

“Called to Confess”

(A Free Conference of Confessing Pastors and Laity of the NOW District)

June 1, 2006

Dear Brothers in Christ:

Lord Acton (1834-1902), speaking of political power, said: “power corrupts, and absolute power corrupts absolutely.” Although our work together involves politics (i.e., “the art or science of [synodical] government”), such joint work in the Synod is established and carried out using a doctrinal standard which “accepts without reservation: 1. The Scriptures of the Old and New Testament as the written Word of God and the only rule and norm of faith and practice; 2. All the Symbolical Books of the Evangelical Lutheran Church as a true and unadulterated statement and exposition of the Word of God ...” Hence, every member of Synod seeks to guard against Lord Acton’s epic warning by binding their conscience to the Word of God “as the only rule and norm of doctrine and practice.” When this is done we meticulously try to accomplish Synod’s important objectives in both the kingdom of power and the kingdom of grace in a God pleasing manner. Sometimes, in our zeal to right what we perceive as an abuse of power, we are tempted to go beyond Scripture and reason in addressing matters. When this happens, members of Synod are ***Called to Confess*** the Scriptures and the Confessions in defense of truth and justice for the sake of good order and the glory of God.

In an effort to aid our beloved Synod in biblically addressing one such zealous action taken to stop dissensions and promote harmony, ***Called to Confess*** has prepared another bulletin insert for you and the royal priests in your charge. This insert deals with “Power in the Holy Christian Church,” the second talking point highlighted in our previous tri-fold mailing dealing with issues troubling our Synod. The insert was written by Pastor James Jenson. We thank Pastor Jenson for his contribution on this important subject and we hope that it will aid our Synod as we strive together to do our Lord’s will.

As always, we solicit your prayers and support in these troubled days as we seek to be led by the source of all doctrine and practice in the Church: Holy Writ. As we stated in our previous correspondence:

In love we have endeavored to put the best construction of the actions of others and we have consciously avoided pointing fingers at anyone. We simply see ourselves as ***Called to Confess***. And “*in love*,” we pray that, if we are in error, you would “*in love*,” show us our error from Scripture and the Lutheran Confessions.

If you do not agree with the positions stated here, we ask that you at least consider the arguments and put the best construction on our actions, our motivation, and our concern to fulfill the great commission by “*teaching them to observe all things I have commanded you*” (Matt. 28:20). Our goal is not division, but that once again our Synod be united under the teachings of our Lord Jesus Christ as confessed in the Lutheran Confession. May God bless you and lead you to recognize that all of us are ***Called to Confess***.

To contact us or request an electronic version of this “Power in the Holy Christian Church” or any of our previous insets, send a note to: CalledToConfess@yahoo.com, or you may download copies of each at www.scholia.net/lcms_items.htm.

Laboring together in the vineyard of our Lord, we remain ***Called to Confess***.