

ELCA Strategic Planning Public Church in Public Life Roundtable Report

Dates: October 16 - 17, 2003
Location: Lisle, IL
Co-conveners: Winston Persaud, Rebecca Larson
Participants: 14 women, 33 men, 3 persons of color, 1 young adult

Outcomes and Indicators

Outcome 1 - Root Causes

By 2012, we will deepen our understanding of the root causes of injustice and our participation in God's work of justice and love for the world.

By 2005, we will have begun deepening our understanding of the root causes of poverty so that we can better combat this form of injustice.

Indicators

- ❖ 25 % more congregations will have identified a matter of injustice in their communities, discerned root causes, audited what's already being done, and engaged the issue.
- ❖ 40% of our congregations will be using a newly developed Bible study curriculum that examines our baptismal vocation in the light of biblical mandates to understand and address injustice.
- ❖ 75% of confirmation students will be engaged each year in study and experiential formation with the concepts of justice as taught in scripture and the Lutheran tradition.
- ❖ Each congregation will invest at least 10% of its benevolence dollars toward ministry with/among people living in poverty as part of engaging with persons in their communities who are victims of injustice.
- ❖ Pastors will more frequently and effectively proclaim and teach on justice themes, exploring root causes of injustice, and possibilities for engagement.
- ❖ We will have had at least three major convocations by 2012 convened at Lutheran institutions of higher education focusing on root causes of economic injustice, social conflict, and environmental degradation (one convo on each topic).
- ❖ As many ELCA people will be involved with advocacy and organizing as are involved with direct compassionate service.

- ❖ The DCS website will feature a database of ELCA resources and resource people conducting research on root causes of various dimensions of injustice.

Strategies

1. To ensure that youth gatherings, youth ministries and GME`s greatly expand service learning opportunities, including global opportunities.
2. To call for papers/research on root causes of poverty and bring together researchers with advocacy people and others to connect research and action.
3. For congregations and synods to increasingly consult with SMO`s to understand root causes of injustice; for SMO`s to routinely ask about these as they serve.
4. To find ways that ELCA members will increasingly examine their own life styles and institutional practices to understand how we create and contribute to injustice – and will repent.
5. To establish an institute for advanced study re: root causes of injustice; each institution (college, university, and seminary) will send one scholar, to include global scholars and those at non-ELCA schools.
6. To include in the annual congregation report form questions about involvement with issues of injustice and exploration of root causes.
7. To include in the rostered leader form for reports to bishop questions about involvement with issues of injustice and exploration of root causes.
8. For colleges, universities and seminaries to set up more internships for service learning in innercity, rural and global contexts.
9. To create more opportunities for involvement with Lutheran partners such as Lutheran Peace Fellowship, Lutheran Volunteer Corps, Lutherans Concerned - North America, etc. and involve them in ELCA resource development curriculum.

Outcome 2 – Baptismal Vocation

By 2012, members will be empowered to live out the vocation given them in baptism to connect faith and daily life so that the ELCA becomes a more disturbing, reconciling, serving, liberating, and deliberating presence of Christ, living for the sake of the world.

By 2005 baptism, eucharist and the preached word will nurture people in the public baptismal vocation of striving for justice and peace in all the earth so that the church clearly understands that it exists for the care and liberation of all that God has made.

Indicators

- ❖ By 2005, a cooperative network of educational institutions, seminaries, colleges, life-long learning centers, community-based organizations, SMOs, and advocacy organizations will actively equip and train new leaders and existing leaders (lay and rostered) in the arts and skills of public action.
- ❖ By 2010, at least 25% of congregations of the ELCA will engage with people of faith from around the world so that we grow mutually in our understanding of how faith and life are linked.
- ❖ By 2007, at least 50% of congregations will be strategically aligned and actively engaged simultaneously with SMOs, advocacy ministries, and community-based organizing.
- ❖ By 2004, 2008, and 2012 the ELCA will conduct “Lutherans Say” surveys of members’ views and actions which can be compared to baseline surveys as an indicator of the call to justice.

Strategies

1. To include responsibility for this aspect of teaching and living out baptismal vocation in letters of call and candidacy processes.
2. To develop preaching resources related to baptismal vocation in public life.
3. To convene people to reflect on faith in daily life.
4. To link the responsibilities of baptismal vocation with that of responsible citizenship in a complex democracy.
5. To increase our commitment to baptizing all, including the poor and marginalized.

Outcome 3 - Denouncing injustice and pursuing justice
By 2012, the ELCA (all expressions) will be a national political presence/player/shaper of public policy so that the ELCA has real, measurable influence on all levels of the political/social process that results in “Reformation-like” change.

By 2005, an e-advocacy program and unified database will be providing connectivity between all expressions and political and social entities so that the tools are in place for communications and empowering actions.

By 2005, a vigorous education program will have taught people on a local level and mobilized more congregational members so that ownership of ELCA policy is increased and grassroots are activated.

Indicators

- ❖ ELCA will project a national social agenda for debate and identify a recognized position based on social policy teachings and actions.
- ❖ ELCA will denounce the scandal of poverty.
- ❖ ELCA will convene broad-based, inclusive public policy debates.
- ❖ ELCA will establish a national public press and media strategy.
- ❖ ELCA will be known as national resource and essential player on social policy issues.
- ❖ A national press strategy will be in place and technology geared up to build a power base
- ❖ X % of congregations in each synod will host Sundays on church/state partnership on local issues.
- ❖ The ELCA will put into place a voter registration and participation program.
- ❖ X % increase in number of congregations that have advocacy ministry.
- ❖ 10% of congregations are involved in community-based organizing.
- ❖ Each parish pastor knows the names of elected officials.
- ❖ By 2005, [higher number needed] training events with partners will be conducted in order to promote the following skills and activities: identify and address issues, engage in critical social analysis and oral deliberation, identify and connect with partners, engage in relational

organizing, speak truth to power, promote nonviolent actions, develop advocacy strategies.

Strategies

1. To hold a moratorium on current work to allow for reorganization to accomplish the goals.
2. To hold seminary courses on public life.
3. To have the Presiding Bishop convene synod bishops on issues.
4. To develop capacity to generate 5,000 e-mails including getting pastors to push for this as well as organizing with LOGA and SPPOs to train local congregations to do advocacy.
5. To have an 18 month moratorium in order to reorganize for advocacy.
6. To engage pastors and congregations through labor intensive contact.
7. To find ways (personnel) to develop curriculum and training material in synods.
8. To focus on issue of living wage, sustainability.
9. For LOGA and SPPOs to host a training module for one person for each synod (training of trainers.)
10. For LOGA to convene four annual meetings each year.
11. To use the "Conference of Bishops" DC meeting to create matches between bishops and members for contact.
12. Consider using menus of options.
13. To use technology to pool strategies e.g. federal/state linkages/SPPOs.
14. To create excitement about concerns.
15. To use E-advocacy to involve LOGA, SPPO's, grassroots and churchwide entities to create a portal/super web site so all can build and work together without losing their individual identity with their initial constituency.
16. To find ways to fund E-advocacy so as to implement an e-advocacy strategy.
17. For each bishop to designate LOGA relationship responsibility in someone's portfolio.
18. For synod bishops to carry their "Wealth and Poverty" documents to their members of Congress when in DC.
19. To ensure a national ELCA visibility through: message development, press culture, politics as local.
20. To ensure a national ELCA visibility through a national press strategy: to ensure articulate and precise spokespeople are available and asked for; to generate editorials and editorial placement.
21. To ensure that pastors and bishops to engage each other and their pastor's parishioners.
22. That every seminary or college has one or two courses on public life.
23. To instill in pastors a sense of word and sacrament being public; putting on collar is public act; so they understand it is covenant.

24. To create a culture where this question is the norm: “Did you go in peace and serve the Lord in the public square?” How did you last week?
25. To use national organizing networks to train people to engage in public life.
26. To re-define being public church to engage as many people as possible in public life
27. To find synergy between various expressions (SMOs, CBOs and advocacy) in public life.
28. To connect those who don't see church in public life to see where it is, e.g. LOGA, SPPOs, etc.
29. To work with bishops and pastors re media – engagement of /increasing number of pastors to focus and raise awareness of issues; to develop relationships with governor and state representatives.
30. To create opportunities for interface and interaction (face-time) and relationship-building between policy decision-makers and church leaders and lay people on a regular basis.

Outcome 4 – Enhancing public voice and action by working together
By 2012, ELCA will have integrated and leveraged our collective capacities [expressions, SMO's, congregational-based organizing, advocacy and other partners - community development etc.] so that we make a significant, identifiable and measurable contribution to a just and peaceful world and sustainable creation.

By 2005, the ELCA will have mapped assets, conducted a power analysis, convened groups, so that we can claim and proclaim stories, develop strategies, and remove barriers.

Indicators

- ❖ An annual survey [of each expression] will reflect 5% increase each year in satisfaction in the progress that our collective voice and action is being built on complementary roles and our respective assets.
- ❖ 3-6 technological connections in place to facilitate expertise exchange utilized by 50% of collaboration entities.
- ❖ New programs are only started after first exploring existing expertise, capacities and initiatives on which programs could be built.
- ❖ Mapping of assets and power analysis will result in identification and involvement of 5000 people (representing racial, cultural and gender diversity of the communities served) engaged in new ways in the church's public life.

Strategies

1. To convene, by 2004, a DCS group to develop a strategic plan for implementing the 2012 outcome.
2. To create an integration team to carry forward this outcome.
3. To create new vocabulary to integrate expressions.
4. To develop schools for public life.
5. To use technology to better identify and develop resources.
6. By ____, __% of church related entities to cite X # of stories of creative collaboration toward the 2012 outcome. By ____, these stories/expertise will be accessible to membership of ELCA.
7. By ____, X number of research projects to be identified by strategy team have been completed.
8. To develop a "request" protocol whereby one entity can request time, information, expertise, cooperation from another entity or sector.
9. To develop mechanisms and tables for collaborative project development; identify experts at "searching out" cross-fertilization, knowledge exchange, replication, use of power and make that expertise available to the system.

Outcome 5 - Poverty/economic injustice/sustainability

By 2012, ELCA will re-prioritize present resources and creatively generate new funding for justice based ministries with and among people living in poverty so that the church lives out God's intention for sufficient, sustainable livelihood for all.

Indicators

- ❖ By 2005, to reprioritize so that 10% more of current ELCA funds are allocated to justice based congregational ministries.
Strategy
Explore modifications to mission investment funds

- ❖ By 2005, creatively raise \$5 million in new resources for justice-based ministries, and by 2007 \$10 million.
Strategies
Designate person in the Office of the Bishop to raise funds, focus on designated gifts from high net-worth donors; train SMO's, synods, to creatively fund raise (include ALDE and others); create the message; close co-ordination with World Hunger Appeal; collaborate with MAPP/Bishops; explore Lutheran Campaign for Human Development; Stand With campaigns, World Hunger Appeal give more to USA justice and advocacy. Continual strategies: engage professional marketing people *pro bono* to shape message.

- ❖ Beginning in 2005, ELCA will ensure that all congregation starts in fast growth areas will be matched with a startup (or reconfiguration of "threatened" congregation) with and among people living in poverty.

- ❖ By 2005, a major focus of advocacy, ELCA and SMO's will be to function based on the following: the principles in the document on sufficient, sustainable livelihood for all; commitment to just relationships affected by globalization (i.e. fair trade); and model living wages, in ELCA, SMO's, synods etc.
Strategies
Do exercise on minimum wage; *Nickel and Dimed* book; encourage new DCS to place this on short list; explore additional income support options (EITC, etc).

- ❖ By 2005, SMO's will increase by 10% the production of affordable low-income housing.

- ❖ By 2006, 20% of congregations will provide safe, affordable childcare or Head Start programs.

Strategies

Resource existing day care; help start new day care (or subsidizing) in low-income areas.

Assumptions:

The “we” in the above statement means all expressions of the ELCA; individually and as institutions.

We assume that we will draw upon the rich diversity of experience in our communities, i.e., race, gender, culture, economic status.

We assume that in all outcomes we will seek wisdom and guidance, in addition to partnership, of people of diverse multicultural, class, age and gender characteristics.

We assume that in accomplishing these tasks we seek to leverage wealth, engage in creative partnering.

We assume that all work takes place within a global context.

We seek a disproportionate positive impact on women and children, immigrants and people of color.

We assume that technology is a key resource.

We assume that media must be used widely to communicate.