

Appendix A

The official position on "Status Confessionis" as adopted by the constituting convention of FAL on November 1-2, 1971. This declaration was originally intended to be used by those who wanted to become advisory members of FAL. Such advisory membership, however, was discarded by that convention.

A STATUS CONFSSIONIS DECLARATION

- For Members of the Lutheran Church--Missouri Synod.

- Whereas the LCMS in convention at Milwaukee, Wis. July 9-16, 1971 resolved to continue rather than terminate its unscriptural fellowship with the American Lutheran Church (See Res. 3:21)
- Whereas the LCMS in the same convention endorsed continuance of its false ecumenical trends, vis. refusal to withdraw from the Lutheran Council U.S.A. (See Res. 3:18), approval of using mission personnel from other denominations ("Seconding" Res. 1:09), request for review and evaluation of joining L.W.F. (Res. 3:06), N.C.C. and W.C.C. (Res. 3:07), and encouraging closer ties with the Lutheran Church in American (Res. 3:14)
- Whereas the LCMS in the same convention declined to tighten its control over the teaching of its pastors and professors (See Res. 2:21) and declined to take any disciplinary action against those pastors, professors and teachers who are advocating tolerance of differing theological opinions with respect to the doctrine of the Scriptures, Inerrancy, Inspiration, the Church and the Lord's Supper.
- Whereas the LCMS in the same convention has refused to correct the errors inherent in its "Mission Affirmations" and has given them further synodical standing through the adoption of the "Social Ministry Affirmations: which obliterate the Great Commission of our Lord (St. Matthew 28:19-20) by defining the salvation of mankind as "the restoration of all people to that kind of life, both here and hereafter for which they were created."
- Whereas the LCMS in the same convention has by the above actions revealed that it will continue to condone and practice unionism (Cfr. Brief Statement Article 28), contrary to the clear admonition of Holy Scripture in Romans 16:17, and further that it has now become a heterodox church body (Cfr. Brief Statement. Article 29) by accepting circumstances which tolerate the public teaching of error.
- Whereas public correction and repentance is necessary for orthodoxy to return, our continued membership in a heterodox body would be a denial of our scriptural position and confessional commitment
- the undersigned declare(s) that with these official resolutions the LCMS has broken the unity of faith and the fellowship of the church as it is enjoined upon us and required by the Holy Scriptures (I Cor. 1:10), the Lutheran Confessions (Formula of Concord, T.D.C.S. Tri. 850) and the LCMS Constitution (Art. III, Object No. 1 of Synod) - and has thereby become a heterodox and unionistic body.
- the undersigned herewith declare(s) themselves (him - or herself)
to be in the confessional state (in statu confessionis)

the undersigned understand(s) that the confessional state which they hereby enter obligates them for the sake of the Savior and His truth

1. to hold themselves (him- or herself) apart from these actions of the LC-MS and publicly testify against the errors in doctrine and practice which they involve.
2. to withhold financial support from the LC-MS and redirect it to causes confessing and practicing authentic Lutheranism.
3. to limit the practice of altar fellowship (commune) and pulpit fellowship (pulpit exchange) to those who have publicly adopted this Declaration.
4. to resolve the question of membership in the LC-MS since continuing membership in a heterodox body would be a denial of our Scriptural position and confessional commitment.
5. to inform the officers and constituents of the LC-MS of this declaration.

Signature:

_____ Pastor

_____ Teacher

_____ Layman

_____ Congregation

Address: _____

Appendix B

Pertinent resolutions adopted by the 4th annual convention of FAL on November 5-7, 1974 at North Hollywood, California.

1. Resolution posed by the Doctrinal Board concerning "Status Confessionis".

WHEREAS, when a Christian finds that the church body to which he belongs holds a position contrary to the Scriptures, he is bound by Scripture to bear witness against the error, that is, to enter into a state of confession. While in such a state of confession, he should commune within his church body only with others who are in the same state of confession. This particular confessional state concludes when he leaves the heterodox church to join an orthodox church body or to form a new orthodox church body, and

WHEREAS, the members of the FAL also followed these steps making a confession within the LC-MS and then withdrawing to form the Federation, and

WHEREAS, at the constituting convention the members of the Federation realized that in order to give a clear confessional witness to those of their former confession and those with whom they were entering fellowship, they could no longer work within the framework of status confessionis but had to work within the framework of a confessing church body, and

WHEREAS, some within the FAL have suggested we consider the matter of communing at our altars, individuals who are members of heterodox Lutheran church bodies, and

WHEREAS, communing members of heterodox church bodies not only confuses our witness, but could well lead those members of heterodox bodies to vascillate further in reaching a God-pleasing decision to leave the heterodox church body,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the position taken at the Libertyville convention be honored, namely that the pastors and congregations of the FAL be encouraged to uphold our confessional witness by not communing individuals who are outside of our publicly declared fellowship. Exceptions to be made in cases of casuistry.

2. Resolution regarding exodus from FAL.

It has been moved that any pastor and/or congregation who feels that he and/or it cannot bide by the rules of FAL (71) or is dissatisfied with the operating policies of the FAL should remove himself and/or itself from FAL in order to allow those remaining to get on with the Lord's work in unity.

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3. Rev. Heiderich moved in connection with the previous motion regarding pastors and/or congregations leaving FAL, that if and when these requests are presented they be granted a peaceful release.

Appendix C

Resolution adopted by the FAL Council
at Vero Beach, Florida on February 1,
1975.

A RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the FAL is a free association of Congregations who have agreed to carry out their God given responsibilities in an orderly manner, cf. I Cor. 14:40; and

WHEREAS, some member congregations and pastors have requested release from membership of the FAL while at the same time desiring to retain Altar and Pulpit Fellowship; and

WHEREAS, certain Doctrinal positions and practices which appear contrary to the position adopted by the FAL at Convention underlie the requests for these releases; and

WHEREAS, the FAL Fellowship with WELS and ELS is based upon our common position in Doctrine and Practice; and

WHEREAS, Altar and Pulpit Fellowship is recognized by the FAL and those with whom it is in doctrinal agreement, and not by those who are outside its Fellowship,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the FAL grant releases to those who have terminated membership, and with such release also declare that the Fellowship which we have enjoyed is also terminated;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we hereby recognize the necessity to discuss Altar and Pulpit Fellowship with those who have left us before a re-establishment of Fellowship can be declared.

Adopted by the FAL Council in session at
Vero Beach, Fla. February 1, 1975.

(signed)

John W. Tippin, Secretary

Appendix D

Appeal of the Feb. 1, 1975 FAL Council
Resolution, adopted by the congregations
and pastors loosely organized as the Con-
ference for Authentic Lutheranism (CAL) on
February 19, 1975 at North Hollywood, CA.

AN APPEAL TO RECENT FEDERATION COUNCIL ACTION

We confess:

1. that our doctrinal position is the same today as that which we held at the time of the inception of FAL
2. that our teaching and practices in the matter of altar and pulpit fellowship are identical with those of our sister synods, the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod and the Evangelical Lutheran Synod
3. that we are not asking for a "peaceful release" for doctrinal reason, but rather for the practical reasons of administration.

We condemn every form of selective fellowship and unionism as being contrary to both Holy Scripture and the Lutheran Confessions, and therefore, divisive of altar and pulpit fellowship.

We regret that the Federation Council of FAL has declared us to be no longer in altar and pulpit fellowship on the basis of "certain doctrinal positions and practices which appear contrary to the position adopted by FAL in convention" ^{current} underlie the requests for these releases (emphasis ours)." Certainly Christian love dictates the necessity of brotherly admonition, doctrinal discussion and a carefully written statement of charges before a termination of fellowship can be declared. Furthermore, Christian love would also permit the accused to answer any charges made against them before they were judged guilty.

We regret that the above-mentioned action of the FAL Council was taken without following the Biblical steps necessary when differences of doctrine and practice are in question (Mt. 18).

We regret that the above-mentioned action of the FAL Council was taken in contradiction to the unanimous decision expressed by the FAL in convention while the convention was fully cognizant of all statements made while the convention was in session.

An Appeal to Recent Federation Council Action
Feb. 19, 1975

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We regret that although the FAL Convention resolved:

"It has been moved that any pastor and/or congregation who feels that he and/or it cannot abide by the rules of FAL('71) or is dissatisfied with the operating policies of the FAL should remove himself and/or itself from FAL in order to allow those remaining to get on with the Lord's work in unity,"

and that subsequent to this action, the Chairman of the FAL Council formally notified in the name of the FAL those pastors and congregations requesting a peaceful release that their requests would be honored, only to discover that the FAL Council has now totally and unexplainably reversed these actions.

We plead with our brethren in FAL to rescind their resolution of February 1, 1975, and we further request that peaceful releases be given to all congregations and pastors requesting them on the basis of their dissatisfaction with the operating policies of FAL, according to the resolution which was unanimously adopted by a roll call vote on November 7, 1974 in North Hollywood, California.

We regret any confusion which may have come to our brethren in FAL through their misunderstanding of the reasons underlying our requests for peaceful releases.

February 19, 1975

St. Paul Lutheran Church and the Rev. Arthur E. Schmitt of
Escondido, California

St. Paul's First Lutheran Church and the Rev. Harry W. Marks of
North Hollywood, California

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church and the Rev. Edward W. Halverson of
Vallejo, California

Christ the King Lutheran Church and the Rev. Robert Yount of
Bell Gardens, California

Our Savior's Lutheran Church of Bishop, California (vacant)

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church and the Rev. Robert J. McMiller of
Okauchee, Wisconsin

Appendix E

Resolutions adopted by the FAL Convention on April 15-17, 1975 at Hillsboro, Oregon, pertaining to relations to those congregations who had voted to leave FAL. The wording below was taken directly from FAL's June 1975 "Letter to the Churches."

1. Rev. Voss moved the Convention set aside action of the Council terminating fellowship with the six congregations and pastors who have left us. The motion was seconded by Larry Marquardt and carried.
2. Resolved that until agreement be reached on the unresolved matter of Status Confessionis, action be held up on the North Hollywood Convention resolution to grant peaceful releases to FAL congregations who have requested them. Moved by Al Zander, seconded and carried.
3. And, be it furthermore resolved that the FAL acknowledges the withdrawal from membership of these congregations: Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Okauchee, Wisc.; Christ the King Lutheran Church, Bell Gardens, California; St. Paul Lutheran Church, Escondido, California; St. Paul's First Lutheran Church, North Hollywood, California; Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Vallejo, California; Our Savior Lutheran Church, Bishop, California, who have formally asked for a release, to be effected.
4. Rev. Dudley moved we ask WELS to host a conference consisting of representatives of WELS, ELS, FAL and those congregations who have left FAL, to discuss "Status Confessionis" and Communion practices. The motion was seconded and carried.

Appendix F

Resolutions adopted by the FAL Convention on April 15-17, 1975 at Hillsboro, Oregon, pertaining to the dissolution of FAL. The resolution that changed the constitutional requirement which made such dissolution a three month process with three separate meetings is not included.

RESOLUTION FOR MERGER WITH SISTER SYNOD

WHEREAS: the FAL was organized out of a concern to remain faithful to Christ's saving Gospel and to provide a "place to go" for congregations, pastors, teachers and individuals forced by conscience to leave their synods (because of heterodox positions being taken by their synods) and was to provide an opportunity to work together with those of their former fellowship; and

WHEREAS: the recent developments within the FAL (namely, the withdrawal of six congregations, inflation, the lack of new member congregations, the inability to fill congregations and mission vacancies, and the vast distances between our congregations); and

WHEREAS: there seems to be currently no hope that synods of our former membership will return to orthodox positions within the next few years; and

WHEREAS: The God blessed fellowship of the FAL with the ELS and WELS has provided us with the opportunity to see these two bodies working in faithful service to the Lord;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the FAL be dissolved by means of a merger with a sister synod, in accordance with Article XIV, section 3 of the constitution, as amended; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that no member congregation shall be hindered by the FAL from seeking membership in either of our sister synods.

RESOLUTION FOR DISSOLUTION OF FAL

WHEREAS: the FAL has, in special session here assembled, voted to merge with the WELS; and

WHEREAS: all matters of fellowship must be decided by a referendum of the congregations; .

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that

Should the congregations of the FAL approve the merger with the WELS by the required two thirds (2/3) majority voting in the referendum; and

Should the WELS assembled in its 1975 Convention approve the merger with the FAL;

That the FAL will be declared dissolved at the time of the merger and all the assets and liabilities of the FAL shall become the assets and liabilities of the WELS.

Appendix C

List of congregations and pastors which
were members of FAL in November, 1974.
Their present membership as of January 1,
1979 is in parentheses.

* denotes those congregations that with-
drew from FAL shortly after the November
1974 convention at North Hollywood, CA.

CALIFORNIA

- * Bell Gardens. Christ the King Luth. Church (ELS, present pastor:
Pastor Robert Yount (ELS) R.A. Moldstad.)
- * Bishop. Our Savior Luth. Church (ELS, present pastor, W.B. Kessel)
Vacant at the time.
- * Escondido. St. Paul Luth. Church (Indep.)
Pastor A.E. Schmitt (Indep.)
- Fallbrook. St. Stephen Luth. Church (WELS, present pastor: S.G.
Pastor Donald Heiderich (?) Kugler.)
- * North Hollywood. St. Paul's First Luth. Church (Indep.)
Pastor Harry W. Marks Jr. (WELS)
- * Vallejo. Good Shepherd Luth. Church (Indep.)
Pastor Edward W. Halverson (Indep.)
- Ventura. Wayfarer's Chapel (Indep.)
Pastor Alvin E. Wagner (Indep.)

FLORIDA

- Naples. Our Savior Lutheran Church (ELS)
Pastor George W. Price (ELS)
- Vero Beach. Grace Luth. Church (ELS)
Pastor Lewis C. Gerbhardt (ELS)

ILLINOIS

- Dundee. St. Andrews Luth. Church (WELS, present pastor: Peter B.
Vacant Mission in 1974. Prange.)

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ILLINOIS (Cont.)

Libertyville. St. John's Luth. Church (WELS)
Pastor R. James Voss (WELS)

Round Lake. St. Paul Luth. Church (WELS)
Pastor Martin C. Lopahs (WELS)

INDIANA

Crown Point. Faith Luth. Church (Mission in 1974 which WELS took over in 1975. Present pastor: R.H. Schleicher.)

Indianapolis. Grace Luth Church (WELS)
Pastor Lester M. Hieber (WELS)

Kokomo. Faith Luth. Church (WELS, present pastor: Charles Papenfuss.)
Pastor Peter B. Prange (WELS)

OREGON

Drain. Christ Luth. Mission (an extension of the Sutherlin cong. that is now non-existent)

Hillsboro. Grace Luth. Church (Indep.)
Pastor Thomas E Dudley (Indep.)

Myrtle Creek. St. Matthew Luth. Church (ELS, present pastor, W.G. Pultz.)
Vacant at the time.

Roseburg. St. Matthew Luth. Church (no longer a separate cong. apparently the differences with the Myrtle Creek cong. were resolved.)

Sutherlin. Christ Luth. Church (ELS, present pastor: K. Schmidt)
Pastor Victor L. Starbuck (WELS)

WISCONSIN

* Okauchee. Holy Trinity Luth. Church (ELS)
Pastor Robert J. McMiller (ELS)

Watertown. St. John. Luth. Church (WELS)
Pastors Eugene Kauffeld and Kenneth Weber (WELS)

WEST INDIES

Antigua. St. John's Luth Church (WELS, present pastor: D. Beckman.)
Pastor Donald. E. Burch (?)

Bibliography

- Marquardt, Kurt E. Anatomy of an Explosion. Missouri in Lutheran Perspective. Fort Wayne, Indiana: Concordia Theological Seminary Press, 1977.
- Wagner, Alvin E. "Confessional Declaration." Evangelical Directions For The Lutheran Church, 1970.