



Evangelical Lutheran Church In America
Ecumenical and Inter-Religious Relations
8765 W. Higgins Road • Chicago, IL 60631-4197
Telephone: 773.380.2610 • Facsimile: 773.380.2977

June 11, 2006

Re: ELCA-UMC Interim Eucharistic Sharing Study Document -- COFT

Greeting in the name of our risen Lord and Savior Jesus Christ:

As you know, the bi-lateral dialogue between the ELCA and the United Methodist Church has developed into a relationship of Interim Eucharistic Sharing. We are currently in a critical time of study as we approach the possibility of Full Communion between these two churches. A specific study document has been developed entitled *Confessing Our Faith Together: A Study and Discussion Guide*. Both the ELCA and the UMC are requesting that diverse ministry contexts (i.e., congregations, campus ministries et. al.) work with the document together through discussion and prayerful discernment.

We are asking you to take the study document, study it in your respective community, and return the attached *Evaluation and Planning Response Form* to the churchwide offices. In December 2006, the ELCA-UMC bi-lateral dialogue members will meet for discussion of these evaluation forms. Members will rely on these evaluations as critical to the discerning process of proceeding toward a relationship of Full Communion. Your contributions are sincerely needed for the advancement of this ecumenical relationship. I hope you will arrange for both study and evaluation, and assist the bi-lateral members in their efforts.

Please note that although the final deadline for the *Evaluation and Planning Response Form* is January 15, 2007, I encourage you to complete the study guide and evaluation **prior to October 31, 2006**, in order for the committee to receive the valued data you will submit. If you have any question regarding this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me or my assistant Paulina Nisbet-Dasse.

You have also received an electronic copy of this information via email for your convenience. It contained a website link where you can download the entire study packet and the evaluation form if you are in need of another copy.

Find this link at: http://www.elca.org/ecumenical/resources/topical_index.html

You can return the **evaluation form by October 31, 2006 to:**

ELCA
Research and Evaluation
8765 W. Higgins Road
Chicago, IL 60631

Again, let me express my sincere thanks on behalf of Presiding Bishop Mark Hanson and the entire Ecumenical and Inter-Religious Relations team here in Chicago for your continued hard work in the ecumenical community.

In Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. R. Trice', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Dr. Michael R. Trice, Ph.D.
Associate Director for Ecumenical and Inter-Religious Relations
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
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