



# Appendix C: Lutheran-Moravian Coordinating Committee

## Report of Work for 2003-2005

The Lutheran-Moravian Coordinating Committee has met twice annually since full communion between the Northern and Southern Provinces of the Moravian Church and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America was inaugurated with a celebration on January 27, 2000.

Each denomination has invited representatives from the other denomination to their respective synods and churchwide assemblies.

### ***Key Responsibilities:***

The coordinating committee has the following primary responsibilities:

- Addressing matters that require internal legislative decision-making and referring them to the appropriate decision-making bodies of the participating churches.
- Addressing matters related to programs to the appropriate units of the participating churches, encouraging them to fulfill these specific tasks, and asking for regular progress reports.
- Addressing ongoing relationship issues for the participating churches and facilitating inter-church activities.
- Proposing national events for the participating churches.
- Developing a pattern of representation at key legislative meetings between the two participating churches.
- Reporting annually to the participating churches on the status of inter-church activities.

## Common Work and Shared Resources

### ***New Membership and Inclusivity of Representation:***

Expanding Lutheran-Moravian cooperation has been of tantamount concern for the coordinating committee. Expressed with genuine interest in the report of 2001-2003, the committee desired and has now sought to have inclusive representation from the demographic and geographic regions where Moravians and Lutherans are able to live into full communion in visible and practical ways. The committee thus invited Pastor Carlyle Sampson (ELCA, Caribbean Synod) and Bishop Kingsley Lewis (Moravian, Eastern West Indies Province) to join its ranks for a multiple-year service. Likewise, aware of the diversity and special relationships of Lutherans and Moravians in Alaska (synod and province), the coordinating committee included representation from this region at its June 2005 meeting.

### ***Care of Leaders in the Life of the Church:***

The coordinating committee has overwhelmingly recommended that the new resource for health and well-being, *Sustaining Our Shepherds* (S.O.S.), be piloted in the North

Carolina Synod and the Southern Province of the Moravian Church. The creation of this resource is in response to the health and wellness issues and the commensurate loss of church leaders in each body due to personal stress, professional fatigue, and spiritual aridity. The resource, in its current state, is ready to be piloted. Ms. Patricia Garner, resource designer, will visit the Lutheran Center in order to discuss further possibilities toward publication. At the June 2005 meeting, the committee decided how to pursue various formats where this resource can be used, from seminary formation to clergy retreats. Ms. Garner, of the Moravian Church, has volunteered to lead this effort.

### ***Coordinating Committee Notes On-line:***

The coordinating committee notes of the last biennium are on-line at [www.elca.org/ecumenical](http://www.elca.org/ecumenical). These notes are public, accessible, and clarify the multiple resolutions and recommendations that the committee has made in recent years. These notes function as a detailed narrative of the committee's work. All with interest are encouraged to follow the work of the committee.

### ***History of Mutual Contributions:***

The coordinating committee is enthusiastic regarding the multiple mutual contributions between the ELCA and the Moravian church since the celebration of Full Communion on January 27, 2000. These contributions include: the ELCA Health and Wellness study material, spiritual formation at some Lutheran seminaries that influences the pedagogy of the Moravian Seminary, and the introduction in the Moravian seminary of a Moravian "year" that reflects a mandated year in ELCA seminaries. Moravian influence includes the multi-year effort and contribution of *Sustaining our Shepherds*, the wellness resource mentioned above.

## Major Directions for 2005-2007

In the coming biennium the committee will examine the progress of other ecumenical dialogues in each denomination. Indeed, the committee sent a letter to the Moravian-Episcopal bilateral dialogue in fall 2004 in order to congratulate and encourage further efforts between those two churches. The coordinating committee collectively has experienced a resurgence in vision and mission during 2004-2005. Thus, the committee feels renewed and seeks to make fundamental and lasting contributions as it facilitates the ecumenical needs of the ELCA and the Moravian Church.

For example, the coordinating committee will encourage the extension of the full-communion relationship described in "Following Our Shepherd to Full Communion" to expressly include both the Eastern West Indies and the Alaska provinces

of the Moravian Church. In addition, the coordinating committee will encourage increased participation in the installation or consecration of bishops in the other body, including the “laying on of hands.”

Future meetings of the Lutheran-Moravian Coordinating Committee are scheduled for June and December in 2005 and 2006. Committee members intend to become more visible and accessible to the local communities at their bi-annual meetings.

## Members of the Lutheran-Moravian Coordinating Committee

### *For the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*

Judith Garber  
Ronald A. Rinn  
Carlyle Sampson  
Michael Trice

### *For the Moravian Church*

Otto N. Dreydoppel Jr.  
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