

Association of Orthodox Lutherans - SC  
November 10, 2009  
Our Saviour Lutheran Church  
West Columbia, SC

From 51 contacts identified approximately 40 attended. Notes of appreciation expressing interest were received from several who could not attend meeting due to scheduling conflicts. Included in attendance was Bishop Herman Yoos. Appreciation for his presence and contribution to our discussion was expressed.

Agenda (all documents and Rev. Bob Byrnes reflection to group will be posted at web-site – Reform from Within <http://reformfromwithin.com/>)

- Welcome was brought by host pastor, Rev. Lance Henderson
- Greetings from SC Synod were expressed by Bishop Yoos
- Worship led by Rev. David Nuottila
- Statement of Purpose (available on 'Reform from Within' web-site) was presented by Rev. Craig Versprille. There is recognition that this association of orthodox Lutherans in SC is a work in process. Feeling a current urgency to join together in support and to speak, this preliminary Statement of Beliefs and Purpose was presented.
- Survey document, "Where are we?" presented by the Rev. Craig Versprille, seeking to provide assistance for Association of Orthodox Lutherans – SC (hereafter, 'AOL-SC') steering committee.
  - Given where you are now
    - Are you inclined to leave ELCA now? Is your congregation?
    - Are you inclined for now, to reform within the SC Synod of the ELCA? Is your congregation?
    - Are you inclined to remain within the ELCA no matter what? Is your congregation?
      - Of 33 responses –
        - Reform from within -- 29 rostered leaders and 14 congregations
        - Inclined to leave now – 3 rostered leaders and 9 congregations

- Inclined to stay no matter what – 0 rostered leaders and 6 congregations
  - No choice – 1 rostered leader and 1 congregation
    - Note on some surveys more than one response was given for opinion of congregation
- Binding Resolution presented by Rev. Lance Henderson which “resolved to form an association, the orthodox Lutherans of South Carolina, so that we might guide one another in faithful response to the current conditions in the ELCA, the South Carolina Synod and our respective congregations (see full amended text available on ‘Reform from Within’ web-site). The Resolution as amended is available for all to sign on line.
- Introduction of Interim Steering Committee was made by Rev. Tony Metze, who then entertained a motion to appoint a steering committee for this Association of Orthodox Lutherans – SC, with the following nominees: Rev. Craig Abee, Rev. Bob Byrne, Rev. Lance Henderson, Rev. Melinda Jones, Rev. Tony Metze, Rev. David Nuottila, Rev. Patrick Riddle, Rev. Craig Versprille, and Rev. John Yost for a one year term (November 2009 through November 2010). Motion was made by Rev. Steve Johnson, seconded by Rev. Marty Mathis and approved.
- Reflection and Discussion was led by Rev. Bob Byrne. Bob’s reflection began with the question ‘Where Are You’ in your response to the actions of the 2009 Churchwide Assembly and moved to a description of the process that will be used by the congregation of St. Paul’s, Aiken to determine their congregational response. (Notes on Pastor Byrnes Reflection – ‘Where Are You?’ will be available soon on ‘Reform from Within’ web-site).
- Lunch
- Time for Discussion was provided on questions being raised, help need, resources available.
- A ‘Possible Resolution for SC Synod’ was presented by Rev. Patrick Riddle which received comments and discussion (An amended resolution will be available as soon as possible on Reform from Within web-site.)
- Where from here? Rev. Tony Metze announced that as one of the stated purposes of AOL-SC was “to provide opportunity to worship, prayer and reflection for rostered leaders, congregations and individuals who wish to affirm a traditional understanding of scripture and Lutheran confessional documents” That the next gathering of AOL-SC is scheduled January 9, 2010 from 1-4 pm at a congregation TBD in the Midlands area. This meeting will be for rostered leaders, congregations and laypeople wishing to affirm a traditional understanding of scripture and what it means to be Lutheran. Assistance is

