

Floor Committee 04: Commission on Inter-Church Relations

Subject: The Work of the CICR

Reference: *Book of Reports and Memorials*, p. 25-31

Report No. 01

The Commission on Inter-Church Relations (CICR) is to “serve under the Conference of Presidents by representing the synod in doctrinal discussions with other church bodies who are, or are not, in fellowship with the synod” and to “keep itself informed on the doctrinal trends in other church bodies.”

The fruits of the CICR's labors are on display at this convention. We rejoice at the declaration of fellowship with three confessional Lutheran church bodies and sponsorship of their membership in the Confessional Evangelical Lutheran Conference. We encourage the CICR to continue their efforts to recognize or establish unity of doctrine and practice with faithful church bodies around the world. Their current efforts range from US territories to Europe, from Africa to the Far East. While faithfulness to Scripture at times results in termination of fellowship with erring church bodies, we see the fundamental work of the CICR as one that seeks to recognize and celebrate the fellowship that comes from God-pleasing doctrinal agreement. The CICR's work with the ELS and the CLC and the resulting "Joint Statement" demonstrate the evangelical and faithful nature of their efforts.

We commend the informal meetings held with the leadership of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod and encourage such meetings to continue.

Our synod thanks the members of the CICR who have completed two terms of service: Prof. Ken Cherney and Pastor Peter Prange. Their work has been a blessing to us and to our brothers and sisters in faith around the world.

Pastor Jonathan E. Schroeder, chairman

Teacher Bradley R. Bendix, secretary