On March 10 and 11 the Coalition Council of the Evangelical Coalition for Mission in Appalachia (ELCMA) met in Pittsburgh, PA to review the Report of the Appalachia Consultation. After a review of the report and much deliberation the decision was made to begin an orderly dissolution of ELCMA.

When ELCMA was formed in 1990 the goal was to have an organization that was financially independent. As such an Endowment Fund was started with the goal of $1,000,000 gathered from grassroots supporters. We have not come even close to this goal. Twenty five years later we face rapidly decreasing financial support from synods, the loss of guaranteed funding from the ELCA, and stagnant giving from individuals and congregations. While there are enough funds to drag us through another year or two it was felt that it was time to dissolve the organization.

The ELCMA Assembly scheduled for May 5-7 will be held in East Liverpool, Ohio, giving us an opportunity to celebrate the past work and ministry of ELCMA and say goodbyes. Following the Assembly the present Coalition Council will begin an orderly dissolution to be completed in 2014.

A Task Force has been promised by the ELCA-Congregational and Synodical Mission Unit to design ministry in the Appalachian Region for the future. We hold them to that promise and trust that you as the people of Appalachia will be part of that process.

Thank you for your many years of support. You have made a difference for many people.

In Christ,

Rev Wayne R Kaufman
Chair, ELCMA Coalition Council.

Rev Daniel May
Interim Coordinator, ELCMA