



## Sept Meeting Summary

- Council for Reform (CORE) convocation
- 1100 – 1200 attendees (they expected 400)
- Representing 44 states plus Canada & Brazil
- Three other Puget Sound Churches attending
  - St Marks Lutheran Church, Seattle  
Pastor Victor Langford III
  - Pilgrim Lutheran Church, Puyallup  
Pastor Gary Jeppsen
  - Peninsula Lutheran Church, Gig Harbor  
President Ron Coen



## Meeting Themes

- 1) The ELCA church wide assembly actions were not confessional.
- 2) Even so, the debate about whether to remain in, or leave, the ELCA is not easy to resolve. Either approach can serve as a basis for faithful witness to God's call.
- 3) CORE would not demand that any person or church that wants to join it must leave the ELCA.



## Formal Actions

- Draft Constitution approved
- Steering Committee authorized to continue in place through 2010
- Steering Committee authorized to prepare financial plan for 2010
- Steering Committee authorized to prepare financial plan for 2011



## Conclusion

- By the end of the convocation, it was clear that those in attendance overwhelmingly support the idea of an independent North American Synod to compete with the ELCA and perform most of the same synodical functions, primarily:
  - Tracking pastoral openings and candidates
  - Operating a Seminary
  - Providing insurance and retirement for pastors



# November Meeting

- Organized by Word Alone
- Lakewood WA
- About 350 attendees
- November 21, 2009



# Speakers

- Ron Hoyum – Asst to Bishop SW Synod
  - “While I am personally opposed . . .”
- Gary Jeppsen – Pastor of Living Word – Puyallup
  - “My church voted – and split”
- Lori Hoyum – Pastor of Port Madison LC
  - “The ELCA is wrong and we should leave”
- Ron Coen – CORE rep
  - “CORE will accept churches who leave ELCA and churches the remain in the ELCA”



## For discussion

- Leave the ELCA?
- Belong to both ELCA and some other group?
- Ignore it (many congregations are unaware of what has been happening)
- Redirect benevolence away from the ELCA?
- What do we want from a national synod?
- What is the best place for us to be?