

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

**MARCH 11-13, 2010**

**LAUREATE'S LANDING, WINNIPEG MB**

**PRESENT:**

Officers:	National Bishop, Susan Johnson Sheila Hamilton, Vice-President	Donald Storch, Secretary Ken Hartviksen, Treasurer
Council:	Tom Brook Rev Claudine Carlson Marie-Laure Collet Maaïke Froelich Rev Roger Haugen Heidi Hesselink Cindy Hoppe Rev Mark Koenker	Rev Dr Peter Mikelic Teddy Pope Rev Doug Reble Rev Trish Schmermund Carl Sorensen Jeanie Stann Barb Stolee
Synod Bishops:	Bishop Cindy Halmarson, SK Synod Bishop Ron Mayan, ABT Synod Bishop Gerhard Preibisch, BC Synod	Bishop Michael Pryse, Eastern Synod Bishop Elaine Sauer, MNO Synod
Staff:	Rev Paul Gehrs, Assistant to the Bishop Rev Carla Blakley, Assistant to the Bishop, Global Mission Rev Lyle McKenzie, Assistant to the Bishop, Worship Rev André Lavergne, Assistant to the Bishop, Ecumenical and Interfaith Gloria McNabb, Director of Finance and Administration Trina Gallop, Director of Communications and Stewardship Faye Schultz, Executive Assistant to the Office of the Bishop	
LWF NA	Rev Teresita Valeriano	
Excused:	Rev Nolan Gingrich, Most Rev Colin Johnson, ACC Rep	

**Thursday, March 11, 2010**

Constitution, Finance, and Governance Committees and the Conference of Bishops met prior to NCC.

**Friday, March 12, 2010**

Opening worship took place at 9:00 am with meeting chaplain, Rev Dr Peter Mikelic, preaching and Bishop Susan Johnson presiding.

To the meeting agenda add the report of the Compliance Officer.

That NCC adopt the amended meeting agenda. **Carried.**

**CC-10-01** That NCC adopt the amended September 10-12, 2009 NCC meeting minutes. **Carried.**

**CC-10-02** That NCC approve the minutes of e-vote #1, February 11, 2010 which reads That NCC appoint Gene Blishen to the Board of Canadian Lutheran World Relief for a three year term beginning March 1, 2010. **Carried.**

Report of the National Bishop

National Bishop Susan Johnson welcomed the newly appointed ELCIC deployed staff to NCC.

Dwelling in the Word—Rev Dr Peter Mikelic

NCC Appointments

**CC-10-03** That NCC appoint Rev James Hill to the Human Sexuality Task Force. **Carried.**

**CC-10-04** That NCC appoint Rev Paul Gehrs to the board of the KAIROS for the term 2010-2013. **Carried.**

**CC-10-05** That NCC approve the following amendment to the CECF Handbook.

B. CAPITAL FUND

II. OPERATING POLICIES

15. That the congregation is responsible for costs incurred relative to securing adequate insurance coverage. The property is to be insured for replacement value. Proof of coverage is required on an annual basis from the insurance company indicating a mortgage clause with loss payable to the ELCIC and a minimum 30-day notice of cancellation. **Carried.**

Report from Group Services Inc. (GSI)—Hildy Thiessen, Executive Director

Hildy introduced the new Board Chair, Jackie Dojack, and reviewed the latest report from GSI.

Report of the Secretary—National Secretary Don Storch

Report of the Conference of Bishops—Bishop Cindy Halmarson

Items discussed included Model Constitution options for smaller congregations, Diaconal Ministry calls, Constitution amendment regarding rostered ministers and their membership in a partner church, and guidelines for retired rostered ministers.

**CC-10-06** That NCC approve the request from the Conference of Bishops to refer their suggested amendments to the constitution re rostered ministers and their church membership to the NCC Constitution Committee. **Carried.**

Retirement Guidelines

That NCC table the Guidelines for Retired Rostered Ministers until unfinished business on Saturday, March 13, 2010. **Carried.**

Reports of the Synod Bishops

National Bishop Susan Johnson acknowledged and thanked BC Synod Bishop Gerhard Preibisch for his time as BC Synod Bishop, as he will be retiring after the BC Synod Convention.

Report from the Council of General Synod of the ACC – written report, The Most Rev Colin Johnson

Archbishop Colin Johnson will be resigning from NCC as he has been elected the Metropolitan of Ontario.

In September, the officers of COGS will attend ELCIC NCC meeting. In November the ELCIC officers will attend the meetings of COGS. A joint COGS-NCC meeting is proposed for the spring of 2011. And we are looking at overlapping conventions in 2013.

ACC General Synod will appoint a member to sit on ELCIC NCC by September, 2010.

Report of Evangelical Lutheran Women—written report, Ruth Magnuson, ELW Executive Director

Report of the LWF Regional Officer for North America—Rev Teresita Valeriano

Tita shared her faith and vision. SK Synod Bishop Cindy Halmarson thanked Tita and spoke of her work on behalf of the LWF.

**CC-10-07** That NCC appoint Rev André Lavergne to the LWF NA committee for a term ending August 31, 2011. **Carried.**

Report from Canadian Lutheran World Relief—Robert Granke, Executive Director

Report of the Officers

**CC-10-08** That NCC adopt the National Bishop Evaluation Process (tab 18 and 19) as presented by the NCC Officers. **Carried.**

That NCC table the document ELCIC Guidelines for Appointments. **Carried.**

That NCC table the Standing Rules of Order for National Convention, item #9 to allow for rewriting. **Carried.**

That NCC table the motion that Convention petitions received, not be published in the Convention Bulletin of Reports until the decision is reached on item #b of the Standing Rules of Order. **Carried.**

That NCC approve the selection of one or more individuals based in each Synod who would be available to assist congregations in the writing of petitions so that they would be clear, factual, and spell out what the desired consequences would be if the action were approved by Convention.(6b)

The question was called. Defeated.

That NCC lift from the table the motion that Convention petitions received as per Bylaw Part VI, Section 8 not be published in the Convention Bulletin of Reports. **Carried.**

**CC-10-09** That NCC affirm that Convention petitions received (as per Bylaw Part VI, Section 8) not be published in the Convention Bulletin of Reports. **Carried.**

That NCC approve the listing of the Synods and congregations who have submitted petition be published in the Bulletin of Reports. Defeated.

That NCC lift from the table the document ELCIC Guidelines for Appointments. **Carried.**

**CC-10-10** That NCC approve the document ELCIC Guidelines for Appointments items #1 through #3 c. **Carried.**

**CC-10-11** That NCC approve the process to be used in future for NCC appointments which allows the Bishop to nominate one name for the position indicating the use of the criteria outlined in point #2, Principles for consideration in making nominations, of the ELCIC Guidelines for Appointments. **Carried**

Dwelling in the Word—Rev Claudine Carlson

Governance Manual

**CC-10-12** That NCC approve the revised Governance Manual included in the Agenda of this March 11-13, 2010 National Church Council meeting, with the amendments that GS 4.5 The Council Member/Council Relationship Description be moved to come after GS 4.1 The Council/Convention Relationship Description along with subsequent renumbering, and that GS 4.7 be referred back to the Governance Committee for clarification. **Carried.**

That NCC move that GP 3-3.4 Asset Risk Management, point one, revert to the original wording. Defeated.

National Convention

**CC-10-13** That NCC approve the 2011 National Convention fees as follows: Rostered or Lay Delegates-\$1,040.00, Youth Delegates-\$475.00, Visitors with meals-\$325.00, Visitors without meals-\$225.00, Day Visitors-\$30.00. **Carried.**

That NCC approve the 2011 National Convention theme of *Covenant People: In Mission for Others*.

Motion to amend using the theme Treaty People: In Mission for Others. Defeated.

**CC-10-14** That NCC approve the 2011 National Convention theme of *Covenant People: In Mission for Others*. **Carried.**

Report of the Structural Renewal Task Force—Sheila Hamilton, Chair

Reviewed the time line for ELCIC structural renewal with regard to Synod and National Conventions.

**CC-10-15** That NCC amend the ELCIC Structural Renewal Task Force mandate by extending it to 2015. **Carried.**

Stewardship Conversation segment was led by Trina Gallop.

That NCC move to an In-Camera session **Carried.**

That NCC resumed the open session. **Carried.**

That NCC move into Committee of the Whole. **Carried.**

That NCC approve that National Staff be included in Committee of the Whole. **Carried.**

That NCC moved to call the question to move out of Committee of the Whole. **Carried.**

That NCC move out of the Committee of the Whole. **Carried.**

Dwelling in the Word—Bishop Michael Pryse

**Saturday, March 13, 2010**

Opening Devotions—Rev Dr Peter Mikelic

Report of the Audit Committee

**CC-10-16** That NCC appoint Ernst and Young as the ELCIC auditors to perform the 2010 audit. **Carried.**

Report of the Constitution Committee

**CC-10-17** That NCC approve the change to the Model Constitution for Congregations Article 7, Section 6, subsection #2, deleting the current wording( the attainment by the pastor of the age of sixty-five years, after which time the pastor may be called for renewable two-year terms;) and replace with the words **the retirement of the pastor**. **Carried.**

Report of the Finance Committee

**CC-10-18** That NCC approve that DFA open appropriate accounts with a financial institution for investment management of short term funds (under two years). **Carried.**

**CC-10 19** That NCC approve the ELCIC 2010 revised national budget. **Carried.**

**CC-10-20** That NCC rescind motion NCC-2000-139 That financial statements be sent on a monthly basis to members of the Finance Committee and on a quarterly basis to the members of National Church Council. **Carried.**

**CC-10-21** That NCC approve that financial statements be sent on a quarterly basis to members of the Finance and Audit Committee and to the members of National Church Council. **Carried.**

**CC-10-22** That NCC rescind motion NCC-2001-104 That copies of the full financial statements be printed and made available to convention delegates on an as requested basis and that the full financial statements be communicated in the convention minute book. **Carried.**

**CC-10-23** That NCC approve that audited financial statements be provided to delegates prior to each National Convention. **Carried.**

**CC-10-24** That NCC rescind motion NCC-2004-29 That \$15,000 from the 2003 surplus in the Operating Fund be appropriated to establish a reserve for future requirements of the Court of Adjudication. Each

year, for inflation purposes, the reserve account shall have interest accrued at the LIFE term rate.  
**Carried.**

Note: Motion: CC-2009-31 That NCC approve a \$15,000 reserve for the future work of the Court of Adjudication is still in effect.

**CC-10-25** That NCC undertake a strategic review of the structuring and support for the mission of the church, including the mandate of CECF and LIFE. **Carried.**

**CC-10-26** That NCC set aside some time between March 2010 and March 2011 to carry out a strategic review, and that the National Bishop is asked to facilitate this process. **Carried.**

Note: A day may be added to the relevant NCC meeting to allow time for this process.

**CC-10-27** That NCC accept Governance Committee minutes of January 28 & 29, 2009, March 3, 2009, September 10, 2009, and December 10, 2009 as information. **Carried.**

Note: The Governance Committee is asked to review the process of recording of such minutes into the NCC minutes and report back to NCC at the September 2010 meeting.

Correspondence for Action

**CC-10-28** That NCC instruct the National Secretary to send a letter to ELW National President, Pam Radunsky informing them they will be kept informed of the ELCIC Structural Renewal process, but that they will not be granted a representative on the Task Force. **Carried.**

Report of the Compliance Officer—Teddy Pope

The Compliance Officer will report to NCC on an annual basis. No issues to report at this time.

Report of the Policy Review Task Force

**CC-10-29** That NCC allow funds for a one-day meeting of the Policy Review Task Force in the spring of 2010. **Carried.**

That NCC moves that a congregation which desires to associate itself with the proposed church body known as the North American Lutheran Church shall be advised that this action constitutes severing its relationship with the ELCIC and therefore shall make written application to its synod for a proper release. The synod shall grant such a request following the process set out in the administrative bylaws of this church.

Amendment to motion to include or rostered minister and, any other constituted church or denomination.  
**Carried.**

**CC-10-30** That a congregation or rostered minister which desires to associate itself with the proposed church body the North American Lutheran Church or any other constituted church or denomination not in full communion with this church, shall be advised that this action constitutes severing its relationship with the ELCIC. In the case of a congregation this means that it shall make written application to its synod for a proper release. The synod shall grant such a request following the process set out in the administrative bylaws of this church. In the case of a rostered minister this means resignation, or removal, from the roster of this church. **Carried.**

Dwelling in the Word—Jeanie Stann

#### GSI Appointments

**CC-10-31** That NCC appoint the 2010 GSI Board as follows:

Ken Diebel (1<sup>st</sup> term), Ian Koellner (1<sup>st</sup> term), Jackie Dojack (1<sup>st</sup> term), Douglas Kramer (2<sup>nd</sup> term), George Sawatsky (2<sup>nd</sup> term) for terms until 2013, and George Bridge (1<sup>st</sup> term), Loretta Jauzarins (1<sup>st</sup> term), Bill Kuehnbaum (1<sup>st</sup> term), Richard Smith (1<sup>st</sup> term), and Ken Hanssen (2<sup>nd</sup> term) for terms until 2011. **Carried.**

#### ELCIC and ACC Shared Office Space

**CC-10-32** That NCC authorizes the National Bishop, in consultation with the Primate of the Anglican Church of Canada and the co-chairs of the joint commission (JALC), to explore the possibility of establishing a joint national office in Ottawa and to take such steps necessary to explore the costs and other implications of such a move. **Carried.**

That NCC lift from the table the Guidelines for Retired Rostered Ministers. **Carried.**

**CC-10-33** That NCC adopt the amended Guidelines for Retired Rostered Ministers as presented by the Conference of Bishops. **Carried.**

That NCC lift from the table The Standing Rules of Order for National Convention, item #9 (now renamed Recommendations of the Committee of Reference and Counsel). **Carried.**

**CC-10-34** That NCC adopt the amended document Recommendations of the Committee of Reference and Counsel. **Carried.**

#### Meeting dates

September 9-11, 2010	Chaplain-Rev Trish Schmermund Dwelling in the word	-Carl Sorensen -Bishop Cindy Halmarson -Ken Hartviksen -TBA
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March 10-12, 2011	(Proposed date)
July 13-17	2011 National Convention
September 8-10, 2011	

The meeting was adjourned.

Closing Worship—Rev Dr Peter Mikelic