

Consensus

Volume 32

Issue 2 *Cultural Reception of the Gospel*

Article 5

5-1-2008

Introduction

Paul Bosch

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Recommended Citation

Bosch, Paul (2008) "Introduction," *Consensus*: Vol. 32 : Iss. 2 , Article 5.

Available at: <http://scholars.wlu.ca/consensus/vol32/iss2/5>

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Introduction

Eduard R. Riegert

Homiletical Editor

The sermons offered here in the continuing “Historical Series” (which features sermons by the leaders of the Evangelical Lutheran Church In Canada) were all preached in the year 2001. That year was a transitional year for the ELCIC. In July, both the National Convention of the ELCIC and the General Synod of the Anglican Church of Canada met simultaneously in Waterloo, Ontario. At the top of their agendas was the consideration of *The Waterloo Declaration* which set out the proposals for a relationship of “full communion” between the two Churches, which was understood to be ...

a relationship between two distinct churches or communions in which each maintains its own autonomy while recognizing the catholicity and apostolicity of the other, and believing the other to hold the essentials of the Christian faith. In such a relationship, communicant members of each church would be able freely to communicate at the altar of the other, and there would be freedom of ordained ministers to officiate sacramentally in either church. Specifically, in our context, we understand this to include transferability of members; mutual recognition and interchangeability of ministries; freedom to use each other’s liturgies; freedom to participate in each other’s ordinations and installations of clergy, including bishops; and structures for consultation to express, strengthen, and enable our common life, witness, and service, to the glory of God and the salvation of the world.¹

The *Declaration* was resoundingly accepted by both Churches and joyfully celebrated. On this high note National Bishop Telmor G. Sartison delivered his last official address to the Church, and, in the same breath, bade his farewell from that ministry and set the tone for the election of his successor (Historical Series, 13).

Later that year, on 15 September, Bishop Sartison preached at the installation of his successor, Bishop Raymond L. Schultz, as National Bishop (Historical Series, 14). But in these two months the world had shifted. On September 11, 2001 the World Trade Center in New York City was attacked and demolished, and the Pentagon in Washington

was attacked. The United States announced a “war on global terrorism.” Four days after the “Nine-Eleven” event the installation of Bishop Schultz as National Bishop took place. Because of “Nine-Eleven” the scheduled preacher, Bishop George Anderson, the head of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (the “mother Church” of the two bodies whose merger formed the ELCIC), was unable to come, and the Primate of the Anglican Church of Canada, Archbishop Michael Peers, was already committed. So, at the last minute, Bishop Telmor Sartison took up this responsibility. He recollects, “I knew I had something to say that was larger than our gathering but specific also to our gathering.”

In the fall of the year, on Reformation Sunday, National Bishop Raymond Schultz preached in All Saints Anglican Cathedral in Edmonton (Historical Series, 15). The festival and the venue gave him opportunity to imagine his way forward into the new realities created by the approval of *The Waterloo Declaration* in the context of a changed world.

In addition to the Historical Series we include two sermons, by ELCIC pastors Paul Bosch and Kevin Powell.

Notes

- ¹ This definition of “full communion” is taken from the study document prepared by the Joint Working Group of the Anglican Church of Canada and the Evangelical Lutheran Church In Canada in 1997 as part of an introduction to the full text of *The Waterloo Declaration* (Minutes of the Seventh Biennial Convention of the Evangelical Lutheran Church In Canada, July 7-11, 1999, Regina, Saskatchewan, pp. 189f.).