



A COVENANT

between

The Diocese of Charlotte and the Diocese of Raleigh Roman Catholic Church

and

The Synod of North Carolina Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of 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, we, Bishop Peter J. Jugis, Bishop Luis R. Sarama, and Bishop Timothy M. Smith, in the name of the members of our respective dioceses and synod, solemnly enter into this Covenant affirming:

that inasmuch as 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 the Word of God in the teachings and the sacraments of the Church gives saving grace and faith;

that the living center of faith is the Word made flesh, Jesus Christ the Son of God, crucified for our sins and raised from the dead, the Lord and Savior of the world;

that in Christ, God was reconciling the world, calling all races, cultures, and nations to be built up in Christ's body, the Church, until all attain to the unity of the faith; and,

that through the rich diversity of gifts which exist in the Roman Catholic and Lutheran communions, and our extensive bilateral dialogues, the Holy Spirit is moving and empowering us to overcome the separation which now exists in sacramental life, church order, and doctrine, and enabling us to achieve the full communion Christ desires for the Church.

Therefore, with confidence in the triumph of the Gospel, we will:

1. Pray for each other as we celebrate the Eucharist in our respective communions and, in anticipation of the time when we will celebrate the Eucharist together, ask God to hasten our complete reconciliation;
2. Pray together in joint services, on the diocesan/synodical and local levels;
3. Continue joint observances, such as the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, the World Day of Prayer, Lenten Devotions, and Annual Dialogues;
4. Invite official observers to diocesan/synodical councils, assemblies, etc.
5. Appoint liaisons between diocesan/synodical ministries, institutions, agencies, committees, and task forces that share similar concerns, and where appropriate, share facilities and literature;
6. Take deliberate steps to enable parishes to establish local covenants;
7. Reflect on the Word of God in shared programs for study of the Scriptures and basic Christian theology and ethics;
8. Provide ways for better understanding and appreciating each other's heritage and beliefs;
9. Share, study, and discuss the results of the Roman Catholic/Lutheran Dialogues and their reception, and the decisions made in our communions by national conferences of bishops, assemblies, and councils;
10. Collaborate actively at the diocesan/synodical level in planning and conducting training programs for more effective ministry;
11. Communicate and work together at the parish level on matters of common pastoral concern;
12. Cooperate in programs for bringing Christian principles to bear on local, national, and world problems in order to counter injustice and alleviate suffering;
13. Continue and expand close working relationships between the bishops and their staffs;
14. Promote social events that bring the members of each communion into formal settings to foster personal contacts and to deepen mutual appreciation of common hopes, desires, and needs as the people of God;
15. Strive toward the removal of impediments to the cause of unity, and place no impediment in the way of reunion;
16. Establish a Covenant Committee of Roman Catholic and Lutheran lay persons and clergy that will (a) lead in actualizing this Covenant; (b) annually review and reaffirm it; and (c) report annually to our respective dioceses and synod.

We dedicate ourselves to these objectives, and pray that we may be faithful to this Covenant to the honor and glory of God's Name.

+ Peter J. Jugis

Most Reverend Peter J. Jugis, J.C.D.
Bishop of Charlotte
Diocese of Charlotte Roman Catholic Church
March 29, 2019

+ Luis R. Sarama

Most Reverend Luis R. Sarama, J.C.L.
Bishop of Raleigh
Diocese of Charlotte Roman Catholic Church
March 29, 2019

+ Timothy M. Smith

Reverend Dr. Timothy M. Smith, D.Min.
Bishop of North Carolina Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
March 29, 2019