

Convention 2007 Minutes

**ELEVENTH BIENNIAL CONVENTION
EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN CANADA
UNIVERSITY OF MANITOBA, WINNIPEG MB
JUNE 21–24, 2007**

Session Five: Saturday, June 23, 2007 9:00 a.m. - Approved

Convention Co-Chaplain, Rev. Mark Harris opened with prayer.

Report of the Committee of Registration and Credentials

(Chair) reported the following registration figures:

Lay delegates registered	223
Ordained delegates registered	171
Total voting delegates registered	394
Visitors registered	168
Total persons registered	562

Secretary Report

2009 Nominating Committee	BC	Ms. Loris Dow Martin
	ABT	Rev. Randy Meissner
		Ms. Bev Maertens-Poole
	SK	Rev. David Hanes
		Mrs. Elaine Miller
	MNO	Ms. Kim Scherger
	Eastern	Rev. Guenter Dahle
		Ms. Dorothy Frook
		Rev. Mark Harris

NC-07-22 MS that the convention adopt the slate for the 2009 Nominating Committee. **Carried.**

National Church Council Report

First Reading Constitution Amendments

Moved that first reading of motions 7–14 be adopted as printed.

NC-07-23 MS that motion #8 be dealt with separately. **Carried.**

NC-07-24 MS that first reading of motions 7, and 9–14 be adopted as printed. **Carried.**

7. That the ELCIC Constitution, Article IV (Mission of the Church). Section 2, be amended to include a new subsection c and the following subsections be re-lettered:

Section 2. In seeking to achieve its mission, this church shall:

- c. Admit persons to the roster of diaconal ministers by consecration or transfer and be responsible for their nurture, support, and discipline.

9. That the ELCIC Constitution Article IX (Synods) be amended as follows:

Section 5. Included on the roster of ~~ordained~~ ministers of each synod shall be those who are:

Section 6. It shall be the responsibility of each synod to:

- a. Shepherd congregations, ordained ministers, ~~deaconesses~~ **diaconal ministers**, and its lay workers;

10. That the ELCIC Constitution Article X (Conventions) and Article XI (National Church Council) be amended with the deletion of the word ordained and replaced with the word rostered.

Article X Conventions

Section 5. The voting membership of conventions shall consist of:

- a. Two hundred ~~ordained~~ rostered ministers elected by the conferences as allocated by the National Church Council on the basis of baptized membership; and
- b. A lay delegate elected by each parish* not already represented by ~~an ordained~~ a rostered minister and an additional lay delegate elected by every parish with more than eight hundred baptized members. Any parish with less than eight hundred members represented by ~~an ordained~~ a rostered minister for two consecutive conventions may not be represented by ~~an ordained~~ a rostered minister at the following convention.

Article XI National Church Council

Section 1. There shall be a National Church Council comprised of the officers of this church, who shall serve as the officers of the council; and additional members from the synods allocated on the basis of proportional representation according to baptized membership, and other representatives from full communion agreements. Each synod shall be represented by at least one lay person and one ~~ordained~~ rostered minister, and the total number of lay persons shall equal or exceed the total number of ~~ordained~~ rostered ministers. The distribution of additional members shall be specified in the administrative bylaws. The additional members shall be elected by the convention and shall be eligible to serve no more than two consecutive four-year terms. Synod bishops shall be present as advisory members. Terms of elected members shall be such that half of the members shall be elected at each convention. Vacancies shall be filled by the National Church Council until the next regular convention. A member of the National Church Council who is ~~an ordained~~ a rostered minister who has been suspended from the office of the ~~ordained-rostered~~ ministry or removed from the roster of ~~ordained ministers~~ by a synod council, may be removed from membership on the National Church Council by a majority of a least two-thirds of the members of the National Church Council at a meeting duly called and held for such purpose.

11. That the ELCIC Constitution, Article XIII (Divisions) be removed from the Constitution.

ARTICLE XIII Divisions

~~Section 1. This church shall carry out its work in mission and ministry through such divisions as may be established in the administrative bylaws.~~

~~Section 2. In establishing a division in the administrative bylaws, such provision shall set out the objectives of the division and the method by which such objectives are to be accomplished.~~

12. That the ELCIC Constitution, Article XIV (Offices), Section 1 be amended as follows:

Article XIV Offices

Section 1. This church shall provide ongoing support services for ~~the divisions and~~ this church through such offices as may be established in the administrative bylaws.

13. That the ELCIC Constitution, Article XV (Department of Finance and Administration), Section 1, subsection c be amended as follows:

Article XV Department of Finance and Administration

Section 1. The National Church Council shall, through its Department of Finance and Administration, have responsibility for the general oversight and control of the finance and business management of this church. As such it shall:

- c. Ensure that there be sound and responsible fiscal management by its ~~divisions,~~ offices, committees and institutions;

14. That the ELCIC Constitution, Article XVI (Benefit and Pension Plans) Section 1 and Article XVIII (Court of Adjudication) Section 2 and 10 be amended as follows:

Article XVI Benefit and Pension Plans

Section 1. The administrative bylaws shall provide for the participation by ~~ordained~~ rostered ministers and lay employees of this church, its synods, congregations, agencies, institutions, and other recognized organizations in a pension plan and in a group benefits plan. The administrative bylaws may establish rules providing for the participation of such employers and employees in such plans on a compulsory basis, and may determine the methods to be adopted by the participants in such plans in order to provide for the proper administration of such plans.

Article XVIII Court of Adjudication

Section 2. The Court of Adjudication shall consist of seven members, four lay and three ~~ordained~~ rostered ministers, who shall be elected by the convention for a term of four years. No member may hold a position on Church Council, synod council or a synodical committee for theological education and leadership. No member shall serve more than two consecutive terms. A vacancy occurring *ad interim* may be filled by the National Church Council until the next regular convention, which shall fill the unexpired term.

Section 10. An appeal made under ARTICLE VI, Section 11, ~~and~~ ARTICLE VII, Section 8, and Article VIII , Section 6 must be in writing and must be filed with the secretary of the court within

forty-five days from the date of the decision, which is being appealed. The court shall hear and determine the appeal on the data upon which the decision appealed was based and render its verdict in writing. The court may for the purpose of hearing and determining the appeal receive such further evidence and in such manner and form as it in its sole discretion may determine.

NC-07-25 MS that first reading of motion 8 be adopted as presented. **Carried.**

8. That the ELCIC Constitution, Article VIII (Lay Diaconal Ministers) be amended with the deletion of the word lay in the title and in sections 1 through 6.

Section 1. A synod may admit individuals as ~~lay~~ diaconal ministers. In doing so the synod shall comply with and administer the provisions of this article and shall maintain a roster of those admitted and continued as ~~lay~~ diaconal ministers.

Section 2. Consecration of candidates as and reception of ~~lay~~ diaconal ministers shall be the function of the synods. Synods shall also have responsibility for recruitment, approval and supervision of all candidates for the ~~lay~~ diaconal ministry. Applicants for consecration or for reception shall appear before the examining committee of the synod, and may be consecrated or otherwise admitted only upon recommendation by such committee. The members of the examining committee shall be appointed or elected by the synod.

Section 3. Each ~~lay~~ diaconal minister shall covenant to abide loyally by the constitution, administrative bylaws and enactments of this church and of the synod.

Section 4. Each ~~lay~~ diaconal minister shall conform in teaching to the Confession of Faith of this church and shall lead a life befitting the office.

Section 5. Subject to the provisions of the administrative bylaws of this church each ~~lay~~ diaconal minister, except those who are retired or disabled, shall be in possession of a call from a congregation or a synod or this church itself. Under the conditions stated in the administrative bylaws, a ~~lay~~ diaconal minister on leave from call may be retained on the roster of ~~lay~~ diaconal ministers from year to year for no more than three consecutive years by action of the appropriate synod. A ~~lay~~ diaconal minister on leave from call for parental leave or study leave may be granted an additional five consecutive years by action of the appropriate synod.

Section 6. The synod shall be responsible for discipline of ~~lay~~ diaconal ministers on its roster. A Committee on Discipline shall be formed, when necessary. The composition and responsibilities of the Committee on Discipline shall be set out in the administrative bylaws. Disciplinary action may be appealed to the Court of Adjudication, whose decision therein shall be final.

Administrative Bylaw Amendments

Moved that motion 15 be referred to National Church Council for further discussion. **Defeated.**

NC-07-26 MS that motion 15 be adopted as presented. **Carried.**

15. That Administrative Bylaw, Part III (Rostered Ministers) Section 3, subsection b. be amended by adding sub-point xviii as follows:

Part III Rostered Ministers (Constitution, Article VII)

Section 3. Continuance on the Roster of Ordained Ministers

b. Calls may be issued for the ministries specified below by the agencies indicated:

	Type of ordained ministry	Source of call
xviii	<u>Pastor ordained through the Alternative Route.</u>	<u>synod councils</u>

NC-07-27 MS that motion 16 be adopted as presented. **Carried.**

16. That Administrative Bylaw, Part III (Rostered Ministers) Section 5 be amended as follows:

Section 5.

Ordained ministers on the faculty of the Lutheran Theological Seminary must maintain status on the roster of the British Columbia Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada, the Alberta Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada, the Saskatchewan Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada or the Manitoba/Northwestern Ontario Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada. The synod in which the faculty member will be rostered will be decided by the Board of ~~Directors~~ **Governors** of Lutheran Theological Seminary.

NC-07-28 MS that motion 17 be adopted as presented. **Carried.**

17. That Administrative Bylaw, Part III.1 (Lay Diaconal Ministers) be amended to include a new section number 14.

Part III.1 Lay Diaconal Ministers (Constitution, Article VIII)

Section 14.

All Diaconal Ministers consecrated by the ELCIC have the right to use the title Deacon.

Report of the Elections Committee

First ballot for National Church Council, GSI Board, and Court of Adjudication was distributed, marked, and collected.

Presentation "What's enough?" (fifth segment) by Jeff Pym and Catherine Pate.

National Church Council Report

Discussion on NCC's motion #22 took place; the gathering agreed to a speaking time limit of three minutes for each speaker addressing the motion.

NC-07-29 MS that the voting on motion #22 be held by secret ballot. **Carried.**

Motion that motion #22 be tabled and an ad hoc committee be formed to study the issue and bring a report to each congregation, and that it be brought to the 2009 National Convention. **Defeated.**

The newly-elected Primate of The Anglican Church of Canada, The Rt. Rev. Fred Hiltz was greeted by the newly-elected National Bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Canada, Rev. Susan Johnson and the gathering of the convention. The newly-elected Primate addressed the convention.

Presentation "*What's enough?*" (sixth segment) by Jeff Pym and Catherine Pate.

Convention Co-Chaplain, Rev. Tanya Ramer led the convention in prayer.

The convention recessed, so that the annual meeting of the school corporations could be held.