

Media Kit



A People Called
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada

11th Biennial Convention
June 21-24, 2007
Winnipeg, MB



Welcome to the 2007 ELCIC National Convention

Welcome to the 11th Biennial Convention of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada (ELCIC). We hope this information package will provide you with the necessary logistics and background information the ELCIC's National Convention.

The following are a few details to take note of:

- Assembly plenary sessions for the 2007 National Convention will take place in the Manitoba Room on the second floor of the University Centre Building at the University of Manitoba's Fort Garry Campus.
- Limited seating is reserved for media in the plenary room. The media table will provide access to the PA box and to electrical hook-up. Additional seating is also available in the visitors section.
- In addition to reserved media seating in the Plenary Hall, there is also a Media Room located on the fifth floor of University Centre. In the Media Room, you will have access to press releases, and additional resources regarding the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada and the National Convention.
- Your contact for the convention is Trina Gallop, ELCIC Manager of Communication. To reach Trina, please inquire through the Convention Registration desk or by phoning 204.782.8618 (Trina's cell phone).
- Media briefings will be arranged on an as-needed basis. These briefings will allow the media an opportunity for a question and answer period with the 2007 National Convention and ELCIC official spokesperson. All briefings will take place in the media room located in the Arborg Room (Room 205) on the second floor of University Centre at the University of Manitoba. Scheduled briefings will be posted on the media table, at the registration desk and in the media room. If you have a specific request for an interview, please contact Trina Gallop.

Thank you for your interest in the 2007 ELCIC National Convention. Please let me know how I may be of further help to you.

Sincerely,

Trina Gallop
Manager of Communication
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada – *In Mission for Others*
Phone: 204.984.9172 / 204.782.8618
Email: tgallop@elcic.ca

Policies, Procedures and General Information for Media Personnel

- News media personnel covering the convention must obtain proper credentials from the ELCIC. You may pick up your nametag or complete a registration form at the registration table.
- Media credentials / nametags must be displayed at all times inside the Plenary Hall.
- In the Plenary Hall seating for media personnel is reserved near the visitors' section. Limited electrical and PA access is available from the media table. Additional seating is available in the visitors' section.
- **IMPORTANT: Cell phones and pagers must be silent or turned off at all times inside the plenary hall during the assembly.**
- A Media Room is available to all registered media and is located in the Arborg Room, Room 205 of University Centre.
- A spokesperson for the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada and the 2007 National Convention will be available for comment after the announcement of most major events. All briefings will take place near the media table in the Plenary Hall, Manitoba Room. Scheduled briefings will be posted on the media table and at the registration desk. Please contact one of the Media Liaison Officers if you have a specific request for comment or an interview.
- A limited number of copies of the Convention Briefings daily hand-out and other documents / resources will be available in the Media Room. All accredited media will have their own mail box in the Media Room.
- Photography is welcomed at plenary sessions.
 - When shooting photos or video, please limit movement, especially near the main stage in the front of the plenary hall.
 - We also ask that you not photograph voting members while they are voting.
 - Photographs are permitted at worship services but we ask that you not use a flash during the liturgy.
- Please do not approach voting members or church officials directly for interviews. The Manager of Communications will work with media personnel to fulfill interview requests. Please ask Trina Gallop about your interview requests. If the interviewee is willing to be interviewed, staff will work with you to arrange dates and times.
- The Convention Website <http://www.elcic.ca/convention/2005/> will be updated daily with the Bulletin of Reports, the results of elections and motions and other highlights of the day's activity.
- Parking is available to all media in Lot Q. Upon registering, you may request a parking permit for June 21 or 22. No permit is needed June 23 or 24.

BRIEFING GUIDE
2007 National Convention
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada
June 21-24, 2007
Winnipeg, Manitoba

THEME: We will gather in Winnipeg under the theme *In Mission for Others: A People Called* from June 21-24, 2007. We come together as people from throughout this church to meet for the 11th Biennial Convention of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada. We assemble to represent and serve on behalf of members in all of the congregations of this church. We are summoned to seek the guidance of God's Spirit and pursue the well-being of the Church.

NUMBER OF VOTING MEMBERS: Total potential voting membership for the 2007 National Convention is 535.

The voting membership for conventions consists of 200 ordained ministers elected by their conferences as allocated by the National Church Council on the basis of baptized membership; and a lay delegate elected by each parish not already represented by an ordained minister. In addition, parishes with more than 800 baptized members may elect an additional lay delegate.

ASSEMBLY PARTICIPANTS: In addition to voting members, other categories include:

1. Visitors with neither voice nor vote
2. Advisory Members with voice but not vote
3. Resource persons with voice in areas of expertise related to the convention agenda
4. Official Guests
5. Staff of the Convention
6. Youth Assembly
7. Volunteers

JOINT LUTHERAN/ANGLICAN DAY OF CELEBRATION: Thursday, June 21, delegates from the ELCIC's National Convention and The Anglican Church of Canada (ACC)'s General Synod will meet together at the Winnipeg Convention Centre for a joint day of celebration.

EVENING OF THANKS EVENT: Saturday, June 23, a program and reception event will be held starting at 7:00 p.m. to pay tribute to outgoing National Bishop Raymond Schultz, recognition of service will also be rendered to Rev. Katharine Bergbusch, long-term missionary in Peru who has recently retired, and we will also thank Norman Thompson and Rev. Sonja Free, National Church Council members whose terms have expired and we will recognize the contributions of our convention volunteers.

SUNDAY CLOSING WORSHIP: Sunday, June 24 at 9:00 a.m., the Convention's concluding Service of Holy Communion will take place in the Manitoba Room at University Centre at the University of Manitoba. ELCIC National Bishop Raymond Schultz will preside.

PLENARY SESSIONS: All plenary sessions of the convention will be held in the Manitoba Room located on the second floor of the University Centre building on Chancellor Circle at the University of Manitoba. A full agenda is attached.



Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada

Fact Sheet

Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada (abbreviated: ELCIC)

Head Office

302-393 Portage Avenue, Winnipeg, MB R3B 3H6
Telephone: 204.984.9150
Web site: www.elcic.ca
Fax: 204.984.9185

Organized

1986 through merger of the former Evangelical Lutheran Church of Canada (ELCC) and Lutheran Church in America–Canada Section (LCA–CS)

Officers

| | |
|----------------|-----------------------------|
| Bishop | The Rev. Raymond L. Schultz |
| Vice-President | Dr. Roger Kingsley |
| Secretary | Mr. Donald Storch |
| Treasurer | Mr. Norman Thompson |

Office of the Bishop

| | |
|--|-----------------------|
| Assistant to the Bishop for Ecumenical Relations | The Rev. Paul Johnson |
| Assistant to the Bishop for Synodical Relations | The Rev. Paul Gehrs |
| Assistant to the Bishop for Stewardship in Public Life | Ryan Andersen |

Mission Statement

The mission of this church, as an expression of the universal Church and as an instrument of the Holy Spirit, is to bring the Gospel of Jesus Christ to people in Canada and around the world through the proclamation of the Word and the administration of the Sacraments and through service in Christ's name.

Membership

620 congregations
Approx. 174,555 baptized members

Structure

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada functions through three major entities: nationally as the ELCIC, regionally as synods, and locally as congregations. Each entity has unique ministries as well as ministries which are shared with the other entities. The synods are also divided into geographical conferences to assist in their ministry.

Synods

| | |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| British Columbia Synod | Rev. Gerhard Preibisch, Bishop |
| Synod of Alberta and the Territories | Rev. Ron Mayan, Bishop |
| Saskatchewan Synod | Rev. Cindy Halmarson, Bishop |
| Manitoba/Northwestern Ontario Synod | Rev. Elaine Sauer, Bishop |
| Eastern Synod | Rev. Michael J. Pryse, Bishop |

Schools

Luther College, Regina, SK.
Lutheran Collegiate Bible Institute, Outlook, SK.
Lutheran Theological Seminary, Saskatoon, SK.
Waterloo Lutheran Seminary, Waterloo, ON.

Special Interest Conferences

Baltic Special Interest Conference
Chinese Special Interest Conference
Finnish Special Interest Conference
German Evangelical Lutheran Conference in North America.

Associations

Globally

The Lutheran World Federation (LWF)
The World Council of Churches (WCC)

Nationally

The Canadian Council of Churches (CCC)
Canadian Lutheran World Relief (CLWR)
Evangelical Lutheran Women Inc. (ELW)
ELCIC Group Services Inc. (GSI)
The Lutheran Council in Canada. (LCIC)

Ecumenical Organizations Supported by the ELCIC

Kairos – Canadian Ecumenical Justice Initiatives
CCC Biotech Reference Group
CCC Commission for Justice and Peace (CCC-CJP)
CCC-CJP Ecumenical Health Care Network
Project Ploughshares
The Canadian Churches Forum for Global Ministries
The Church Council on Justice and Corrections (CCJC)

Website: www.elcic.ca

Notable Events Taking Place At The 2007 ELCIC National Convention

Elections:

- National Bishop and Vice President. The ELCIC constitution specifies that elections are by ecclesiastical ballot*.
- Other positions: National Secretary, National Treasurer, National Church Council, Group Services Inc Board of Directors, and the Court of Adjudication

*The election of a bishop proceeds without oral nominations. (See *How a Bishop is Chosen* on page 8 of this kit)

Joint Lutheran/Anglican Day of Celebration:

- To celebrate six years in full communion, the National Convention of the ELCIC and the General Synod of the Anglican Church of Canada will spend the day together in the Winnipeg Convention Centre, beginning at 9:00 a.m. and ending by 4:00 p.m. on Thursday, June 21.
- Structured as a Eucharistic service, the day will include gathering, Word, meal and sending, with a featured speaker, joyful music and much time for reflection and conversation.

Youth Representation at Convention:

- A group of ELCIC members aged 16-23, representing each of our five synods, have been invited to participate in a leadership training process at the 2007 National Convention during this time. These individuals have voice at convention and are able to offer their representative input into the business that transpires at convention. Youth representatives reflect on the process and de-brief on convention proceedings within their group and also with leaders at convention.

Celebrating the 10th Anniversary of the *Evangelical Declaration*

- In 1995, the ELCIC commissioned the Future Directions Task Force on Mission to discern where we were being called to as a church. Two years later, in convention, the ELCIC adopted the report of the task force. This year, we celebrate the 10th Anniversary of the *Evangelical Declaration*, a document that defines what it means for us to be the church and what it means to live as the church in the world.
- The following motion will be presented at the 2007 National Convention:
 - That National Church Council recommends to the 11th Biennial Convention the adoption of the document *In Mission for Others: An Evangelical Theology of Mission, Evangelical Declaration* for the next decade.

Stewardship of Creation Initiative – A Church-Wide Commitment to Caring for the Environment:

- Stewardship is how we care for and manage what God has entrusted to us. Practicing our stewardship of creation means caring for and managing God's creation. In celebration of the tenth Anniversary of the *Evangelical Declaration*, at this year's convention, delegates will look at how we, as a church, can commit ourselves to our "Stewardship of Creation". Even during the initial planning stages, the ELCIC has already begun to look at ways we can lessen our impact on the environment during the convention. Some of the steps we will be taking include: using recycled paper, providing bottles so that attendees can use tap water instead of bottled water, making recycling available.
- The following resolution will be presented at the 2007 National Convention:

- 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.

Resolution Regarding Blessing of Same Sex Unions:

- National Church Council recommends the following motion to the 2007 National Convention:
 - That this convention affirms that the diversity within Canada's culture requires responses to a variety of persons in order for this church to be *In Mission for Others*. We also affirm that the synods have the mandate to devise mission strategies appropriate to their regional settings. Accordingly, we encourage synods to develop ways to best minister to people who live in committed same-sex relationships, including the possibility of blessing such unions.

Unveiling of the Theme for the 2008 Canadian Lutheran Youth Gathering:

- The planning committee for the 2008 Canadian Lutheran Youth Gathering will announce the gathering theme and further details for this event which will take place, for the first time ever, in Whitehorse, Yukon. This biennial event brings together over 1200 (mostly) Lutheran youth from across Canada.

For Further Information, Please Contact:

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(204) 984-9172
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