

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

SEPTEMBER 27-29, 2007

LAUREATE'S LANDING, ST NORBERT MANITOBA

PRESENT:

Officers:	National Bishop Elect, Susan Johnson Roger Kingsley, Vice-President	Donald Storch, Secretary Ken Hartviksen, Treasurer
Council:	Tom Brook Rev. Claudine Carlson Maaike Froelich Rev. Nolan Gingrich Elizabeth Hachborn Rev. Roger Haugen Heidi Hesselink Cindy Hoppe Judy Kochendorfer	Rev. Mark Koenker Rev. Dr. Peter Mikelic Teddy Pope Rev. Doug Reble Robert Schmidt Rev Trish Schmermund
LWF NA	Kathy Magnus	
ACC Rep	The Rt Rev Colin Johnson	
Synod Bishops:	Rev. Ron Mayan, ABT Synod Rev. Gerhard Preibisch, BC Synod	Rev. Michael Pryse, Eastern Synod Rev Elaine Sauer, MNO Synod
Staff:	Rev Paul Johnson, Assistant to the Bishop for Ecumenical Relations Rev Paul Gehrs, Assistant to the Bishop for Synodical Relations Rev Ryan Andersen, Assistant to the Bishop for Stewardship in Public Life Gloria McNabb, Finance and Administration Trina Gallop, Communications Manager Faye Schultz, Executive Assistant to the Office of the Bishop	
Absent:	Bishop Cindy Halmarson, SK Synod Carl Sorensen	

Thursday September 27, 2007

Session One

The NCC meeting started with committee meetings at 1:30 and 3:30 pm.

New member orientation took place at 4:30 pm.

The evening began with an opening eucharist with Bishop Elect Susan Johnson preaching.

Bishop Susan Johnson called the meeting to order.

Bishop Johnson welcomed the new NCC members, Rev Claudine Carlson and Cindy Hoppe, and ACC rep The Rt Rev Colin Johnson, also Kathy Magnus and ELCA Vice- Pres Carlos Pena.

Each NCC member made brief opening comments.

Items added to the agenda: Committee reports, update on Social Statement Task Force, how correspondence is handled with the NCC membership.

MS that NCC adopt the revised agenda. **Carried.**

Bishop Susan gave an overview of the meeting agenda.

CC-07-72 MS that NCC approve the appointment of Rev Roger Haugen to the Finance Committee and Teddy Pope to the Audit Committee. **Carried.**

CC-07-73 MS that NCC approve the June 20, 2007 corrected minutes. **Carried.**

CC-07-74 MS that NCC approve the June 24, 2007 corrected minutes. **Carried.**

Friday, September 28, 2007

Session Two

Session opened with devotions lead by Rev Paul Johnson. Devotions were followed by the installation of the new ELCIC National Treasurer, Ken Hartviksen, and new council members Rev Claudine Carlson and Cindy Hoppe.

Report from ELCIC GSI Inc. given by Board Chair, John Wolfe and Executive Director, Hildy Thiessen, regarding the current pension program and its status.

Request has come from the GSI Board for money to fund the pension plan solvency liability. Gloria McNabb, Director of Finance and Administration reported that Benefits Reserve Fund has approximately \$900,000 in assets and a series of liabilities. She estimates that approximately 400-500,000 would remain when liabilities are completed.

MS to defer the motion that NCC approve \$550,000 from the Employee Benefit Reserve Fund be transferred to Group Services Inc. in support of the retired employee pension solvency deficiency following an actuary assessment and after the finance committee has reported. **Carried.**

The four Synod Bishops gave an overview of what is taking place in their Synods.

National Bishop's Report Actions:

CC-07-75 MS that NCC approve the following appointments:

Ms Judy Kochendorfer: to serve on both Anglican Church of Canada Council of General Synod (COGS) and Joint Anglican Lutheran Commission, replacing Rev. Claudine Carlson (CC-07-71).

Rev Doug Reble to serve on the Canadian Council of Churches governing board.

Rev Dr Allen Jorgenson to serve on the Joint Anglican Lutheran Commission

The re-appointment of Bishop Michael Pryse, and Rev Ilze Kuplen-Ewart to serve on the Joint Anglican Lutheran Commission. **Carried.**

CC-07-76 MS that NCC approve simplifying the Senior Student Dossier for Ordained Ministry requirement for faculty endorsement from three to one and harmonize the requirement with the ELCA. **Carried.**

CC-07-77 MS that NCC approve the creation of a form to transfer candidates between CTELS. **Carried.**

CC-07-78 MS that NCC refer the policy of mandatory continuing education for ELCIC rostered members to the Conference of Bishops. **Carried.**

CC-07-79 MS that NCC approve the adoption of the CLWR guidelines on sanctuary as a guide for ELCIC congregations. **Carried.**

Report of the National Officers

CC-07-80 MS that NCC recommend the ELCIC proceed with the “Meeting our Muslim Neighbours’ project to encourage and empower broad leadership, and provide resources that can be used by congregations to engage their Muslim neighbours in conversation. **Carried.**

Highlights of the Director of Finance Report were presented by Gloria McNabb.

The Treasurer’s Report was presented by ELCIC National Treasurer, Ken Hartviksen.

MS that NCC defer the motion “that the surplus funds in the Employee Benefits Reserve fund, net of present value of all liabilities as actuarially determined, be used as an additional contribution to the defined benefit pension plan managed by Group Services Inc. for retired pastors of the ELCIC” until the actuarial evaluation is done and the figures known, and then a vote on the motion be taken by email. **Carried.**

It was requested that the information on the amount of reserves available for the pension deficit by GSI be communicated to NCC once the amount is known.

The Audit Committee report was presented by Elizabeth Hachborn, Audit Chairperson. She noted that Mark Single, audit partner, Ernst & Young was in attendance and presented the 2007 Audit Plan, and information on potential reporting changes being proposed by the CICA Accounting Standards Board. She reported that the formal management engagement letter will be signed, and that the audit fees for 2007 will be \$25,000.

The Audit Committee was requested to establish a policy in the Audit Committee Terms of Reference on how often to review the appointments of auditors.

NCC Docket:

Appendix 8 – (page 92) – Convention – Bishop Susan will respond to letter. This item will be discussed as part of the convention review at the March meeting.

Appendix 10 – Racial/Ethnic Make-up – Bishop Susan indicated while we may be interested in participating, we have no funding for this kind of work. We could appoint a person in Toronto area to serve on the committee. Information on what our expected potential financial commitments will be obtained.

Appendix 11- This was included for information only.

Appendix 12 – Bishop Susan’s response to letter from Rev. Dan Hendrickson was included for information only.

Appendix 13 – Convention Electoral Process – This was referred to Bishop Susan to consider in preparation of next agenda for the 2009 convention. It was noted that there was at least 30 minutes between ballots at the 2007 convention.

Correspondence – The process for referring correspondence to the NCC docket will include any correspondence sent to NCC or copied to NCC, the response to this correspondence, correspondence received by the Officers as appropriate, and other correspondence sent to the National Bishop at the Bishop’s discretion.

Appendix 6 – page 80 – It was noted that the 2009 convention will be held in Vancouver June 25-28 2009.

CC-07-81 MS that NCC refer the review of the Convention Standing Rules of Order to the Officers. **Carried.**

Appendix 9 – Convention Evaluations – it was noted that the comments received from the evaluations will be considered in the planning for the next convention.

Appendix 5 – Minutes of 2007 National Convention. ELCIC National Secretary, Don Storch reviewed the editorial changes to the convention minutes.

CC-07-82 MS that NCC approve the minutes of the 2007 National Convention with editorial changes as reported. **Carried.**

The following (motions 83 to 91) are the motions referred to NCC by the Convention for action:

CC-07-83 MS that NCC take no action on NC-07-08 as it is contrary to the constitution. **Carried.** (NC-07-08 that motions requiring changes in the *ELCIC Constitution*, as well as important changes in policy be voted on by individual members of the ELCIC by means of mail-in or electronic balloting. The process should be controlled by the congregations to ensure only members in good standing are voting. Proper information prior to voting is to be given to members at conferences and congregational level. Refer to National Church Council.)

CC-07-84 MS that NCC refer NC-07-09 to the officers for report at the next meeting in March 2008. **Carried.** (NC-07-09 that National Church Council consider adopting a procedure of funding delegates to the National Church Convention on a per capita basis similar to the practice currently in place in the Synod of Alberta and the Territories.)

CC-07-85 MS that NCC acknowledges no action is required on NC-07-10. **Carried.** (NC-07-10 that National Church Council recommends to the Eleventh Biennial Convention the adoption of the document *In Mission for Others an Evangelical Theology of Mission, Evangelical Declaration* for the next decade.)

CC-07-86 MS that NCC acknowledges no action is required on NC-07-11. **Carried.** (NC-07-11 that National Church Council recommends that we commit ourselves as a church to answer the call to respect the integrity of God's creation through an environmental stewardship initiative engaging our national, synodical, congregational and individual member expressions.)

NC-07-33 – A letter has been sent as requested in NC-07-33 and a copy of this letter is included in Appendix 16.

CC-07-87 MS that NCC forward motion NC-07-34 to the Committee of Faith, Order & Doctrine. **Carried.** (NC-07-34 to refer this motion to the Faith, Order and Doctrine; that the National Convention request the Court of Adjudication review whether God, through scripture, provides the church with authority as it pertains to the granting of same-sex blessings.)

CC-07-88 MS that NCC defer NC-07-35 to the March 2008 meeting to see if this request fits within our strategic direction. **Carried.** (NC-07-35 that the NCC explore increased funding to existing Lutheran Campus Ministries across Canada, and begin the process of seeking new opportunities for emerging campus missions across the nation; including potential partnerships with The Anglican Church of Canada, Evangelical Lutheran Women and other allied faith-based corporations.)

CC-07-89 MS that NCC refer motion NC-07-36 to the National Bishop for appropriate action and report back to NCC. **Carried.** (NC-07-36 that the ELCIC through the National Church Council commit itself to make preparations for a global pandemic. Such preparations should in conjunction with local, provincial, and national health agencies include materials dealing with issues such as worship practices, congregations as community resources, both individual and corporate self-care, being good neighbours, and by facilitating training of church leaders in the use of such resources.)

CC-07-90 MS that NCC requests National Bishop Susan Johnson write a letter to ELW on behalf of NCC regarding NC-07-37 to express our thanks for their continued financial support. **Carried.** (NC-07-37 that the NCC and this convention express our thanks to the ELW for their continued support of the ELCIC.)

CC-07-91 MS that NCC refer motion NC-07-42 to NCC Constitution Committee. **Carried.** (NC-07-42 concerning motion #4* that this matter be sent to NCC for research, review, and recommendation to the 2009 Convention.)

(*4. That this convention amends the Administrative Bylaws—Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada by adding the following section:

Part II section 7 Except for the provisions of Article VI, Section 9 of the constitution of this church, this church, including any synod of this church, cannot take any action that transfers, encumbers, or establishes any control over any asset (including real property) owned by a congregation, except by the provisions of the Congregation's Constitution.)

Report by Kathy Magnus, regional officer of the LWF. Kathy thanked NCC and ELCIC for their commitment, partnership, leadership, and financial gifts to the wider church of LWF. National Bishop Susan Johnson recognized contributions that Kathy has provided to our church and wished her well in her retirement.

Saturday, September 29, 2007

Morning devotions lead by Rev Ryan Andersen.

Dates of future meetings are set as:

March 5-8, 2008	3:30 Wed to 3:30 Sat	Chaplain-Rev. Claudine Carlson
September 11-13, 2008		Chaplain-
March 5-7, 2009		Chaplain-

Ruth Vince, Executive Director, Evangelical Lutheran Women gave her report. Ruth Vince reported on the ELW focus groups and finances.

Greetings and reflections were received from the ELCA Vice-President Carlos Pena.

Reflections were received from Rt. Rev. Colin Johnson, Anglican Church of Canada.

Comments from NCC members evaluating the meeting.

The meeting closed with prayer.
Adjournment at 11: 35 am

NCC members attended the ordination, consecration and installation of National Bishop, Susan C. Johnson at Lutheran Church of the Cross, 560 Arlington St, in Winnipeg.