LaHurd Part IV Key Issues in Acting with the Other

Lutherans and Religious Pluralism

Northwest Synod of Wisconsin's Lay School of Ministry

11-12 November 2011 Carol Schersten LaHurd, Ph.D.

IV. Key Issues in Acting with the Other

A. Not "Should," But "How" We Work Together with Other Faith Traditions on Social Issues

- 1. Christian calling to serve the neighbor
- 2. civil society building

B. Challenges and Pitfalls

- 1. lack of initiative, vision, leadership, funding
- 2. countering media misinformation
- 3. stopping short of authentic grassroots relationship-building
- 4. failure to acknowledge inter-religious differences

C. What Lutherans and All Christians Might Do to Build Mature Relationships with Religious Others

- 1. initiate a dialogue group
- 2. facilitate transformation through experiential learning
- 3. move beyond mere tolerance to mature relationships

D. Opportunities and Reasons for Hope

- 1. shared commitments
- 2. "the big Shift"
- 3. interest at all levels of ELCA