

**Kelly A. Fryer. Reclaiming the L Word: Renewing the Church
from Its Lutheran Core.
(Augsburg Fortress Publishers, 2003).**

Reclaiming the L Word at Hosanna

1. How is it possible for a whole group of people – a family, congregation or country – to agree on “the most important things.”? What difference does it make when a group shares a clear set of beliefs in common? If we want to change our mission statement at Hosanna, how would we go about it?

2. What is your response to the five guiding principles? Do they need to be re-worked to fit our situation? How can we incorporate them in what we do so that they really become “guides”?

- 1. Jesus is Lord**
- 2. Everyone is Welcome**
- 3. Love Changes People**
- 4. Everybody Has Something to Offer**
- 5. The World Needs What We Have**

3. What things too often become “lord” in our congregation? What could we CHANGE around here that would make people mad, even if we did it for a good reason?

4. If our church were to confess “Jesus is Lord” and really mean it, what are some of the things we might have to give up, or take on, or do differently?

5. How welcoming is our church? Can you think of someone who would NOT be welcome here? What can we do to change that?

6. Where are you on the spiritual “depth gauge”? A wader? A swimmer? A deep sea diver? A life guard? What is your church doing to help you, and others, follow Jesus into deeper waters?

7. Is everything fine here the way it is? Or do we need to re-envision what it means to be a pastor? A member of the church? A follower of Jesus?

8. Who are the “others” in our community, the ones Jesus wants to use us – and our church – to reach? What dreams do you think God has for our church? Think big!!