

2010 Structural Renewal Survey Summary

During the summer of 2010, members of the ELCIC were encouraged to respond to a survey on structural renewal. Approximately 320 responses were received with good response rates from all synods.

From the survey, the following suggestions to focus administrative costs were made:

- Work cooperatively with other churches
- Reduce the number of synods
- Reduce the size of national convention
- Reduce the functions of the national office

Survey respondents noted the following would not be acceptable for focusing administrative costs:

- Eliminate the national church
- Eliminate all synods
- Increase functions of national church
- Reduce size of synod conventions

The majority of respondents from every synod agreed:

- That reducing the number of synods would be an acceptable option
- That reducing the size of national convention would be an acceptable option

The survey indicated eight areas where the national church should be very involved:

- Global mission
- Pension & benefits
- Ecumenical relationships
- Relationships with international church bodies
- Standards for rostered leaders
- CLWR
- Public policy and advocacy
- Communication

The survey indicated the following areas where synods should be strongly involved:

- Assist congregations with crisis
- Find new pastors
- Communication
- Start new congregations
- Assist congregations with renewal

- Specialized ministries
- Education for new pastors and on-going theological education

The survey provided a great deal of quantitative information, as well as many qualitative comments, which the taskforce is taking into consideration. Both in the discussions at synod conventions and in the survey comments, it is clear that more support for ministry at the local/congregational expression of the church is strongly encouraged. Bishop Susan's call for Spirited Discipleship was enthusiastically embraced by many respondents.