

Lutheran-Reformed Coordinating Council
December 17-18, 2008

Notes and assignments on Consultation

September Consultation

Time: Tuesday, September 8, 4:00 p.m., beginning with orientation, dinner, and evening session; ending 4:00 p.m. on Wednesday, September 9

Place: ELCA headquarters, Chicago

Presenting

question: *In light of the current ecumenical circumstances (multiple ecumenical full communion relationships, conciliar commitments, and changing ecumenical landscape), as we move into the next ten years of our Formula of Agreement relationship, how can we embody our 1998 promises today in ways that enhance the mission and the ministry of our churches?*

Underlying Questions

- How does the Formula help us respond to the prayer in John 17:21?
- What are our missional needs that the Formula can help us with?
- How can we apply these questions specifically to issues of congregational renewal, collaborative mission and advocacy, and changing realities in middle judicatory life

Grounding Text

The 7 marks delineated in the *Formula*

Basic Structure

Outline of Consultation conversation

- How is each of our communions living out the promises made in the Formula (What is the current reality in our churches? How has this been received?)?
- How are we ecumenically living out the promises made in the Formula? (what have we done thus far)?
- What would a deepening commitment in the next 10 years look like?
- How should we go about doing that?

Participants 6 from each communion, not counting EO, HOC and (if desired) LRCC members

Participant Demographics

- “Replicators” – those who have capacity to think broadly and make the decisions have life in our communions
- Good racial/ethnic, age, gender, clergy/lay, and “role” balance
- People who could help us get “beyond” ourselves and look to what we can do together for the sake of the mission of the church

(PS -- EOs to share info about who they’re wanting to invite so as to create as much balance as possible)

Planning Committee:

Ecumenical officers to have a conversation in late February, and then others to be brought into a planning team

Additional topic-specific consultations

Specific additional consultations, not for the September 2009 meeting, were considered on the following topics:

- Global mission (Robina and Don)
- Benefit Services (Marja and John)
- Publishing (Paul and Fred)
- Seminaries (Cynthia and Lynn)
- Theology (Doug and Judy)

The individuals named are asked to consult with their colleagues in these areas, and ask if:

- There would be buy0in for a consultation with Formula partners about what the next 10 years could bring in these subject areas with collaborative activity
- If eager, begin to identify a timeline for a consultation/conversation

LRCC members to report back to the group (via Lydia's email, who will forward to all) by end of February, if possible

Participation in each other's governance structures

This is an ongoing discussion, and there is unevenness about how well this works. The EOs will ask the HOCs to have a conversation about what is their expectation in this area

- How is participation most effective?
- What works well as we've been doing it?
- What doesn't work well and needs adjustment for the benefit of the Formula relationship?

Lydia agreed to ask them to have the conversation and then get a conference call with HOCs and EOs in the first quarter of the year to hear their responses and take next steps.