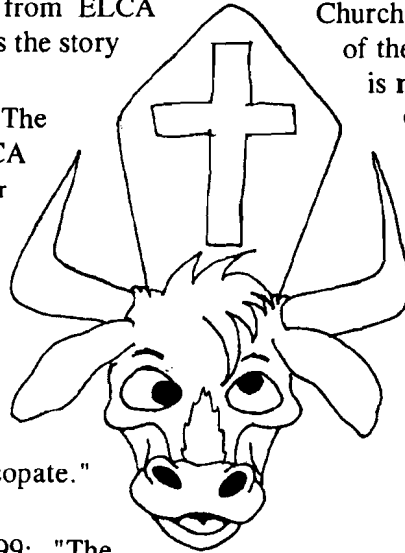


Hoof-in-Mouth Disease Spreads

Infected Leaders. Better watch out at your Spring 2001 Synod Assembly for signs of hoof-in-mouth disease. Seems as if all 65 bishops have been struck with the inability to talk straight about CCM. Whenever the topic comes up, they talk around, around, and around. Who can keep up with the latest spin from ELCA headquarters? Just look at how many times the story has changed:

- Bishop Anderson. January 1997: The Concordat "**does not** commit the ELCA to adopt the historic episcopate" (Letter to ELCA member).
- 37 ELCA bishops. June 29, 1997: "We are **not bound** to allegiance to an historic episcopate." (Letter to all Churchwide Assembly delegates).
- Bishop Anderson. November 1997: "If the goal is full communion, then it **must include** the historic episcopate." (ELCANEWS 11/24/97).
- Judge Dale Sandstrom. August 1999: "The Tucson Resolution is **binding** and **incorporated** by



reference and thereby **binding** by the action of both this Church and The Episcopal Church." (Address to the 1999 Churchwide Assembly).

- Lowell Almen, ELCA Secretary. Fall 1999: "The Tucson resolution **was not voted on** by the ELCA Churchwide Assembly and thus the national secretary of the ELCA [Lowell Almen] has clarified that it is **not part** of the amendment to paragraph 3 of CCM and that the Episcopal Church is **not being asked to vote on it.**" (CCM: *Questions Answered* available at www.ecusa.anglican.org/ecumenism/ccmoutline.html, p.20.)

A Deadly Blight. It's hard being a bishop when the official spin changes 180° every few months. What to do? Deal with the real issues? Hardly. Just smile and shake hands with lots of folks.

