

DOCTRINAL STATEMENTS AND THEOLOGICAL OPINIONS (DSTO)

VOLUME 1

G. INTER-DENOMINATIONAL COOPERATION – CHURCH MOVEMENTS

Billy Graham campaign

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Not edited.

- a. We acknowledge that God has used Dr Graham – as far as we can judge – in many parts of the world for His gracious purposes.
- b. We agree that Dr Graham has been a great blessing to many people and churches; also that he reaches with the Gospel message people whom the churches hardly ever reach.
- c. We therefore recommend that our pastors and people pray that God would use this campaign to His own glory and the salvation of souls.
- d. We cannot, however, recommend participation or co-operation of our pastors and congregations in Dr Graham's campaign. Dr Graham does not proclaim the Gospel in its whole truth and purity. He expresses no adequate view of the Sacraments, particularly of Baptism. And he stresses man's act of decision in such a way that the work of the Holy Spirit in conversion is not given its proper scope.
- e. Participation in the preliminary prayer meetings and cooperation in the campaign can hardly avoid compromise of the truth or entanglement in unionism. Cf Theses of Agreement II, Joint Prayer and Worship.
- f. We cannot, however, prevent individuals from attending any of Dr Graham's rallies – that must be left to their conscience. Theses of Agreement II.10.
- g. We urge pastors to busy themselves with the theological issues involved in taking part in such a campaign as that of Dr Graham and to instruct their congregations clearly on the difference between the Lutheran Church and evangelistic campaigners in the understanding of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

- h. Self-evidently, pastors will treat any contacts channelled to them through Dr Graham's campaign with the same pastoral care and concern that their office requires from them for other contacts.
- i. Dr Graham's work poses a serious question to us: What are the inadequacies of our own preaching and evangelistic work?