



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Global, Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations
Roundtable Report

September 24 – 25th, 2003
Chicago, IL

ELCA Strategic Planning Global, Ecumenical, Interfaith Roundtable

Roundtable dates: September 24-25, 2003
Location: Lutheran Center, Chicago, IL
Co-conveners: Gladys Moore and Randy Lee
Participants: Female 15, Male 18, Persons of color 10, Young adults 6

Global:

Outcome...

By 2012, ELCA congregations will increasingly live out their faith in Christ in mutually transforming and life-giving relationships with the global human family.

Measurement Indicators...

- By 2005 there will be a 10% increase in the number of congregations involved in companion synod relationships or sponsoring a missionary:
- By 2008 the number of young adults serving in the global young adult programs will increase by 75%:
- By 2012 25% of pastors serving congregations will have participated in a global (*'glocal'*) exchange:
- By 2012 10% of congregations will intentionally develop a relationship with recent immigrants to the United States:
- By 2012 the number of South – South and South – North mission personnel exchanges supported by the ELCA will reflect a 50% increase.

Peace and Justice: Global

Outcome...

By 2012 ELCA members will increase our global awareness by learning and engaging with others in the life of the Lutheran communion and the ecumenical global family so that our behavior as global citizens and persons of faith better reflects God's gracious intention for a world of peace and justice.

Measurement Indicators...

- By 2005 5000 congregations will be using FAIR TRADE products:
- By 2012 we will increase total mission support to ELCA related Lutheran and ecumenical agencies by 100%:
- By 2012 we will increase the number of congregations involved in Bread for the World by 50%:
- We will increase awareness of Lutheran advocacy groups* by fostering a 25% increase of inquires to their websites.

** LOGA, LIRS World Hunger, LWR, etc.*

Peace and Justice: Ecumenical

Outcome...

By 2012 the ELCA will refocus its understanding of ecumenical engagement to increased local participation in justice and peace networks and action groups with Lutheran and ecumenical partners so that we live out Jesus example of justice, peace and service.

Measurement Indicators...

- By 2012 50% of participants in ecumenical activities will be women and people of color/primary language other than English:
- By 2012 40% of resources for ecumenical work, both human and financial, will support the commitments for increasing ecumenical engagement at the local level.

Ecumenical:

Outcomes...

By 2012, the ELCA in all its expressions* will be engaged with Historic Black, Pentecostal & Evangelical churches in ecumenical dialogue so that new opportunities for witness, service and mutual understanding will have emerged.

** In all its expressions implies church wide, congregations, synods, institutions and agencies.*

Measurement Indicators...

- By 2005 the ELCA will have identified local models of dialogue, witness and service among its congregations that have relationships with congregations of Historic Black, Pentecostal or Evangelical traditions:
- By 2005, ELCA theologians of color will have held at least one meeting with theologians from the Historic Black Churches to propose strategies to achieve this outcome:
- By 2009 1000 congregations of the ELCA will have had interaction, training or dialogue with Historic Black, Pentecostal and Evangelical churches or groups:
- By 2012 the ELCA will be engaged in formal dialogue with representatives from Pentecostal and Evangelical churches.

Interfaith:

Outcome...

By 2012 ELCA congregations will increase their engagement with other religious traditions in mutual encounter and shared effort so that together we mobilize greater resources for building healthy and hospitable communities.

Strategy ...

- In order that this outcome is achieved the churchwide organization in partnership with ELCA colleges and seminaries will develop theological and pastoral resources that assist the church's engagement with other religious traditions, and will develop and support ordained and lay leaders who are equipped for faithful and effective ministry in the context of religious pluralism.

Measurement Indicators...

- By 2005 there will be resources available. The ELCA will list resources for interfaith engagement in the Ecumenical and Inter Religious Relations website:
- By 2007 within each seminary cluster there will be curricular emphasis in the context of religious pluralism

Strategy...

- In order that this outcome is achieved the churchwide organization will incorporate interfaith awareness and encounter into the ELCA churchwide youth gatherings.

Measurement Indicators...

- By the end of 2005 the program plan of the 2006 churchwide youth gathering will include increased opportunities for interfaith learning and encounters.

Strategy...

- In order that this outcome is achieved the churchwide organization of the ELCA will take initiative to establish relations with Muslim communities.

Measurement Indicators...

- By 2005 the Office of the Presiding Bishop will include a staff portfolio and consultative panel to guide increasing engagement with Muslim communities in the United States.

ELCA Diversity:

Outcome...

By 2012 the ELCA participants in its ecumenical, interfaith and global programs will be at least 25% men and women of color and language other than English, so that the programs of the ELCA will more fully reflect the diversity of God's global family.

Measurement Indicators...

- By 2005 the ELCA budget will reflect this commitment of human and financial resources:
- By 2005 there will be in place a system of monitoring internal racism in Ecumenical, Global and Interfaith programs:
- By 2012 the decision making and leadership structures of the ELCA will be 25% men and women of color or whose primary language is other than English:
- By 2012 10% of mission personnel will be persons of color or whose primary language is other than English.

Addendum:

Learning's from the Global, Ecumenical and Interfaith Roundtable Process

Given that the "Proposal for the future design of the Churchwide Organization" holds the fall roundtables as an example of potential formation of ad hoc advisory panels, we wish to share some critical learning from this experience.

- 1) It was the experience of the roundtable that the 'must and will' statements, particularly #3 and #4 were often lost in conversation. It became the burden of people of color, youth and women to continually raise the concern. Although this roundtable has provided some specific outcomes addressing the challenges raised in the 'must and will' statements, we wish to express our reservation in the process. It was the sense of the roundtable collective that a sixth strategic direction addressing these scandalous realities needs to be addressed. When it is the responsibility of the whole it is easy to become the responsibility of none.
- 2) From the experience of this roundtable, it was clear that staffing and support to this process was very limited and at times non-existent. The reasons for this are many, but our concern is that if this model for ad hoc committee work it to be successful it will need to have dedicated staff time and support.
- 3) Many persons attending the roundtable believe strongly that the mission of the church suffers if the boards and advisory committees are eliminated in favor of short-term advisory committees (as the "Proposal for the future design of the Churchwide organization" recommends). The value of the boards, steering and advisory committees is that members currently serve for six years. During this time it allows for the formation of relationships between members, staff, and the ministry. Short-term advisory committees will not support the relationship building. In the ecumenical / interfaith / global areas -- relationships are critical for the ministry to thrive. Six-year terms also create a stronger sense of ownership and accountability.

Short term advisory committees the church will need to rely on people who have more in depth expertise to serve. By relying on people who have more in depth expertise to serve on short-term advisory committees, the committee membership will need to become much more narrow and elective, thus limiting the variety of persons able to serve.

Short-term committees will require continual educating in order to "ramp up" the short-term group with enough information about the units and ministries for which they are consulting. With a six year term on a board -- education takes place over time yet there are always some present with more experience so the process can move forward more efficiently and with continuity.