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**Delta Dental Plan of Minnesota Selected as ELCA Board of Pensions’
2005 Health Care Partner of the Year**

Delta Dental Plan of Minnesota is First “Repeat” Winner

EAGAN, MINN. (March 29, 2006) — Delta Dental Plan of Minnesota (Delta Dental) announced today that it has been awarded the *2005 Health Care Partner of the Year* by the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America’s (ELCA) Board of Pensions. Delta Dental first received the award in 2003 for the 2002 calendar year. Delta Dental administers dental benefits for ELCA Board of Pensions’ 19,700 health plan members nationwide.

“Delta Dental has once again provided excellent customer service to our plan members and health care advocates,” said John Kapanke, president of ELCA Board of Pensions. “Delta Dental’s dedication and service has helped to strengthen our partnership and ultimately our relationship with our plan members. These factors were important considerations in our selection of Delta Dental as our 2005 Health Care Partner of the Year.”

The ELCA Board of Pensions created the award in 2002 as part of an organization-wide effort to develop stronger partnerships with its vendors and create an environment that results in exceptional service and advocacy for its members. The selection criteria included a comprehensive review of service quality, performance guarantees, interactions with account management staff, proactive communication on issues, responsiveness to inquiries and overall professionalism.

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“We are delighted to have been selected for this honor again,” said Mark Moksnes, executive vice president of sales and marketing at Delta Dental Plan of Minnesota. “I am very proud of our employees and especially those that work closely with the ELCA Board of Pensions’ staff. We are grateful for this recognition.”

“Delta Dental places a considerable emphasis on relationships and providing unmatched service to our members and customers,” continued Moksnes. “We would especially like to thank Dan Larsen and Kris Dunn for their individual contributions and dedication to the Board of Pensions.”

To celebrate the special recognition, the ELCA Board of Pensions will host an award celebration dinner for key account management and cater a luncheon for customer service staff at Delta Dental. In addition, the ELCA Board of Pensions will provide Delta Dental with a letter of recommendation to be used with potential business clients.

About Delta Dental Plan of Minnesota

An innovator in oral health benefit plans, Delta Dental Plan of Minnesota is an independently operated, nonprofit dental services company that administers self-insured and prepaid dental service plans. Delta Dental Plan of Minnesota is one of the largest providers of dental benefits in the Upper Midwest, serving more than 8,500 Minnesota-based purchasing groups with more than 3.3 million members nationwide. Delta Dental Plan of Minnesota is headquartered in Eagan, and has a customer service center on Minnesota’s Iron Range. For more information on Delta Dental Plan of Minnesota, visit www.deltadentalmn.org.

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