

**EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN CANADA
MINUTES OF NATIONAL CHURCH COUNCIL**

SEPT 15-17, 2005

VILLA MARIA RENEWAL CENTRE, ST NORBERT, MB

PRESENT:

Officers: National Bishop Raymond Schultz Donald Storch, Secretary
Roger Kingsley, Vice-President Norman Thompson, Treasurer

Council: Tom Brook Rev Mark Koenker
Rev. Sonja Free Rev. Dr. Peter Mikelic
Maaike Froelich Teddy Pope
Rev. Nolan Gingrich Rev. Doug Reble
Rev. Roger Haugen Carl Sorensen
Heidi Hesselink Rev Trish Schmermund
Judy Kochendorfer

ACC REP The Very Rev. Peter Wall

Synod Rev. Cindy Halmarson, SK Synod Rev. Michael Pryse, Eastern Synod
Bishops: Rev. Stephen Kristenson, ABT Synod Rev. Richard Smith, MNO Synod
Rev. Gerhard Preibisch, BC Synod

Guests: Kathy Magnus, Lutheran World Federation Regional Officer for North America
Myrna Sheie, ELCA, Executive Assistant to Bishop Mark Hansen
Hildy Thiessen, Executive Director, ELCIC Group Services, Inc.
Ruth Vince, Executive Director, Evangelical Lutheran Women (ELW)

Staff: Rev. Elaine Sauer, Assistant to the Bishop, Synodical Relations
Gloria McNabb, Director of Finance and Administration
Trina Gallop, Communications Manager
Faye Schultz, Executive Assistant to the Office of the Bishop

Absent: Elizabeth Hachborn, Robert Schmidt

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2005

New National Church Council member orientation took place from 3:30 – 5:00 pm.
Opening Eucharist and Installation of New NCC members took place at 7:00 pm.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 2005

After welcoming the Council and guests, Bishop Raymond Schultz called the meeting to order. Bishop Schultz asked Vice-President Roger Kingsley to serve as chair for the meeting. Carl Sorensen served as chaplain.

AGENDA

The agenda for the meeting was reviewed. Items added to the agenda:

1. NCC to discuss working with the ELCA about the statement on Family, Marriage, and Sexuality, from March 2005 (CC-05-38).
2. NCC to discuss whether the church should be in the business of marriage. (CC-05-40)

Additional appendices were:

- 8.1 Biographical Information for Ken Hartviksen
- 9.0 Lutheran Planned Giving Report
- 10.0 Letter from Harold Remus

CC-05-58 MS that the agenda for the meeting be approved with changes. CARRIED

ELCIC Synod Reports

ELCIC Synod Bishops: Rev. Gerhard Preibisch, Rev. Stephen Kristenson, Rev. Cindy Halmarson, Rev. Richard Smith, and Rev. Michael Pryse gave reports about activities in their Synods.

Tom Brook requested that in the future the Bishops report on the equipping of lay people for service in ministry and how the NCC may be of assistance. Bishops expressed willingness to have specific questions addressed to them for their reports.

REPORT OF THE OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

National Bishop (Docket p. 41-44)

Convention theme 'In Mission for Others', Bishop has been encouraged to continue with theme, and will promote it at the Synod Conventions. Theme is one that needs to be developed as a church.

Recommendations:

CC-05-59 MS that NCC extend a call to special service, co-terminal with the term of the National Bishop to Pastor Elaine Sauer to serve as Assistant to the National Bishop for Synodical Relations Carried

CC-05-60 MS that NCC extend a call to special service, co-terminal with the term of the National Bishop to Pastor Paul Johnson to serve as Assistant to the National Bishop for Ecumenical Relations Carried

Bishop Schultz has interviewed one applicant for the Lutheran Office of Public Policy position, employment issues are relocation and salary. He will be in contact via conference call or email. There is a need to fill the position to overlap with Barb Fast, but may not be possible.

Assistant for Ecumenical Relations (Docket p. 45-46)

Assistant for Synodical Relations (Docket p. 47-49)

CC-05-61 MS that the title “Diaconal Ministry” be used in any reference to this ministry, removing the word “LAY” in the title. Carried

Will require changes to Constitution, re wording.

CC-05-62 MS that all Diaconal Ministers consecrated by the ELCIC have the right to use the title Deacon Carried

How will the use of this term affect other boards, etc?

Both motions are referred to the Constitution Committee for accessing the use of the term Deacon.

Motion presented by Program Committee for Leadership and Ministry that the national church, in cooperation with synods, begin a church wide funding appeal to sustain and enlarge new mission and outreach, and to support candidates for rostered ministry (motion from Millennium Study on Leadership Needs.)

Does this address infrastructure, but what about mission? Table the motion till the PCLM meets. Motion has two focuses, funding for church work and then support candidates for rostered ministry. Discussion. Motion needs to be expanded to bring in more detail or specifics. Does this belong to CECF or stewardship?

CC-05-63 MS refer this motion to National Bishop for review, then report to NCC. Carried.

REPORT OF GROUP SERVICES INC. (GSI) (Docket p. 63-64)

Hildy Theissen, Director reported on the present position of the pension plan and the current work being done to resolve some of the issues the plan is facing.

Sole Member resolution presented.

REPORT OF THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN WOMEN INC. (ELW)

Ruth Vince, Director reported on structure of ELW. Power point presentation focused on ELCIC and ELW and how they co exist and work together.

REPORT OF THE TREASURER (Docket p.55-62)

Letter from Aikins, MacAulay & Thorvaldson re ELCIC Holdings Inc. Name change from The Canada Board of American Missions of the Lutheran Church in America.

CC-05-64 MS that the Canada Board of American Missions of the Lutheran Church in America be changed to ELCIC Holdings Inc. Carried

LUTHERAN WORLD FEDERATION

Kathy Magnus (RONA) reported on the LWF council meeting in Jerusalem. Gave NCC a picture of what holding a meeting in Jerusalem looked like.

Bishop Schultz talked about how financial assessment is determined for our North American churches by the LWF.

CC-05-65 MS that Rev Susan Johnson be recommended as a member at large for LWF Council Carried

APPOINTMENTS:

Two names, Ken Day and Ken Hartviksen were brought forward for the vacant lay MNO position on NCC. A vote was taken and Ken Hartviksen was elected.

CC-05-66 MS that the ballots from the vote be destroyed. Carried.

NCC Committee Appointments:

Audit: Ken Hartveksen, Chair, Elizabeth Hachborn, Ken Day
Communications: Nolan Gingrich, Chair, Judy Kochendorfer, Mark Koenker, Peter Mikelic
Constitution Bylaws: Don Storch, Chair, Maaike Froelich, Bishop Stephen Kristenson, Doug Reble, Trish Schmermund
Faith Order and Doctrine: Roger Haugen
Finance: Norm Thompson, Chair, Roger Kingsley, Teddy Pope, Robert Schmidt
Public Policy: Tom Brook, Chair, Sonja Free, Heidi Hesselink, Carl Sorensen
Governance Task Force: Tom Brook, Maaike Froelich, Carl Sorensen, Don Storch, Norm Thompson, Bishop Schultz
Strategic Planning Task Force: Tom Brook, Roger Haugen, Roger Kingsley, Bishop Schultz, Don Storch, Norm Thompson

SK Synod Council request of COB to review policy for removing pastors from the roster after three years.

CC-05-67 MS that the SK Synod Council question be referred COB for advice and recommendation and brought back to National Church Council. Carried

Edmonton Campus Ministry requests referral to Court of Adjudication of a question about the allowability of membership on the Reconciling in Christ roster (Lutherans Concerned) Appendix #5

Note this is a Synod issue, should it be dealt with at NCC or at Synod level? Although the Synod could bring the issue to Council. Refer to the Constitution about the role of Court of Adjudication.

CC-05-68 MS that NCC decline the request. Carried.

Letter to be drafted in response by the Bishop's office.

ELCA Report

Myrna Sheie, Executive Assistant to the Presiding Bishop of the ELCA reported on the ELCA Assembly.

Report of the Secretary page 51-52

Information re the role of clergy voting was discussed. Consulted with lawyer, and waiting for more information.

Changes for BC Synod Constitution.

CC-05-69 MS that the revised Constitution of the BC Synod (September, 2005) is approved. Carried.

Convention Evaluation

Don Storch commented on the percentages of the results on the evaluation returns. Gloria brought details of evaluations. Gloria is compiling recommendations for 2007 convention. Suggestion that NCC be dispersed throughout the delegate tables, rather than sit at their own table at future conventions. Other comments included listening circles for Anglican Lutheran day, discussion on the cost of rooms and meals for convention and the time for joint event and a location for 2007 Convention.

Resolution of the Sole Member of ELCIC Group Services Inc. (page 63)

CC-05-70 MS that the Sole Member Resolution be adopted. Carried

Privacy Protection

Review of memo, accountability, and compliance form for information only. (page 67-81)
Discussion on whether ELCIC committee members should sign the compliance form.

CC-05-71 MS that the National Bishop instructs our solicitor to write the individual who inappropriately received the convention list and certify that it had been destroyed. Carried.

Appendix #1 & 2 for info only.

Appendix #9 Lutheran Planned Giving report for info only.

Resolutions March 2005 CC-05-43 discuss at next NCC business session. ELCA continues to invite us to be at the discussion on a social statement on sexuality.

March motion CC-05-40 on marriage was tabled.

REFLECTIONS FROM OUR CONFERENCE OF GENERAL SYNOD PARTNER, THE VERY REV. PETER WALL

The Very Rev. Peter Wall brought greetings from the Anglican Church of Canada and reported on his view of our convention. He gave his reflections on our relationship. Rev Peter Wall will be serving as the Anglican 2007 Convention Coordinator.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2005

Carl Sorensen opened the session with devotions.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- CC-05-72** MS that the NCC July 21-22, 2005 minutes be approved as corrected. Carried
- CC-05 73** MS that we move into an in-camera session. Carried
- CC-05-76** MS that the 5th and 6th session of the 2005 Convention corrected minutes are approved. Carried.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

1. Constitution changes are required. The Constitution Committee will review the Model Constitution and role of clergy and bring changes to the March NCC 2006 meeting.
2. 2005 ELCIC Convention-Debriefing on the convention, each member of NCC gave their perspective.
3. The ELCIC will continue to participate in the ELCA Study on Sexuality. Bishop Schultz will speak with the appointed representative before they attend the meeting with the ELCA.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Chaplain for March 2006 will be Rev Sonja Free.
2. Proposed NCC Statement

With reference to the actions taken at the ELCIC tenth biennial Convention concerning same-gender blessings, National Church Council encourages congregations and pastors to honour the decisions that have been made and to refrain from taking actions that are in contradiction to them. National Church Council encourages synodical bishops to address breaches in this regard through pastoral conversation with the congregations and pastors involved and, if necessary, through censure and admonition

The Council further recognizes that the debate and vote have provided compelling evidence as to the deep and significant differences of opinion that exist within our church concerning this question.

We thus encourage the church to continue in faithful and respectful study and dialogue concerning these and other challenging questions of faith, at all times seeking to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

- CC-05-77** MS that the NCC revised statement be adopted Carried.

This statement will be sent to Synod Offices, then in turn to congregations, as well as published in the *Canada Lutheran* and on the website.

3. Bring to March NCC the process and cost of producing a Social Statement.
4. Members discussed the gender balance on NCC and how to encourage those numbers to change.
5. Evaluation of the September NCC meeting was lead by the chair. Many positive comments.

NEXT MEETING DATES:

March 9-11, 2006
September 14-16, 2006

Carl Sorensen closed the meeting with a reading from John, hymn and prayer.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:50 pm.

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IN CAMERA MINUTES

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CC-05 74	MS that the NCC in camera minutes of July 21 be approved as corrected	Carried
CC-05 75	MS that the in camera session was closed and return to open session.	Carried