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Faithful Transitions Blog: Two Basic Situations

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The people who are concerned about the direction of the ELCA – including both lay and clergy -- find themselves in many different situations. These varying circumstances present them with unique questions and concerns that shape their thoughts about the future. However, having had literally hundreds of conversations with concerned individuals from across the country since the ELCA churchwide assembly in August, we have found that these circumstances fall into two basic categories:

Situation #1: Those who want to leave the ELCA, and are willing and able to do so immediately.

Situation #2: Those who want to leave the ELCA, and (for many different reasons) are unable to do so at the present time.

We recognize that most of our friends and allies will find themselves in one of these two basic positions.* When discussing and forming a practical plan for how individuals and congregations ought to proceed in the next months, it is important that people consider which of these two basic situations they find themselves in. In some cases, this first step may be one of the hardest; it will require a realistic appraisal of one's own local circumstances.

As was the case in the formation of LCMC nine years ago, this will require us to use a "two-prong" strategy to address those who will be leaving the ELCA, as well as those who will be staying for the near future.

In order to provide assistance at the present time, the WordAlone Network and LCMC will be focusing more on helping people in Situation #1, while Lutheran CORE will be focusing more on those in Situation #2. In the months ahead we will be very intentional about keeping communication open between people in both situations, as well as providing mutual support.

** Of course, there are many who are pleased with the recent decisions of the ELCA, or who are content (or resigned) to stay with the denomination regardless of its direction or teachings. These are probably not the people who would be interested in any advice we have to offer here.*

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