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DIVORCE COURT
IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF ST. LOUIS

In the case of:)	Judgment in Marital
)	Dissolution Case No. 1530
Recent converts to The LCMS from)	
American Evangelicalism)	DEPT: 3
(hereinafter referred to as)	
"Confessors"))	
)	
v.)	
)	
Those Who Yearn to Be American)	
Evangelicals But Won't Voluntarily)	
Leave The LCMS (hereinafter)	
referred as "Facilitators").)	
_____)	

The court, after hearing all of the theological and historical evidence marshalled by Confessors, and the sincere testimonials shared by Facilitators, hereby decrees that a divorce based on irreconcilable differences is granted. In short, the parties live in different solar systems. Division of property and assets to be as follows:

1. The Book of Concord is awarded to Confessors where it will be studied. The court notes in passing that Facilitators made no objection with respect to this asset, displaying (to be

1 charitable) a vague knowledge of the content or value of this
2 work in any event. The court points out that witnesses for
3 Facilitators testified at trial that Luther's Small Catechism
4 had been "shoved down their throats" for years even though the
5 content of that which supposedly was shoved could not be
6 articulated upon cross-examination by counsel for Confessors.
7 Thus the court finds that an award of the Book of Concord to
8 Facilitators would constitute a "waste" as defined under Civil
9 Code § 2929.

10 2. Facilitators to receive all right, title and interest
11 to the 1991 Clavinova Piano (with accordion and reggae options)
12 as requested. The court wishes to publicly admonish Confessors
13 for their characterization at trial of said instrument as "in
14 the Las Vegas Kit Kat Lounge style" as disruptive of the court's
15 effort during proceedings to maintain judicial decorum.

16 3. Confessors to retain right, title and interest to The
17 Divine Service, the pipe organ, the liturgical church calendar,
18 and the theological section of the pastor's library.
19 Facilitators raised no objection to these requests, except to
20 specially petition the court for the award of all books on
21 counseling, church growth and family systems ministries.
22 Receiving no opposition, these works are awarded to
23 Facilitators. Confessors also provided no opposition to the
24 award of all Promise Keepers materials to facilitators, which
25 this court ascertained to be developed by or for athletes.
26 While the court is somewhat unclear as to Confessors' intentions
27 on this point, the court does find that Confessors conceded in
28 open court that this material and any and all materials

1 reflecting a theology of glory may be awarded to Facilitators
2 without further notice to Confessors.

3 4. Confessors conceded to Facilitators (and the court
4 notes to confessors' credit that they did so cheerfully) all
5 right, title and interest in all variations of "youth services"
6 and Maranatha Praise and Chorus Books. In addition, confessors
7 conceded to facilitators all rights in any songs that: (1) have
8 hand or body motions associated with them; or (2) result in
9 applause after being performed. However, the court must note
10 that Confessors are entitled to no credit for this aspect of the
11 marital property division for the value of said items because of
12 repeated admissions by Confessors in court that said items had
13 depreciation value only, with said depreciation alleged by
14 Confessors to have commenced at least twenty years ago.

15 5. Confessors are awarded the Lutheran Hymnbooks (i.e.,
16 TLH and LW). The court awards these to Confessors pursuant to
17 the legal doctrine of "adverse possession," namely that
18 Facilitators had abandoned an informed use of these same assets
19 for the duration of the five year statutory period. The court
20 notes, as an aside, that the Book of Concord and the terms
21 "catechesis," "doctrine," or "sola(s)" could also have been
22 awarded to Confessors on the basis of the doctrine of "adverse
23 possession." While Facilitators vehemently maintained that they
24 had shared certain confessional documents in small nurture
25 groups within the last five years, the court specifically finds
26 that works by Carl George, Tony Campolo, Youth Specialties, Max
27 Lucado, M. Scott Peck, and Frank Perretti are (contrary to
28 Facilitators' argument) not confessional in nature.

1 6. With no objection from Confessors, Facilitators are
2 awarded sole right to usage of the following terms or phrases:
3 a. "Serendipity" and its accompanying "empty chair"
4 concept;
5 b. "Meta, mega, or parachurch model(s)";
6 c. "Female elders;"
7 d. "Relational" and/or "Care and Share Group
8 Studies" or any variation of the same;
9 e. "Contemporary service(s)," "Youth Conventions,"
10 and "seeker-sensitive worship"; and
11 f. "Empowering," "enabling," "ownership," and
12 "share."

13 7. Finally the court grants Facilitators' request for
14 custody of the computer software programs entitled "How to
15 Create a Service in 20 Minutes on Thursday Night" and "10 New
16 and Creative Confessions and Absolutions."

17 8. In summation, the court notes that the principal real
18 property asset is left unadjudicated by this judgment -- namely,
19 the church sanctuary. Facilitators appeared to take
20 contradictory positions on this asset. First they argued that
21 they outnumber Confessors and therefore are entitled to such an
22 award. However, testimony also established that Facilitators'
23 commitment is directed toward mid-week small group gatherings in
24 homes and assuring young people that they will be "heard and
25 understood."

26 9. Though perhaps less in numbers, Confessors' testimony
27 evidenced a commitment to utilizing certain fixed assets of the
28 church -- namely, the pulpit, font and alter. This court,

1 however, chooses to leave such a division for the future and
2 only suggests that an equitable apportionment might be to award
3 the pulpit, font and altar to Confessors, with Facilitators
4 retaining what's left, including all bulletin inserts and the
5 Youth Room.

6 Let the Judgment issue.

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8 JUDGE OF THE DIVORCE COURT
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