

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

**MARCH 5-8, 2008**

**LAUREATE'S LANDING, ST NORBERT MANITOBA**

**PRESENT:**

Officers:	National Bishop, Susan Johnson Roger Kingsley, Vice-President	Donald Storch, Secretary Ken Hartviksen, Treasurer
Council:	Tom Brook 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 Rev Trish Schmermund Carl Sorensen 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
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:	Rev Claudine Carlson	

**Wednesday, March 5, and Thursday, March 6, 2008**

National Bishop Susan Johnson presided at opening worship.

Bible Study led by Bishop Johnson

Tom Brook led devotions.

The NCC visioning workshop on March 6 and 7 was facilitated by Jeff Pym.

**Friday, March 7, 2008**

Bishop Johnson called the meeting to order.

Tom Brook led devotions.

**MS** that the agenda be approved as amended. **CARRIED.**

**CC-08-02 MS** that the minutes of Sept 27-29, 2007 be approved as amended. **CARRIED.**

**CC-08-03 MS** that the minutes of the November 22, 2007 email meeting be approved as amended. **CARRIED.**

**CC-08-04 MS** that the minutes of the January 23, 2008 email meeting be approved as amended. **CARRIED.**

**CC-08-05 MS** that NCC approve the PCMW policy document “Companion Synod Program Policies and Procedures”. **CARRIED.**

**CC-08-06 MS** that NCC approve one Sunday a year as Mission in the World Sunday.

MS amend the motion by placing a period after Mission in the World Sunday and delete the following wording, (and that a Sunday in ordinary time following the Epiphany of Our Lord be designated as such). **CARRIED.**

**CC-08-07 MS** to refer to the National Bishop and COBs the selection of a particular Sunday. **CARRIED.**

Note: that the NCC constitution committee review the Administrative Bylaws, Part 7, Section 9B to determine if this should remain a Convention responsibility.

**CC-08-08 MS** that NCC approve Bishop Cindy Halmarson be appointed to serve on the North American Regional Committee of the LWF. **CARRIED.**

**CC-08-09 MS** that NCC approve the 2009 convention theme “In Mission for Others: Signs of Hope” and registration fees of

Ordained or Lay Delegates	\$955
Visitors with meals	\$290
Visitors without meals	\$190
Youth Assembly Participants	\$390
Day Visitors	\$ 25

**CARRIED.**

**CC-08-10 MS** that NCC approve the amendments as follows to the CECF Management Handbook. **CARRIED.**

B I 3.

The Capital Fund shall be a revolving fund. Loan policies shall enable maximum use of this fund for development of the church in its continuing mission in Canada. It is the goal to revolve this fund on a ~~five~~ ten-year cycle.

B II C 7 iii

7. iii) The church site property shall not be held as part of the Church Capital Extension Fund for a period longer ~~then~~ than ten years.

B II G 1

1. Mortgage loans from the Capital Fund shall be for terms not to exceed ~~five~~ **ten** year; at maturity, refinancing through commercial or private loans shall be ~~encouraged~~ **required**.

Delete description and box on Church Extension Fund Appendix 1-Application Form.

~~Description: Project applications must be submitted to the attention of the Canadian Mission Committee for the Synod to which you belong by the date(s) that the synod has established to review such applications. For information on the dates established by the Canadian Mission Committee in your synod, please contact your synod office directly.~~

C Appendix II 4

4. Value of projects approved in calendar year:

~~(Attach copies of Application for Church Extension Funds for all approved projects, including amount of funding approved for each project.)~~

ABT NCC Member Position

Barb Stolee and Leroy Johnson were nominated as the ABT NCC member to complete the present term to 2009 Convention. Since this term is less than two years it does not count toward the two consecutive terms rule. Ballots were distributed, counted, and Barb Stolee was declared elected.

**CC-08-11** MS that the ballots of the ABT NCC member election be destroyed. **CARRIED**.

2008 Officers' Meeting Minutes

Officers recommend that NCC review the motion NC-07-34 concerning a referral to FOD for two reasons. First, that in previous Conventions we have not allowed the Convention to refer to an NCC committee, only to NCC. Second, because we feel the question is not the right question for referral and that it may complicate the Human Sexuality Task Force process.

**CC-08-12** MS that NCC rescind motion CC-07-87 (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.). **CARRIED**.

**CC-08-13** MS NCC refer the report of the Conference of Bishops re: the issue of mandatory continuing education for ELCIC rostered members to the National Bishop for referral to PCLM. **CARRIED**.

**CC-08-14** MS that NCC request the National Bishop to approach PCW to conduct a review of the rite of installation and ordination of a Bishop as per recommendation of the Conference of Bishops. **CARRIED**.

**CC-08-15** MS that NCC approve the revision to the 2008 National budget. (see Budget report to follow minutes) **CARRIED**.

**CC-08-16** MS that NCC approve the ELCIC not attribute interest earnings to internally-restricted funds or to internally-controlled deferred revenues; and that this policy be applied uniformly to all such funds effective January 1, 2008. **CARRIED.**

**CC-08-17** MS that NCC approve that all affiliated conferences and events be budgeted to be self-funded. **CARRIED.**

**CC-08-18** MS that NCC approve the ELCIC create internally-restricted funds for each affiliated conference or event to hold accumulated surpluses over time. **CARRIED.**

**CC-08-19** MS that NCC approve the ELCIC no longer accept any new LIFE certificates. **CARRIED.**

**CC-08-20** MS that NCC approve that the ELCIC suspend issuing new LIFE mortgages. **CARRIED.**

**CC-08-21** MS that NCC approve the interest rate charged to LIFE borrowers be increased from 1% over the interest paid on five-year term certificates to 2% over the interest paid on five-year term certificates. **CARRIED.**

**CC-08-22** MS that NCC approve an internally-restricted fund be established to accumulate funds for the purpose of moving incoming and outgoing National Bishops. **CARRIED.**

MS that NCC move to an in-camera session. **CARRIED.**

The public session resumed and the secretary reported that motions INCC-07-03 and INCC-08-03 are moved to the public record.

**INCC-07-03** that the ELCIC apply for a Letter of Credit of up to \$9 million to secure the unfunded solvency liability for the retired portion of the GSI pension plan. **CARRIED.**

**INCC-08-03** That the “Resolution” concerning letter of credit to GSI and the attached agreement with GSI and the Terms as provided by TD Bank be approved. **CARRIED**

*RESOLUTION OF THE MEMBERS  
OF THE NATIONAL CHURCH COUNCIL  
OF  
EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN CANADA  
("ELCIC")*

*WHEREAS a pension plan (the “Pension Plan”) for clergy and lay workers of groups affiliated with ELCIC (“Employers”) has a solvency deficiency (“Solvency Deficiency”) in its Retired Benefit Account which, as at November 30, 2007, was approximately \$10,493,000;*

*AND WHEREAS ELCIC Group Services Inc. (“GSI”), a corporation whose sole member is ELCIC, is the sponsor and administrator of the Pension Plan;*

*AND WHEREAS the Pension Plan is subject to the Employment Pensions Plan Act (Alberta) and the regulations thereunder, including Alberta Finance Policy Bulletin #39 Letter of Credit and Alberta Finance Schedule of Expected Contributions EP 07-06, as amended from time to time (collectively, the “EPPA”);*

*AND WHEREAS CIBC Mellon Trust Company of Canada (“Fund Holder”) holds the assets of the Pension Plan pursuant to an agreement dated July 11, 2003;*

*AND WHEREAS, since September 1, 2004, Employers have been making additional contributions to the Pension Plan equal to six (6%) percent of Employees’ salary basis (“Additional Contributions”) for the purpose of reducing the Solvency Deficiency, but such payments are unlikely to eliminate the Solvency Deficiency within a period of five (5) years from December 31, 2007;*

*AND WHEREAS EPPA requires that the Solvency Deficiency be eliminated within five (5) years but now allows for use of a letter of credit (“Letter of Credit”) which meets the requirements of the EPPA, as certified by the Alberta Superintendent of Pensions (“Superintendent”) as an asset of the Pension Plan to reduce the Solvency Deficiency;*

*AND WHEREAS GSI does not have the financial resources to obtain such a Letter of Credit and has requested ELCIC to obtain a Letter of Credit from a qualified financial institution which meets the requirements of EPPA and to provide such a Letter of Credit to the Fund Holder in the amount of the difference between the Solvency Deficiency and the present value of the Employers’ contributions to the Pension Plan (the “Funding Deficiency”) upon the terms and conditions of an agreement to be entered into between GSI and ELCIC (the “Contribution Agreement”);*

*AND WHEREAS the Fund Holder has advised that it will accept, hold and deal with the Letter of Credit in accordance with the terms of a Solvency Funding Relief Agreement to be entered into with GSI;*

*AND WHEREAS the Council has determined that it is in the best interests of ELCIC to enter into the Contribution Agreement and to obtain the Letter of Credit from The Toronto-Dominion Bank (the “Bank”) upon the terms and conditions set forth in a financing letter from the Bank dated January 15, 2008 (the “Financing Letter”), as may be amended in any way approved by the Bishop and one other officer of ELCIC as being necessary, desirable or appropriate, the necessity, desirability and appropriateness of which shall be conclusively evidenced by the execution and delivery thereof by the Bishop and any such other officer;*

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:**

- 1. ELCIC enter into the Contribution Agreement with GSI in the form and content presented to the meeting, a copy of which is attached hereto as Schedule A, as may be amended in any way approved by the Bishop and any one other officer of ELCIC as being necessary, desirable or appropriate, the necessity, desirability and appropriateness of which shall be conclusively evidenced by the execution and delivery thereof by the Bishop and any such other officer.*
- 2. ELCIC accept the Financing Letter in form and content presented to the meeting, a copy of which is attached hereto as Schedule B, as amended in any way accepted by the Bishop and any one other officer of ELCIC as being necessary, desirable or appropriate, the necessity, desirability and appropriateness of which shall be conclusively evidenced by the execution and delivery thereof by the Bishop and any such other officer.*
- 3. As security for the obligations of ELCIC to the Bank pursuant to the Financing Letter, ELCIC grant to the Bank a first security interest in all of the property and assets of ELCIC, including its interest in its pooled fund holdings with Greystone Managed Investments Inc. and such other security as may be set forth in the Financing Letter pursuant to the terms of a General Security Agreement, a General Hypothecation of Stocks and Bonds, a Securities Pledge Agreement, a*

*Securities Control Agreement and such other security documents as are contemplated in the Financing Letter (the "Loan Documents") in such form and content as may be approved by the Bishop and any one other officer of the Council as being necessary, desirable, or appropriate, the necessity, desirability and appropriateness of which shall be conclusively evidenced by the execution and delivery of such agreements and documents by the Bishop and any such other officer.*

4. *ELCIC is hereby authorized and directed to executed, deliver and perform all of its obligations under and to consummate the transactions contemplated by the Contribution Agreement, Financing Letter and the Loan Documents.*
5. *The Bishop and any one other officer of ELCIC be, and they are hereby, authorized and directed to execute, deliver and perform all of ELCIC's obligations, including without limitation, borrowing money, obtaining the Letter of Credit and securing the obligations of ELCIC and consummating the transactions contemplated by the Contribution Agreement, the Financing Letter and the Loan Documents and any such other related agreements, instruments and documents on such terms and conditions as any officer of ELCIC may deem necessary, desirable or appropriate, the necessity or desirability or appropriateness of which shall be conclusively evidenced by the execution and delivery of such other agreements, instruments and documents by the Bishop and such other officer.*
6. *The Bishop and any one other officer of ELCIC are hereby authorized and directed by and on behalf of ELCIC to do any and all things as they may deem necessary, desirable or appropriate to carry out fully and expeditiously each of the foregoing resolutions and the intent and purposes thereof.*

#### CERTIFICATE

*The undersigned officer of Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada hereby certifies the foregoing to be a true and correct copy of resolutions passed by the National Church Council of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada on January 15, 2008 and such resolutions remain unamended and in full force and effect.*

DATED the            day of January, 2008.

\_\_\_\_\_  
*National Bishop - Susan Johnson*

Correspondence

**CC-08-23** MS that NCC encourage the National Bishop to pursue the idea of a shared National Office with the Anglican Church of Canada. **CARRIED.**

**CC-08-24** MS that NCC refer the Eastern Synod motion back to the Eastern Synod council for further specificity. Motion: that the Eastern Synod Council request that the National Church Council refer the following question to the Court of Adjudication; which expression of this church has authority to determine what pastoral practices are permissible and under what circumstances?

MS that the motion be tabled till the next NCC meeting, and the National Bishop have discussion with the Eastern Synod council regarding the motion. Defeated.

The motion as presented was **CARRIED**.

**CC-08-25** MS that NCC affirm Bishop Johnson's January 25, 2007 response to seven members of Faith Lutheran, Kelowna, and ask the Bishop to contact them concerning NCC's support of her response. **CARRIED**.

**CC-08-26** MS that NCC approve the appointment of the NCC Constitution Committee as follows: Vice President Roger Kingsley, Bishop Cindy Halmarson, Rev Trish Schmermund, Maaike Froelich and Secretary, Don Storch. **CARRIED**.

### **Saturday, March 08, 2008**

National Bishop Susan Johnson welcomed NCC members to the last business session.

Tom Brook led devotions.

Ruth Vince, Executive Direction of Evangelical Lutheran Women addressed the NCC sharing what is happening with the ELW visioning process.

National Bishop and NCC correspondence will continue to be shared electronically for each NCC meeting. A suggestion for a NCC private web server to post NCC information was made.

MS that NCC request the PCW to review the sacramental practices in the ELCIC. **DEFEATED**.

**CC-08-27** MS that NCC approve the amendment to the ELCIC Candidacy Manual. That in the Core courses sections of the Candidacy Manual PCLM change the term Canadian and Lutheran Church History to "Church History" on the approved course list (appendix #5) as well as in section C-3 in the Candidacy Manual. **CARRIED**.

**CC-08-28** MS that NCC approve the amendment to the ELCIC Candidacy Manual. That we approve a required course in "Theology of Diaconal Ministry" for all candidates in Diaconal ministry. **CARRIED**.

NCC requests the National Bishop to respond to the CCC concerning our annual commitment.

**CC-08-29** MS that NCC approve the two re-appointments Rev Dr Faith Rohrbough and Rev Dr Mark Harris to the CLWR governing board. **CARRIED**.

**CC-08-30** MS that NCC approve, if the Letter of Credit is called, that the payout should be \$3 million from CECF and \$2 million from LIFE. **CARRIED**.

**CC-08-31** MS that NCC approve ES 06-01 that Article XII of the Synod constitution be revised to read as follows:

Section 3. Should a vacancy occur ad interim in any of the offices, with the exception of the office of bishop, the synod council is empowered to fill the same until the next regular convention, or to call a special convention to fill the vacancy. Each election in any of the offices, including the office of bishop, if by a regular convention shall be for a full term of office, and if by a special convention shall be for a term

of office concluding at a regular convention not less than two years hence and not more than four years hence.

Section 8. The vice-president shall:

In the event of the death, resignation, or incapacity of the bishop, convene the synod council to ~~fill the vacancy until the next convention and~~ provide for the discharge of the bishop's duties ~~until the synod council has made the appointment~~ pending the election of a new bishop at a regular or special convention.

**CARRIED.**

**CC-08-32 MS** that NCC approve the organizing principles vision 2015 (Doing Justice, Diverse Face, Spirited Discipleship, Diverse Effective Partnerships, and Focused Structure) document with the understanding the National Bishop is responsible for editing and devising a communications plan.

**CARRIED.**

NCC Committees as required will be selected at the 2008 September NCC meeting.

#### Meetings and Chaplains

September 11-13, 2008	Chaplain-Rev Claudine Carlson
March 5-7, 2009	Chaplain-Rev Nolan Gingrich
June 24-28, 2009	Convention, Vancouver BC
September 10-12, 2009	Chaplain-

At future meetings a COGS report will be shared.

Adjournment