

Where's the Line

Where is the line in your life? Most of us can point to an invisible "line" that we have drawn because of our beliefs and convictions. If someone crosses that line, we cannot simply sit by and pretend nothing happened. Instead, we must make a response. Otherwise, we betray our beliefs and abandon our convictions.

The same is true for churches. Every congregation has its own "lines" that reflect its beliefs and teachings. And if someone crosses that line, the church is compelled to respond. Otherwise, what does it stand for?

LCMC came into being in 2001 because, for many churches, the line had been crossed. Those former ELCA churches saw the adoption of the Episcopal ministry standards as a betrayal of Lutheran understanding, a crossing of the line. Those 23 churches that formed a new association did so without a guarantee for their future. They weren't sure of how their future would unfold. But they were convinced that they could not stay where they were. The line had been crossed, and they felt the need to take action.

Since that time, many other churches have come into LCMC. Most of them tell a similar story, that a fundamental line was crossed at some point in their experience. They could no longer remain where they were; they were compelled to respond and take action.

Interestingly, the member churches in LCMC come from different backgrounds. Some are former ELCA churches. Others have come from the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod. And one has come into this association from the United Church of Christ. It was a congregation with strong Lutheran roots in its past, so joining LCMC has been a way of coming full circle for them. They are one of more than 200 congregations who are now members of this association. And they are all finding the freedom to serve their Lord and do the work of ministry that God has given them to do.

Where is the line in your life? We pray that God will help congregations to find the place where they need to be. Our work in LCMC is about toeing the line in service to Jesus Christ, for the glory of God. If that sounds good to you, I hope you'll take a longer look at us. May God bless your work.

Peace,
Pastor Larry Lindstrom
Chairman, LCMC Board of Trustees
August 25, 2009