



Lessons from History

To embrace the new and yet try to look back is both unwise and dangerous. I discovered personally that although Our Saviour's officially left the ELCA the beginning of June [2002], I was already "gone" at least by April [of that year.] I found the WordAlone portion of the conventions at North Heights to be less than inspiring. I no longer had much confidence that either in the long run or short run much will happen to change the ELCA. Genuine protest has been marginalized already, the momentum has been lost, and the message is scarcely being heard. Human institutions are reluctant to ever admit they have made a mistake, let alone turn around in the other direction. Consider this historical lesson.

In 1616, the Roman Catholic church banned Copernicus' view of the universe and followed this up by the trial of Galileo in 1633. Time has proven these decisions to have been totally in error. Yet in 1992, the Vatican established a Galileo Commission with the hope to discover whatever wrongs or errors had occurred in 1633, "from whatever side they come." Ironically the final report did not really resolve anything. There was some admission that the church theologians may have made crucial errors in the case, but a full admission of error and wrongdoing still did not happen -- and it took only 376 years to get even that smallest concession.

Perhaps that means that sometime around 2370 AD, some ELCA theological commission might conclude that some mistakes were made regarding CCM (perhaps). But by then, who will care?

Our Saviour's and I face a new future -- there is no looking back. We now belong to LCMC and, in all likelihood, will decide in January to end our relationship with WordAlone, at least formally. LCMC is where our future is in Christ; WordAlone, though it gave the impetus for this new life, has now become a part of the past. So with our prayers we go our separate ways. Such it often is in life, and in faith.

In Christ alone,
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