



“...that all of them  
may be one!”

**May 16, 2010**

*Working Towards UNITY in the  
Body of Christ*

This petition of Jesus (St. John 17:21) was at the heart of His “High Priestly Prayer” in today’s Gospel. Why would unsaved people want to be “one with the Christ” when Christ’s representatives on earth (the Church and churches) are so divided?

Our own Synod passed a resolution at a recent convention “to initiate a specific plan for the sake of the whole church to restore harmony in our Synod” and present “a strategy toward harmony that demonstrates how this great church body can provide a God-pleasing witness of our confession and practice.”

As a task force addressed this assignment, it identified “seven aspects of disharmony in the LCMS:” 1. Inability to deal with diversity; 2. A lack of civility; 3. A politicized culture; 4. Primarily a clergy problem; 5. Poor communication across “party lines;” 6. Lack of accountability; and 7. Distrust.

### **For Thought, Reflection and Discussion**

What “aspects of disharmony” are present here at Fairlawn? In our community?

The loving unity that exists between Father God and Jesus Christ models the desired unity between Lutheran and Lutheran, between Christian and Christian, between Christian and non-Christian. This unity is not invisible. It shows. It is effective in convincing Christian and non-Christian of the Father’s love and His desire to include all people in His Kingdom. The badge of such unity is love, love of Christian for Christian, love of Christian for non-Christian. As Jesus says in Jn. 17:23, “*May they be brought to complete unity to let the world know that You sent me and have loved them even as You have loved Me.*”