

To the Bishops of the ELCIC  
December 4, 2008

Grace and peace to you in the name of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

As some of you may or may not have heard via the Lutheran grapevine, a number of clergy within the Synod of Alberta and the Territories have gathered together for mutual encouragement and desire to see reform within the ELCIC. We are deeply concerned for the direction the ELCIC has been taking towards a revisionist understanding of the gospel which expresses itself most obviously in the heated controversies regarding human sexuality and the attending profound gift of God in marriage given prior to the fall of our first parents.

Together we form the Confessional Ministerium to encourage one another in our faithfulness to the Holy Scriptures, the Lutheran Confessions, the Constitution of the ELCIC, and especially our ordination vows to the Church of Christ. We form the Confessional Ministerium holding each other accountable as brothers and sisters in Christ to preach and teach law and gospel and the theology of the cross as articulated in the Lutheran Confessions and not a theology of glory which resonates with the ideologies, mandates and desires of society in contrast to the gospel of our Lord.

We inform you, our Bishops of the ELCIC, in order to be transparent in our intentions as a Confessional Ministerium. We pray and hope to encourage faithfulness by speaking the "truth in love" (Eph. 4:15) in our commitment to clarity of faith and doctrine, compassionate social action as a consequence of the gospel (1 Jn 4:19) and faithful exhortation and admonishment in our life together as disciples in Mission for Christ.

Accordingly, we intend to invite the clergy of the ELCIC to join with us and together we will follow where the Holy Spirit may lead us. We commit as signatories to the Statement of the Confessional Ministerium to stay within the ELCIC as a group as long as the ELCIC remains faithful to the gospel as historically articulated. Furthermore, we commit to one another and to the ELCIC that we will resign from the clergy roster as a group when we agree that the gospel has been abandoned. We inform you, the Bishops of the ELCIC, of our actions in the hope that you may bless our intent to be faithful to the above in proclaiming Jesus the Christ as the only Saviour of creation in the gospel of grace as expressed by our Lutheran heritage in the church catholic.

May God be with you in your office as Bishops that you may faithfully, truthfully and boldly lead the flock of God according to the Shepherd's Word.

Sincerely in Christ Jesus,

Rev. Phillip Gagnon  
Chair of the Confessional Ministerium  
St. Albert Evangelical Lutheran Church  
11 Glenview Crescent  
St. Albert, Alberta T8N 1B7