

Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada Minutes of National Church Council

March 5-7, 2009

Laureate's Landing, St Norbert, Manitoba

Present:

Officers:	Rev Susan Johnson, National Bishop Roger Kingsley, Vice-President	Donald Storch, Secretary Ken Hartviksen, Treasurer
Council:	Tom Brook Rev Claudine Carlson Maaike Froelich Elizabeth Hachborn Rev Roger Haugen Heidi Hesselink Cindy Hoppe	Rev Mark Koenker Teddy Pope Rev Doug Reble Rev Trish Schmermund Carl Sorensen Barb Stolee The Rt Rev Colin Johnson, ACC Rep
Synod Bishops:	Rev Cindy Halmarson, SK Synod Rev Ron Mayan, ABT Synod Rev Gerhard Preibisch, BC Synod	Rev Michael Pryse, Eastern Synod Rev Elaine Sauer, MNO Synod
LWF NA:	Rev Teresita Valeriano	
Staff:	Rev Paul Johnson, Assistant to the Bishop Rev Paul Gehrs, Assistant to the Bishop Gloria McNabb, Director of Finance and Administration Trina Gallop, Director of Communications and Stewardship Faye Schultz, Executive Assistant to the Office of the Bishop	
Observer:	Pam Radunsky, ELW President	
Excused:	Rev Nolan Gingrich, Rev Dr Peter Mikelic	

Thursday, March 5, 2009

Conference of Bishops and National Church Council Committee meetings

Friday, March 6, 2009

Session #1

Opening worship led by Chaplain Rev Claudine Carlson.
Bishop Susan called the meeting to order.

That NCC approve the agenda as amended. **Carried.**

Bishop Susan Johnson called for any conflict of interest. Tom Brook declared a conflict of interest with the agenda item regarding the new MOU with CLWR as he is employed with CLWR.

CC-09-01 That NCC approve minutes of September 11-13, 2008 as corrected. **Carried.**

That NCC approve the e-vote minutes of October 31, 2008, and #1, #2, #4, #5, and #6 be recorded in the March 5-7, 2009 minutes. **Carried.**

NCC e-vote October 31, 2008

CC-09-02 That NCC approve the document Ordination of a Bishop's Rite.

NCC e-vote #1 December 12, 2008

CC-09-03 That NCC approve the Policy for Reimbursement of Expenses for those Travelling for ELCIC Purposes.

NCC e-vote #2 December 15, 2008

CC-09-04 That NCC approve the motion that minutes of NCC, once approved by the officers, will be marked as "draft" and posted on the ELCIC website.

NCC e-vote #4 December 18, 2008

CC-09-05 That NCC approve the ELCIC delegates to the LWF 11th Assembly be selected balancing the following criteria: LWF experience, future leadership potential, gender balance, lay/ordained balance, and regional balance.

NCC e-vote #5 January 29, 2009

CC-09-06 That NCC approve the appointment of the following individuals to Faith, Order and Doctrine Committee for a two-year term 2009-2011: Maaike Froelich, Bishop Cindy Halmarson, Dr. Christian Eberhart, Rev. Dr. Robert Kelly, Gretchen Peterson, Rev. Dr. Alan Lai, Marge Watters Knebel and John Nilson.

NCC e-vote #6 January 30, 2009

CC-09-07 That NCC approve the following individuals be appointed to NCC Committees: Finance-Ken Hartviksen, Roger Haugen, Cindy Hoppe, Mark Koenker; Governance-Roger Kingsley, Carl Sorensen, Doug Reble, Barb Stolee, Tom Brook; Constitution-Don Storch, Maaike Froelich, Trish Schmermund, Teddy Pope.

Report of the National Bishop

Presentation of the ELCIC/ELCA Bishops' Academy trip to the Holy Land.

Dwelling in the Word-Bishop Susan Johnson

ELCIC Group Services Inc. Report to National Church Council-Board chair, John Wolff and Executive Director, Hildy Thiessen

Report of the National Secretary.

Nominations committee report is not yet complete. The committee will continue to work and hold an e-vote when complete.

Report of Conference of Bishops

Session #2

Report of the Synod Bishops

Report from the Council of General Synod-Rt Rev Colin Johnson

Report of LWF NA-Teresita Valeriano

Report of Evangelical Lutheran Women-Ruth Vince Executive Director

Robert Granke spoke to the new Memorandum of Understanding between ELCIC and CLWR.

CC-09-08 That NCC approve the new Memorandum of Understanding between ELCIC and CLWR. **Carried.**

CC-09-09 That NCC affirm in principle the report of the Resource Generation Task Force and ask them to develop an implementation strategy to submit for final approval by NCC. **Carried.**

CC-09-10 That NCC approve in principle the intent of the proposal *Moving into a new model for ELCIC mission in the world.* **Carried**

Bishop Susan acknowledged Kelvin Krieger for the positive and constructive way he is dealing with this shift in the area of World Missions.

CC-09-11 That NCC dis-establish the ELCIC Program Committee for Mission in the World, formed by this Council in 2006 (CC-2006-43) and request the National Bishop to thank the members for their work. **Carried.**

CC-09-12 That NCC end, with regret, the existing partner church relationship with the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Papua New Guinea effective December 31, 2009 and ask the National Bishop to write to the church informing them of our decision and conveying our prayers for their continued mission and ministry. **Carried.**

Approval of Budgets

CC-09-13 That NCC approve the 2009 revised budget and the budgets for 2010 and 2011 as presented by the Finance Committee. **Carried.**

Strategic Plan

That NCC table to Saturday, March 7, 2009, the motion to adopt the NCC Strategic Plan for 2008-2013. **Carried.**

CC-09-14 That NCC approve the Draft Agenda for the 2009 National Convention as circulated. **Carried.**

Dwelling in the Word-Teddy Pope

Correspondence

Letter from SK Synod asking NCC to endorse the Book of Faith.

CC-09-15 That NCC endorses the ELCA Book of Faith initiative and encourages its use in the congregations of the ELCIC. **Carried.**

CC-09-16 That NCC accept the invitation of the Eastern Synod Council to host the 2013 National Convention on the territory of the Eastern Synod. **Carried.**

It is expected that joint meetings between the ELCIC Convention and the ACC General Synod will occur during this time.

CC-09-17 That NCC amend the ELCIC National Office Personnel Policy Handbook 10.07 by removing the word successor. **Carried.**

CC-09-18 That NCC refer the ELCIC National Office Personnel Policy Handbook back to the finance committee. **Carried.**

CC-09-19 That NCC appoint a task force to consider restructuring proposals for the ELCIC. The task force shall consider:

- The need to develop a structural framework for our church which is flexible, affordable and sustainable
- That the proposed structure needs to equip us to be a church In Mission for Others
- The appropriate number of synods
- The relationship between synods and the national church
- Questions around leadership (ie. Number of bishops)
- Program priorities and how they are achieved between the national and synodical levels of the church
- Staffing for all levels of the church
- The relationship to congregations
- The function, format and size of national convention
- The implications for our seminaries

The task force shall identify segments of the church's constituency which will be impacted by structural changes and consult appropriately. The synods are to be consulted in a deliberate way through synod councils and synod conventions. The task force needs to also consult with our partners including the ELW, ACC, CLWR and the seminaries.

The task force is asked to prepare interim reports for National Church Council and a detailed proposal including constitutional amendments for the 2011 National Convention.

The task force shall be appointed by the NCC on recommendation of the National Bishop. It shall be composed of the National Bishop, 5 synod representatives appointed in consultation with the synod bishops (at least two of whom should be participants from the National-Synodical Officers consultation), and up to three other members chosen to balance representation and needed skills.

The National Bishop shall be authorized to engage a consultant, at her discretion, to assist the task force in its work, provided that the costs can be covered from available resources that are not budgeted for some other purpose. **Carried.**

CC-09-20 That NCC approve changes to the CECF handbook, Capital Fund-Appendix 1, clause 1 and clause 4. That congregations provide a minimum of 25% down in equity at the beginning of the building project. **Carried.**

CC-09-21 That NCC approve the amended motion to add a clause 14 to the CECF handbook, Capital Fund, II Operating Policies, H. Administration of Capital Fund. That congregations provide two copies of their annual financial statements to the synod mission consultant who will forward one copy to the National Office. **Carried.**

CC-09-22 That NCC support the National Bishop's decision not to publish petitions in the National Convention's Bulletin of Reports, but to follow the outline of the Administrative Bylaws (Part V, Section 8) in referring all petitions to the Committee of Reference and Counsel. **Carried.**

M/S That NCC move into an In Camera Session. **Carried.**

Saturday, March 7, 2009

Session #3

Opening prayer led by Chaplain Rev Claudine Carlson

Committee Reports

Audit Committee-no report

Constitution Committee Report

Conflict of interest was declared by Rev Colin Johnson on items #2 & 3 from the Constitution Committee Report.

CC-09-23 That NCC approve the new MNO Article IX, namely: “Ordered ministers of churches with which this church as a full communion agreement, who are serving in this church under the provisions of the full communion agreement, shall have the same rights and privileges as the equivalent order of ministry in this church.” **Carried.**

CC-09-24 That NCC approve the changes to the Eastern Synod constitution approved at their 2008 Convention., “New Article IX , Section 1, Full Communion Provision, Ordered ministers of churches with which this church has a full communion agreement, who are serving in this church under the provisions of that full communion agreement shall have the same rights and privileges as the equivalent order of ministry in this church”.

That changes to Article X, Section 6, be approved: “The eligible voting membership of conventions shall consist of: Ordained ministers **and lay diaconal ministers** on the roster of synod, ~~and~~ lay officers of synod, **and lay members of synod council.**”

That changes to Article X, Section 8. The bishop of the ELCIC and such other official representatives of this/s church as may be designated by the national church council shall have seat and voice in the conventions of the synod. Like privileges shall be accorded ~~to the lay members of synod council and~~ to the presidents of synodical units of official auxiliaries of this church throughout each convention and in connection with their reports, to the chairpersons of synodical committees and ~~working groups~~ to representatives of institutions and agencies related to or officially recognized by the synod.

That changes to Article X, Section 6 be revised to use the term “rostered ministers” and remove “lay” from reference to diaconal ministers. **Carried.**

CC-09-25 That NCC approve the decision that CC-07-09 directed NCC to review the petition requesting the addition to “Administrative Bylaws Part II, new 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 assets (including real property) owned by a congregation, except by the provisions of the Congregation’s Constitution.”. Upon review we note that the Constitution Article VI, Section 2, states that “each congregation shall operate in accordance with its constitution, owning its property. “ is sufficient and that no changes to the administrative bylaws are recommended. **Carried.**

CC-09-26 That NCC approve recommending to the 2009 Convention, the following Administrative bylaws, flowing from above:

- a. Part III.1 to edit or remove (Lay) from references to diaconal ministers.
- b. Part II, Section 6, last paragraph, change thirty days to forty five days to bring the bylaws into consistency with the Constitution, Article XIX, Section 10. (This deals with the time a congregation has to appeal a decision of a synod to the court of adjudication)

- c. Part VIII, Section 2, change ordained minister to rostered minister
- d. Part IX, Section 3, a, b, d, and j, change ordained to rostered.
- e. Part X, Section 2, b, ii, change ordained to rostered.
- f. Plus any other references to “lay” diaconal ministers and “rostered ministers” that further review will uncover. **Carried.**

CC-09-27 That NCC approve the changes to the ELCIC Corporate Bylaws clause #37, Divisions and Offices, be omitted, and subsequent sections be renumbered and that the definition of lay person (in Section #1) is a baptized member who has not been ordained or consecrated. **Carried.**

CC-09-28 That NCC refer Constitution Committee Report Item #7, “time lines for the selection of delegates to Convention”, back to the Constitution Committee. **Carried.**

Once the Constitution Committee has reached a recommendation, it will be circulated and an e-vote held.

Finance Committee Report

CC-09-29 That NCC approve the renewed terms of reference for the Life Program as presented by the Finance Committee. **Carried.**

CC-09-30 That NCC approve the new investment managers of TD Waterhouse for the ELCIC. **Carried.**

Conflict of interest was declared by Roger Kingsley as a nominee for the Court of Adjudication.

CC-09-31 That NCC approve a \$15,000 reserve for the future work of the Court of Adjudication. **Carried.**

CC-09-32 That NCC approve the amendment to paragraph #1 of the ELCIC travel expense policy to read Federal Treasury Board rates. **Carried.**

CC-09-33 That NCC ask the Bishop, in quarterly reports to NCC, include a statement of compliance with all authorities required by a statutory declaration. **Carried.**

Governance Committee Report

CC-09-34 That NCC approve the amendment to the Governance Manual in GS 2.7 Committee Chair/Council Relationship description, Authority, Except for the Finance Committee, the committee chair receives authority by election of the Committee from its members. **Carried.**

CC-09-35 That NCC approve Governance Manual GP-1.4 Election of Committee Chairs, Committee chairs shall be elected by and from the Committee membership unless otherwise specified. **Carried.**

CC-09-36 That NCC approve Governance Manual GS 2.9 Finance Committee/Council Relationship Description be deleted and replaced by revised wording in GS 2.9.

MS Amend the motion CC-09-36 by adding to Section 2 of Responsibilities, another point—the Governance Committee shall provide Governance Manual orientation for new council members. **Carried**

The amended motion CC-09-36 was **Carried.**

CC-09-37 That NCC approve the Governance Manual be amended by adding to GS-2.11 Governance Committee/National Church Council Relationship Description with updated references to Committee and Council. **Carried.**

CC-09-38 That NCC approve the ELCIC resolution on the Holy Land in principle for submission to the Convention. **Carried.**

Dwelling in the Word-Mark Koenker

NCC Strategic Plan for 2008-2013

CC-09-39 That NCC lift from the table the motion to adopt the NCC Strategic Plan for 2008-2013. **Carried.**

CC-09-40 That NCC approve the editorial amendments to the NCC Strategic Plan for 2008-2013. **Carried.**

CC-09-41 That NCC approve the amended wording to the first paragraph of the NCC Strategic Plan. Wording-Although we have always considered ourselves to be part of the continuity of catholic history, our denominational identity dates from the Lutheran Reformation. **Carried.**

CC-09-42 That NCC approve the amendment to NCC Strategic Plan, 9.2 Strategies for Serve-Diverse Faces, the addition of point f. Remove barriers to service to and through this church to all members where possible. **Carried.**

CC-09-43 That NCC approve the amended document NCC Strategic Plan for 2008-2013. **Carried.**

Closing worship led by Chaplain Rev Claudine Carlson.

Meetings and Chaplains

June 24, 2009

Chaplain Rev Claudine Carlson

September 10-12, 2009

Chaplain-

The meeting was adjourned.