized Service Organizations.

First among 11 task force recommendations is investment in staff and resources to rebuild a national stewardship department. A second recommendation is to equip pastors and people for evangelistic outreach. And, warning that no funding plan will succeed if energies are diverted from the church's mission, the task force calls for intentional effort to restore harmony in the Synod.

Requested by the 2004 LCMS Convention, the task force's assignment was to study and recommend how the Synod should fund essential services of the national office. The task force was instructed to report one year before the 2007 convention...." (3 pages)

Stewardship

LCEF's Consecrated Stewards, from Reporter, November 2006, page 3, 8

- "**Stewardship Renaissance**' begins with new staff, COP fiscal conference" from Reporter, November 2006, page 3 (The term "Stewardship Renaissance" is from the Blue Ribbon Report)
- "Guest leaders introduce new biblical stewardship program" from Reporter, November 2006, page 3 –LCEF's Capital Funding Services are hosting training sessions attended so far by 63 people from 28 districts.

Circuit Counselor Meeting

<u>Letter to Pastors</u>, Kieschnick, Oct 20, 2006 under the title of "Circuit Counselors," he mentions the mentions the "Faithful and Afire" Bible studies (<u>http://www.lcms.org/pages/internal.asp?NavID=10635</u>)

LCMSNews, No. 69 (October 25, 2006) ELCA, LCMS reps share about similar emphases, discuss '78 FODT Report

"Stepped-up outreach efforts, new hymnals, and task forces on funding -- programs and priorities of the two largest U.S. Lutheran church bodies -- were similar topics that leaders of those churches discussed when they met Oct. 3 in St. Louis."

"ELCA Presiding Bishop Mark S. Hanson told about a number of 'activities we have in common with the Missouri Synod.' ... *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* is the ELCA's new worship resource that was published Oct. 3. Noting that the book has features similar to the Missouri Synod's new hymnal.... Hanson also said that the ELCA also has a Blue Ribbon Committee on Mission Funding, which is scheduled to issue its report next year. Hanson reported that shared responsibility for new church starts and their funding is being promoted in the ELCA."

"...For this year's dialogue, the church leaders began what they decided would be a continuing look at the findings of the 1978 document titled **'The Function of Doctrine and**

Theology in Light of the Unity of the Church' -- also known as the 'FODT Report.' ...Dr. Ralph A. Bohlmann, president emeritus of the LCMS, and Dr. H. George Anderson, former presiding bishop of the ELCA, opened the dialogue by recalling their involvement in the preparation of the FODT Report." ...Bohlmann expressed appreciation for the two churches' leaders and encouraged them to continue theological discussions in "the slow and patient task of bringing church bodies together ... for the sake of God's mission in the world." Anderson spoke of the 30 years since the FODT Report as "a long trip together, one in which we can recognize commonality in many areas despite differences, one in which we can respect one another in a spirit of Christian fellowship."

LCEF

Reporter Dec. 2005 LCEF fall conference focuses on *Ablaze!* Strategic Ministry Planning.—

LCMS-AALC

-Enews, Posted 3/31/2006 AALC, LCMS reps express hopes for fellowship
-LCMS Enews, #45, 7/19/2006 Reps at AALC-LCMS talks recommend altar, pulpit fellowship Representatives of The American Association of Lutheran Churches (AALC) and The Lutheran
Church--Missouri Synod (LCMS) have unanimously recommended that the two church bodies proceed toward altar and pulpit fellowship.
CAT 41 Undete: LCMS & AALC - A Coord Fit (4 pages)

-CAT 41 Update: LCMS & AALC – A Good Fit (4 pages)

LCMS Board of Directors

Martinez resigns – Nov 17-19, 2005

New members(David Piehler, Roy Schmidt) elected at May 21-24, 2006 meeting, and seated at August 11, 2006 Special BOD meeting

Lutheran Service book

LSB is shipped Sep 2006 Introductory Workshops Sep-Nov 2006

Conservative Responses

1. Anderson Lawsuit

--First announced on March 30, 2005, and filed in August 2005, was brought by apx. 80 members of Synod

--In February of 2006, an agreement was reached at the initiative of the Board of Directors, who met with a four-member committee of the plaintiffs.

--During the weeks when most of the plaintiffs were signing the agreement and before the court date, four members of the Board of Directors filed a motion to Intervene in order to preserve their rights concerning the authority of the Board of Directors and Commission on Constitutional Matters.

--Then further discussions led way to the withdrawing of the motion to intervene.

Letter to Pastors, Kieschnick, Oct 20, 2006 under the title of "Law-suit follow up"

After announcing the withdrawal of the Lawsuit, Motion to Intervene and final dismissal(Aug 29, 2006), he remarks, "The overwhelming majority of the plaintiffs in this suit signed the agreement to dismiss it. Those who have not signed the agreement have been contacted by their district president in an initial communication to discuss fraternally and evangelically the implications of not signing."

Pres. Kieschnick reminds of the LCMS 2004, 7-02A Special Committee which will address these concerns. He then says, "It probably goes without saying that I am thankful to have this lawsuit behind us. At the same time, I continue to be deeply disturbed by the vast expenditure of time, energy, and money that resulted from the filing of this lawsuit, including the motion to intervene, and would much rather have seen these expenditures of the resources of our Synod directed toward the mission of spreading the Gospel. I am further disturbed by **rumors that another lawsuit may be filed** and urge you to pray, with me, that anyone considering such action, or even the financial support of such action, would read and be guided by 1 Corinthians 6: 1-7: 'If any of you has dispute...'"

2. Lutheran Mission Alliance (LMA) www.lutheranmissionalliance.org

Also "Texas Confessional Lutherans" Concord (Texas Balance, Inc.) -"Contending for the Faith" by Laurence White (Sep 2005) "An Examination of the Concept of Lay Ministry" by David Rhode (Sep 2005)

3. AELLP -

- Augustana Ministerium
 First met in 2004
 September 2005 in Peoria
 September 2006 met in Colorado
- 5. Evangelical Lutheranism and Lutheran Evangelicalism By David L. Adams, November 3-5, 2005

7. Soon after the Chicago Conference in October of 2004, **Pastor Richard Bolland** wrote a list of ten things that must be considered true for someone to believe that Synod is fixable. "Bolland Writes: 'Its Time To Leave [LCMS]' RN Replies' <u>www.reclaimingwalther.org/articles/700/766.htm</u>

"As one of the attendees at Chicago I must admit that I am frustrated at the pace of our response to the disintegration of our synod. I fear that we have assumed far too much. Permit me to be the voice of dissent here on the discussion board and say that I firmly believe that all such efforts are futile. The game is over! The synod will not be redeemed. Why do I say this? If you believe that the synod can be resurrected from the dead, then you must believe that the following things are true:

- 1. It will be possible to win over the liberals in our synod to a Confessional viewpoint.
- 2. It is possible to get Confessional resolutions to the convention floor despite the lock hold of the floor committees in 2007.
- 3. It is possible to elect Confessional men to most DP positions as proposed by Dr. Wohlrabe in Chicago.
- 4. It is possible to remain in altar and pulpit fellowship with Gerald Kieschnick, David Benke, and those many who support him without violation of conscious.
- 5. It is possible to pretend that our synod actually embraces close(d) communion when an estimated 40% of synodical congregations actually practice open communion.
- 6. It is possible to address the rank and file membership of synod without access to the official media of synod.
- 7. It is possible to continue to have our people attend functions by RSO's in synod when we constantly must warn them of the false doctrine they will encounter in the LLL, LWML, National Youth Gatherings, etc.
- 8. It is possible to continue to ignore St. Paul's clear admonition to "...mark and avoid" those who teach false doctrine with impunity.
- 9. It is possible to be heard using the official avenues of dissent outlined in the Constitution of synod.
- 10. It is possible that funds submitted to district and synod will be used for biblical purposes and will be accounted for with any accuracy.

At the risk of being the splash of cold water in this group, I firmly believe that any thinking that our grievances will be redressed in either 2007 or 2010 is an illusion of the first magnitude. It is time to begin doing what needs to be done to separate ourselves from our now heterodox Lutheran body.

Dick Bolland"

8. Consensus

November 2005 Consensus

--Why I am Plaintiff by Dr. Fred Baue (now in SID, Bethany LC, O'Fallon IL)

--"David Benke, Yankee Stadium, Matthew 18, 8-01a and the Lawsuit" by Klemet Preus

--The Purpose of Ecclesiastical Supervision (3rd in a series)

December 2005 Consensus

--The Importance of Purity and Unity of Doctrine

--Two Articles by Tony Bertram and David Petersen reveal that the dissent process is "probably

unworkable" and "It's Nearly Hopeless to Dissent"

--The Call to Repentance document

--Confession Lutherans Facing the Future by Rev. Glenn Huebel

--Indiana Circuits Express Dissent on Resolution 8-01A

January 2006 Consensus

--Call for Action: Employ the "Call to Repentance" to Turn Synod from Heterodoxy, "Consensus urges all confessional pastors and congregations to submit this overture to their appropriate districts and to the synod. Should the LCMS in convention 'bury' this overture in committee or vote it down then we will have our answer. The LCMS will clearly have become a heterodox synod which must be "marked and avoided" (Romans 16:17)."

--also published 8 other overtures

February/March 2006 Consensus

--Uniformity of Worship: It's our Way

--Ignited in Omaha

April/May 2006 Consensus

--Subscribe to the Call to Repentance Document (on the web site?) "We believe that the lead overture—the "Call to Repentance"—is a balanced overture."

--Dissent Again by Ken Schurb

July 2006 Consensus(vol. 4, num 4)

Reflection on the Lawsuit Settlement

Advice for Confessional Lutherans in the LCMS

Don't Overlook the Overtures

Advice for Confessional Lutherans in the LCMS by Rev. Klemet Preus

The LCMS – A Church Body to be Marked and Avoided? (response to the April/May 2006 issue) "While we do sympathize with those whose conscience will not permit them to remain in a heterodox church body, we would certainly not encourage a mass exodus from the LCMS any time soon. In our opinion this would be precipitous. We believe that there are still many solid, confessional pastors and congregations in the LCMS who may not yet realize how serious is the situation in Missouri. We should not desert them too quickly before being certain that our concerns have been heard and are understood. We must make every effort and take the necessary time to re-catechize our people in what it means to be a confessional Lutheran and a "Missourian." We also know that there are many sister churches in world Lutheranism that still look to the LCMS as the last great hope for confessional Lutheranism. We should not abandon them too quickly. We remember how long it took many pastors and congregations in the LCMS to "wake up" in the early 70's before taking action against the insidious false doctrine on Scripture which had crept into the St. Louis seminary."

August/September 2006 Consensus(vol. 4, num 5)

"Hanging Around" by Rev. Kevin Vogts --staying in the LCMS

"Watch it Jerry" - The lawsuit outcome

"Rushing Hell-Bent toward a "Missional" Synod by Rev. Richard Bolland

(Following the Chicago Conference-October, 2004, Bolland posted, "Its Time to Leave" *** on Lutherquest.)

An article on Conservatives, Liberals, and Confessional Lutherans

"If you suppose that the battle in Missouri is between theological conservatives and liberals, then the 2001 Convention vote for Kieschnick made no sense, and for that matter neither did the 2004 vote.

Liberals only made up about 10% of the voting delegates in 04. This was proven by the final vote of the convention which gave a resounding thump on the head to any pointy-headed professors who think it's neat to advocate evolution at a Concordia.

Liberalism is not, and for the past quarter-century has not been the 'other side' in Missouri.

I suggest that you understand that your president Kieschnick was speaking the truth in earnestness when upon his first election to his current office he affirmed his belief : the various tests of whether or not one is a conservative. He upholds the inerrancy of Scripture, the virgin birth of Jesus, His miracles, His bodily resurrection and so fort

Gerald Kieschnick is a conservative, and not a liberal.

In fact, it's among the vocal conservatives in Missouri you will find the other side, the other side in Missouri is not the liberals (they are fighting a rump action at best but more akin to American fundamentalism.

It is the generic American evangelical protestant who is the enemy. You are fighting the bastard sons of what Walther referred to as 'that sect,' that is, methodism writ large. Years ago I coined the term methobapticostalist to describe this party in Missouri.

The problem you face is that many whom you regard as the historic allies of confessional Lutheranism are in fact your sworn enemies. Once you understand this fact, that **the majority of LCMS conservatives are antithetical to the confessional mind** and cause, the things become clearer, and a true analysis of what's happening becomes possible.

Dear friends make no mistake: conservatives will prevail-- indeed since '76 have prevailed in Missouri.

Conservatives, however, are the natural enemy of confessionals. The LCMS has become methodized.

Whether or not 'Ablaze!' endures, it is an apt confession of the culture of Missouri today. Confessional Lutherans in Missouri are for the moment barely tolerated at best, for they are nothing but speed bumps on the road your fellow Missourians are traveling,

+James Dale Wilson (A pastor who left the Missouri Synod)

The Myths that make us feel good.

The myths that make us feel good. 1. But haven't you heard that the Seminaries are producing better and better pastors? 2. The problem with our Synod is the old quys, who are now in leadership positions, and they are dying off. Just wait a few years. 3. Despite what you see, everything is really getting better in the LCMS. 4. All of the new DPs, the princes of the church, are better now than they were just a year ago. 5. Just be faithful in your own congregation (which is translated, "Don't tell your congregation about Synod's false teachings and practices, Don't preach or teach against contemporary worship(ablaze), lay ministry, open communion, etc.). 6. Whatever you do, don't take a stand that would be a law-oriented way of doing things. Don't flee falsehood. Just stay until they kick you out. 7. Communication. We just need to love our brothers. Just keep talking to them, again and again and again. Spend your time writing heady articles in professional journals that only reach your like-minded buddys. 8. The ship is big and it takes time to turn her. This could take years, decades or millennia. 9. The church has never been perfect. The pendulum always swings back and forth. This too will pass. 10. Finally, you have no where else to go. The LCMS is the best we got. The world is looking toward Missouri. (At this point take your hat off and place your hand on your heart.) I will be true to THE church (and the church's plan, don't-cha-know).

MDH

Response of Pastor Watson

"Thank you Michael for saying what needs to be said (constantly) especially to this forum of purple-tinged ostriches with martyr-hero fantasies. (i.e. Luther didn't leave, they threw him out [drum roll...swell of violins and cellos...closeup of the LCMS pastor pounding his chest as if he were at Worms looking brave and lonely])

I am hoping that you and your parish soon leave and affiliate with ELDoNA... which will make it easier for me and my congregation to hopefully do the same thing.

Thanks again for your post. Pax Jay

the Rev'd JW Watson Augsburg Lutheran Church Olathe, Kansas