

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

**JANUARY 18-20, 2007
LAUREATE'S LANDING, ST NORBERT, MB**

PRESENT:

Officers: National Bishop Raymond Schultz Donald Storch, Secretary
Roger Kingsley, Vice-President Norm 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
Elizabeth Hachborn Robert Schmidt
Ken Hartviksen Carl Sorensen
Rev. Roger Haugen Rev Trish Schmermund
Heidi Hesselink
Judy Kochendorfer

ACC Rep The Very Rev. Peter Wall

Synod Rev. Cindy Halmarson, SK Synod Rev. Michael Pryse, Eastern Synod
Bishops: Rev. Ron Mayan, ABT Synod Rev Elaine Sauer, MNO Synod

Staff: Ryan Andersen, Assistant to the Bishop for Stewardship in Public Life
Gloria McNabb, Director of Finance and Administration
Trina Gallop, Communications Manager
Faye Schultz, Executive Assistant to the Office of the Bishop

Absent: Bishop Gerhard Preibisch, BC Synod

THURSDAY, January 18, 2007

8:00 pm Opening Worship—led by National Bishop Raymond Schultz.

FRIDAY, January 19, 2007

Opening devotions- led by Rev Mark Koenker

Call to order, quorum was declared.

CC-07-01 MS That NCC approve the agenda with special order for convention issues for the 1:00 pm Business Session. **Carried**

CC-07-02 MS That NCC convene as a Committee of the Whole. **Carried**

Special order to deal with convention information.

Gloria McNabb, ELCIC Director of Finance and Administration addressed NCC regarding convention details.

- Trina Gallop explained the Convention theme and logo to NCC
- Program at a glance—the schedule for the days of the convention was reviewed.
- First week in February the registration forms for convention will be available and the form will be posted on website.
- Accommodations will be available at the university, and three hotels north of the university
- NCC arrives on the Tuesday for NCC meeting on Wednesday, Faye to coordinate accommodation for NCC members.
- Contact Michelle for booking travel, airport pick-up will be arranged.
- Bulletin of Reports sent out on May 1, 2007 Reports are due to the office by 1 March. NCC report to be included. Motions from congregations to be submitted in writing to the National Secretary, and forwarded to Reference and Council for consideration, if they are not received in time to be included in the docket.
- NCC will need to complete registration forms indicating any special requirements.
- The service of blessing for delegates, need to encourage congregations to use before the convention.

Constitution Committee to review the corporate bylaws and administrative bylaws regarding time lines for the selection of delegates.

The Green Church recommendation be returned to staff for further details. The Green Church is a church wide program.

Question to clarify election for National Bishop, is it a two year term or a four year term? Secretary, Don Storch indicated it is for a four year term as per constitution, Article XII, Section 2.

CC-07-03 MS that the Committee of the Whole rise. **Carried**

National Church Council now in session.

CC-07-04 MS that agenda #2 (study proposal to begin development of a social statement on human sexuality) be addressed first before agenda #1 (resolution of outstanding issues regarding ES-04-33). **Carried**

CC-07-05 MS that action on ES-04-33 (dealing with ordination of gays and lesbians) be postponed to the Fall 2007 meeting of NCC. **Carried**

CC-07-06 MS that CC-06-63 be rescinded. **Carried**

CC-07-07 MS that NCC table the motion to rescind CC-06-63 until alternatives are considered. **Carried**

CC-07-08 MS that NCC move to a Committee of a Whole. **Carried**

CC-07-09 MS Committee of a Whole arise and report. **Carried**

National Church Council moved back into session,

MS: That, as a church *In Mission for Others*, this convention encourage synods to develop mission responses appropriate to their settings, reflecting cultural changes and diversity in Canada, providing ministry to people who live in committed same sex relationships, recognizing that synods may authorize pastors and congregations together may agree to offer a rite of blessing.

The mover and seconder withdrew the motion on the floor, with the consent of the NCC.

CC-07-10 MS NCC recommend the following motion to the 2007 Convention:

That this convention affirms that the diversity within Canada's culture requires responses to a variety of persons in order for this church to be "*In Mission for Others*".

We also affirm that the synods have the mandate to devise mission strategies appropriate to their regional settings.

Accordingly, we encourage synods to develop ways to best minister to people who live in committed same sex relationships, including the possibility of blessing such unions.

Amendment to motion CC-07-10

Moved and seconded to amend to read:

That all synodical mission strategies and ways to minister to people who live in a committed same-sex relationship must be in accordance with the ELCIC mission, by-laws, constitution and the current social statement(s) on human sexuality. **Amendment was defeated.**

Bob Schmidt asked that his affirmative vote be recorded in the minutes.

A vote on the original motion was held. Carried

Bob Schmidt asked that his negative vote be recorded in the minutes.

CC-07-11 MS that if the above motion fails at the 2007 Convention, the members of NCC resign.
Defeated

Bob Schmidt asked that his affirmative vote be recorded.

Meeting recessed with Rev Trish Schmermund leading evening prayer.

SATURDAY, January 20, 2007

Opening devotion led by Teddy Pope

Tabled motion-To rescind motion CC-06-63 to be brought into discussion at this time.

CC-07-12 MS that NCC remove motion CC-07-06 (to rescind CC-06-63) from the table. **Carried**

CC-07-13 MS that motion CC-07-06 be approved. **Carried**

Convention delegate replacements motion will be brought to the March meeting by the Constitution Committee.

Green Church

The ELCIC answer the call to respect the integrity of God's creation through a two-year renewable stewardship initiative engaging its national, synodical, congregational and individual member expressions.

Discussion, this statement requires some feedback and re-wording. A long term strategy, develop programming at national, synodical, and congregational levels. Ryan Andersen, Assistant to the Bishop for Stewardship in Public Life presented the background for Greening Program. Touched on the GHDA campaign called Signs of Hope.

NCC members offered ideas for program.

- -recognition awards for work in program
- -local arrangement committee to bring greening ideas to convention
- -KAIROS water campaign
- -next KAIROS campaign is regarding energy
- -ideas can be forwarded to Ryan Andersen at national office
- -pre convention information out to congregations

Responsibility of Convention Delegates

Information for NCC Members

Discussion—communication from NCC is very minimal, perhaps this information can be placed in Canada Lutheran and shared as widely as possible.

CC-07-14 MS that NCC affirm the document Responsibility of a Convention Delegates and its use.
Carried

- Suggestion to flesh out text that deals with being open to other views and discussions.
- Suggested it be sent to congregations and its leadership as well.
- Suggested be used for delegate orientation at Thursday June 21 of convention.
- Post document on the website.
- Use document for preparing for convention, along with Green Church information.

Issues related to retirement of Bishop Schultz. This retirement requires that plans be put in place for an election process, recognition events, and installation or ordination of the bishop-elect.

CC-07-15 MS that each ballot for bishop take place no sooner than 30 minutes following the report of the Elections Committee. (See Appendix 7)
Carried

CC-07-16 MS that the Saturday evening schedule of the 2007 National Convention be set aside for a recognition event. **Carried**

CC-07-17 MS that Bishop and Mrs. Schultz be invited to attend dinner with National Church Council on Friday, September 28. **Carried**

CC-07-18 MS that the installation or ordination of the bishop-elect take place Thursday, September 27 at 7:00 pm. **Carried**

CC-07-19 MS that Bishop Schultz be asked to remain on staff in salaried advisory capacity for the month of September 2007 in order to facilitate an orderly transition for the bishop-elect.
Carried

Communications:

Sharing of information from NCC meeting will be in the form of a press release by Trina Gallop, ELCIC Communications Manager and released upon NCC's approval.

Minutes were discussed and action minutes are the most preferred form of record keeping. Minutes need to be distributed in a timely manner. Highlights of the proceedings can be made available earlier, through the office of Communications, then approved minutes.

National Bishop may consider a pastoral letter to the church about what transpired at the NCC meeting.

The meeting was adjourned.

Secretary, Don Storch

Approved: NCC

Date: March 2007