

**EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN CANADA
MINUTES OF NATIONAL CHURCH COUNCIL
SEPTEMBER 8-10, 2011
LAUREATE'S LANDING, ST NORBERT MB**

PRESENT:

Officers: National Bishop Susan Johnson
Sheila Hamilton, Vice-President

Murray Walter, Secretary
Ken Day, Treasurer

Council: Rev. Chris Bishopp
Jeff Buhse
Marie-Laure Collet
Rev. Matthew Diegel
Cynthia Haines-Turner (ACC)
Heidi Hesselink
Cindy Hoppe
Allyn Langager
Pat Lovell

Rev. Kathy Martin
Teddy Pope
Rev. Doug Reble
Rev. Trish Schmermund
Rev. Jeff Smith
Rev. Heather Spencer
Jeanie Stann
Barb Stolee

Synod Bishops: Bishop Cindy Halmarson, SK Synod
Bishop Ron Mayan, ABT Synod
Bishop Greg Mohr, 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

Thursday, September 8, 2011, 7:00 pm

Opening Worship led by meeting chaplain, Rev. Doug Reble

National Bishop, Susan Johnson called the meeting to order. Bishop Johnson welcomed the NCC members and asked them to share a little about themselves.

Orientation for members was led by National Bishop Susan Johnson and Vice-President Sheila Hamilton. The following were reviewed:

- NCC Governance Manual
- ELCIC Governance Documents:
 - Act of Parliament, Constitution, Administrative Bylaws, and Corporate Bylaws
- NCC Strategic Plan
- ELCIC Relationships
- Process of Appointments.
- NCC Policies
- ELCIC Policies
- Personnel Policy Handbook.

Dwelling in the Word-Rev. Jeff Smith

Friday, September 9, 2011

Opening prayer-meeting chaplain, Rev. Doug Reble

CC-2011-69 That NCC approve the amended agenda. **CARRIED.**

Declaration of Conflicts of Interest-No Conflicts declared

CC-2011-70 That NCC approve the July 13 & July 17, 2011 meeting minutes. **CARRIED.**

National Bishop Susan Johnson Report:

- Work of Structural Renewal-National Implementation Team-to be appointed at this meeting, one of the most important pieces of work for NCC this biennium
- Congregations leaving ELCIC-result in financial consequences–NCC members will need to watch finances closely
- Strategic Plan review for March 2012-business can be carried out in a expedient way-set new plan for work
- Wilfrid Laurier University has chosen National Bishop Susan Johnson for an achievement award
- Spiritual Renewal program will be promoted: Pray, Read, Worship, Study, Serve, Give, Tell
- Convention materials, including Spiritual Renewal, were sent to congregations not represented at Convention.

Synod Bishop Report-Rev. Ron Mayan-Bishop ABT Synod

CC-2011-71 That NCC approve the 2011 National Convention Minutes. **CARRIED.**

Review of Convention Evaluations and Finances

The ELCIC has received an invitation from ABT Synod to host the 2015 ELCIC National Convention.

MS That NCC review the balloting process at the ELCIC National Convention.

MS That the motion be tabled. **CARRIED.**

Report from Group Services Inc.-Hildy Thiessen, executive director, and Jackie Dojack, board chair.

Jackie Dojack gave an overview of the organization.

Hildy Thiessen led the presentation regarding what the plan offers

ELCIC National Church Council moved into the Sole Member of ELCIC Group Services Inc. Corporation Meeting.

ELCIC National Church Council meeting resumed.

Synod Bishop Report-Rev. Dr. Greg Mohr-Bishop BC Synod

Dwelling in the Word-Rev. Matthew Diegel

Convention Actions and Unfinished Business:

NC-2011-04 MS That the ELCIC in convention

- Ask members, congregations, and synods of this church to engage the issue of ethical investing in their private and collective practice;

- Commend to all expressions of this church the work of KAIROS on sustainability and resource extraction.
www.kairoscanada.org/en/sustainability/resource-extraction/
- Ask the National Church to identify educational resources on ethical investing for this engagement;
- Ask National Church Council and GSI Administrator to review its investment policies, giving due consideration to how its practices reflect compassionate justice and ethical stewardship. Specifically, we urge that human rights and environmental sustainability be supported and upheld. We ask National Church Council and GSI to report back to the 2013 convention.

Refer to National Office to relate information to congregations. Ask GSI to share information on ethical investing information with NCC.

NC-2011-05 MS That the 2011 ELCIC National Convention consider for approval the Proposed Social Statement on Human Sexuality.

This will be a Statement of this church.

NC-2011-17 MS That the ELCIC in convention ask the Administrator of GSI to explore possibilities for an alternative pension plan such as Canadian Alternative Investment Co-operative (www.caic.ca) and/or other ethical investing initiatives which seek to make investments which support positive social change and promote alternative economic structures. We ask that the Administrator report back to the 2013 convention.

GSI will do follow up regarding this motion.

NC-2011-18 MS That this assembly acknowledge and recognize that active pension plan members had traditionally enjoyed a credit of the 2% supplemental contribution to their pension accounts as it was not needed to support an unfunded liability, and that since mid 2003 the supplemental contribution has been used to support their pre-2003 retired colleagues retirement security and

That this assembly encourage the Board of ELCIC Group Services Inc (“GSI”) to consider amending the pension plan to increase contributions to active pension plan members’ accounts once the unfunded liability is eliminated, and that GSI report the outcome of this work at 2013 convention.

That ELCIC participating employers be encouraged to seriously examine the effect on the pension accounts of their employees who were active pension plan members during the period when the 2% supplemental contribution was credited to the unfunded liability and

That ELCIC participating employers be encouraged to give consideration to using some or all of the funds freed up by the early elimination of the 4% additional contribution, to compensate their employees in lieu of the 2% supplemental contribution that was not credited to active plan members’ pension accounts since 2003.

GSI will do follow up regarding this motion.

NC-2011-19 MS Recognizing the important role that Pastors and Rostered Leaders provide for the Proclamation of the “Good News” in Jesus Christ, the historic commitment of Lutherans to higher education, and the need for ongoing reformation and renewal of the people of God;

The ELCIC in Convention calls upon the Synods, Congregations and Agencies of this church to:

- Reaffirm and encourage a personal and collective commitment by all members, laity and clergy to ongoing programs of Continuing Education for leaders in the ELCIC;
- Insuring that an appropriate educational component is included at gatherings, assemblies, meetings and events of this church;

- Request Bishops to continue to regularly encourage participation by rostered ministers in the ELCIC Continuing Education Plan (CEP) and participation in Continuing Education Programs;
- Review and enhance the Continuing Education policies of this church as they pertain to rostered ministers by:
 - Requiring 40 hours annually of formally recognized continuing education (e.g. courses, conferences, workshops etc.) and a total of 240 hours over five years;
 - By increasing the recommended financial support and time available within the benefit packages for Rostered leaders;
 - By encouraging congregations or agencies to consider participation in recognized continuing education programs in considering increases in compensation packages;
 - To modify the Annual Report Form to the Bishop to include a place for clergy to indicate compliance with this requirement and indicate the nature of the program/course taken;
 - By noting on mobility forms that clergy or Rostered leaders under consideration have or have not complied with this requirement;
- Encourage and support theological schools and universities in the continuing, developing and sustaining continuing education opportunities for laity, clergy and rostered ministers.

That the petition be referred to National Church Council.

Refer the motion to Program Committee for Leadership for Ministry (PCLM) and request a report at March 2012 NCC Meeting. GSI to be included in sharing of information.

NC-2011-20 MS That each seminary of the ELCIC be granted one voting delegate to National Convention. That the petition be referred to National Church Council.

CC-2011-72 That NCC refer to NCC Constitution Committee the matter of voice for seminary representatives at National Convention, for consideration when preparing amendments to the ELCIC Administrative Bylaws.
CARRIED.

NC-2011-21 That the ELCIC create a taskforce to explore and identify pathways for the renewal of our church as a whole beyond just a focus on structures.

The membership of this taskforce will be made up of people from across the ELCIC with a focus on involving people who are creative and/or have experience in leading renewal in their contexts.

That the petition be referred to National Church Council.

MS Move to table till after the report from the Canadian Mission Consultants. **CARRIED.**

NC-2011-22 That the amended motion Encouraging Right Relationships with Indigenous Peoples be approved.

An ELCIC Resolution on Encouraging Right Relationships with Indigenous Peoples

That this convention commits this church to promoting right and renewed relationships between non-indigenous and Indigenous Peoples within Canada.

That the ELCIC affirms that we are all treaty people, and we will find ways to mature in our living together. This is assisted by remembering the rights, responsibilities and dignity that are bestowed by God and lived out with one another. We affirm that recognizing and implementing indigenous rights is essential to being the kind of society Canada strives to be.

That the ELCIC endorses the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples adopted by the UN General Assembly on 13 September 2007; and adopts the declaration as a standard for our own practice.

We commit to implementing the values and principles of the declaration within the work and structures of this church.

That this convention asks the National Bishop to write to the Prime Minister, encouraging the Government of Canada to work collaboratively with Indigenous Peoples on the full and effective implementation of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, and to provide the Parliament of Canada with regular reports on how the Government will reform laws and policies in order to meet the UN Declaration's standards.

That this church actively supports the work and goals of Canada's Truth and Reconciliation Commission. Walking by faith and with the Spirit, we will listen to diverse voices, in order to deepen our understanding of history and of today's challenges, injustices and opportunities. We will be part of dreaming, praying and working together for a reconciled and hopeful future. We recognize that immediate action and long-term commitment are required for healing to occur.

To further encourage right relations with Indigenous peoples,

That congregations, in their annual reports be encouraged to include a summary of participation in relationship-building activities with Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples, and

That the ELCIC, at its 2013 National Convention with the ACC in Ottawa, seek to ensure that the rights of Indigenous peoples and our ongoing reconciliation focus, are priorities.

This convention calls on the synods, congregations, members and all expressions of this church to seek out opportunities to deepen understanding of indigenous rights, to participate in Canada's Truth and Reconciliation process, and to renew relationships between indigenous and non-indigenous peoples in our varied contexts. We commend to members of this church the KAIROS resource *In Peace and Friendship: A New Relationship with Aboriginal Peoples* as one tool for living out our calling as a covenant people who are *In Mission for Others*.

National Bishop Johnson will write a letter to the Prime Minister of Canada, and will also promote the Truth and Reconciliation Meetings in the regions of the church. Congregations will be encouraged to include a summary of the work they are doing in this area in their annual reports.

Tabled motion: That NCC review the balloting process at the ELCIC National Convention.

MS To bring the motion from the table. **CARRIED.**

MS To withdraw the motion. **CARRIED.**

MS That NCC move into an in-camera session. **CARRIED.**

That NCC moved out of the in-camera session.

Synod Bishop Report-Rev. Cindy Halmarson-Bishop SK Synod

Business arising from Report of the National Bishop

CC-2011-73 That NCC approve the criteria for the Cora Martinson Scholarship Fund be amended so that the maximum scholarship increases from \$3,000.00 to \$5,000.00 per student, per year. **CARRIED.**

CC-2011-74 That NCC approve in principle to use up to \$200,000.00 of excess funds above cap of \$14 M of CECF capital funds for new models of mission based on criteria to be developed and submitted in March, 2012. **CARRIED.**

Discussion paper–Global Mission and Accompaniment

Discussion paper—the Ecumenical Journey

Synod Bishop Report-Rev. Dr. Michael Pryse-Bishop Eastern Synod

Convention Actions and Unfinished Business

Move NC-2011-21 from table for discussion. **CARRIED.**

Spiritual Renewal program is being promoted, and the work of Canadian Mission Consultation is ongoing, so no additional Task Force is required at this time.

NC-2011-25 That the 2011 ELCIC National Convention consider for approval the following policy statement (BOR Motion #27):

It is the policy of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada that rostered ministers may, according to the dictates of their consciences as informed by the Gospel, the Scriptures, the ecumenical creeds and the confessions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church, preside at or bless legal marriages according to the laws of the province within which they serve. All rostered ministers in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada are encouraged to exercise due diligence in preparing couples for marriage. All rostered ministers serving congregations are encouraged at all times to conduct their ministry in consultation with the lay leaders in the congregation, and with sensitivity to the culture within which the congregation serves.

NCC encouraged the National Bishop to develop resources for adapting existing rites for use in marriages or blessing of civil marriages for same-sex couples. Such resources are to be forwarded to the synod bishops for appropriate distribution.

NC-2011-27 That the 2011 National Convention approve the recommendations of the Structural Renewal Taskforce in principle and authorize the National Church Council to move forward with the implementation process.

Synods are working on their implementation teams. Constitution work needs to be done by an Implementation Team at the National level. Vice-President Sheila Hamilton listed work of the Implementation Team at the National Level from the Structural Renewal Task Force Report given at the 2011 Convention. Each Synod to appoint a member from their Synod to sit on the National Implementation Team. Synod appointees: Kathy Martin, Wayne Street, Chris Bishopp, Alan Francis, Linda Grainger, National appointees: National Bishop, Murray Walter, Marge Watters Knebel, Sheila Hamilton. National Implementation Team mandate is for the term to 2013.

CC-2011-75 That NCC appoint the following people: Rev. Kathy Martin, Wayne Street, Rev. Chris Bishopp, Alan Francis, Linda Grainger, National Bishop Susan Johnson, Murray Walter, Marge Watters Knebel, Sheila Hamilton to the Structural Renewal National Implementation Team for a term of 2011-2013. **CARRIED.**

Unfinished Business from Convention

CC-2011-76 That NCC adopt the Resolution on Addressing Sexual Exploitation and Human Trafficking

- Affirms and supports the initiatives of The Lutheran World Federation (LWF), the Canadian Council of Churches (CCC) and the Women's Inter-Church Council of Canada (WICC) to eliminate human trafficking.
- Ask congregations, rostered leaders and synods to provide leadership in preaching, teaching and other forms of public witness against the commercial exploitation of human beings.
- Ask the National Bishop to write a letter to the Prime Minister, urging the government of Canada to provide resources for the protection of victims of sexual exploitation, including counselling, accessible, affordable and safe housing, eligibility and access to health and social services,

employment referrals, and often language training. In addition, urge the Government of Canada to provide law enforcement resources for the prosecution and rehabilitation of offenders who engage in human trafficking.

- Ask this church to study and advocate for opportunities to strengthen Canadian legislation and policies which “discourage the demand that fosters all forms of exploitation of persons, especially women and children,” as called for in the *United Nations Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children* Article 9, Section 5 (www.unodc.org)
- Ask the National Bishop to prepare a list of resources for addressing sexual exploitation, and post this on the ELCIC website.
- Commends to the members of this church “21 Things You Can Do Today to End Sex Trafficking!,” based on those prepared by Resist Exploitation, Embrace Dignity (REED, www.embracedignity.org):

1. Address the brokenness in your own life.
2. Oppose the legalization (total decriminalization) of prostitution.
3. Stop viewing pornography.
4. Make lifestyle choices that do not further global inequality.
5. Educate others about human trafficking.
6. Become an abolitionist.
7. Promote gender equality and human dignity in your daily life.
8. Directly ask the men in your life if they pay for sex.
9. Give women the same opportunities as men.
10. Partner with the efforts of local organizations, such as REED, who work to prevent sexual exploitation.
11. Advocate for just immigration policies and safe paths of migration.
12. Pray for the freedom of men and women affected by brothels in your city.
13. Question the norm of “sex for sale.”
14. Support the education of women and girls, especially in developing countries.
15. Protest the proliferation of the “pimp n ho” culture.
16. Seek freedom from a lifestyle of consumerism.
17. Contact your governmental representative with your concerns about trafficking and prostitution.
18. Become a foster parent.
19. Do not stigmatize prostituted women.
20. Challenge those who make sexist “jokes.”
21. Pray for healing to come in the area of trafficking and sexual exploitation.

Commit ourselves as church to respond faithfully to opportunities for partnerships and cooperation between church and society working for legislation that will protect persons liberated from being trafficked and playing roles in bringing about cultural transformation and the elimination of trafficking. **CARRIED.**

Note: NCC will bring this back to the National Convention in 2013 for endorsement.

Unfinished Business from Reference and Counsel

Convention Resolution: That the ELCIC, in partnership with the Synods, make provision for every congregation no matter what their size, income or location to celebrate Holy Communion on a weekly basis or on a schedule of their choosing.

CC-2011-77 That NCC refer the Resolution Regarding Provision for Weekly Congregational Communion to the Conference of Bishops. **CARRIED.**

Convention Resolution: That the ELCIC continue to affirm and support a viable ministry to students attending Universities and Colleges across Canada through support from local, synodical and national expressions of our Lutheran church identity.

That this convention direct National Church Council to articulate a vision for the maintenance and future development of campus ministry programs across Canada.

The Chair declared the petition out of order.

Rationale Synods are primarily responsible for special ministries such as campus chaplaincy. (ELCIC National and Synodical Responsibilities, Bulletin of Reports page D-2).

Synods can at any time request from the National Church support in cooperating on a particular ministry strategy.

Convention Resolution: That NCC refer to the next convention committee to explore ways to be more environmentally friendly by striving to use/handout less paper and communicate wirelessly and enable computers /padlets, get rid of plastic cups, etc.

MS to Amend the resolution by removing the following wording: 'by striving to use/handout less paper and communicate wirelessly and enable computers/padlets, get rid of plastic cups, etc.' **CARRIED.**

CC-2011-78 That NCC refer to the next convention committee to explore ways to be more environmentally friendly. **CARRIED.**

Memorandum of Understanding-CLWR

MS That NCC approve the amended Memorandum of Understanding with CLWR.

MS Motion to be tabled while awaiting further information. **CARRIED.**

Update of the review of ELCIC Policies

Policy Review Task Force looked at motions from National Conventions and National Church Council Meetings resulting in ELCIC Policies, the work of the Task Force is behind due to time and staffing restrictions.

March 2011 NCC Meeting:

CC-2011-59 That NCC approve that consideration of Structural Renewal Task Force Report actions number 9 & 10 be brought to the September 2011 NCC meeting.

9. Recommendation: that National Church Council, in consultation with the ELCIC theological schools and Synods, appoint a task force—separate from the Structural Renewal Task Force to:
 - Identify the issues surrounding the future of theological education in the ELCIC,
 - Propose a national strategy for theological education to address these issues,
 - Assess the capability and role of the seminaries in implementing such a strategy, taking into consideration their complex financial, accreditation, academic and accountability requirements, and
 - Report back to the National Church Council, including in this report a list of the steps and enabling motions which would be required to implement such a national strategy.

10. Recommendation: That National Church Council examine the relationship between the National Church and Special Interest Conferences.

MS Recommendation number 9 to be tabled till Saturday, September 10, 2011. **CARRIED.**

CC-2011-79 That National Church Council direct National Bishop Susan Johnson to examine the relationship between the National Church and Special Interest Conferences. **CARRIED.**

Synod Bishop Report-Rev. Elaine Sauer-Bishop MNO Synod

MS That NCC move to an in-camera session and include National Office Staff in the session. **CARRIED.**

NCC moved out of the in-camera session.

NCC voted to move the following motion to the public record.

CC-2011-80 That the officers of the church review the process of how elections and balloting are conducted at National Conventions, and report to NCC at the September 2012 meeting. **CARRIED.**

It was agreed that the Secretary will prepare a letter for the National Bishop to send to those who have raised questions about balloting procedures.

Dwelling in the Word-Rev. Trish Schmermund

Saturday, September 10, 2011

Opening prayer led by meeting chaplain, Rev. Doug Reble

MS Motion regarding MOU-CLWR be moved from the table. **CARRIED.**

CC-2011-81 That NCC approve the amended Memorandum of Understanding with CLWR. **CARRIED.**

MS Motion regarding theological schools be moved from the table. **CARRIED.**

CC-2011-82 That National Church Council, in consultation with the ELCIC theological schools and Synods, appoint a task force—separate from the Structural Renewal Task Force to:

- Identify the issues surrounding the future of theological education in the ELCIC,
 - Propose a National model for theological education to address these issues,
 - Assess the capability and role of the seminaries in implementing such a model, taking into consideration their complex financial, accreditation, academic and accountability requirements,
 - Report back to the National Church Council, including in this report a list of the steps and enabling motions which would be required to implement such a national model, and
 - Consist of one representative from each Synod and that the Synods have conversation to have diverse representation, one representative from WLS, one representative from LTS, one representative from PCLM, one representative from the Association of Theological Schools (non-Lutheran, Canadian), and a chairperson to be named by the National Officers.
- CARRIED.**

ELCIC financial report presented by Gloria McNabb, ELCIC Director of Finance and Administration

Review of Officers/Council Relationship and the review of performance of Council and Standing Committees
NCC would like more reporting regarding work.

NCC Committee assignments:

NCC Audit

Teddy Pope, Jeff Buhse, External CA

NCC Constitution

Murray Walter, Chris Bishopp, Matthew Diegel, Marie-Laure Collet

Teddy Pope, Trish Schmermund, Barb Stolee

Faith Order and Doctrine

Trish Schmermund

NCC Finance

Ken Day, Heidi Hesselink, Cindy Hoppe, Kathy Martin

NCC Governance Jeffrey Smith, Jeanie Stann
Sheila Hamilton, Cynthia Haines Turner, Allyn Langager
Pat Lovell, Heather Spencer
ELCIC Women of Faith Fund Marie-Laure Collet

CC-2011-83 That NCC approve the 2011 NCC Committee assignments. **CARRIED.**

Conference of Bishops Report

CC-2011-84 That NCC approve the amendment to the ELCIC Candidacy Manual re Alternative Route for Admission to the Roster of Ordained Ministers.

The Basic Theological Education for Ministry program will include a minimum of 30 credit hours (10 classes) and extends over a minimum of one year (2 semesters); it will include the study of Scripture, Christian theology, the Lutheran Confessions, church history, worship, preaching, and the policy and practices of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada. These are minimum requirements. In consultation with the seminary, the CTEL/CCOM may specify additional requirements.

~~In addition to the minimum of one year (2 semesters) of residency at a seminary of this church, candidates will also be required to complete an Internship placement as well as a single unit of Supervised Pastoral Education. In exceptional circumstances, the CTEL/CCOM may waive one or both of these last two requirements.~~

The seminary residency requirement may be met by either

- a) A minimum of one year (2 semesters) of residency at a seminary of this church, or
- b) A Theological Education for Emerging Ministry (TEEM) program, as offered through a seminary of this church. The TEEM program includes brief periods of residency class time, along with distance education and mentorship.

In addition candidates will also be required to complete an Internship placement as well as a single unit of Supervised Pastoral Education. In exceptional circumstances, the CTEL/CCOM may waive one or both of these last two requirements. **CARRIED.**

CC-2011-85 That NCC will request National Bishop Susan Johnson to write a letter to the Saskatchewan Synod advising NCC won't take further action regarding developing and promoting ethical guidelines for rostered leaders in congregations considering withdrawal from the ELCIC, as this is covered by recent amendments to the ELCIC Administrative Bylaws. **CARRIED.**

Women of Faith Fund Report presented by NCC member Marie-Laure Collet

Sabbatical Requests

CC-2011-86 That NCC grant ELCIC Director of Finance and Administration, Gloria McNabb a sabbatical from May 7, 2012 to August 6, 2012. **CARRIED.**

CC-2011-87 That NCC grant National Bishop Susan Johnson a three month sabbatical from November 2012 to February 2013. **CARRIED.**

Review of Correspondence for action:

Letter from Rev. Emil Krause-(Tab 33)

National Bishop Susan Johnson will respond with a letter.

