

**Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada  
Minutes of the National Church Council Meeting  
September 5–7, 2013  
Radisson Hotel Downtown Winnipeg, 288 Portage Avenue**

Officers:	National Bishop Susan Johnson Sheila Hamilton, Vice-President	Murray Walter, Secretary Ken Day, Treasurer ( <i>Fri. &amp; Sat. only</i> )
Council:	Vanessa Bergeron Rev. Chris Bishopp Jeff Buhse Marie-Laure Collet Bruce Cook Rev. Dr. Cameron Harder Cindy Hoppe Rev. Marc Jerry Cynthia Haines-Turner (ACC) Allyn Langager Pat Lovell	Rev. Kathy Martin Rev. Heather Spencer Rev. Jeffrey Smith Jeanie Stann Rev. Brian Wilker-Frey
Synod Bishops:	Bishop Cindy Halmarson, SK Synod Bishop Larry Kochendorfer, ABT Synod Rev. Larry Ulrich (Commissary to Bishop Elaine Sauer, MNO Synod), ( <i>Fri. &amp; Sat. only</i> )	Bishop Greg Mohr, BC Synod Bishop Michael Pryse, Eastern Synod
ELCA Rep.:	Eva Roby, President and CEO, Mission and Investment Fund, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA)	
GSI: (09/06 Only)	George Bridge, Board Member Lisa Thiessen, Executive Director Barb Fortier, Benefits Administrator	
Staff:	Rev. Paul Gehrs, Assistant to the Bishop, Justice and Leadership Rev. André Lavergne, Assistant to the Bishop, Ecumenical and Interfaith Rev. Lyle McKenzie, Assistant to the Bishop, Worship Trina Gallop, Director of Communications and Stewardship Gloria McNabb, Director of Finance and Administration ( <i>Thursday only</i> ) Desiree Mendoza, Meetings and Communications Assistant	
Regrets:	Bishop Elaine Sauer (on sabbatical leave; represented by Rev. Larry Ulrich) Judy Wry	

**THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 5, 2013, 5:30 P.M.**

**Opening Worship** led by meeting chaplain, Jeanie Stann.

### **Welcome and Introductions**

Vice-President Sheila Hamilton called the meeting to order.

### **Approval of Agenda**

M/S That NCC adopt the agenda as presented. **CARRIED.**

### **Approval of July 2 & 7, 2013 Meeting Minutes**

MS That NCC approve the July 2 & 7, 2013 meeting minutes. **CARRIED.**

**Declaration of Conflicts of Interest**—No conflicts declared.

**Approval of NCC E-vote Meeting Minutes**—None at this time.

### **Report of the National Bishop**

Bishop Susan Johnson presented her report to NCC.

**CC-2013-31** That NCC approve the three-month sabbatical for Rev. Paul Gehrs starting from September to December 2014. **CARRIED.**

**CC-2013-32** That NCC amend the *Candidacy Manual* adding the “Supervisor's midterm internship Report” and the “Lay Committee's midterm internship report” to the list of documents included in the senior dossier submitted to the examining committee section (Senior Dossier Ordained Ministry-Form XV-2 of 7 and Dossier Diaconal Ministry-Form XVI-1 of 8) and to the list of items authorized for release. **CARRIED.**

**CC-2013-33** That the requirement for candidates to submit Form #2 of the Senior Dossier to the National Office be deleted. **CARRIED.**

**CC-2013-34** That NCC refer *To Love and Serve the Lord: Diakonia in the Life of the Church — The Jerusalem Report of the Anglican–Lutheran International Commission (ALIC III)* to JALC for review and consideration. **CARRIED.**

### **LWF Report**

**Closing Worship for the Day** led by meeting chaplain, Jeanie Stann.

**FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 2013, 9:00 A.M.**

**Opening Worship** led by meeting chaplain, Jeanie Stann.

**Bible Study** led by Rev. Kathy Martin.

**Review of 2013 Joint Assembly and National Convention**

- **2013 National Convention Minutes**
- **Page 6 (NC-2013-02)** A friendly amendment: *“That the ELCIC National Convention— (and begin the bullets)”*

**CC-2013-35** That NCC adopt the Minutes of the 2013 ELCIC National Convention. **CARRIED.**

- **2013 Joint Assembly Minutes**  
**CC-2013-36** That NCC adopt the Minutes of the 2013 Joint Assembly subject to their approval by the Council of General Synod. **CARRIED.**

- **2013 National Convention Evaluations**  
Question: *What do we need to make note of now to improve the 2015 National Convention?*

Responses:

- o Electronic voting
- o A pre-start convention orientation
- o More communication in election and monitoring procedures
- o An intentional indigenous witness at our next assembly and some attention to the working of the spirit in the convention
- o Combined prayer and work and providing opportunities for both
- o Incorporation of public witness event in future conventions
- o Joint discussions and open mic sessions
- o The motion passed regarding homelessness and affordable housing was a very practical move
- o Involving participation of speakers from outside of the Lutheran community
- o Looking for the same inspiration we had in our Joint Assembly into our National Conventions
- o Communication materials received that can be taken back to their respective congregations (e.g. daily bulletins from ACC)
- o A list of motions to be part of the docket

- **Table Group Discussions**

Reflections:

- o What do we need to do before the next convention, to begin that relationship with Indigenous peoples?
- o How can we help make that connection with congregations? Do we need to do domestic marketing in the area of Spiritual Renewal?

- “I like the hope-filled language.” In an organization at this level, how do we bring this message out to the congregational level?
- How can we be more outward-focused (than inward focused?)
- How can we bring these good resources/materials down to the congregational level?
- Do we create a program that is so diverse? (a question on where to lead congregations)
- The *silos* of the congregations (how to pass on the communication / resources)— How do we send the information back to the congregations?
- *It's not about money* – it's about discipleship (How can I bring my face as a Christian / as a Lutheran out there in the community?)
- There are rich resources that we haven't tabulated yet that we can use for missions

## **Break and travel to 600 – 177 Lombard Ave. Office Dedication**

### **Report of ELCIC Group Services, Inc. (GSI)**

Executive Director Lisa Thiessen gave a presentation on Group Services, Inc.

- Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of GSI for September 7, 2012
- Financial Statements – Pension Plan for Clergy and Lay Workers of ELCIC
- The Financial Statements of ELCIC Group Services, Inc.
- Resolution of the Sole Member of ELCIC Group Services, Inc.

For details on GSI's report to NCC, refer to GSI's Minutes of the Meeting for September 6, 2013.

### **Continuing Education Plan**

In April, NCC deferred an e-vote decision on new guidelines for the Continuing Education Plan (CEP) until this September 2013 NCC meeting. Information included in the docket:

- Continuing Education Plan—proposed
- Continuing Education Plan—current policy
- FYI skills list in the CEP form

**CC-2013-37** That NCC adopts "Continuing Education Plan - Revised March 2013" as the policy for the Continuing Education Plan (CEP). **CARRIED.**

### **Reports from Synod Bishops**

The synod bishops gave their reports to NCC.

### **ELCIC Work Plan Update**

Bishop Susan gave an overview of the ELCIC Work Plan Update to NCC.

## **NCC Evaluation Report**

Vice-President Sheila Hamilton presented the NCC Evaluation Report to NCC.

## **COGS report**—Cynthia Haines-Turner

Cynthia Haines-Turner gave a COGS report to NCC.

## **Greetings from Eva Roby, President and CEO, Mission and Investment Fund, ELCA**

## **Women of Faith Fund Report**

Women of Faith Fund Advisory Committee member Marie-Laure Collet presented the Women of Faith Fund Report.

## **Discussion**—*How do we move forward?*

**CC-2013-38** That the NCC officers will invite the synod officers to meet in the next four months to discuss the options that are available to strengthen the viability of the Church and to engage conversations with the whole Church. **CARRIED.**

## **Closing Worship for the Day**— led by Jeanie Stann

## **SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 2013, 9:00 A.M.**

## **Opening Prayer** led by Jeanie Stann.

## **Financial and Statistical Reports**

Treasurer Ken Day presented the Financial and Statistical Reports on behalf of Gloria McNabb, Director for Finance and Administration to NCC.

- ELCIC Consolidated Financial Statements (as at 6/30/2013)
- ELCIC Congregational (Parochial) Reports (Year Reported 2012)

## **Officers' Report**

Secretary Murray Walter presented the Officers' Report.

## **Appointments**

**CC-2013-39** That NCC re-appoint David Schulze (Eastern Synod) to a third 3-year term (2013–2016) on the Canadian Lutheran World Relief Board of Directors, beginning September 1, 2013. **CARRIED.**

**CC-2013-40** That NCC re-appoint Gene Bishen (BC Synod) to a second 3-year term (2013–2016) on the Canadian Lutheran World Relief Board of Directors, beginning September 1, 2013. **CARRIED.**

**CC-2013-41** That NCC appoint the following to the Faith Order and Doctrine Committee for a two-year term beginning September 1, 2013. Cindy Halmarson (bishop), Gretchen Peterson (deacon), John Gram (pastor), John Nilson (lay), Robert Kelly (WLS), Jackie Nunns (lay), Kristine Ruffatto (LTS) and Rev. Marc Jerry (NCC). **CARRIED.**

**CC-2013-42** That NCC appoint Ryan Andersen to the Canadian Interfaith Conversation for a two-year term beginning September 1, 2013. **CARRIED.**

**CC-2013-43** That NCC appoint the following to the Women of Faith Fund. Wyonna McCulloch, Marie-Laure Collet and Sandra Pederson. **CARRIED.**

**CC-2013-44** That the following individuals be appointed to COGS and the following NCC committees.

COGS: Pat Lovell

Audit Committee: Cindy Hoppe, Jeff Buhse and Mark Kneale

Constitution Committee: Kathy Martin, Vanessa Bergeron, Cam Harder and Marie-Laure Collet

Finance Committee: Jeanie Stann, Chris Bishopp, Jeff Smith and Bruce Cook

Governance Committee: Allyn Langager, Pat Lovell, Brian Wilker-Frey, Heather Spencer and Cynthia Haines-Turner

**CARRIED.**

\*Appointment of NCC member **Judy Wry**—*to be determined.*

An e-vote will be done regarding the relationship of ELCIC and the Church of Sweden at a later time (TBA).

**M/S** That NCC lift from the table the existing partner church relationship with the Salvadoran Lutheran Church. **CARRIED.**

**CC-2013-45** That ELCIC end its existing partner relationship with the Salvadoran Lutheran Church. **CARRIED.**

## Special Synod Convention Cycle

**CC-2013-46** That NCC recommends the following cycle for synodical and national conventions:

- 2014 - Synod Conventions do first reading of constitutional changes. (We acknowledge Eastern Synod has already done this.) Synod bishop elections to 4-year terms in 4 of the synods.
- 2015 - National Convention does second reading of constitutional changes. National Convention deliberates proposed administrative bylaw changes. National bishop elected to a 4-year term.
- 2016 - Synod Conventions do second reading of constitutional changes and deliberate proposed administrative bylaw changes. Will need to address term for ABT synod bishop election.
- 2017 - National Convention in "current" configuration.
- 2018 - Synod Conventions elect delegates for 2019 National Convention. Synod bishop elections for 6-year terms (if changes are accepted).
- 2019 - National Convention in new configuration. National Bishop elected for 6-year term. Possible joint assembly with Anglicans.
- 2021- Synod Conventions
- 2022 - National Convention

**CARRIED.**

NCC requested the National Bishop to send out a formal communication to all synods regarding the synod convention timelines.

## Continuing Education Plan (CEP)

**CC-2013-47** That NCC refer the discussion of the educational needs of rostered ministers (CEP) to the synod bishops. **CARRIED.**

### Next Meetings:

March 6–8, 2014

- Chaplain – Cynthia Haines Turner
- Bible Study – Rev. Jeffrey Smith

September 4–6, 2014

March 5-7, 2015

**Closing Worship** led by Jeanie Stann.

**Meeting Adjourned.**