

THE COVENANT
B E T W E E N
The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
Metropolitan Chicago Synod
A N D
The Roman Catholic Church
Archdiocese of Chicago

In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

Believing in the will of the Lord Jesus Christ that we "all may be one," recognizing our common baptism in the name of the Trinity, and encouraged by our common witness in worship and service as our people come together in faith, we, Joseph Cardinal Bernardin and Bishop Sherman G. Hicks, in the name of the members of our respective local communions solemnly enter into this Covenant.

We affirm:

that all unity comes from the unity of the Triune God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. We are called to make that given unity more visible among us.

that Jesus Christ, the living center of our faith, is the Saviour and Lord of the World.

that the desire of Christ is that the Church be one people brought together from all races, genders, languages and cultures.

that the life of grace is nourished by the Word of God we receive through the Scripture, sacraments, and the action of the Holy Spirit within the Church.

the rich diversity of ecclesial gifts which exist in the Catholic and Lutheran communions and the positive results of extensive theological dialogues which move us toward the goal of full communion.

that the Holy Spirit empowers us to overcome the separation which now exists in doctrine, sacramental life and church order, and is enabling us to achieve the full communion Christ desires for His Church.

Therefore we will:

jointly reflect on the Word of God and pray together in joint services.

pray for each other and for complete reconciliation of our communions as we celebrate the Eucharist in our respective communities.

strive toward the removal of impediments to the cause of unity.

work together for the common good and for peace and justice as an essential response to the Gospel.

encourage existing parish covenants and enable parishes to establish new ones.

encourage our pastoral leadership to cooperate on common matters of pastoral care.

actively collaborate in planning for effective ministry at the synodical, diocesan and parish levels through joint programs, training and use of facilities.

share, study, and discuss the results of the Lutheran/Roman Catholic Dialogues and their reception and the decisions made in our communions by national conferences of bishops, assemblies, and councils.

agree to review and renew each year our Covenant commitment.

We dedicate ourselves to these objectives and ask the blessing of our loving God on this Covenant that we may be faithful to it to the honor and glory of God.

Signed the thirteenth day of May, nineteen hundred and eighty-nine.