



NORTHEASTERN IOWA SYNOD

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA

Office of the Bishop
201 20th Street SW, P.O. Box 804, Waverly, Iowa 50677-0804 319/352-1414 FAX 319/352-1416

June 22, 2010

Mr. Aaron Opperman
206 W. Mission St.
Strawberry Point IA 52076

Dear Mr. Opperman:

On June 16, 2010, I received from Sarah Cummer, Council Secretary, the official notice of Emanuel's vote to initiate the process to consider terminating its relationship with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. I know that you are in a time of prayer and discernment and I welcome the opportunity to consult with you about this important decision.

The first Sunday that I would be available for consultation is Sunday, September 12, 2010. It may be possible to schedule a consultation on a Saturday. However, I know that you join me in wanting to make this as accessible as possible. The wisdom of the council and you know what would be best for Emanuel.

On another matter, I have a pastor who knows Emanuel well and is available to serve as an interim pastor. If you would like his name, we will be happy to make the connection.

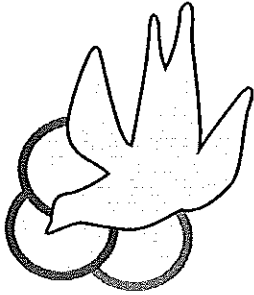
Blessings on this journey.

In Christ,

The Rev. Dr. Steven L. Ullestad
Bishop

cc: Pastor Jason Cooper

JUN 16 2010



Emanuel Lutheran Church

"God with us in Christ's Spirit; a compassionate community serving in love!"

305 Elkader St.
PO Box 236
Strawberry Point, Iowa 52076
563-933-4518

June 14, 2010

Bishop Steven Ullestad
Northeastern Iowa Synod – ELCA
PO Box 804
Waverly IA 50677

Dear Bishop Ullestad,

This letter is to inform you that Emanuel Lutheran Church, Strawberry Point, Iowa had a special congregation meeting on Sunday, June 6, 2010 following worship. Voting members were asked to vote for or against the following motion:

"Emanuel Lutheran Church, Strawberry Point, Iowa terminate our relationship with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) and transfer congregational affiliation to Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ (LCMC)".

There were 120 voting members present who signed in and voted with a written ballot. The results of the vote: 92 voting members voted in favor of the motion and 28 voting members voted against the motion. The motion carried with a 77% majority. A letter to the voting members has also been sent communicating these results.

In accordance with Emanuel's constitution and bylaws, our congregation will be waiting no less than 90 days before holding the second required vote. We will also be contacting you to schedule a time for conversation/consultation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sarah Cummer".

Sarah Cummer, Congregation/Council Secretary
Emanuel Lutheran Church



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Office of the Bishop
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May 26, 2010

Aaron Opperman
206 W. Mission St.
Strawberry Point, IA 52076

Dear Mr. Opperman,

Thank you for informing the Northeastern Iowa Synod that Emanuel Lutheran Church has scheduled a congregational meeting for June 6 to begin the process to terminate their relationship with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. I am enclosing some information from the Secretary of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America that outlines and summarizes the necessary constitutional considerations for this meeting.

As your church council plans for the congregational meeting, please note the following:

1. Prior to the meeting, the church council prepares a list of members eligible to vote.
2. At the meeting, members eligible to vote register by signing-in next to their name on the list.
3. A written ballot would be appropriate.
4. A two-thirds majority is determined by the number of registered voting members present at the meeting; not by the total number of votes cast.

The Model Constitution for the Congregations of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America defines voting members: **C8.02.c. Voting members are confirmed members. Such confirmed members, during the current or preceding calendar year, shall have communed in this congregation and shall have made a contribution of record to this congregation. Members of this congregation who have satisfied these basic standards shall have the privilege of voice and vote at every regular and special meeting of the congregation.*

At some point in the termination process a congregation has to vote by two-thirds at a special meeting to affiliate somewhere or to declare itself independent. See *C7.03. and *C7.04. in the Model Constitution for Congregations. This resolution must be separate from the resolution to terminate relationship with the ELCA, although the two can be voted on at the same special meeting if the proper notice has been given.

May God's Spirit guide the decisions of Emanuel Lutheran Church.

Sincerely,

Linda J. Hudgins
Assistant to the Bishop

cc: Rev. Jason Cooper