

Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada
Minutes of the 17th Biennial National Convention
University of Regina, Regina, SK

Business Session #1:
Thursday, July 11, 2019, 1:30 p.m.—5:00 p.m.

Welcome to Treaty 4 Territory

Local Indigenous Elder Betty McKenna welcomed the 2019 National Convention to Treaty 4 Territory.

Opening Worship and Opening of Convention

Led by National Bishop Susan Johnson presiding and Rev. Dr. Martin Junge preaching. An offering was collected for the work of Canadian Lutheran World Relief (CLWR).

National Bishop Susan Johnson declared the Seventeenth Biennial National Convention of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada (ELCIC) open.

National Bishop Susan Johnson called Business Session #1 of the 17th Biennial National Convention to order.

Registration Report

Secretary Linda Grainger presented the report as of 3:30 p.m.

78 lay delegates
60 rostered delegates
9 youth delegates
147 voting delegates
19 visitors
11 guests

Establishment of Quorum

Quorum at the 17th Biennial National Convention was established.

Adoption of Agenda

M/S That the agenda for the 17th Biennial National Convention including the consent agenda be adopted as presented. **CARRIED.**

(The following amendments to the Agenda were noted: Friday night worship inside the plenary and closing worship at 1:00 p.m. on Saturday)

Adoption of Standing Rules of Order (*Pages C-17 to C-20, Bulletin of Reports*)

Introduction of Convention Committees (*Page A-9, Bulletin of Reports*)

Elections

Rev. David Tin (EAST) – Chair
Rev. Curtis Aguirre (BC)
Rev. Karen Stepko (SK)
Rev. Aaron Schnell (ABT)

Nancy Cook (EAST)
Judy Dikkema (MNO)
Vivienne Welters (BC)
Joe Stolee (ABT)

Reference and Counsel

Deacon Faith Nostbakken (ABT) – Chair
Rev. Joanne Lam (EAST)
Rev. Trudy Thorarinson (MNO)
Rev. Dennis Serfas (SK)

Tom Brook (MNO)
Laurie Knott (EAST)
Bryan Tastad (SK)
Leslie “Skip” Triplett (BC)

Complaint Handling

Rev. Chris Bishopp
Rev. Lindsey Jorgensen-Skakum

Pat Lovell
Deacon Gretchen Peterson

Local Arrangements Committee

Zsófi Schmiedge – Chair
Meredith Cherland – Secretary
Pat Bellamy – Head Steward
Sharon Solheim – Registration Chair
Daryl Nelson – Transportation Chair

Nancy Hognestad – Vice-Chair
Jim Ackerman – Head Usher
Joyce Martinson – Information Desk Chair
Ann Mohr – Offering Chair

Local Convention Worship Committee

Rev. Sean Bell – Chair
Rev. Stewart Millar - Liturgist
Rev. Pat Simonson – Sacristan and Artist

Convention Chaplain – Rev. Victoria Mwamasika

Convention Parliamentarian – Don Storch

Request to Grant Privilege of Voice

That seat and voice privileges be granted to our special guests: Rev. Dr. Martin Junge, General Secretary, The Lutheran World Federation; The Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton, Presiding Bishop, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America; The Rev. Margaret R. Rose, Deputy for Ecumenical and Interfaith Collaboration, The Episcopal Church; and The Rev. Canon Dr. Scott Sharman, Animator for Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations, Faith, Worship and Ministry, Anglican Church of Canada.

Introduction of Special Guests and Partners:

National Bishop Susan Johnson welcomed and introduced the following guests and partners to the convention:

- The Rev. Margaret R. Rose, Deputy to the Presiding Bishop for Ecumenical and Interfaith Collaboration, The Episcopal Church
- The Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton, Presiding Bishop, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

- Rev. Dr. Martin Junge, General Secretary, The Lutheran World Federation
- Rev. Dr. Karin Achtelstetter, Executive Director, Canadian Lutheran World Relief
- Lisa Thiessen, Executive Director and John Wolff, President; ELCIC Group Services Inc.
- The Rev. Canon Dr. Scott Sharman, Animator for Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations, Faith, Worship and Ministry, Anglican Church of Canada
- Rev. Dr. Willard Metzger, Executive Director, Citizens for Public Justice (*participating as an exhibitor*)
- Rev. Victoria Mwamasika, Convention Chaplain for the 2019 National Convention

National Bishop Susan Johnson turned the chair over to Vice-Chair Sheila Hamilton.

Report of the National Bishop (*Starting on page E-1, Bulletin of Reports*)

National Bishop Susan Johnson presented an oral report.

Report of National Church Council

Secretary Linda Grainger presented the following:

Notice of Items Requiring Action at this Convention (*Pages F-33 to F-39, Bulletin of Reports*)

Report of Committee on Nominations (*Pages E-18 to E-39, Bulletin of Reports*)

Secretary Linda Grainger presented the Report of Committee on Nominations.

The slate of nominees for the National Church Council, Court of Appeal and 2022 Committee on Nominations were presented to the 2019 National Convention.

2019 ELCIC SLATE OF NOMINEES

National Church Council			
Positions Required: BC – 1 Rostered, AB – 1 Lay, SK – 1 Lay, MNO – 1 Lay, EAST – 1 Lay & 1 Rostered			
Synod	Type	Term	Nominee
BC	Rostered	3 years	Jane Gingrich (e)
	Rostered	3 years	Aneeta Saroop
ABT	Lay	3 years	Kathleen Jensen
	Lay	3 years	Marla Mulloy
SK	Lay	3 years	Murray Patzwald
	Lay	3 years	David Bragg
MNO	Lay	3 years	Sarah Harrington
	Lay	3 years	Linda Sander
EAST	Lay	3 years	Pat Lovell (e)
	Lay	3 years	Peggy Read
	Rostered	3 years	Laura Sauder
	Rostered	3 years	Kimberlynn McNabb

Court of Appeal			
Positions Required: 2 lay and 2 rostered			
Synod	Type	Term	Nominee
N/A	Lay 1	3 years	Joan Meyer
	Lay 1	3 year	Brent Latimer
	Lay 2	3 years	Timothy Lach
	Lay 2	3 years	K. Jennifer Moroz
	Rostered 1	3 years	Kayko Driedger Hesslein
	Rostered 1	3 years	Marilyn Fowlie-Neufeld
	Rostered 2	3 years	Terry Richardson
	Rostered 2	3 years	Jim Whaley

2022 Committee on Nominations			
Synod	Term	Nominee	Confirmed
SK	3 years	Cheryl Bauer-Hyde	Yes
BC	3 years	Patricia Giannelia	Yes
EAST	3 years	Doug Reble	Yes
ABT	3 years	Wayne Street	Yes
MNO	3 years	Tyler Gingrich	Yes

Notes: e – eligible for re-election; i – ineligible for re-election; N/A – Synod requirement not applicable

Reception of Nominations from the Floor:

There were **two additional nominations** for **National Church Council**—

- Deb Roberts for SK lay position
- John Nilson for SK lay position

The slate of nominees for the **2022 Committee on Nominations** was acclaimed.

Nominations for the Position of Secretary:

No nominations on the floor. **Linda Grainger** was declared elected by acclamation as National Secretary.

Nominations for the Position of Treasurer:

No nominations on the floor. **Gene Blishen** was declared elected by acclamation as National Treasurer.

Prayer led by convention chaplain Rev. Victoria Mwamasika.

Report of Committee on Conduct of Elections

First ballot for the incumbent National Bishop

Yes – 92

No – 51

Needed to elect – 96

(2/3 of the total votes was required to be re-elected; an ecclesiastical ballot will take place at 6:00 p.m.)

Report of the Task Force on Decisions at the End of Life – *The Call to Faithfully Journey with those who are Dying: An ELCIC Resolution*

The Task Force on Decisions at the End of Life presented before the 2019 National Convention. Members of the Task Force who were present included Jeanie Stann, Rev. Paul Gehrs, Rev. Lynn Granke, and Dr. Janet Storch. Other members of the task force included Rev. Dwight Biggs and The Rev. Canon Douglas Graydon (ACC).

Announcements

Vice-Chair Sheila Hamilton made some announcements and declared Business Session #1 closed.

Closing Prayer led by convention chaplain Rev. Victoria Mwamasika.

Business Session #2:

Thursday, July 11, 2019, 6:00 p.m.—9:00 p.m.

Vice-Chair Sheila Hamilton called Business Session #2 of the 17th Biennial National Convention to order.

Opening Prayer led by convention chaplain Rev. Victoria Mwamasika.

Registration Report

Secretary Linda Grainger presented the report as of 6:00 p.m.

78 lay delegates
60 rostered delegates
9 youth delegates
147 voting delegates
20 visitors
14 guests

Convention chaplain Rev. Victoria Mwamasika led the convention in prayer prior to voting.

Report of Committee on Conduct of Elections

Results of the Ecclesiastical Ballot for National Bishop were presented by Rev. David Tin, Chair of the Committee on Conduct of Elections.

Results of Ecclesiastical Ballot for National Bishop

Ballots cast: 143
Spoiled ballots: 1
Required to elect: 107

Susan Johnson	88	Paul Gehrs	1
Larry Kochendorfer	14	Mark Harris	1
Lindsey Jorgensen-Skakum	8	William Huras	1
Toti (Alimezelli)	7	Michael Kurtz	1
Jason Zinko	5	David Malina	1
Kathleen Martin	3	Lyle McKenzie	1
Sidney Haugen	2	Courtenay Reedman-Parker	1
Kimberlynn McNabb	2	Aneeta Saroop	1
Michael Pryse	2	Kristen Steele	1
Sarah Dymund	1	Karen Stepko	1

National Church Council Report—

First Reading of Amendments to the Constitution (*Appendices 1 & 2, Bulletin of Reports*)

Secretary Linda Grainger presented the amendments to the ELCIC Constitution.

Amendment:	Constitution:	
AMENDED	PREAMBLE	Responding to the Holy Spirit as he who continues to call and gather the church.
AMENDED	ARTICLE XI Synods Section 3.	Each synod shall have a constitution and bylaws ratified by the National Church Council. Amendments thereto shall be subject to like ratification by the National Church Council.
MOVED FROM CORPORATE BYLAWS	ARTICLE XI Section 5.	a. operate in accordance with this church's constitution and administrative bylaws;
AMENDED	ARTICLE XV Benefit and Pension Plans Section 1.	The administrative bylaws shall provide for the participation by rostered ministers and lay employees of this church, its synods, congregations, agencies, institutions, and other recognized ministries and organizations in a pension plan and in a group benefits plan establishment of a pension plan and a group benefits plan for rostered and lay employees of this church and entities associated with it. 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.
DELETED	ARTICLE XV Section 2.	The convention may review any such benefit or pension plan and may make recommendations to the administrator of such plan or to the National Church Council on any proposed amendments to such plan, and may from time to time provide advice and direction to the administrator with respect to any proposed amendment to such plan.
AMENDED	ARTICLE XVI Special Interest Conferences and Recognized Independent	This church may authorize, as provided in the administrative bylaws, the organization of special interest conferences having common linguistic or cultural heritages. Such conferences may hold periodic meetings for fellowship and discussion of common concerns. Reports of meetings, together with Any recommendations arising out of their special sphere of interest,

	Organizations and Institutions Section 1.	shall be made to the National Church Council. Reports of meetings shall be made to the convention of this church.
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NC-2019-01 That the 2019 National Convention adopts the amendments to the ELCIC Constitution as presented. **CARRIED.**
(Appendix A: Updated ELCIC Constitution)

Presentation — Reconciliation with Creation

Rev. Paul Gehrs introduced Dr. Mary Vetter and Dr. David Sauchyn at the 2019 National Convention. Dr. Vetter and Dr. Sauchyn presented and then led the convention in table discussions.

Video Greetings—Anglican Church of Canada (ACC)

A video message from The Most Rev. Fred Hiltz, Primate of the Anglican Church of Canada was presented at the 2019 National Convention.

Standing Order —Luther College at the University of Regina (LCUR)

Dr. Bryan Hillis, President of Luther College presented at the 2019 National Convention.

Report of National Church Council – Reimagining Our Church: Public Ministry in the ELCIC (Motions 12-17, Pages F-36 to F-37, Bulletin of Reports)

NCC member Rev. Chris Bishopp introduced the members of the Faith, Order and Doctrine (FOD) Committee at the 2019 National Convention which included Rev. André Lavergne (ELCIC Staff), Rev. Íris Kristjánsdóttir (NCC), Deacon Scott Knarr, and Jeanie Stann, who worked on the document *Reimagining Our Church: Public Ministry in the ELCIC*. They presented the various motions to the Convention.

Presentation of the ELCIC In Mission for Others Leadership Award

Trina Gallop Blank, Assistant to the Bishop for Communications and Resource Generation, introduced Carolyn Ethier as the recipient of the ELCIC *In Mission for Others* Leadership Award at the 2019 National Convention.

Announcements

Vice-Chair Sheila Hamilton made announcements and declared Business Session #2 closed.

Closing Worship led by convention chaplain Rev. Victoria Mwamasika and the local convention worship team.

Reception followed at Luther College, sponsored by the Canadian Lutheran World Relief (CLWR).

Business Session #3:
Friday, July 12, 2019, 8:30 a.m.—12:00 p.m.

Opening Prayer—Gospel-Based Discipleship

Led by convention chaplain Rev. Victoria Mwamasika and Rev. Dr. Scott Sharman; with assistance from Bert Adema and Betty Krohn from Indigenous Christian Fellowship.

Vice-Chair Sheila Hamilton called Business Session #3 of the 17th Biennial National Convention to order.

Registration Report

Secretary Linda Grainger presented the report as of 8:30 a.m.

78 lay delegates
60 rostered delegates
9 youth delegates
147 voting delegates
21 visitors
11 guests

Report of Committee on Conduct of Elections

Results of the Ballot for National Bishop were presented by Rev. David Tin, Chair of the Committee on Conduct of Elections.

Results of Ballot for National Bishop

Ballots cast: 141
Spoiled ballots: 1
Required to elect: 94

Susan Johnson	86	Kathleen Martin	3
Larry Kochendorfer	27	Michael Pryse	3
Toti (Alimezelli)	10	Sarah Dymund	1
Lindsey Jorgensen-Skakum	4	David Malina	1
Jason Zinko	4		

Note: All nominees were requested to complete a biographical data form.

National Church Council Report—

The Call to Faithfully Journey with those who are Dying (Table Group Discussions)

Decisions at the End of Life Task Force members went on stage including Jeanie Stann, Rev. Paul Gehrs, Rev. Lynn Granke and Dr. Janet Storch. The task force members led the convention in table discussions.

Table group discussion questions:

1. What surprised you about the document?
2. How did the document shape or inform your thinking?
3. What are the implications for the ELCIC?
4. Any other comments?

Announcements

Vice-Chair Sheila Hamilton made some announcements and acknowledged the convention's sponsors and exhibitors.

(Morning Coffee Break)

National Bishop Susan Johnson called the 2019 National Convention to order.

National Church Council Report—

Recommendations from the Joint Anglican-Lutheran Commission (JALC)

NCC members Pat Lovell and Rev. Jeff Smith presented the recommendations from the Joint Anglican-Lutheran Commission at the 2019 National Convention. *(Motions 2-4, Pages F-33 to F-34 and Appendices 3 to 5, Bulletin of Reports)*

Report of the Joint Anglican Lutheran Commission

NC-2019-02 That the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada accepts the Report of the Joint Anglican-Lutheran Commission (JALC) with deep gratitude for JALC's witness and initiative and that this convention renews the JALC mandate to 2022 for a commission of similar size and composition which includes some new and some existing members and that the commission shall host a joint meeting of the Commission and the Lutheran-Episcopal Co-ordinating Committee once in the triennium. **CARRIED**

(Appendix 03 – JALC Report and Renewal of Mandate, Bulletin of Reports)

A Common Word

NC-2019-03 That the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada expresses its gratitude for, and accepts the gift of, *A Common Word between Us and You* offered by global Muslim religious leaders in 2007/8 via The Royal Aal al-Bayt Institute for Islamic Thought, Jordan; and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada joins other national and international Christian churches and leaders as signatories to *A Common Word between Us and You* via the signature of our National Bishop; and that the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada, in partnership with the Anglican Church of Canada, jointly initiate a program of resourcing and supporting Christian-Muslim engagement in receptive communities across Canada, based on the model of *A Common Word* and the various expression of it. **CARRIED.**

(Appendix 04 – A Common Word between Us and You, Bulletin of Reports)

Affirmation of Relationship of Full Communion

NC-2019-04 That based upon the witness of the *Memorandum of Mutual Recognition of Relations of Full Communion* (Niagara Falls ON, 2018), the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada affirms that a relationship of Full Communion exists among the four churches governed by either *Called to Common Mission* (USA, 1999 & 2000) or the *Waterloo Declaration* (2001) and that this affirmation shall have full effect upon the completion of a similar action in each of our three partner churches. **CARRIED.**

(Appendix 05 – Memorandum of Mutual Recognition of Relations of Full Communion, Bulletin of Reports)

National Bishop Susan Johnson acknowledged and presented gifts to The Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton, Presiding Bishop, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America; The Rev. Margaret R. Rose, Deputy to the

Presiding Bishop for Ecumenical and Interfaith Collaboration, The Episcopal Church; and The Rev Canon. Dr. Scott Sharman, Animator for Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations, Faith, Worship and Ministry, Anglican Church of Canada. National Bishop Susan Johnson also acknowledged Bishop Larry Kochendorfer and Rev. André Lavergne on behalf of JALC.

Resolution on Single-Use Plastic—

NCC members Cole Guenter and Rev. Jane Gingrich presented the motion on the *Resolution on Single-Use Plastic* at the 2019 National Convention.
(*Motion 5, Page F-34, Bulletin of Reports*)

Proposed motion

That the ELCIC National Convention:

- recognizes that there is growing concern about the ecological impact of the production, consumption and disposal of many plastic products, particularly single-use plastics.
- acknowledges there are members of our communities who may require access to single-use plastic items in order to insure their full inclusion in community.
- encourages congregations, faith communities, ministry organizations, areas, and synods to reduce the use of single-use plastic products.
- encourages individual members to reduce their reliance on single-use plastic products.
- encourages the National church to identify and promote resources aimed at supporting local efforts toward plastic reduction.
- embraces an ongoing call to be mindful Stewards of Creation and to seek a healthy relationship with the earth.

Amendment

M/S That the 2019 National Convention approves to eliminate bullet point five from the motion presented which reads *encourages the National church to identify and promote resources aimed at supporting local efforts toward plastic reduction.* **CARRIED.**

Amendment

M/S To amend the motion by adding *directs the National Bishop to write letters to the Prime Minister, premiers of Canada and members of the legislative assemblies expressing concern on the consumption of single-use plastic and its impact on creation.* **CARRIED.**

NC-2019-05 Resolution on Single-Use Plastic

That the ELCIC National Convention:

- recognizes that there is growing concern about the ecological impact of the production, consumption and disposal of many plastic products, particularly single-use plastics.
- acknowledges there are members of our communities who may require access to single-use plastic items in order to insure their full inclusion in community.
- encourages congregations, faith communities, ministry organizations, areas, and synods to reduce the use of simple-use plastic products.
- encourages individual members to reduce their reliance on single-use plastic products.
- embraces an ongoing call to be mindful Stewards of Creation and to seek a healthy relationship with the earth.

- directs the National Bishop to write letters to the Prime Minister, premiers of Canada and members of the legislative assemblies over expressing concern on the consumption of single-use plastic and its impact on creation.

The amended motion CARRIED.

Greetings – Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

The Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton, Presiding Bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America brought greetings to the 2019 National Convention.

Standing Order – Mr. Wayne Hove, President, LCBI High School

Mr. Wayne Hove shared some good news stories about LCBI High School.

Vice-chair Sheila Hamilton shared some announcements. The session was adjourned for lunch.
(Lunch)

Business Session #4:

Friday, July 12, 2019, 1:30 p.m.—5:00 p.m.

Opening Prayer led by Assistant to the Bishop for Worship Rev. Lyle McKenzie.

Vice-Chair Sheila Hamilton called Business Session #4 of the 17th Biennial National Convention to order.

Registration Report

Secretary Linda Grainger presented the report as of 1:30 p.m.

78 lay delegates

60 rostered delegates

9 youth delegates

147 voting delegates

21 visitors

(number of guests not identified)

***Journeying with Indigenous Peoples* by Janine Windolph**

Filmmaker, Multimedia Storyteller and Entrepreneur Janine Windolph presented to the 2019 National Convention.

National Church Council Report—

Reimagining Our Church: Public Ministry in the ELCIC

NCC member Rev. Íris Kristjánsdóttir together with Rev. Chris Bishopp, Rev. André Lavergne and Jeanie Stann presented the report of the Faith, Order and Doctrine Committee (FOD) at the 2019 National Convention in preparation for table group discussions.

Table group discussion questions:

1. What is the most heartening thing you found in Reimagining Our Church...in the document or process?

2. What is the most challenging thing you found in Reimagining Our church... in the document or process?
3. What was the most important thing you found in Reimagining Our church... in the document or process?

(Afternoon Coffee Break)

(Deadline for Submission to Reference and Counsel)

Opening Prayer led by convention chaplain Rev. Victoria Mwamasika.

Vice-Chair Sheila Hamilton called the 2019 National Convention to order.

Report of Committee on Conduct of Elections

The Ballot for National Bishop was conducted electronically (use of clickers).

Results of Ballot for National Bishop

Ballots cast: 142

Required to elect: 72

Susan Johnson	80	Kathleen Martin	0
Larry Kochendorfer	33	Michael Pryse	2
Toti (Alimezelli)	21	Sarah Dymund	0
Lindsey Jorgensen-Skakum	4	David Malina	1
Jason Zinko	1		

Vice-Chair Sheila Hamilton declared **Rev. Susan Johnson** re-elected to a fourth term as National Bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada (ELCIC). National Bishop Susan Johnson addressed the 2019 National Convention.

M/S To destroy the ballots. **CARRIED.**

Standing Order – Report of the Canadian Lutheran World Relief (CLWR)

Rev. Dr. Karin Achtelstetter, Executive Director of Canadian Lutheran World Relief gave a presentation to the 2019 National Convention.

Standing Order – Report of ELCIC Group Services, Inc. (ELCIC-GSI)

Lisa Theissen, Executive Director and John Wolff, President of ELCIC-GSI presented to the 2019 National Convention.

Report of National Church Council—

The Call to Faithfully Journey with those who are Dying: An ELCIC Resolution

NCC members Bruce Cook and Rev. James Hendricksen presented the motions on ***The Call to Faithfully Journey with those who are Dying: An ELCIC Resolution*** at the 2019 National Convention. The members of the task force included Rev. Lynn Granke, Dr. Janet Storch, Jeanie Stann and Rev. Paul Gehrs who were called on stage. (*Motions 8 to 11, Page F-36 and Appendix 6, Bulletin of Reports*)

M/S That the 2019 National Convention adopts *The Call to Faithfully Journey with those who are Dying: An ELCIC Resolution*.

M/S To amend the document in the paragraph under “Principles for Journeying with those who are Dying” as follows:

We affirm that everyone has the **human** right to assistance in dying. This includes good medical care and good palliative care. Some sick people are going to die. And some people who are going to die ~~are going to be interested in~~ **may request** medical assistance in dying.

CARRIED.

The Call to Faithfully Journey with those who are Dying: An ELCIC Resolution—
NC-2019-06 That the 2019 National Convention adopts *The Call to Faithfully Journey with those who are Dying: An ELCIC Resolution as amended*. **CARRIED.**
(Appendix B: The Call to Faithfully Journey with those who are Dying)

Resources for Spiritual Care

NC-2019-07 That the ELCIC National Convention directs the National Church Council to identify, gather and share resources that will support congregations and faith communities in living out the calling to offer spiritual care throughout the sacred journey of life, including birth, dying and death. This will include resources on providing safe space for conversations about dying and death, and resources for worship and prayer. We encourage congregations and faith communities to identify and gather local resources. **CARRIED.**

Access to Palliative Care

NC-2019-08 That the ELCIC National Convention directs the National Bishop to write to the Prime Minister and to all provincial / territorial premiers expressing the ELCIC’s support for a just and universal access for all to dignified, quality palliative care and encouraging these elected leaders to address inequities of access in the health care system. The convention directs the National Bishop to invite synodical bishops to jointly sign the letters to premiers in their respective territories. **CARRIED.**

Access to Mental Health Care Services

NC-2019-09 That the ELCIC National Convention directs the National Bishop to write to the Prime Minister and to all provincial / territorial premiers expressing support for just and universal access for all to dignified, quality mental health care services and encouraging these elected leaders to address inequities of access in the health care system. The convention directs the National Bishop to invite synodical bishops to jointly sign the letters to premiers in their respective territories. **CARRIED.**

Reimagining Our Church – Public Ministry in the ELCIC—

NCC members Rev. Chris Bishopp, Rev. Íris Kristjánsdóttir presented the motions at the 2019 National Convention. The members of the Faith, Order and Doctrine (FOD) Committee were

also called on stage which included Bishop Larry Kochendorfer, Jeanie Stann, Deacon Scott Knarr and Rev. André Lavergne.

Ordination and First Call

NC-2019-10 That the ELCIC recognizes that “ordination” is the rite which marks and celebrates the acceptance of a first call into public ministry of a deacon, or a bishop or a pastor.

CARRIED.

National Bishop Susan Johnson acknowledged the following deacons who were present at the 2019 National Convention for this historic moment: Deacons Gretchen Peterson, Scott Knarr, Faith Nostbakken, Brigitte McKenzie and Pam Harrington.

Unified Rite of Ordination

NC-2019-11 That the 2019 National Convention requests the Program Committee for Worship to develop a unified *Rite of Ordination* containing alternative and variable pieces appropriate to the ordination of a deacon, a pastor or a bishop. **CARRIED.**

Presiding at Weddings and Funerals

NC-2019-12 That the ELCIC authorizes deacons to preside at weddings or funerals with the permission of the synodical bishop. Normally, a pastor presides at weddings and funerals by virtue of their call to a particular congregation or similar setting. Normally, a deacon’s invitation to preside at a wedding or funeral emerges from those relationships formed while exercising their ministry in the setting into which they are called. **CARRIED.**

Reimagining Our Church – Public Ministry in the ELCIC

(Appendices 07 and 08; Bulletin of Reports)

NC-2019-13 That the ELCIC approves the document *Reimagining Our Church – Public Ministry in the ELCIC* and that NCC share this document with ELCIC pastors, deacons and bishops; with ELCIC synods, congregations and other ministry settings; with ELCIC seminaries and schools; with the Deaconess Community of the ELCA and Lutheran Diaconal Association; with The Lutheran World Federation and with Lutheran and ecumenical partners. **CARRIED.**
<http://www.elcic.ca/faithorderdoctrine/OrdersofMinistry.cfm>

Reviewing Public Ministry Policies

NC-2019-14 That *Reimagining Our Church — Public Ministry in the ELCIC*, be referred to the Program Committee for Leadership for Ministry for review and revision when necessary of (1) *ELCIC Candidacy Manual* and (2) the policies regarding *Authorized Lay Ministries, Synodically Authorized Lay Ministry of the Word* and the *Alternative Route for Admission to the Roster of Ordained Ministers*. **CARRIED.**

Communicating with Public Ministry Partners

NC-2019-15 That the 2019 National Convention refers *Reimagining Our Church — Public Ministry in the ELCIC*, to ELCIC synods and seminaries to help inform their preparation of candidates for public ministry in the ELCIC. **CARRIED.**

Announcements

Closing Prayer led by convention chaplain Rev. Victoria Mwamasika

(Dinner)

Business Session #5:

Friday, July 12, 2019, 6:15 p.m.—9:00 p.m.

Opening Prayer led by Assistant to the Bishop for Worship Rev. Lyle McKenzie.

National Bishop Susan Johnson called Business Session #5 of the 17th Biennial National Convention to order.

Registration Report

Secretary Linda Grainger presented the report as of 6:15 a.m.

78 lay delegates

60 rostered delegates

9 youth delegates

147 voting delegates

21 visitors

12 guests

Report of Committee on Conduct of Elections Elections for National Church Council—

BC Synod Rostered

Rev. Jane Gingrich - 83

Rev. Aneeta Saroop - 45

National Bishop Susan Johnson declared **Rev. Jane Gingrich** re-elected.

ABT Synod Lay

Kathleen Jensen - 84

Marla Mulloy - 42

National Bishop Susan Johnson declared **Kathleen Jensen** elected.

SK Synod Lay

Murray Patzwald - 24

David Bragg - 14

Deb Roberts - 34

John Nilson - 59

No election. Next ballot to contain the names of Deb Roberts and John Nilson.

MNO Synod Lay

Sarah Harrington - 34

Linda Sander- 86

National Bishop Susan Johnson declared **Linda Sander** elected.

EAST Synod Lay

Pat Lovell - 92

Peggy Read – 35

National Bishop Susan Johnson declared **Pat Lovell** re-elected.

EAST Synod Rostered

Laura Sauder – 60

Kimberlynn McNabb -67

National Bishop Susan Johnson declared **Kimberlynn McNabb** elected.

Presentation – Rev. Dr. Martin Junge, General Secretary, The Lutheran World Federation

Rev. Dr. Martin Junge, General Secretary of The Lutheran World Federation presented to the 2019 National Convention.

Report of National Church Council—

Second Reading of Amendments to the ELCIC Constitution

M/S That the 2019 National Convention adopts the amendments to the ELCIC Constitution as presented. **CARRIED.**

Secretary Linda Grainger presented the amendments to the ELCIC Administrative Bylaws.
(Appendix 02 – Explanation to Amendments to ELCIC Constitution and Administrative Bylaws, Bulletin of Reports)

M/S That the 2019 National Convention adopts the amendments to the ELCIC Administrative Bylaws as presented.

Amendment:

M/S That the 2019 National Convention amends Part VII Section 7 by removing the sentence “The members of National Church Council shall be voting delegates at convention.”

DEFEATED.

NC-2019-16 That the 2019 National Convention adopts the amendments to the ELCIC Administrative Bylaws as presented.

Amendment:	Administrative Bylaws	
MOVED FROM CORPORATE BYLAWS	PART I GENERAL Section 1. Definitions	In these bylaws, unless the context otherwise requires: a. “Act” means the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada Act;

		<p>b. “baptized member” means a baptized individual who is a member of a congregation or synodically recognized ministry;</p> <p>c. “convention” means the general or special meeting of delegates;</p> <p>d. “delegate” means an individual elected or appointed in accordance with these bylaws to attend a convention;</p> <p>e. “director” means a member of the National Church Council;</p> <p>f. “layperson” means a baptized member who has not been ordained or consecrated;</p> <p>g. “member congregation” means a congregation or several congregations which are served by a common pastoral ministry and which is a member of this church in accordance with these bylaws;</p> <p>h. “National Church Council” means the board of directors of this church;</p> <p>i. “officers” means the Executive Committee of this church; specifically, the bishop, vice-chair, secretary and treasurer;</p> <p>j. “synod” means a body corporate organized in a manner acceptable to the National Church Council to advance the mission of this church in the region established for it in accordance with the constitution and bylaws of this church.</p>
MOVED FROM CORPORATE BYLAWS	PART I Section 2. Interpretation	In the interpretation of these bylaws, words and expressions defined in the Act have the same meanings when used in these bylaws. Words in the singular include the plural and vice-versa; words importing gender include all genders and “person” includes an individual, body corporate, partnership, trust and unincorporated organization.
MOVED FROM CORPORATE BYLAWS	PART I Section 3. Corporate Seal	The seal, an impression whereof is stamped in the margin hereof, shall be the seal of this church which said seal shall be retained in the head office, in the custody of the secretary, unless otherwise directed by the National Church Council.
MOVED FROM CORPORATE BYLAWS	PART I Section 5. Execution of Documents	Contracts, documents or any instruments in writing requiring the signature of this church, shall be signed by any two (2) officers and all contracts, documents and instruments in writing so signed shall be binding upon this church without any further authorization or formality. The National Church Council shall have power from time to time by resolution to appoint an

		individual or individuals on behalf of this church to sign specific contracts, documents and instruments in writing. The National Church Council may give this church's power of attorney to any registered dealer in securities for the purposes of the transferring of and dealing with any stocks, bonds and other securities of this church. The seal of this church, when required, may be affixed to contracts, documents and instruments in writing signed as aforesaid or by any officer or officers appointed by resolution of the National Church Council.
NEW	PART I Section 7.	Proxy or absentee voting shall not be permitted in the transaction of any business.
AMENDED	PART II CONGREGATIONS Section 1.	A congregation seeking to be admitted into this church shall submit to the bishop of the appropriate synod a formal application and a copy of the constitution and bylaws of the congregation. Prior to admitting said congregation, the Synod Council shall ascertain if the constitution and bylaws are in harmony with the faith and polity of this church. The constitution and bylaws take effect upon ratification by the Synod Council.
MOVED FROM CORPORATE BYLAWS	PART II Section 2.	j. operate in accordance with its constitution and bylaws which have been ratified by the synod to which it is assigned; and k. submit to the synod any amendments that the congregation has adopted of its constitution and bylaws; such amendments take effect upon ratification by Synod Council
MOVED FROM CORPORATE BYLAWS	PART III Section 2.	d. operate in accordance with their governing documents which have been ratified by the synod to which it is assigned; e. submit to the synod any amendments that have been adopted; such amendments take effect upon ratification by Synod Council;
AMENDED	PART IV ROSTERED PASTORS Section 13.	a. Synod Councils shall subject a pastor to discipline, including but not limited to suspension or removal from the office and privileges of ordained ministry as a pastor , for:
NEW	PART V ROSTERED DEACONS Section 11.	Synod Councils shall undertake to put in place the following provisions for discipline of deacons:
AMENDED	PART V Section. 11.	a. The Synod Council shall subject a deacon to discipline, including, but not limited to suspension

		or removal from the office and privileges of ordained ministry as a deacon, for:
MOVED FROM CORPORATE BYLAWS	PART VI SYNODS Section 3.	Each synod shall have its own bishop.
AMENDED	PART VI Section 7.	Each synod shall be responsible for maintaining current rosters of pastors and deacons of this church which are within its jurisdiction. At the written request of a rostered pastor or rostered deacon who is a member in good standing and who is called into another synod, the secretary of each synod shall complete the required documentation.
AMENDED	PART VII CONVENTIONS Section 7.	The members of National Church Council shall be voting delegates at convention. In addition, the maximum number of synod elected or appointed voting delegates at convention shall be one hundred and fifty (150), comprised of a maximum of ninety (90) delegates who shall be lay and a maximum of sixty (60) delegates who shall be rostered pastors or rostered deacons. Of these one hundred and fifty (150) delegates, synods shall make reasonable efforts to elect or appoint one-fifth (1/5) of such delegates who are sixteen (16) to thirty (30) years of age as of the first day of convention.
DELETED		Section 8. Synods shall be entitled to elect 10 delegates from each synod; the remaining delegates shall be apportioned among the synods based on baptized membership 18 months prior to convention. Section 9. Youth delegates shall be baptized members between the ages of 16 and 25 inclusive on the first full day of the convention.
AMENDED	PART VII Section 12.	A resolution of a general character which is not germane to the pending question or report shall be given to the Committee of Reference and Counsel by the delegate proposing such resolution. The Committee of Reference and Counsel shall report all such resolutions to the convention with its recommendation(s). Other duties of the committee shall be to grant or deny permission to distribute printed or electronic matters not issued from the office of this church, to be consulted in amendments to the agenda once the convention

		has commenced and to give such assistance to the bishop as may be requested.
MOVED FROM CORPORATE BYLAWS	PART VII Section 17.	At every triennial convention, in addition to any other business that may be transacted, the National Church Council shall present a report on the activities of the National Church Council since the last triennial convention, including a report on the financial position of this church.
MOVED FROM CORPORATE BYLAWS	PART VII Section 21.	The secretary shall give written notice of any special convention to each delegate and shall make such notice available through the website of this church at least thirty (30) days prior to the opening date of the convention.
AMENDED	PART VII Section 22.	A quorum for any convention shall consist of at least thirty (30) percent of the delegates provided that such delegates are from a majority of the synods.
MOVED FROM CORPORATE BYLAWS	PART VII Section 23.	No error or omission in giving notice of any triennial or special convention or any adjourned convention, whether triennial or special, shall invalidate such convention or make void any proceedings taken thereat and any delegate may at any time waive notice of any such convention and may ratify, approve and confirm any or all proceedings taken or had thereat. For purpose of sending notice to any delegate, director or officer for any convention or otherwise, the address of the delegate, director or officer shall be such individual's last address recorded on the books of this church.
AMENDED	PART VIII NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS Section 1.	a. The National Church Council shall appoint six (6) members, one (1) from each synod as well as the secretary of this church , to serve on the Committee on Nominations.
AMENDED	PART VIII Section 1.	g. The report shall provide the following information about each nominee: occupation, synod, and a brief statement of experience. Like information shall be given by the nominator to the Committee on Conduct of Elections for each person nominated from the floor.
AMENDED	PART IX NATIONAL CHURCH COUNCIL Section 1.	The National Church Council (referred to as "the council) shall meet at least once per year.
MOVED FROM CORPORATE BYLAWS	PART IX Section 3. **wording updated**	The following persons are disqualified from being a director: a. anyone who is less than eighteen (18) years of age;

		<p>b. anyone who is incapable; or</p> <p>c. a person who has the status of bankrupt.</p>
MOVED FROM CORPORATE BYLAWS	PART IX Section 5.	<p>The office of director shall be automatically vacated:</p> <p>a. if the director resigns from office by delivering a written resignation to the secretary of this church;</p> <p>b. if the director is found to be incapable;</p> <p>c. if the director becomes bankrupt; or</p> <p>d. on the director's death;</p> <p>provided that if any vacancy shall occur for any reason in this paragraph contained, the council may, by majority vote, fill the vacancy by appointment until the next convention.</p>
MOVED FROM CORPORATE BYLAWS	PART IX Section 7.	<p>Meetings of the National Church Council may be called by the bishop or by the officers and shall be called by the bishop upon the written request of a majority of the directors.</p>
MOVED FROM CORPORATE BYLAWS	PART IX Section 8.	<p>Meetings of the National Church Council may be held at such time and place in Canada as is determined by the bishop or by the officers, provided that fifteen (15) days written notice of such meeting shall be given, other than by mail, to each director.</p>
MOVED FROM CORPORATE BYLAWS	PART IX Section 9.	<p>No error or omission in giving notice of any meeting of the council or any adjourned meeting of the council shall invalidate such meeting or make void any proceedings taken thereat and any director may at any time waive notice of any such meeting and may ratify, approve and confirm any or all proceedings taken or had thereat. Each director is authorized to exercise one (1) vote.</p>
MOVED FROM CORPORATE BYLAWS	PART IX Section 10.	<p>If a majority of directors consent thereto generally or in respect of a particular meeting, a director may participate in a meeting of the council or of a committee of the council by means of electronic facilities that permits all persons participating in the meeting to hear each other. Each council member participating in such a meeting by such means is deemed to be present at the meeting.</p>
MOVED FROM CORPORATE BYLAWS	PART IX Section 11.	<p>The National Church Council may conduct a vote of the council via email. Protocol for conducting these votes shall be outlined in a policy approved by the National Church Council. Results of the vote shall be recorded in the minutes of the next council meeting.</p>

MOVED FROM CORPORATE BYLAWS	PART IX Section 12.	A resolution in writing, signed by a majority of directors entitled to vote on that resolution at a meeting of the council or committee of the council, is as valid as if it had been passed at a meeting of the council or committee of the council.
MOVED FROM CORPORATE BYLAWS	PART IX Section 13.	The minutes of the National Church Council and the minutes of the officers shall be available to the directors, and such others as the council shall determine, each of whom shall receive a copy of such minutes.
MOVED FROM CORPORATE BYLAWS	PART IX Section 17.	The National Church Council may appoint such agents and engage such employees as it shall deem necessary from time to time and such persons shall have such authority and shall perform such duties as shall be prescribed by the council at the time of such appointment.
MOVED FROM CORPORATE BYLAWS	PART IX Section 18.	The directors and members of committees appointed by the directors shall serve as such without remuneration and no director or committee member shall directly or indirectly receive any profit from such position, provided that a director or a committee member may be paid reasonable expenses incurred by such individual in the performance of that individual's duties. Nothing herein contained shall be construed to preclude any director or committee member from serving this church as an officer or in any other capacity and receiving compensation therefor.
NEW	PART X OFFICERS Section 4.	r. perform program responsibilities as may be necessary;
MOVED FROM CORPORATE BYLAWS	PART X Section 6.	f. publish the time and place of each regular convention of this church at least six (6) months in advance of the opening date of the convention;
MOVED FROM CORPORATE BYLAWS	PART X Section 7.	b. keep or cause to be kept proper accounting records; c. keep or cause to be kept the deposit of money and the disbursement of funds;
MOVED FROM CORPORATE BYLAWS	PART X Section 8.	During the intervals between meetings of the National Church Council, the officers shall possess and may exercise (subject to any restrictions which the National Church Council may from time to time make) all of the powers of the National Church Council in the management and direction of the day-to-day operation of this church (save and except only

		such acts as must by the Act or these bylaws be performed by the National Church Council itself) in such manner as the officers may deem best in the interest of this church in all cases in which specific direction shall not have been given by National Church Council. All actions of the officers shall be reported to the National Church Council at the meeting next succeeding such actions and shall be subject to revision or alteration by the National Church Council, provided that no acts or rights or third parties shall be affected or invalidated by any such revision or alteration.
MOVED FROM CORPORATE BYLAWS	PART X Section 9.	Meetings of the officers shall be held at such time and place in Canada as is determined by the members of such committee provided that three (3) days written notice of such meeting shall be given, other than by mail, to each member of such committee. Three (3) members of such committee shall constitute a quorum. No error or omission in giving notice of any meeting of the officers or any adjourned meeting of the officers shall invalidate such meeting or make void any proceedings taken thereat and any member of such committee may at any time waive notice of any such meeting and may ratify, approve and confirm any or all proceedings taken or had thereat. Each member of the committee is authorized to exercise one (1) vote.
AMENDED	PART XI Section 4.	Notice of a decision by the Court of Appeal that the charges have been sustained shall be given to the accused officer, and the officer may file an appeal of the decision with the Court of Appeal within forty-five (45) days after receipt of such notice. Such appeal shall be heard at the next convention and the convention may decide by a two-thirds (2/3) vote, after debate but without receiving testimony, that the officer shall be recalled or dismissed and the office vacated.
AMENDED	PART XIII COLLEGES, UNIVERSITIES AND SEMINARIES Section 1.	Ownership of the colleges and universities of this church shall be vested in this church in corporations whose membership shall be the same as that of the conventions of this church.
NEW	PART XIII Section 2.	Each school shall present a report to the convention of this church.

MOVED FROM CORPORATE BYLAWS	PART XIV BENEFIT AND PENSION PLANS Section 1.	A pension plan and group benefits plan shall be maintained through a wholly owned subsidiary of this church. The board of directors of such subsidiary shall be elected by the National Church Council and such board of directors shall manage and supervise the administration of the pension plan and group benefits plan and their portfolios.
AMENDED	PART XIV Section 2.	Entities associated with this church shall co-operate with the wholly owned subsidiary of this church to ensure that the following pension and benefit plans are available for their respective employees: a. A contributory pension plan constructed on the money-purchase principle, in which the accumulated contributions attributed to each member's account are fully vested; b. A group benefits plan that would provides death benefits, life and disability insurance and such other benefits as may be determined by the committee or board appointed to administer the group benefits plan; and e. Vested rights of members and beneficiaries of the pension plan established for rostered ministers of this church and lay employees shall not be abrogated by any action of this church.
DELETED	PART XIV Section 4.	The obligations established in these administrative bylaws with respect to participation in the pension plan and in the group benefits plan referred to in Section 1 do not apply: a. With respect to the pension plan, to an individual who was a rostered minister on December 31, 1985 and was not actively contributing to a registered pension plan as of that date; and b. With respect to the pension plan or the group benefits plan, unless the rostered minister or lay employee is eligible to join such plan in accordance with the terms of such plan.
AMENDED	PART XVI COURT OF APPEAL Section 3.	The court shall elect its own chair and secretary.
MOVED FROM CORPORATE BYLAWS	PART XVII INDEMNIFICATION Section 1.	This church may indemnify a director or officer of this church, a former director or officer of this church or another individual who acts or acted at this church's request as a director or officer, or an individual acting in a similar capacity, of another entity, against all costs, charges and expenses, including an amount paid to settle an action or

		satisfy a judgment, reasonably incurred by the individual in respect of any civil, criminal, administrative, investigative or other proceeding in which the individual is involved because of that association with this church or other entity.
MOVED FROM CORPORATE BYLAWS	PART XVII Section 2.	This church may advance moneys to a director, officer or other individual for the costs, charges and expenses of a proceeding referred to in Section 1. The individual shall repay the moneys if the individual does not fulfil the conditions of Section 3.
MOVED FROM CORPORATE BYLAWS	PART XVII Section 3	This church may not indemnify an individual under Section 1 unless the individual: a. acted honestly and in good faith with a view to the best interests of this church, or, as the case may be, to the best interests of the other entity for which the individual acted as director or officer or in a similar capacity at this church's request; and b. in the case of a criminal or administrative action or proceeding that is enforced by a monetary penalty, the individual had reasonable grounds for believing that the individual's conduct was lawful.
MOVED FROM CORPORATE BYLAWS	PART XVII Section 4.	This church may with the approval of a court, indemnify an individual referred to in Section 1, or advance moneys under Section 2, in respect of an action by or on behalf of this church or other entity to procure a judgment in its favour, to which the individual is made a party because of the individual's association with this church or other entity as described in Section 1 against all costs, charges and expenses reasonably incurred by the individual in connection with such action, if the individual fulfils the conditions set out in Section 3.
MOVED FROM CORPORATE BYLAWS	PART XVII Section 5.	Despite Section 1, an individual referred to in that section is entitled to indemnity from this church in respect of all costs, charges and expenses reasonably incurred by the individual in connection with the defence of any civil, criminal, administrative, investigative or other proceeding to which the individual is subject because of the individual's association with this church or other entity as described in Section 1, if the individual seeking indemnity: a. was not judged by the court or other competent authority to have committed any fault or omitted to do anything that the individual ought to have done; and

	b.	fulfils the conditions set out in Section 3.
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CARRIED.

(Appendix C: Updated ELCIC Administrative Bylaws)

A Resolution on Respect for LGBTQ2SIA+ persons

(Motion 19, Pages F-37-38, Bulletin of Reports)

NCC members Jeff Buhse and Cole Guenter presented the motion at the 2019 National Convention along with Les Pearson, Curt Satre and Rev. Paul Gehrs who were all on stage.

Resolution on Respect for LGBTQ2SIA+ persons¹

Proposed Motion:

That the 2019 National Convention

- affirms the ELCIC’s 2011 commitment to Uphold Dignity:
This church upholds the dignity of all people. We recognize the image of Christ in every person and serve that person as Christ himself. In meeting diverse people, we begin with a core sense of respect for the value of each person as a unique child of God²
- recognizes that meeting diverse peoples and forming a truly inclusive community is a journey of discovery that will include moments of discomfort and anxiety.
- Affirms that women and men, transgender and non-binary people, members of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, queer, two-spirit, asexual, and heterosexual communities — regardless of age — deserve to have their individual identities, titles and pronouns respected and upheld within their communities of faith. And,

That the National Convention encourages the National Church to:

- engage in practices that more fully enable all people, regardless of their sexual orientation, gender identity and/or gender expression to live as members of the body of Christ and as co-workers in ministry, and to help nurture disciples in the image of God;
- Speak out against instances of hatred and discrimination based on sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression, and to advocate for the rights of LGBTQ2SIA+ communities.
- Gather and promote resources for education and deeper understanding of diversity, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression and LGBTQ2SIA+ communities.
- Advocate for youth access to mental health services And,

That the ELCIC encourages congregations, faith communities, ministry organizations, areas and synods to:

- engage in practices that more fully enable all people, regardless of their sexual orientation, gender identity and/or gender expression to live as members of the body of Christ and as co-workers in ministry, and to help nurture disciples in the image of God;
- Create safe space and help diverse people of faith to meet and to form community.
- Work with mental health agencies and groups in the community to support youth who are struggling with issues of sexual orientation, gender identity and/or gender expression; And,

That the ELCIC encourages individual members to:

- find ways to build relationships with, and affirm respect for, diverse communities.
- Welcome people with words and actions that actively reflect the variety of identities we have come to know within our context.
- Speak out against instances of hatred and discrimination based on sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression, and to advocate for the rights of LGBTQ2SIA+ persons in our communities.

Rationale

The 2011 ELCIC Social Statement on Human Sexuality identified principles for, and made commitments to, addressing issues of human sexuality. Since that time, there has been an increased consciousness of issues of gender identity, gender expression, and ongoing issues of harassment (e.g. #metoo). The ELCIC Strategic Plan calls on the ELCIC to work for an inclusive vision of the church, to work with diverse allies and to seek systemic change. Finding ways to fully respect each other, in all our diversity, is a matter for ongoing learning, conversation, action, and advocacy. This resolution encourages us along this path.

¹ LGBTQ2SIA+ is an acronym that is referring to: L = Lesbian, G = Gay, B = Bisexual, T = trans/Transgender, Q = Queer, 2S = Two Spirited (used in some Indigenous communities), I = Intersex, A = Asexual, + = all other identities who associate with the community but who are not named. This acronym may change from time to time, region to region and context to context as diverse people claim particular identities, titles and pronouns.

² 2011 ELCIC Social Statement on Human Sexuality

Proposed amendment:

M/S To amend the motion by replacing the fourth bullet point under “That the National Convention encourages the National Church to” with “Advocate for youth who may require mental health or housing services, due to the possible risks associated with coming out as a LGBTQ2SIA+ persons. Support youth who are struggling with mental health issues by working with mental health agencies if so required.” **CARRIED.**

NC-2019-17 That the 2019 National Convention

- affirms the ELCIC’s 2011 commitment to Uphold Dignity:
This church upholds the dignity of all people. We recognize the image of Christ in every person and serve that person as Christ himself. In meeting diverse people, we begin with a core sense of respect for the value of each person as a unique child of God²
- recognizes that meeting diverse peoples and forming a truly inclusive community is a journey of discovery that will include moments of discomfort and anxiety.
- Affirms that women and men, transgender and non-binary people, members of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, queer, two-spirit, asexual, and heterosexual communities — regardless of age — deserve to have their individual identities, titles and pronouns respected and upheld within their communities of faith. And,

That the National Convention encourages the National Church to:

- engage in practices that more fully enable all people, regardless of their sexual orientation, gender identity and/or gender expression to live as members of the body of Christ and as co-workers in ministry, and to help nurture disciples in the image of God;
- Speak out against instances of hatred and discrimination based on sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression, and to advocate for the rights of LGBTQ2SIA+ communities.
- Gather and promote resources for education and deeper understanding of diversity, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression and LGBTQ2SIA+ communities.
- **Advocate for youth who may require mental health or housing services, due to the possible risks associated with coming out as a LGBTQ2SIA+ persons. Support youth who are struggling with mental health issues by working with mental health agencies if so required.**

That the ELCIC encourages congregations, faith communities, ministry organizations, areas and synods to:

- engage in practices that more fully enable all people, regardless of their sexual orientation, gender identity and/or gender expression to live as members of the body of Christ and as co-workers in ministry, and to help nurture disciples in the image of God;
 - Create safe space and help diverse people of faith to meet and to form community.
 - Work with mental health agencies and groups in the community to support youth who are struggling with issues of sexual orientation, gender identity and/or gender expression;
- And,

That the ELCIC encourages individual members to:

- find ways to build relationships with, and affirm respect for, diverse communities.
- Welcome people with words and actions that actively reflect the variety of identities we have come to know within our context.
- Speak out against instances of hatred and discrimination based on sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression, and to advocate for the rights of LGBTQ2SIA+ persons in our communities.

¹ LGBTQ2SIA+ is an acronym that is referring to: L = Lesbian, G = Gay, B = Bisexual, T = trans/Transgender, Q = Queer, 2S = Two Spirited (used in some Indigenous communities), I = Intersex, A = Asexual, + = all other identities who associate with the community but who are not named. This acronym may change from time to time, region to region and context to context as diverse people claim particular identities, titles and pronouns.

² 2011 ELCIC Social Statement on Human Sexuality

CARRIED

Relationships, Interconnectedness and Responsibilities in the ELCIC: One Body Working Together – a motion to update NC-95-11 (*Motion 20, page F-39 and Appendices 10-11, Bulletin of Reports*) Presented by Curt Satre and Les Pearson.

NC-2019-18 That the 2019 National Convention rescinds Convention action NC 1995-11 National and Synodical Responsibilities and that the National Convention adopts the document

Relationships, Interconnectedness and Responsibilities in the ELCIC: One Body Working Together as amended.

CARRIED.

(Appendix D: Relationships, Interconnectedness and Responsibilities in the ELCIC: One Body Working Together)

Resolution on Investigating Becoming Carbon Neutral

NCC members Jeff Buhse and Rev. Jane Gingrich presented the motion before the convention. *(Motion 6, page F-34, Bulletin of Reports)*

NC-2019-19 That the ELCIC acknowledges the call by the 2017 Lutheran World Federation (LWF) Assembly for “the global communion to strengthen its efforts even more for climate justice;” and the call “for the LWF to be carbon neutral by 2050.” The National Convention directs the National Church Council to investigate what would be required for the ELCIC to be carbon neutral by 2050, and to report to the 2022 National Convention.

CARRIED.

Resolution on Becoming Greening Faith Communities

NCC members Jeff Buhse and Curt Satre presented the motion before the convention. *(Motion 7, page F-37, Bulletin of Reports)*

M/S That the ELCIC joins the 2017 Lutheran World Federation Assembly in “affirming the fact that the global ecological crisis, including climate change, is human-induced. It is a spiritual matter. As people of faith, we are called to journey together toward a healthy relationship with the earth.” and in “affirming its commitment to implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). “Creation Not for Sale” points out our responsibility to care for and to maintain God’s creation, and our needed efforts to advocate for climate justice.”

That the National Convention:

- encourages congregations, faith communities, ministry organizations, areas, and synods to participate in the *ELCIC Stewardship of Creation: Greening Faith Communities* program as an expression of commitment to stewardship of creation.
- encourages individual members to reduce their personal carbon footprint.
- expresses its appreciation to the congregations who are currently accredited as greening congregations.
- encourages the National Church to identify and promote resources aimed at supporting local efforts toward reducing carbon footprints.
- directs the National Bishop to write to the Prime Minister of Canada to communicate the urgent need for climate justice, the importance of low carbon development, the critical need to limit global temperature increases to below 1.5° C above preindustrial levels, as outlined in the Paris Agreement (COP 21), and the value of funding climate resiliency initiatives for farmers in Canada and around the world.

CARRIED.

Amendment:

M/S That the 2019 National Convention delete the last two bullets:

- encourages the National Church to identify and promote resources aimed at supporting local efforts toward reducing carbon footprints.
- directs the National Bishop to write to the Prime Minister of Canada to communicate the urgent need for climate justice, the importance of low carbon development, the critical need to limit global temperature increases to below 1.5° C above preindustrial levels, as outlined in the Paris Agreement (COP 21), and the value of funding climate resiliency initiatives for farmers in Canada and around the world.

DEFEATED.

NC-2019-20 That the ELCIC joins the 2017 Lutheran World Federation Assembly in “affirming the fact that the global ecological crisis, including climate change, is human-induced. It is a spiritual matter. As people of faith, we are called to journey together toward a healthy relationship with the earth.” and in “affirming its commitment to implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). “Creation Not for Sale” points out our responsibility to care for and to maintain God’s creation, and our needed efforts to advocate for climate justice.”

That the National Convention:

- encourages congregations, faith communities, ministry organizations, areas, and synods to participate in the *ELCIC Stewardship of Creation: Greening Faith Communities* program as an expression of commitment to stewardship of creation.
- encourages individual members to reduce their personal carbon footprint.
- expresses its appreciation to the congregations who are currently accredited as greening congregations.
- encourages the National Church to identify and promote resources aimed at supporting local efforts toward reducing carbon footprints.
- directs the National Bishop to write to the Prime Minister of Canada to communicate the urgent need for climate justice, the importance of low carbon development, the critical need to limit global temperature increases to below 1.5° C above preindustrial levels, as outlined in the Paris Agreement (COP 21), and the value of funding climate resiliency initiatives for farmers in Canada and around the world.

CARRIED.

Report of Committee on Reference and Counsel—

Deacon Faith Nostbakken presented the report of the Committee on Reference and Counsel.

The committee members include Rev. Joanne Lam, Rev. Trudy Thorarinson, Rev. Dennis Serfas, Tom Brook, Laurie Knott, Bryan Tastad and Leslie “Skip” Triplett.

NC-2019-21 That the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada affirm our support for and solidarity with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America as it advocates on behalf of asylum seekers and detainees; and

That the National Bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada convey to the Presiding Bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America our support and solidarity; and

That the National Bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada consult with the Presiding Bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America as to how we might best support the advocacy of the ELCA for asylum seekers in the United States, and
That the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada continue to affirm and support the rights of refugees and asylum seekers in Canada.

CARRIED.

NC-2019-22 That the National Bishop be asked to be in conversation with GSI regarding the proposed changes to the benefit plan in order that a more inclusive, yet fiscally responsible, option be found.

That the Bishop communicate the convention's concern that with the proposed GSI amendments, benefits will not be shared equally by all plan members. Those earning less than the Yearly Maximum Pensionable Earnings (YMPE) would not be eligible to receive the same healthcare benefits as those who earn more than the YMPE.

That the Bishop communicate the convention's concern that the proposed amendments impact the most vulnerable members. Notably, it is the older plan members and dependent children who will see reduced access to essential health services.

CARRIED.

NC-2019-23 That any unfinished business from the 2019 National Convention Agenda be referred to the National Church Council.

CARRIED.

NC-2019-24 That the ELCIC in Convention direct National Church Council and national church staff to share resources and ideas regarding carbon reduction with synods and congregations as they arise rather than waiting for the 2022 national convention.

CARRIED.

NC-2019-25 That the ELCIC in Convention direct NCC to develop a method or methods whereby synods and congregations may share their ideas and initiatives regarding carbon reduction with the whole church.

CARRIED.

Proposed motion: That the ELCIC National Church Council further examine the issue of religious exclusion in our public schools, and if this examination suggests further action by our church, that our National Church council together with each Synod begin discussions with the human rights commissions and authorities to bring religious practices and ceremony into our public schools.

Proposed amendment:

M/S To amend the motion by removing “to bring religious practices and ceremony into our public schools.”

CARRIED.

M/S That the ELCIC National Church Council further examine the issue of religious exclusion in our public schools, and if this examination suggests further action by our church, that our National Church Council together with each Synod begin discussions with the human rights commissions.

DEFEATED.

NC-2019-26 That the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada (ELCIC) National Convention directs National Church Council (NCC) to create and support the work of three separate National Task forces to address:

1. Ableism: examining concerns regarding barriers to access in the ELCIC, its synods, congregations, seminaries, schools, and other institutions and communities; the ways in which people with disabilities face discrimination in the ELCIC settings and structures; and to propose recommendations to NCC about how to remove barriers, change discriminatory structures, and create accessible, inclusive communities.
2. Racism, White Supremacy, and issues of Racial Injustice: examining the underlying racism within the ELCIC that has been observed to be negatively affecting People of Colour (POC), both within and outside of our church, and to come up with and implement an action plan on how to address and deal with said issues in congruence with the ELCIC's Theology of Mission.
3. Homophobia, Biphobia, and Transphobia: examining the experiences of those within the ELCIC for whom sexual orientation that is other than straight, non-cisgender and non-binary and the struggle for equity and justice.

That the working groups will include individuals who identify as members of the following communities:

1. People with Disabilities
2. People of Colour (POC), and
3. Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans, Queer, Two-Spirit, Intersex, Asexual, and all other identities not listed but known within the community (LGBTQ2SIA+).

That these National Task Forces will report and be accountable to NCC and will report to the National Convention in 2022.

CARRIED.

Announcements

Vice-Chair Sheila Hamilton made announcements and declared Business Session #5 closed.

Night Prayer

Led by convention chaplain Rev. Victoria Mwamasika and Rev. Stewart Miller. Bishop Susan Johnson provided a homily.

Business Session #6:

Saturday, July 13, 2019, 8:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Opening Prayer led by Rev. Victoria Mwamasika.

National Bishop Susan Johnson called Business Session #6 of the 17th Biennial National Convention to order.

Registration Report

Secretary Linda Grainger presented the report as of 8:15 a.m.

78 lay delegates

60 rostered delegates

9 youth delegates

147 voting delegates

19 visitors

14 guests

Report of Committee on Conduct of Elections

(Continuation of elections for National Church Council)

SK Synod Lay

Deb Roberts - 42

John Nilson -89

National Bishop Susan Johnson declared **John Nilson** elected.

Election for Court of Appeal—

Court of Appeal – Lay 1

Joan Meyer -79

Brett Latimer -43

National Bishop Susan Johnson declared **Joan Meyer** elected.

Court of Appeal – Lay 2

Timothy Lach - 52

K. Jennifer Moroz – 59

National Bishop Susan Johnson declared **K. Jennifer Moroz** elected.

Court of Appeal – Rostered 1

Kayko Diredger-Hesselin - 65

Marilyn Fowlie-Neufeld – 59

National Bishop Susan Johnson declared **Kayko Driedger-Hesselin** elected.

Court of Appeal – Rostered 2

Terry Richardson -75

Jim Whaley – 47

National Bishop Susan Johnson declared **Terry Richardson** elected.

Vice-Chair Sheila Hamilton acknowledged the work of the Committee on Conduct of Elections. She thanked everyone who allowed their name to stand for all elections.

Journeying with People of Other Faiths

Assistant to the Bishop for Ecumenical and Interfaith Rev. André Lavergne introduced the following panelists to the 2019 National Convention: Brenda Anderson, Hannah Grover, Maysa Haque and Rev. Sean Bell. Assistant to the Bishop for Justice and Leadership Rev. Paul Gehrs served as moderator of the panel.

(Morning Coffee Break)

Standing Order – Report of the Treasurer, Ken Day

Treasurer Ken Day presented to the 2019 National Convention. Others who were on stage included Kyle Giesbrecht, Director for Finance and Administration and members of the Finance Committee which included Bruce Cook, Rev. Jane Gingrich and Rev. Jeff Smith as well as members of the Audit Committee which included Jeff Buhse and Rev. Chris Bishopp.
(Appendix 12 – ELCIC 2018 Audited Financial Statements, Bulletin of Reports)

NC-2019-27 That the 2019 National Convention approves the ELCIC 2018 audited financial statements. **CARRIED.**

NC-2019-28 That the 2019 National Convention approves the 2020, 2021 and 2022 Operating, CECF and LIFE Fund budgets. **CARRIED.**

Report of Committee on Reference and Counsel—

Committee Chair Deacon Faith Nostbakken presented the report of the Committee on Reference and Counsel.

NC-2019-29 That the 2019 National Convention refers the following motion to the National Church Council.

Move an amendment to the ELCIC Administrative Bylaws, Part VIII: Nominations and Elections, Section 1.e. to add the words “at least” prior to the number two, so the bylaw shall state “The committee on Nominations shall select at least two nominees for each vacancy...”

CARRIED.

NC-2019-30 That the ELCIC National Convention directs National Church Council to adopt the practice of taking part in an anti-oppression training together at one of their in-person meetings in the year following each National Convention, and that they make every reasonable effort to find an anti-oppression trainer that meets as many as possible of the following criteria:

- Can offer a full-day, in-depth training
- Has demonstrated expertise connected to oppression on the basis of race, ethnicity, disability, gender and gender identity, sexual orientation, and immigration status
- Has demonstrated an understanding of the ways these different axes of oppression intersect in society and in individual lived experiences

CARRIED.

NC-2019-31 That the 2019 ELCIC in Convention, [in light of our theme of reconciliation and our task of considering the Reimagining the Church document which lifts up the vocation and

ministries of members of the diaconate and of laypeople], express regret and offer repentance for the ways in which both members of the diaconate and laypeople have had their vocations and their ministries marginalized or dismissed as second class in the life of this church. We affirm the deep value of their ministries and vocation in the life of our church and commit to an ongoing journey of healing and ministry together. **CARRIED.**

NC-2019-32 That the Seventeenth Biennial National Convention, called to journey together in reconciliation through courageous innovation, reconciled relationships, one body working together, and being empowered disciples, this Convention expresses our sincere gratitude to all who have contributed to the work of this convention.

We lift up Bishop Susan Johnson's challenge for us to continue our work in deepening our discipleship by living our faith: to pray, read, worship, and love.

In addition, we wish to express our thanks to the following:

- The presenters and special guests, including the welcome from the Indigenous Christian Fellowship, and with particular thanks to General Secretary of the Lutheran World Federation, Rev. Dr. Martin Junge;
- Our Ecumenical guests;
- Our Exhibitors and sponsors;
- The National Convention Planning Team;
- The Local Arrangements Committee;
- The huge group of volunteers who have been tireless in their service;
- Our convention chaplain;
- The worship committee, worship leaders, musicians, and assistants who have enriched our worship experience;
- Our National Office staff;
- The University of Regina and Luther College staff;
- Those who have served on Convention committees;
- Those who let their names stand for elections.

And that the Seventeenth Biennial Convention expresses sincere appreciation for the faithful leadership of:

- the members of our National Church Council
- our National Bishop, The Rev. Dr. Susan Johnson
- our Vice-Chair, Sheila Hamilton
- our Secretary, Linda Grainger
- our Treasurer, Ken Day

CARRIED.

Recognition of Convention Chaplain and Local Arrangements Committee

Acknowledgment of the following by Bishop Susan- Chaplain Rev. Victoria Mwamasika, LAC Chair Rev. Zsófi Schmiedge and Convention Worship Local Chair Rev. Sean Bell.

Recognition of National Office Staff, National Officer and National Church Council Members (*ending terms of service*)

Rev. André Lavergne, Assistant to the Bishop, Interfaith and Ecumenical Relations

Ken Day, Treasurer

NCC Members:

Jeff Buhse, MNO Lay

Cole Guenter, SK Lay

Les Pearson, ABT Lay

Rev. Jeff Smith, EAST Synod Rostered

Announcements

Vice-Chair Sheila Hamilton made announcements.

(Lunch)

Closing Worship Service

Saturday, July 13, 2019 – 1:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.

The Worship Service was highlighted with the procession of ecumenical guests and synod bishops, followed by the Blessing of the National Bishop. It was then followed by the installation of current and new members of the National Church Council.

Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, delivered the sermon which focused on Jesus' message of The Beatitudes in Matthew 5. National Bishop Susan Johnson presided over Holy Communion before officially closing the 2019 ELCIC National Convention.



Constitution

Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada

Last Amended July 2019

CONSTITUTION

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN CANADA

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PREAMBLE

In the name of the triune God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit, Amen.

Believing in one holy catholic and apostolic church.

Remembering the prayer of our Lord Jesus Christ that his followers may be one.

Responding to the Holy Spirit who continues to call and gather the church.

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada hereby resolves to adopt the following constitution to govern our life and witness in our country and throughout the world.

ARTICLE I Name and Incorporation

- Section 1. This constitution has been passed pursuant to and is subject to the provisions of the *Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada Act* and the administrative bylaws enacted pursuant to that Act.
- Section 2. For purposes of this constitution and accompanying administrative bylaws, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada is hereby referred to as “this church.”

ARTICLE II Confession of Faith

- Section 1. This church confesses the triune God—Father, Son and Holy Spirit—as the one true God. It proclaims the Father as Creator and Preserver; his Son, Jesus Christ, as Redeemer and Lord; and the Holy Spirit as Regenerator and Sanctifier.
- Section 2. This church confesses that the gospel is the revelation of God’s saving will and grace in Jesus Christ, which he imparts through Word and Sacrament. Through these means of grace the Holy Spirit creates believers and unites them with their Lord and with one another in the fellowship of the Holy Christian Church.
- Section 3. This church confesses the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments as the inspired Word of God, through which God still speaks, and as the only source of the church’s doctrine and the authoritative standard for the faith and life of the church.
- Section 4. This church subscribes to the documents of the *Book of Concord of 1580* as witnesses to the way in which the Holy Scriptures have been correctly understood, explained and confessed for the sake of the gospel, namely:
- a. The Apostles’, the Nicene and the Athanasian Creeds as the chief confessions of the Christian faith;
 - b. The unaltered *Augsburg Confession* as its basic formulation of Christian doctrine;
 - c. *Luther’s Small Catechism* as a clear summary of Christian doctrine; and
 - d. *The Apology of the Augsburg Confession, Luther’s Large Catechism, the Smalcald Articles with the Treatise* and the *Formula of Concord* as further witnesses to the unaltered *Augsburg Confession*.

ARTICLE III

Nature of this Church

- Section 1. Jesus Christ is Lord of the Church. All power belongs to him as its head. All actions of this church are to be carried out under his rule and authority.
- Section 2. The Holy Spirit calls, gathers, enlightens and sanctifies this church, which exists as congregations and synodically recognized ministries gathered for worship, witness, education and service, and as an inclusive fellowship which has its own identity and integrity. Congregations and synodically recognized ministries find their fulfilment in the universal community of this church, and the universal Church exists in and through congregations and synodically recognized ministries.
- Section 3. This church derives its character and its powers from its congregations, synodically recognized ministries and from its inherent nature as part of the universal Church. It regards itself as standing in the historic continuity of the communion of saints and as being an expression of that Christian fellowship in today's world.

ARTICLE IV

Mission of this Church

- Section 1. The mission of this church, as an expression of the universal Church and as an instrument of the Holy Spirit, is to share the gospel of Jesus Christ with people in Canada and around the world through proclamation of the Word, celebration of the sacraments, and through service in Christ's name.
- Section 2. In seeking to achieve its mission, this church shall:
- a. receive, establish and maintain congregations and synodically recognized ministries in which the gospel is rightly preached and the sacraments rightly administered;
 - b. safeguard the faith and life of its congregations, synodically recognized ministries, rostered pastors and rostered deacons, deciding all questions relating thereto on the basis of the Word of God and in accordance with its Confession of Faith;
 - c. admit persons to the rosters of pastors and deacons by ordination or transfer, and be responsible for their nurture, support and discipline;
 - d. study issues in contemporary society in the light of the Word of God and respond publicly to social and moral issues as an advocate for justice and as an agent for reconciliation;
 - e. publish materials for the education and the edification of its own members and others interested in the life of the Lutheran Church;
 - f. develop the worship life of this church, providing or recommending service books and other material for congregational and personal use;
 - g. establish church agencies and create regional synods for the administration of its programs;
 - h. have relationships with other Lutheran Church bodies and with other Christian churches for the furtherance of its mission; and
 - i. estimate the financial needs of this church, and solicit and disburse funds for its programs.
- Section 3. In seeking to achieve its mission, this church may:
- a. establish and maintain seminaries for the education and continuing development of rostered pastors, rostered deacons and other church leaders;
 - b. establish and maintain, or otherwise recognize and support, schools for the education of its members and others for leadership in church and society; and

- c. establish and maintain, or otherwise recognize and support, institutions and agencies to minister to human need in the name of Christ.

ARTICLE V

Membership

- Section 1. As provided in the administrative bylaws, the membership of this church consists of member congregations and synodically recognized ministries. Baptized individuals who are members of a congregation or synodically recognized ministry shall exercise their privileges and responsibilities through participation in the congregation or synodically recognized ministry in which they are members.
- Section 2. United in one Lord, one Faith and one Baptism, the baptized members of this church are to be constant in worship and in the study of the Holy Scriptures, regularly nourishing their life in Christ in the Sacrament of the Altar, presenting their children for Holy Baptism and providing for their Christian instruction. They are called by the Spirit to lead godly lives, to promote the unity and welfare of this church in the bond of peace, to proclaim the gospel and to renounce the evil one. The commitment of each baptized member to this call is to be expressed through this church, its synods, its congregations and its synodically recognized ministries by a life of repentance, faith, prayer and the sharing of resources.

ARTICLE VI

Congregations

- Section 1. A congregation, the corporate existence which is recognized by this church, is a worshipping, learning, witnessing and serving community of persons baptized in the name of the triune God among whom the Word is proclaimed and the sacraments are administered according to the gospel.
- Section 2. Each congregation shall operate in accordance with its constitution and bylaws, owning its property, making decisions in regard to its programming, calling its rostered pastors and/or rostered deacons after consulting with the bishop of the synod, and retaining authority in all other matters that have not been committed to the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada or its synods in this constitution or by subsequent enactments.
- Section 3. Reception of a congregation shall be by action of the synod on whose territory it is located. Each congregation shall, in its application for reception into this church, agree to abide loyally by the constitution, administrative bylaws and enactments of this church and those of the synod of which it becomes a part.
- Section 4. Each congregation normally shall be a part of the synod on whose territory it is located.
- Section 5. Congregations shall be only members of this church. Multiple memberships are prohibited with the exception of membership in a partner church of The Lutheran World Federation by virtue of ethnic origin.
- Section 6. Congregations shall have the right to petition this church according to procedures set forth in the administrative bylaws.

- Section 7. A synod, acting for this church, may exclude a congregation from the membership of this church for proper cause by the disciplinary process prescribed in the administrative bylaws. This action may be appealed to the Court of Appeal whose decision therein shall be final.
- Section 8. A congregation which desires to sever its relationship with this church, shall make written application to its synod for a proper release. The synod shall grant such release following the process set out in the administrative bylaws of this church.

ARTICLE VII

Synodically Recognized Ministries

- Section 1. A ministry recognized by any synod of this church shall be a worshipping, learning, witnessing and serving community of persons who desires to belong to this church and commit themselves to the gospel of Jesus Christ, and subscribe to Articles II and III of the constitution of this church.

ARTICLE VIII

Rostered Pastors

- Section 1. The administrative bylaws of this church shall define the standards for acceptance into ordained ministry as a pastor, and for the admission and continuance of individuals on its roster of pastors in a manner consistent with this article. Each synod shall establish and maintain a roster of pastors in accordance with such standards.
- Section 2. Each pastor shall covenant to abide loyally by the constitution, administrative bylaws, and enactments of this church and of the synod under which they serve.

ARTICLE IX

Rostered Deacons

- Section 1. The administrative bylaws of this church shall define the standards for acceptance into ordained ministry as a deacon, and for the admission and continuance of individuals on its roster of deacons in a manner consistent with this article. Each synod shall establish and maintain a roster of deacons in accordance with such standards.
- Section 2. Each deacon shall covenant to abide loyally by the constitution, administrative bylaws, and enactments of this church and of the synod under which they serve.

ARTICLE X

Full Communion Partners

- Section 1. Ordered ministers of churches with which this church has a full communion agreement, who are serving in this church under the provisions of that full communion agreement, shall have the same rights and privileges as the equivalent order of ministry in this church.

ARTICLE XI

Synods

- Section 1. This church shall be organized regionally into synods whose number and boundaries are to be determined by this church in its administrative bylaws.
- Section 2. Each synod shall be incorporated in keeping with the terms of appropriate documents ratified by the National Church Council. Amendments thereto shall be subject to ratification by the National Church Council.
- Section 3. Each synod shall have a constitution and bylaws ratified by the National Church Council. Amendments thereto shall be subject to like ratification by the National Church Council.
- Section 4. As a regional expression of this church, each synod shall have jurisdiction in its affairs and be responsible for its life and ministry as delineated in its constitution and administrative bylaws.
- Section 5. It shall be the responsibility of each synod to:
- a. operate in accordance with this church's constitution and administrative bylaws;
 - b. shepherd congregations, synodically recognized ministries, rostered pastors, rostered deacons and lay workers located within its jurisdiction;
 - c. advance this church's mission within its jurisdiction;
 - d. conserve unity in the true faith and guard against any departure from it;
 - e. develop the resources of God's people for the advancement of God's kingdom at home and throughout the world; and
 - f. co-operate with this church and other synods in implementing its programs.
- Section 6. Synods shall carry out such additional duties and responsibilities as are assigned to them in the administrative bylaws.
- Section 7. Each synod shall have the right to petition this church according to the procedures set forth in the administrative bylaws.

ARTICLE XII

Conventions

- Section 1. The convention of this church shall be its highest legislative authority.

ARTICLE XIII

National Church Council

- Section 1. There shall be a National Church Council comprised of:
- a. the officers of this church, who shall serve as the officers of the council;
 - b. additional members from the synods as provided in the administrative bylaws of this church; and
 - c. other representatives from full communion partner agreements.

The synod bishops shall be advisory members of the council.

Section 2. The purpose, duties and expectations of council shall be as defined in the administrative bylaws of this church.

ARTICLE XIV Officers

Section 1. This church shall be served by a bishop who shall be its chief pastor and chief executive officer. The bishop shall be on the roster of pastors of this church. The other officers shall be a vice-chair, a secretary and a treasurer, all of whom shall be lay members of this church.

Section 2. The purpose, duties and expectations of the officers shall be defined in the administrative bylaws.

ARTICLE XV Benefit and Pension Plans

Section 1. The administrative bylaws shall provide for the establishment of a pension plan and a group benefits plan for rostered and lay employees of this church and entities associated with it. The administrative bylaws may establish rules providing for the participation in such plans on a compulsory basis.

ARTICLE XVI Special Interest Conferences and Recognized Independent Organizations and Institutions

Section 1. This church may authorize, as provided in the administrative bylaws, the organization of special interest conferences having common linguistic or cultural heritages. Such conferences may hold periodic meetings for fellowship and discussion of common concerns. Any recommendations arising out of their special sphere of interest, shall be made to the National Church Council. Reports of meetings shall be made to the convention of this church.

Section 2. This church may recognize independent Lutheran organizations and institutions of a national scope established for Christian education, for the care of the ill, the aged and the infirm or for missionary endeavour as approved by the National Church Council.

ARTICLE XVII Court of Appeal

Section 1. There shall be a Court of Appeal.

Section 2. The purpose, duties and procedures of the Court of Appeal shall be defined in the administrative bylaws of this church.

ARTICLE XVIII
Administrative Bylaws

- Section 1. This church may adopt such administrative bylaws, not in conflict with this constitution, as may be necessary. Such administrative bylaws may be amended at any convention by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the delegates present and voting. At least twenty-four (24) hours shall lapse between first presentation and convention action unless unanimous consent to amendment is given.
- Section 2. Administrative bylaws relating to convention procedure may be suspended by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the delegates present and voting.

ARTICLE XIX
Amendments

- Section 1. ARTICLE II on "Confession of Faith" shall be unalterable.
- Section 2. Amendments to this constitution shall be in writing and may be proposed by:
- a. the National Church Council provided that the amendment is published on the official website of this church no fewer than forty-five (45) days prior to the convention; or
 - b. twenty (20) or more convention delegates representing a majority of synods.
- Section 3. All proposed amendments must be reported to the convention no later than the first full day of business. The National Church Council shall make a report and recommendation during that convention on all proposed amendments.
- Section 4. Adoption of an amendment shall require two (2) separate readings separated by at least twenty-four (24) hours. Each reading must be passed by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the delegates present and voting.

Adopted by the delegates in convention on the _____ day of _____, 20__.

Bishop

Secretary

Date

Date



Proposed Resolution from the
Task Force on Decisions at the End of Life

**The Call to Faithfully Journey with those
who are Dying: An ELCIC Resolution**

The Call to Faithfully Journey with those who are Dying: An ELCIC Resolution

Context

On February 6, 2015 the Supreme Court of Canada ruled that sections of the *Criminal Code* that had prohibited physician-assisted death were no longer in force and that a medically-assisted death could be allowed, but under strict criteria of protection.

In the public square and in the church, this decision stimulated conversations about dying, death and how we make decisions together. This conversation has sometimes felt uncomfortable, sometimes been enriching and sometimes revealed a deep yearning to live faithfully in all of life's realities. New ethical questions continue to arise. In certain moments, it has felt like the context is changing faster than the church can keep up; at least faster than church conventions can keep up!

All of this has provided an opportunity to be in conversation on deeply important matters. The conversation needs to continue.

In 1997, the ELCIC National Convention adopted *An ELCIC Resolution on Decisions-at-the-End-of-Life*¹, which makes reference to a 1982 *Social Statement on Death and Dying*² from a predecessor church body. In 2015 the ELCIC National Convention passed a motion directing the National Church Council (NCC) to review the 1997 resolution. To that end, NCC established a Task Force to generate conversations across the church and to make recommendations regarding the current policy. This Resolution is the result of the work of the Task Force and NCC.

What core theological values will guide us as we seek to faithfully respond to our current context? In identifying theological values, our perspectives become most real, and most challenged, when we encounter personal stories. Always, we begin with the person created in the image of a God. We may well have had the experience of feeling anxious and unsure of what to say or do. The circumstances of each person's death are unique, and the final journey of one affects many: family, friends, faith community, health-care professionals and institutions.

As we make life's journey, it is vitally important to use practices that open our hearts and minds to hearing God's voice. Along with our reflections, throughout this statement we offer words to encourage and challenge us as we make this journey. These have been titled *Dwelling in the Word*. They are not intended to be proof texts, but words of inspiration, guidance and redirection as we seek to prayerfully engage in conversation and action. We have felt called to include some words from hymns along with scripture.

¹ www.elcic.ca/public-policy/documents/1997-AnELCICResolutiononDecisions.pdf

² www.elcic.ca/Public-Policy/documents/500.31982-ASocialStatementonDeathandDying.pdf

Dwelling in the Word

We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's.

Romans 14:7–8

Baptismal Calling

In Baptism, we are called to be in relationship with God and with one another, in loving and supportive community. We regard life as a sacred gift from God. Through all of life's passages, we promise to support and pray for each other.

Our first calling as a supportive community is to be present. Whenever we enter into a context where death is near, we are standing on holy ground. Life is a sacred journey; both being born and dying are truly sacred times. Death is a mystery. Recognizing the uniqueness of each person's journey, we enter the presence of another with humility: seeking to minimize our judgements, being careful about our certainties and listening with as much grace as we can offer.

As much as we cling to the promises of God, we must also admit that there is much that we do not understand. When we are called to journey with a dying person, it is a ministry of accompaniment. We bring our compassion, humility, mercy and grace. We bring our whole self: our experiences, our fears, our hopes, our hearts, our minds, our spirits and our faith.

Dwelling in the Word

As many of you as were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ.

Galatians 3:27

Pain and Suffering

Life's journey includes times of pain and suffering: physically, emotionally, socially and spiritually. We are called to comfort and support people in difficult times, but we are not able to alleviate all of life's pain.

The pain of death is distributed inequitably. Some people die in accidents and some die at the hands of violence. Which is to say, not everyone has the opportunity to make decisions at the end of life. Some people do die as the results of illness. At some point during treatment, a diagnosis may lead a person to choose palliative care as the primary focus of treatment. We have faith that God is with us in all circumstances: as the apostle Paul asserts, *For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.*³

³Romans 8:38–39.

When accompanying someone who is dying, we recognize that each person's experience is unique, while drawing on our own experience to deepen our understanding, as best we can. Our primary calling as disciples is to say to a dying person, "We will support you and journey with you whatever you decide."

Dwelling in the Word

*When pain of the world surrounds us with darkness and despair,
when searching just confounds us with false hopes everywhere,
when lives are starved for meaning and destiny is bare,
we are called to follow Jesus and let God's healing flow through us.*

Evangelical Lutheran Worship, Hymn #704

Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I fear no evil; for you are with me; your rod and your staff—they comfort me.

Psalm 23

Compassionate God

Lutherans believe in a God of compassion, mercy and grace. The global Lutheran community commemorated the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation under the theme *Liberated by God's Grace*, along with three sub-themes: *Salvation—not for sale; Human Beings—not for sale; Creation—not for sale*. These words uphold the dignity of all peoples and each person.

We are called to imitate the compassionate God. Compassion, "to suffer with," is at the heart of our call to love our neighbour. It is a responsibility as a member of the body of Christ (the baptized) and requires our response—ability—remaining present to the needs of others that we might respond respectfully, non-judgmentally, valuing their experience. Compassion is driven by relationship. It is the feeling in the gut and the heart that sees the other in front of us as similar to us—and as Christians we would say as one of us and as one of God's. Our God is a God of Compassion.

Jesus once said, *Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you?*⁴ As hard as we work to faithfully journey with those who are dying, it is valuable to periodically be reminded that God is also preparing for the death of each of us.

Dwelling in the Word

For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the LORD, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope.

Jeremiah 29:11

⁴John 14:1-2.

Dignity

“This church upholds the dignity of all people. We recognize the image of Christ in every person and serve that person as Christ himself. In meeting diverse people, we begin with a core sense of respect for the value of each person as a unique child of God.”⁵

We affirm that a good death is an essential element of upholding dignity. A good or a satisfactory death, whether it is protracted or sudden, involves living in ways that set us on the path to a good death. Who we are as a person, in all our many roles, is how we will deal with life threatening illness and impending death. It is important to do that work—including having open and forgiving relationships with those we love throughout our lives.

We affirm that individuals have the primary responsibility for making treatment choices for themselves. “Christians should not support any treatment given without the consent of a patient, or if that is not possible, without the witnessed consent of those who have been given authority to speak on behalf of the patient.”⁶ Liberated by God’s grace, we can trust people to make these decisions. We will not all agree with each individual’s choice. But we can respect their right to make their own decisions.

We also affirm that personal decisions benefit from support, conversation and prayer. Individuals will be most empowered to make wise decisions when they are surrounded by a caring community and have input from persons, often professionals, with expertise on specific relevant matters, including treatment decisions, pain control, putting financial matters in order, funeral planning and spiritual care.

Dwelling in the Word

For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who in every respect has been tested as we are, yet without sin.

Hebrews 4:15

Cluster of Companions for the Journey

We do not journey through life alone. All our decisions impact a complex, diverse web of people around us; and we have a web of relationships, a system of health care and a community of spiritual care informing our decisions. Most of us want and need this support. One of life’s realities is that those called to give support may or may not actually be helpful to a particular individual.

⁵2011 ELCIC Social Statement on Human Sexuality.

www.elcic.ca/Human-Sexuality/documents/APPROVEDELICISocialStatementonHumanSexuality.pdf

⁶1997 ELCIC Resolution on Decisions-at-the-End-of-Life.

Without trying to create rigid categories, for the purposes of this resolution we are identifying three inter-related clusters of support:

Supportive Relationships: referring to family, friends and creation.

Professional Health Care: referring to health-care professionals, institutions and legal guidance.

Spiritual Care: referring to those who listen deeply, help one to reflect on meaning and inspire prayer.

Dwelling in the Word

Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses ...

Hebrews 12:1–2

Supportive Relationships

Relationships refer to family, friends and creation. These companions are personal, relational and unique to each person.

Beyond an individual, the family is most impacted by a journey toward death. Family is the primary place most people look to support. Families need support as a loved one journeys toward death. Many times, part of the work done by a dying person is to help prepare their family for the coming reality of the person's pending death. When a dying person no longer has the capacity to communicate their own choices, decision making may fall to particular family members.

Friends also are part of a dying person's community. Some friends may be as close as family. Other friends may offer a smaller but vital role of providing additional support, in various ways, to both individuals and family members.

Creation also has the potential to be a supportive relationship in the dying process. In wrestling with the meaning of mortality, an individual may ponder their connections to the web of life in all creation. Comfort may be experienced through fresh air, sunlight, the song of birds and a favourite place to sit or walk. For some people, relationship with a pet may be a source of comfort, and may be one of the relationships that needs a careful, heart-felt goodbye. *Creation—not for sale* is a reminder that we are liberated by God's grace.

Dwelling in the Word

If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honored, all rejoice together with it. Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it.

1 Corinthians 12:26–27

Professional Health Care

While delivering professional health care includes a significant relational component, these supports exist in a system that has the purpose of offering specific aspects of care based on expertise.

Health-care professionals have a calling to offer care and guidance using their expertise in a particular field. Through their vocation, they accumulate knowledge and experience that can guide a dying person and the families of the dying. Certainly, most health-care professionals develop meaningful relationships as they live out their calling. Many people of faith have this vocation. Nevertheless, health-care professionals enter the holy ground near a dying person with a particular role. We trust professionals to uphold the dignity of individuals through competent and compassionate care and with respect for the individual's role in decision making.

Hospitals, care facilities, hospices and other institutions may provide a space where the needs of a person are addressed, and a pathway to help ensure that the individuals receive the care and support they need. One way institutions seek to provide quality of care is through the language of policy. At times, this language may seem insensitive to individual cases. Nevertheless, policy articulates common standards that may provide protection, lift up rights and offer options for end of life decisions.

Some institutions are faith-based and bring a faith perspective to their policy, procedures and offering of care. We trust institutions to uphold the dignity of individuals through an ethic of compassion in providing caring and competent service, with respect for the individual's role in decision making.

Legal guidance can help people to put their affairs in order, and this may help bring peace of mind. There are legal boundaries regarding what is and is not possible when providing treatment. At times, the boundaries may seem insensitive to individual cases. Nevertheless, the boundaries articulate common standards that provide protection and identify possibilities. Legal guidance can help individuals to understand their rights and their options for end of life decisions.

Dwelling in the Word

I was sick and you took care of me... Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.

Matthew 25:31–40

Spiritual Care

We affirm that offering spiritual care is a calling of the whole faith community. In offering spiritual care, we are the embodiment of God's comfort, love, grace and strength during the dying journey; and beyond as we begin to grieve and remember.

A primary principle of spiritual care is to be consistently asking, "is my response serving the needs of the patient or is it serving my own needs?" Our diligence in asking this question is an offering to our neighbour. We only discover the capacity to act for our neighbour's need through God's grace. We affirm spiritual care which reflects those values upheld within a ministry of presence.⁷

⁷Definitions of "ministry of presence" can be found in, for example, *Toward a Theology of the Ministry of Presence*, by Neil Holm, *International Journal of Christianity and Education*, Volume: os-52 issue: 1, pages: 7–22. <http://journals.sagepub.com/doi/abs/10.1177/002196570905200103>. See also *In Sure and Certain Hope*, Anglican Church of Canada, page 22–23.

We affirm that spiritual care offered by rostered leaders is a gift. Care received from leaders authorized by the church, may be of particular comfort to some people in some cases. When pastors, deacons, chaplains and spiritual-health practitioners are offering spiritual care they may have credibility to interact professionally with other members of the health-care system. We trust authorized leaders to uphold the dignity of individuals through conscientious ministerial care and with respect for the individual's role in decision making.

"God's love for us is abiding. It existed before creation, calling forth light and life from the waters of chaos. God's love called us forth into life. Through the waters of baptism, God calls us into eternal abiding relationship with both God and all the people of God, from every time and every place. We are called to serve one another, especially at our time of greatest need and distress. God's love finds us wherever we are in life, including all stages of death and dying. God's love does not insist that we bear suffering beyond our ability to endure for our whole remaining existence. We are always surrounded by the great cloud of witnesses, so we will never be alone. God's love will be awaiting us beyond death when we will join that great cloud of witnesses in a new and different way from our earthly existence. We look forward to the new creation—when we will experience God in new and intimate ways, as part of the new heaven and the new earth. Soli Deo Gloria."⁸

Dwelling in the Word

...I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.

...Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.

Matthew 25:31–40

Palliative Care

Palliative care is a concept of care provided in any setting (hospital, home, long-term care, on the street⁹, etc.) where a person is, or chooses, to die.¹⁰ "Palliate" comes from a Latin word, *palliare*, meaning "to cloak" or protect from suffering. Suffering may not be limited to the physical but also spiritual, psychosocial, financial or systemic concerns. This care often includes a whole team of professionals working with the patient and family, including physicians, nurses, home-care support workers, pharmacists, social workers, physical and occupational therapists, volunteers, to name a few. It is a high level of care designed to alleviate all types of suffering and can include specific treatments that at one time were considered only for those receiving acute care.

We recognize that there is good basic palliative care that happens all the time as part of "regular" medical care. However, serious inequities exist in access to specialized palliative care. For example, there are differences between urban and rural settings, there are variations in care standards between provinces and there are ongoing challenges to providing health care for more remote Indigenous communities. The reality is these services are not available everywhere across the country and in many cases the demands for this care can exceed the resources available.

⁸Rev. Dr. Peter Kuhnert MD M.Div. FCFP, theological submission to the ELCIC Task Force, page 7.

www.elcic.ca

⁹In some communities, there are programs seeking to provide palliative care for people who are homeless. For example, in Toronto: www.journeyhomehospice.ca/about-us/.

¹⁰For the World Health Organization (WHO) Definition of Palliative Care, see: <http://www.who.int/cancer/palliative/definition/en/>.

“We affirm that we support just access for all to dignified, quality palliative care. We see the provision of such care as an intrinsic human responsibility toward the suffering person because of the inestimable worth and dignity of every human being, created as we are in the image of God, and because of Jesus’ command to care for the sick (Matthew 25:36).”¹¹

Dwelling in the Word

O Lord, support us all the day long of this troubled life, until the shadows lengthen and the evening comes and the busy world is hushed, the fever of life is over, and our work is done. Then, in your mercy, grant us a safe lodging, and a holy rest, and peace at the last, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

from Night Prayer (page 325) and Funeral (page 284), in Evangelical Lutheran Worship

Medical Assistance in Dying

Medical Assistance in Dying, commonly abbreviated as MAiD or MAID, is now legally recognized as a medical treatment in Canada, but under strict criteria of protection. These strict criteria, are somewhat ambiguous and open to interpretation. The criteria will likely be clarified and change over time, as requests for assistance in dying become more common, and as the decision-making processes are reviewed and analysed.

From one perspective, this change in the Canadian context came about suddenly as the result of a legal decision in 2015. From another perspective, this change was the result of a longer history of requests from individuals experiencing unremitting suffering who have sought help to die. For some people, withdrawing life-sustaining treatment will lead to a good death; but for others, suffering will continue for an extended period of time because there is no specific treatment to stop that will bring about their death. Individuals and families are impacted by the reality that “we live in a society that places great emphasis on the individual and on individual freedom. This individualism affects...our perceptions of self, family, society and authority.”¹²

Health-care professionals have long sought to improve palliative care for dying persons by finding effective ways to address physical pain and to attend to needs of the whole person. But not all pain can be helped with palliative care. Many of us find that, over the course of a lifetime, our perceptions and attitudes about dying and death are modified. As disciples, we are life-long learners as we seek to faithfully follow Christ.

The church also has a long history of offering healing ministries. This includes hospitals and care homes, visitation by pastors and deacons, and the work of lay people with a vocational calling in professional health care. Informed by faith and a sense of vocation, the church’s healing ministry seeks to offer a competent and comprehensive care, with a rich regard for the needs of the whole person: body, mind, heart, soul and community.

¹¹Canadian Council of Churches, Commission on Faith and Witness, *Statement of Support for Universal Access to Palliative Care in Canada*, October, 2016.

www.councilofchurches.ca/news/commission-on-faith-witness-releases-statement-of-support-for-universal-access-to-palliative-care/

¹²2011 ELCIC Social Statement on Human Sexuality.

In the Canadian context, it is likely that medical assistance in dying will be an option for the foreseeable future. As opportunities for assistance in dying become more normative, both society and the church will continue to be presented with difficult, and sometimes uncomfortable, questions. Over the course of time, through experiences, conversations and on-going reflection, many of us will find that our perspectives and perceptions may be modified.

We affirm that people have a right to assistance in dying. This includes good medical care and good palliative care. Some sick people are going to die. And some people who are going to die are going to be interested and involved in medical assistance in dying. The primary role of the church is to journey with people as they make difficult decisions.

Dwelling in the Word

For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Romans 8:38–39

Safeguards to Limit Medically Assisted Death

The ELCIC affirms the importance of safeguards when recognizing that choosing an assisted death is a legitimate choice for some people.

In the current context in Canada there are strict criteria for who is eligible for an assisted death and there is a rigorous decision process when someone requests an assisted death. We recognize that there are elements in the current criteria that are ambiguous and open to interpretation. And, we recognize that many current and future ethical questions will emerge from how safeguards articulate the criteria and processes for determining eligibility; thus, there will be requests for amendments.

We affirm and support the safeguards already in place that lead to a robust process of reflection and decision making that helps the individual to make informed and holistic decisions. Such a process will offer options for accessing resources that address the various significant and pressing needs of the individual. The faithful contributions of those offering relational support, professional health care and spiritual care will all be essential to this process. We support current practice that ensures no one will be coerced to choose an assisted death; that requests for an assisted death will include exploring any unmet needs and all available treatment options of the individual requesting a medically assisted death; that ensures the individual is capable of consent and is aware of their right and ability to withdraw their request for medical assistance in dying just prior to the procedure being administered and thus continue their journey supported by other palliative treatments and care.

We affirm that a system for monitoring who requests assistance in dying, who receives assistance and how the system implements safeguards is an essential component in maintaining high quality and protective care in dying.

We recognize that the safeguards are, and will be, a significant part of the ongoing conversations regarding issues of assistance in dying.

Dwelling in the Word

Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers.

Romans 12:9–13

Emerging Issues Surrounding Medical Assistance in Dying

With the intent of creating additional safeguards to the federal government's action to bring about medical assistance in dying, the authors of the amendment to the *Criminal Code* attached three provisions to restrict such assistance to: (a) only persons age 18 or older who are capable of making informed decisions, (b) only persons who are not mentally ill (because their ability to consent if mentally ill was of concern) and (c) only persons who are fully competent and able to give an informed consent *immediately* prior to a medical practitioner or nurse practitioner administering a substance to bring about their death or prescribing or providing such a substance to that individual.

These restrictions are the subject of much public debate and dissatisfaction. There is a strongly held belief that many young people below age 18 are capable of providing a fully informed consent to access medical help to die. There is also a concern that no recognition has been given to the deep suffering experienced by many mentally-ill people who are sidelined by a blanket exclusion. And finally, there is deep dismay felt by those persons who have made or want to make a request for medical assistance in dying in advance of their need for assisted death in case they become incompetent to do so. They would argue that if they can have a "do not resuscitate order," why can they not have an advance directive/request to have medical assistance to die in the event that they become confused and incapable of giving a truly informed consent at that time?

Fortunately, in the preamble to the medical assistance in dying legislation, the federal government made a commitment to develop measures to support end of life decisions for mature minors, for those making an advance request, and for those in situations where mental illness is the only underlying medical condition.

Another potential emerging issue is a concern about who will be allowed to be a provider of assistance in dying. The present legislation includes both physicians (MDs) and nurse practitioners (NPs) as the only providers. Since registered nurses and other health professionals are deeply involved in the care of the dying in general, and now assisting physicians and NPs, will other health professionals be involved in the future?

Given that Quebec is a distinct society, their national assembly was able to create their own legislation with respect to medical assistance in dying. In December 2015 their *Act Respecting End of Life Care* came into force. Of prime focus in this Act is attention to palliative care, and only after that section, is the focus on aiding a person to die. There is a more gentle tone in the Act because of its broader focus on care at the end of life.

“In a perfect world, we would neither need nor desire physician-assisted death. Since we still wait for the fullness of the kingdom of God on earth, we continue our struggle to cope with the imperfections of this one. These struggles are never encountered in isolation, although it may certainly seem that way, but are shared by the community into which we are baptized. The decisions we make have consequences for those around us. This applies equally to those who choose physician [medically]-assisted death as to those who would discourage others from making that choice. If we consider our lives to be a gift from God, it may be a gift to the entire community rather than solely to ourselves. We, as individuals, are called to be stewards of our lives, on behalf of the larger community and on behalf of God, but ultimately we alone are responsible for our own individual lives.”¹³

Dwelling in the Word

Here is my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen, in whom my soul delights; ...

This one will not cry or lift up one’s voice, or make it heard in the street; a bruised reed this one will not break, and a dimly burning wick this one will not quench; this one will faithfully bring forth justice.

Isaiah 42:1–3

Love your neighbour

In the *Small Catechism*, Martin Luther deepened the meaning of the Fifth Commandment from a single act of violence to a life-long calling to care for our neighbour: “We are to fear and love God, so that we neither endanger nor harm the lives of our neighbour, but instead help and support them in all of life’s needs.”¹⁴

What does this mean? From one perspective, good palliative care can be regarded as one of *life’s needs*: to have as much comfort, support, respect and dignity as possible during the dying process. When a person receives medical assistance in dying, the cause of death on the death certificate is listed as the disease; the same disease that made them eligible under the criteria for medical assistance in dying. From this perspective, assistance in dying is not murder and it is not suicide. It is one option among many, in a respectful treatment plan developed under difficult circumstances with the best interests and the desires of our neighbour in mind.

Words commonly heard when asking why people might request assistance in dying are “I’m done.” Which is to say, under the circumstances, “I am tired of living. I am tired of suffering. I am tired of the dying journey and I do not know how I can go on.” Some words reflect the desire, the right to control one’s life—the right to make proactive decisions which reflect a celebration of a life lived. These words have an impact. They are not words that diminish the value or sacredness of life. Rather, they are an expression of personal experience. “To choose death at that time... is not a statement negative or positive about the sanctity of life.”¹⁵ Desiring death can be an expression of joy and thankfulness—can be the final act of choosing life in the sense that the dying person is embracing his or her sense of destiny.

¹³The Rev. Kayko Driedger Hesslein, PhD, theological submission to the ELCIC Task Force, page 8.

¹⁴Martin Luther, *The Small Catechism*, in *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*, page 1161.

¹⁵Bishop Telmor Sartison, Retired, theological submission to the ELCIC Task Force, page 2.

We affirm the dignity and value of each person. We would not want anyone to rush into a decision to end their life, or to devalue life of any particular person or group of peoples. At the same time, we acknowledge the temptation for too quick a judgment of a person's motivation. The vast majority of people who request assistance in dying have given it careful consideration. This freedom to choose is the best possible starting point for offering good spiritual, professional and institutional care.

The call to journey faithfully with those who are dying is a holy calling. "The Spirit is shaping an effective and apostolic heart in all of us. Let us listen to that Spirit-Song well and learn its melody. This song is a song of presence, of being with the other without calculation. We are not slaves; we are not members of Christ based on hierarchies of status of greater or lesser rank. We are friends. Such friendship in Christ makes us companions at the Lord's table. There is a scandal in this: it goes against the competition models we have learned. It brings us into a communion of people bonded together in affective ties because God chose us and loved us first. The friendship we share here is one we can bring to others. Such a mission is a joy. Such action indicates a fresh initiative of the Spirit. Such a task brings delightful merriment and creative hope for our world."¹⁶

Dwelling in the Word

You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself.

Luke 10:27

Principles for Journeying with those who are Dying

We affirm that whenever we enter into a context where death is near, we are standing on holy ground. Life is a sacred journey; both being born and dying are truly sacred times. We enter onto holy ground with humility.

We affirm that everyone has the right to assistance in dying. This includes good medical care and good palliative care. Some sick people are going to die. And some people who are going to die are going to be interested in medical assistance in dying.

We affirm that we do not all have to agree on all matters. We recognize that we live in a time of difficult questions and challenging emerging issues.

We affirm the importance of trust as we make this journey. We trust in the God of compassion, mercy and grace. We trust people to know their experience; we hear many people say "Trust me to decide." Nurturing trust is foundational to supportive relationships. Trust helps us to have a good death.

We affirm the vital importance of faithful end of life care, including good palliative care and diligent support for those who are making difficult decisions.

We affirm the church's call to offer spiritual care. We acknowledge that we are tempted to question motives. We affirm that the only path to deeper understanding and trust is to listen.

¹⁶John J. O'Brien, C.P., in *Homilies for the Christian People*, Gail Ramshaw, Editor, copyright Liturgical Press, 1988, pages 277-279.

We affirm that disciples and the church have a baptismal calling to offer spiritual care. Our primary calling as disciples is to say to a dying person, “We will support you and journey with you whatever you decide.” We affirm spiritual care which reflects those values upheld within a ministry of presence.

We affirm the value of people being in conversation about dying and death, because when your family is able to discuss this in a non-critical situation, it will enable better decision making in crisis situations. Open conversation regarding our own wishes regarding dying will increase our chances of have a good death when the time comes.

We encourage all people to discuss advanced directives with their families and to be clear about your wishes for your own care. We encourage everyone to consider the options that might need to be considered as death nears: withdrawal of treatment, palliative care, medical assistance in dying and the elements of a good death that are personally most important to you.

We encourage congregations and faith communities across the ELCIC to offer safe space for conversation, to empower lay disciples and rostered leaders for spiritual care by developing skills for visiting, listening, prayer and self-awareness; and to identify and gather local resources.

We affirm that individuals have the primary responsibility for making treatment choices for themselves. Liberated by God’s grace, we can trust people to make these decisions. We will not all agree with each individual’s choice. But we can respect their right to make their own decisions.

We encourage all decisions to be made with the faithful support of a caring community, including personal relationships, professionals, institutions and providers of spiritual care.

We affirm that we support just access for all to dignified, quality palliative care. We recognize that inequities in access exist. We commit the ELCIC to advocating for universal access to palliative care across Canada.

We affirm the right of health-care professionals to decline to participate in medical assistance in dying. In such cases, we encourage professionals to follow an ethic of duty to make an effective referral so the dying persons may continue to access all treatment options. We encourage institutions to uphold the dignity of individuals through a high quality of service and with respect for the individual’s role in decision making.

We affirm the value of a compassionate church following a compassionate God.

We affirm that God is with us through the sacred journey of life, including birth, dying and death.

Dwelling in the Word

For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Romans 8:38–39



Administrative Bylaws

Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada

Last Amended July 2019

ADMINISTRATIVE BYLAWS

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN CANADA

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PART I GENERAL

Section 1. ***Definitions***

In these bylaws, unless the context otherwise requires:

- a. "Act" means the *Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada Act*;
- b. "baptized member" means a baptized individual who is a member of a congregation or synodically recognized ministry;
- c. "convention" means the general or special meeting of delegates;
- d. "delegate" means an individual elected or appointed in accordance with these bylaws to attend a convention;
- e. "director" means a member of the National Church Council;
- f. "layperson" means a baptized member who has not been ordained or consecrated;
- g. "member congregation" means a congregation or several congregations which are served by a common pastoral ministry and which is a member of this church in accordance with these bylaws;
- h. "National Church Council" means the board of directors of this church;
- i. "officers" means the Executive Committee of this church; specifically, the bishop, vice-chair, secretary and treasurer;
- j. "synod" means a body corporate organized in a manner acceptable to the National Church Council to advance the mission of this church in the region established for it in accordance with the constitution and bylaws of this church.

Section 2. ***Interpretation***

In the interpretation of these bylaws, words and expressions defined in the Act have the same meanings when used in these bylaws. Words in the singular include the plural and vice-versa; words importing gender include all genders and "person" includes an individual, body corporate, partnership, trust and unincorporated organization.

Section 3. ***Corporate Seal***

The seal, an impression whereof is stamped in the margin hereof, shall be the seal of this church which said seal shall be retained in the head office, in the custody of the secretary, unless otherwise directed by the National Church Council.

Section 4. ***Head Office***

The registered head office of this church shall be located in Winnipeg, Manitoba.

National Church Council shall determine the location of executive offices.

Section 5. ***Execution of Documents***

Contracts, documents or any instruments in writing requiring the signature of this church, shall be signed by any two (2) officers and all contracts, documents and instruments in writing so signed shall be binding upon this church without any further authorization or formality. The National Church Council shall have power from time to time by resolution to appoint an individual or individuals on

behalf of this church to sign specific contracts, documents and instruments in writing. The National Church Council may give this church's power of attorney to any registered dealer in securities for the purposes of the transferring of and dealing with any stocks, bonds and other securities of this church. The seal of this church, when required, may be affixed to contracts, documents and instruments in writing signed as aforesaid or by any officer or officers appointed by resolution of the National Church Council.

Section 6. *Bourinot's Rules of Order*, latest edition, shall be the governing parliamentary law of this church, except as otherwise provided in its constitution or bylaws.

Section 7. Proxy or absentee voting shall not be permitted in the transaction of any business.

Section 8. ***Financial Matters***

- a. The fiscal year and the budget year of this church shall be the calendar year.
- b. The annual budget and financial reports of this church shall reflect the entire range of its activities. The income listed shall include support from all sources.
- c. Each budget shall approve an amount for contingency not to exceed 7% of the budget.
- d. There shall be an operating reserve to be determined by the National Church Council.
- e. There shall be an annual consultation between representatives of the National Church Council and the synods for the purpose of establishing benevolence targets for the following year.
- f. Special church-wide appeals to congregations for raising funds shall require the consent of the convention or the National Church Council.
- g. The financial accounts of this church shall be submitted annually for audit to a chartered accountant appointed by the National Church Council.

PART II CONGREGATIONS

(Constitution, ARTICLE VI)

Section 1. A congregation seeking to be admitted into this church shall submit to the bishop of the appropriate synod a formal application and a copy of the constitution and bylaws of the congregation. Prior to admitting said congregation, the Synod Council shall ascertain if the constitution and bylaws are in harmony with the faith and polity of this church. The constitution and bylaws take effect upon ratification by the Synod Council.

Section 2. Each congregation of this church shall:

- a. regularly and faithfully proclaim the Word and administer the sacraments;
- b. endeavour to hold at least one service of worship on each Sunday;
- c. cultivate in its members a life of prayer and an awareness of the presence of God;
- d. educate persons of all ages in the faith confessed by this church and in its implications for daily living;
- e. encourage and stimulate its members in their witness to Christ, in works of mercy and in the practice of Christian fellowship and stewardship;
- f. provide adequately for the material needs of its pastors and deacons and other employees, including ensuring their participation, when eligible, in the benefit plan and in the pension plan as set out in Part XIV;

- g. share responsibility in providing the funds needed for the life and work of this church and of the synod;
- h. assure that only those on the rosters of pastors or deacons of this church or of churches in full communion agreement with this church serve it in a ministerial capacity, except as this principle is waived in a specific instance with the approval of the bishop of the synod, subject to review by the Synod Council;
- i. comply with the constitution, bylaws and enactments of this church and of the synod, taking no actions in conflict therewith;
- j. operate in accordance with its constitution and bylaws which have been ratified by the synod to which it is assigned; and
- k. submit to the synod any amendments that the congregation has adopted of its constitution and bylaws; such amendments take effect upon ratification by Synod Council.

Section 3. A congregation may be suspended or excluded from this church by action of a synod if the congregation persists in any of the following offences:

- a. turning aside from the faith confessed by the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada as set forth in ARTICLE II of its constitution;
- b. willfully violating or disregarding the constitution or official actions of this church or the synod;
- c. applying for or maintaining membership in another church;
- d. refusing or neglecting to exercise proper discipline over its members;
- e. failure to provide financial support to this church or the synod; or
- f. failure to participate in conventions of the synod without reasonable excuse.

The bishop of the synod shall counsel with any congregation where such offences exist. If necessary, the bishop shall then admonish the congregation in writing. If the admonition is unheeded, a representative committee composed of rostered pastors and/or rostered deacons and laypersons shall be appointed by the Synod Council to investigate the congregation. Upon the recommendation of the committee the Synod Council may suspend or exclude the congregation from this church.

Disciplinary action of the Synod Council may be appealed to the Court of Appeal within forty-five (45) days of receiving notification of the action of the Synod Council. The decision of the Court of Appeal is final.

Section 4. A congregation considering severing its relationship with this church shall confer with the bishop of the synod before any formal steps are taken leading to such action. Subsequent to such consultation with the bishop, a motion to sever the relationship with this church may be considered at a special meeting of the congregation and a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote shall be required for approval of the motion. Written notice of the motion and the date and time of the congregational meeting shall be sent to the bishop at least thirty (30) days before the meeting. A decision to sever the relationship with this church shall not be effective until it has been ratified by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote at a second special meeting of the congregation held not less than ninety (90) days and not more than one hundred and fifty (150) days after the first meeting. Notice of the date and time of this second meeting shall be sent to the bishop of the synod by registered mail at least thirty (30) days before the meeting.

PART III SYNODICALLY RECOGNIZED MINISTRIES

(Constitution, ARTICLE VII)

Section 1. A synodically recognized ministry seeking to be recognized by a synod of this church shall submit to the bishop of the appropriate synod a formal application and a copy of its governing documents. Synod Council shall, prior to recognizing said ministry, ascertain whether those governing documents are in harmony with the faith and polity of this church. The governing documents take effect upon ratification by the Synod Council.

Section 2. Each synodically recognized ministry of this church shall:

- a. faithfully live out its unique mission;
- b. annually report to the appropriate synod;
- c. comply with the constitution, bylaws and enactments of this church and of the synod, taking no actions in conflict therewith;
- d. operate in accordance with their governing documents which have been ratified by the synod to which it is assigned;
- e. submit to the synod any amendments that have been adopted; such amendments take effect upon ratification by Synod Council; and
- f. commit to live out a relationship of mutual support with this church through prayer, by participation in the wider church, with financial and other resources, and by regular communication.

Section 3. A synodically recognized ministry may be suspended or excluded from this church by action of a synod if the ministry persists in any of the following offences:

- a. turning aside from the faith confessed by the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada as set forth in ARTICLE II of its constitution;
- b. willfully violating or disregarding the constitution or official actions of this church or the synod; or
- c. refusing or neglecting to exercise proper discipline over its members.

The bishop of the synod shall counsel with any synodically recognized ministry where such offences exist. If necessary, the bishop shall then admonish the ministry in writing. If the admonition is unheeded, a representative committee composed of rostered pastors or rostered deacons and laypersons shall be appointed by the Synod Council to investigate the ministry. Upon the recommendation of the committee, the Synod Council may suspend or exclude the ministry from this church.

Disciplinary action of the Synod Council may be appealed to the Court of Appeal within forty-five (45) days of receiving notification of the action of the Synod Council. The decision of the Court of Appeal is final.

PART IV ROSTERED PASTORS

(Constitution, ARTICLE VIII)

Section 1. *Standards for Admission*

To be eligible for ordination or admission onto the roster of pastors of this church, a candidate must have accepted a call (which call may be subject to the candidate's ordination) and must have met the standards set forth in the *Candidacy Manual* of this church.

Section 2. *Colloquy*

Synodical examining committees shall interview all candidates for ordination and all persons applying for admission to the roster of pastors and shall ensure their:

- a. acceptance of and adherence to the Confession of Faith of this church;
- b. fulfilment of academic requirements; and
- c. personal qualifications for carrying out the functions of ordained ministry as a pastor.

Section 3. *Continuance on the Roster of Pastors*

- a. In order to remain on the roster of pastors of this church, each pastor must be in possession of a proper call, be on leave from call, retired, or be an individual who has been suspended from exercising the office and privileges of ordained ministry as a pastor, in accordance with these administrative bylaws. A Synod Council may remove an individual from the roster of pastors in accordance with the provisions of this Part.
- b. Calls may be issued for the ministries specified below by the agencies indicated:

Type of Ministry

Source of Call

i. Parish pastor	Congregation
ii. Bishop of this church	Convention of this church
iii. Staff of this church	National Church Council
iv. Synod bishop and synod officers	Synod Convention
v. Staff of synod	Synod Council
vi. Staff of an educational or charitable institution or agency	Synod Council on whose territory the institution or agency carries out its functions.
vii. Staff of Federation of Lutheran Churches	National Church Council
viii. Staff of nationwide Inter-Lutheran Agency	National Church Council
ix. Staff of a provincial agency or institution	Synod Council
x. Staff of an interdenominational agency	National Church Council
xi. Chaplain in the Armed Forces or in an institution operated by the federal government.	National Church Council
xii. Pastor developing a new congregation	Synod Council
xiii. Pastor in a synodically recognized ministry	Synod Council
xiv. Pastor of an independent congregation in Canada	National Church Council

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| xv. | Pastor serving an institution or agency outside of Canada | National Church Council |
| xvi. | Global missionary | National Church Council |
| xvii. | Pastor serving in a congregation under synod supervision | Synod Council |
| xviii. | Ministries not otherwise provided for (as in conjunction with occupations in unusual ministries in approved situations) | Synod Council on whose territory the ministry is located or National Church Council if the ministry involves more than one synod or is outside Canada, upon recommendation of the Conference of Bishops |
| xix. | Pastor ordained through alternate routes recognized by this church | Synod Council |
- c. All pastors of this church shall make an annual report of their ministry to their synod bishop.
- d. Each pastor shall, when eligible, participate in the benefit plan and in the pension plan referred to in Part XIV unless, with respect to the pension plan, such pastor is required to participate in another registered pension plan as defined in section 147.1 of the Income Tax Act. A pastor required to participate in another registered pension plan shall provide proof of such participation to the board appointed to administer the pension plan referred to in Part XIV.
- Section 4. No pastor of this church shall divulge any confidential disclosure given in the course of the care of souls or otherwise in a professional capacity, except with the express permission of the person involved, or where required by law, or in order to prevent the commission of a crime.
- Section 5. Pastors on the faculty of the Lutheran Theological Seminary Saskatoon must maintain status on the roster of pastors 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 Governors of Lutheran Theological Seminary. Pastors on the faculty of Martin Luther University College must maintain status on the roster of pastors of the Eastern Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada.
- Section 6. A pastor of this church who accepts a call in a full communion partner church or another church with which this church has exchangeability of clergy shall, upon application to the bishop of the synod, be entitled to a Certificate of Transfer.
- Section 7. If a pastor resides at too great a distance from any congregation or synodically recognized ministry of this church or a full communion partner church to be able to sustain a living relationship thereto, the bishop of the synod may grant permission to hold membership in a congregation of another church.
- Section 8. Other than serving as pastor to and/or joining a full communion partner church, or except as provided for in Section 7 above, a pastor of this church who enters the ministry or joins a congregation of a church other than this church shall cease to be a member of this church and shall be removed from the roster of pastors.

Section 9. A pastor may voluntarily resign from the roster by giving written notice to the bishop of the synod. Request for reinstatement shall be submitted to the synod examining committee. Upon favourable action by this committee, the bishop shall declare the person eligible for a call. Upon acceptance of a call, the person shall be reinstated on the roster of pastors.

A person who has failed to be approved by one synod may re-apply only to the same synod. If the second application is declined, the candidate may appeal to the National Church Council through the bishop of this church for an exception to this limitation.

Section 10. A pastor serving under a call shall not engage in an additional occupation without approval of the calling authority and the bishop of the synod. The approval shall not be unreasonably withheld.

Section 11. A pastor desiring to remain on the roster without call shall make application to the bishop of the synod, who shall bring the request to the Synod Council for action. The Synod Council may grant the application for a period of up to three (3) years. An application for an extension of "on leave from call" status for an additional five (5) years may be granted by the Synod Council for the purpose of parental leave or study leave.

The status of "on leave from call" shall be subject to an annual review by the Synod Council and may be cancelled by the Synod Council as a result of this review. Before cancelling the status of "on leave from call", the Synod Council shall give the pastor ninety (90) days written notice of the intent to cancel. The action of the Synod Council may be appealed to the Court of Appeal within forty-five (45) days of receiving notification of the intent of the Synod Council to cancel the "on leave from call" status. The decision of the Court of Appeal shall be final.

At the end of the approved "on leave from call" period, the Synod Council shall remove the pastor from the roster of pastors and shall notify that pastor of such action. This action of the Synod Council is not subject to appeal.

Section 12. Upon application, the status of "retired" shall be granted by Synod Council to a pastor who has attained the age of fifty-five (55) years or who has thirty (30) years of service.

Section 13. ***Discipline***

Synod Councils shall undertake to put in place the following provisions for discipline of pastors:

- a. Synod Councils shall subject a pastor to discipline, including but not limited to suspension or removal from the office and privileges of ordained ministry as a pastor, for:
 - i. preaching or teaching of doctrine in conflict with the Confession of Faith of this church (Constitution, ARTICLE II);
 - ii. conduct unbecoming a pastor;
 - iii. willful disregard for or violation of the functions and standards established by this church for the office of Word and Sacrament; or
 - iv. willful disregard of the constitution, administrative bylaws or enactments of this church or the synod.
- b. After three (3) years, a pastor suspended from the office and privileges of ordained ministry as a pastor by a Synod Council shall be removed from the roster of pastors by the Synod Council which suspended such individual unless, within three (3) years of the date of such suspension, that Synod Council received evidence satisfactory to it of repentance and amendment of life.
- c. A pastor under discipline by a synod or otherwise removed by it from the roster of pastors must be restored by that synod to good standing before becoming eligible for acceptance by another synod. If not restored by that synod, the pastor may appeal to the Court of Appeal for an exception to this ruling.

- d. Upon reinstatement by a Synod Council, a pastor who was suspended from the office and privileges of ordained ministry as a pastor may apply for status of “on leave from call”.

Section 14. The National Church Council may, from time to time, establish guidelines to define or to assist in the interpretation of the above grounds for discipline.

Section 15. The National Church Council shall also maintain a *Manual on Discipline of Rostered Ministers* containing material which provides guidance to synods and individuals involved in a process dealing with a complaint against, or the discipline of, a pastor.

PART V ROSTERED DEACONS (Constitution, ARTICLE IX)

Section 1. *Standards for Admission*

To be eligible for ordination or admission onto the roster of deacons of this church, a candidate must have accepted a call (which call may be subject to the candidate’s ordination) and must have met the standards set forth in the Candidacy Manual of this church.

Section 2. *Colloquy*

Synodical examining committees shall interview all candidates for ordination and all persons applying for admission onto the roster of deacons and shall ensure their:

- a. acceptance of and adherence to the Confession of Faith of this church;
- b. fulfilment of academic requirements; and
- c. personal qualifications for carrying out the functions of ordained ministry as a deacon.

Section 3. Continuance on the Roster of Deacons

- a. In order to remain on the roster of deacons, each deacon must be in possession of a proper call, on leave from call, retired, or be an individual who has been suspended from exercising the office and privileges of ordained ministry as a deacon, in accordance with these administrative bylaws. A Synod Council may remove an individual from the roster of deacons in accordance with the provisions of this Part.
- b. Calls may be issued for the ministries specified below by the agencies indicated:

<u>Type of Ministry</u>	<u>Source of Call</u>
i. Congregational Deacon	Congregation
ii. Staff of this church	National Church Council
iii. Synod officer	Synod Convention
iv. Staff of the synod	Synod Council
v. Staff of an educational or charitable institution or agency	Synod Council on whose territory the institution or agency carries out its functions
vi. Staff of Federation of Lutheran Churches	National Church Council
vii. Staff of a nationwide Inter-Lutheran Agency	National Church Council
viii. Staff of a provincial agency or institution	Synod Council
ix. Staff of an inter-denominational agency	National Church Council

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| x. | Chaplain in an institution operated by the federal government | National Church Council |
| xi. | Deacon of a synodically recognized ministry | Synod Council on whose territory the ministry is situated |
| xii. | Deacon serving an institution or agency outside of Canada | National Church Council |
| xiii. | Global missionary | National Church Council |
| xiv. | Ministries not otherwise provided for (as in conjunction with occupations in unusual ministries in approved situations) | Synod Council on whose territory the ministry is located or National Church Council if the ministry involves more than one synod or is outside Canada, upon recommendation of the Conference of Bishops |
- c. All deacons shall make an annual report of their ministry to their synod bishop.
- d. Each deacon shall, when eligible, participate in the benefit plan and in the pension plan referred to in Part XIV unless, with respect to the pension plan, such deacon is required to participate in another registered pension plan as defined in section 147.1 of the Income Tax Act. A deacon required to participate in another registered pension plan shall provide proof of such participation to the board appointed to administer the pension plan referred to in Part XIV.
- Section 4. No deacon shall divulge any confidential disclosure given in the course of the care of souls or otherwise in a professional capacity, except with the express permission of the person involved, or where required by law, or in order to prevent the commission of a crime.
- Section 5. If a deacon resides at too great a distance from any congregation or synodically recognized ministry of this church or a full communion partner church to be able to sustain a living relationship thereto, the bishop of the synod may grant permission to hold membership in a congregation of another church.
- Section 6. Other than serving as deacon to and/or joining a full communion partner church, or except as provided for in Section 5 above, a deacon of this church who enters the ministry or joins a congregation of a church other than this church shall cease to be a member of this church and shall be removed from the roster of deacons.
- Section 7. A deacon may voluntarily resign from the roster by giving written notice to the bishop of the synod. Request for reinstatement shall be submitted to the synod examining committee. Upon favourable action by this committee, the bishop of the synod shall declare the person eligible for a call. Upon acceptance of a call, the person shall be reinstated on the roster of deacons.
- A person who has failed to be approved by one synod may re-apply only to the same synod. If the second application is declined, the candidate may appeal to the National Church Council through the bishop of this church for an exception to this limitation.
- Section 8. A deacon serving under a call shall not engage in an additional occupation without approval of the calling authority and the bishop of the synod. Approval shall not be unreasonably withheld.

Section 9. A deacon desiring to remain on the roster without call shall make application to the bishop of the synod, who shall bring the request to the Synod Council for action. The Synod Council may grant the application for a period of up to three (3) years. An application for an extension of "on leave from call" status for an additional five (5) years may be granted by the Synod Council for the purpose of parental leave or study leave.

The status of "on leave from call" shall be subject to an annual review by the Synod Council and may be cancelled by the Synod Council as a result of this review. Before cancelling the status of "on leave from call" the Synod Council shall give the deacon ninety (90) days written notice of the intent to cancel. The action of the Synod Council may be appealed to the Court of Appeal within forty-five (45) days of receiving notification of the intent of the Synod Council to cancel the "on leave from call" status. The decision of the Court of Appeal shall be final.

At the end of the approved "on leave from call" period, the Synod Council shall remove the deacon from the roster of ministers and shall notify that deacon of such action. This action of the Synod Council is not subject to appeal.

Section 10. Upon application, the status of "retired" shall be granted by Synod Council to a deacon who has attained the age of fifty-five (55) years or who has thirty (30) years of service.

Section 11. ***Discipline***

Synod Councils shall undertake to put in place the following provisions for discipline of deacons:

- a. The Synod Council shall subject a deacon to discipline, including, but not limited to suspension or removal from the office and privileges of ordained ministry as a deacon, for:
 - i. preaching or teaching of doctrine in conflict with the Confession of Faith of this church (Constitution, ARTICLE II);
 - ii. conduct unbecoming a deacon;
 - iii. willful disregard for or violation of the functions and standards established by this church for the office of Word and service; or
 - iv. willful disregard of the constitution, administrative bylaws or enactments of this church or of the synod.
- b. After three (3) years, a deacon suspended from the office and privileges of ordained ministry as a deacon by a Synod Council shall be removed from the roster of deacons by the Synod Council which suspended such individual unless, within three (3) years of the date of such suspension, that Synod Council receives evidence satisfactory to it of repentance and amendment of life.
- c. A deacon under discipline by a synod or otherwise removed by it from the roster of deacons must be restored by that synod to good standing before becoming eligible for acceptance by another synod. If not restored by that synod, the deacon may appeal to the Court of Appeal for an exception to this ruling.
- d. Upon reinstatement by a Synod Council, a deacon who was suspended from the office and privileges of ordained ministry as a deacon may apply for status of "on leave from call".

Section 12. The National Church Council may, from time to time, establish guidelines to define or to assist in the interpretation of the above grounds for discipline.

Section 13. The National Church Council shall also maintain a *Manual on Discipline of Rostered Ministers* containing material which provides guidance to synods and individuals involved in a process dealing with a complaint against, or the discipline of, a deacon.

PART VI SYNODS

(Constitution, ARTICLE XI)

Section 1. This church shall be organized into five (5) synods with names and territories as follows:

- a. Name: British Columbia Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada.
Territory: Province of British Columbia.
- b. Name: Alberta Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada, also known as the Synod of Alberta and the Territories.
Territory: Province of Alberta and territories of the Yukon, Nunavut and the Northwest Territories.
- c. Name: Saskatchewan Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada.
Territory: Province of Saskatchewan and the geographical area served by member congregations outside Saskatchewan.
- d. Name: Manitoba/Northwestern Ontario Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada.
Territory: Province of Manitoba and the portion of Ontario west of 86 degrees longitude.
- e. Name: Eastern Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada.
Territory: Province of Ontario east of 86 degrees longitude and the Provinces of Quebec, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island and Newfoundland and Labrador.

Section 2. The number and size of synods shall be reviewed by the National Church Council at such times as it deems appropriate or when a request for such a review is made by a synod seeking a change to its boundaries or by at least forty (40) congregations seeking a change to the boundaries of their synod. The establishment of a new synod must receive a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote by the delegates present and voting at the convention(s) of the synod(s) involved and thereafter it must be approved by the convention of this church by a majority vote.

Section 3. Each synod shall have its own bishop.

Section 4. Congregations, which might benefit from inclusion in an adjoining synod, may apply to this church for reassignment to that synod.

Section 5. The bishop of this church, or a bishop otherwise appointed by the bishop of this church, shall preside according to the duly authorized rite of this church when a newly elected synodical bishop is set apart and/or installed to that office.

Section 6. Within the context of this church's policy and structure as set forth in these bylaws and by convention resolution, each synod bears primary responsibility for:

- a. initiating and developing new congregations and synodically recognized ministries on its territory;
- b. providing chaplaincies and other forms of ministry to institutions on its territory;
- c. relating to regional social structures, councils of churches and the like;

- d. operating camps and other centres for conferences and retreats;
- e. developing programs and providing resources for evangelism, Christian education, social ministry, stewardship, worship and music, and youth ministry among its members in co-operation with this church and the synods; and
- f. promoting and supporting the cause of mission in the world.

Section 7. Each synod shall be responsible for maintaining current rosters of pastors and deacons of this church which are within its jurisdiction. At the written request of a rostered pastor or rostered deacon who is a member in good standing and who is called into another synod, the secretary of each synod shall complete the required documentation.

Section 8. Each synod shall be responsible for all acts of installation of its rostered pastors and rostered deacons, except in the case of the National Bishop of this church and other rostered pastors or rostered deacons serving under call from the National Church Council.

Section 9. Each synod shall receive contributions from congregations for the work of this church and shall forward to this church a proportion thereof determined by mutual consultation between the synod and this church.

PART VII CONVENTIONS

(Constitution, ARTICLE XII)

Section 1. The regular conventions of this church shall be held triennially.

Section 2. The time and place of each regular convention shall be determined by National Church Council.

Section 3. The secretary shall make a *Bulletin of Reports* available to all delegates-elect at least forty-five (45) days before each regular convention.

Section 4. Arrangements for conventions of this church shall be made by the National Church Council in conjunction with a committee appointed by the host synod for that purpose.

Section 5. Each synod shall pay the cost of its delegate(s) at a rate determined by the National Church Council.

Section 6. All appointments for general religious services or public meetings shall be subject to approval by the bishop of this church, who shall appoint a chaplain to be responsible for the devotional periods of the convention.

Section 7. The members of National Church Council shall be voting delegates at convention. In addition, the maximum number of synod elected or appointed voting delegates at convention shall be one hundred and fifty (150), comprised of a maximum of ninety (90) delegates who shall be lay and a maximum of sixty (60) delegates who shall be rostered pastors or rostered deacons. Of these one hundred and fifty (150) delegates, synods shall make reasonable efforts to elect or appoint one-fifth (1/5) of such delegates who are sixteen (16) to thirty (30) years of age as of the first day of convention.

Section 8. Synods shall be entitled to elect ten (10) delegates from its synod; the remaining delegates shall be apportioned among the synods based on baptized membership eighteen (18) months prior to convention.

Section 9. The secretary of each synod shall forward to the secretary of this church at least ninety (90) days before the convention a certified list of the regular and alternate delegates elected in the synod. The roll of the delegates to each convention shall be prepared by the secretary of this church in advance of the convention. Changes in the roll of delegates must be authorized by the synod concerned prior to the commencement of the convention.

- Section 10. Petitions from synods and congregations shall be submitted to the secretary of this church at least ninety (90) days prior to the convention for referral to the Committee of Reference and Counsel, and for inclusion in the *Bulletin of Reports*.
- Section 11. During the first session of each regular convention, the bishop of this church shall announce the membership of the following committees appointed by the officers:
- a. Committee of Reference and Counsel; and
 - b. Committee on Conduct of Elections.
- Section 12. A resolution of a general character which is not germane to the pending question or report shall be given to the Committee of Reference and Counsel by the delegate proposing such resolution. The Committee of Reference and Counsel shall report all such resolutions to the convention with its recommendation(s). Other duties of the committee shall be to grant or deny permission to distribute printed or electronic matters not issued from the office of this church, to be consulted in amendments to the agenda once the convention has commenced and to give such assistance to the bishop as may be requested.
- Section 13. All reports published in the *Bulletin of Reports* or in supplements thereto shall be received by the convention by virtue of that fact without vote.
- Section 14. Official representatives from other church bodies may be given seat and voice.
- Section 15. Any delegate may request the convention to grant any person the privilege of addressing the convention upon any matter then under consideration. Such request shall be granted only upon the affirmative vote of at least two-thirds (2/3) of the delegates then present and voting. However, such person shall not thereby have seat or voice in the convention.
- Section 16. Unless otherwise determined by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the convention, all speeches in general discussion shall be limited to three (3) minutes.
- Section 17. At every triennial convention, in addition to any other business that may be transacted, the National Church Council shall present a report on the activities of the National Church Council since the last triennial convention, including a report on the financial position of this church.
- Section 18. When a motion calling for an appropriation of funds comes before the convention from any source other than the National Church Council, it shall be referred at once to said council for consideration and report.
- Section 19. Special conventions shall be called for specified purposes by the bishop of this church to be held within ninety (90) days of receiving a request in writing from two-thirds (2/3) of the members of the National Church Council or from a majority of the Synods Councils
- Section 20. The voting membership at a special convention shall consist of the delegates seated in the preceding regular convention providing they have not been disqualified by termination of membership. Synod Councils shall fill vacancies by appointment.
- Section 21. The secretary shall give written notice of any special convention to each delegate and shall make such notice available through the website of this church at least thirty (30) days prior to the opening date of the convention.
- Section 22. A quorum for any convention shall consist of at least thirty (30) per cent of the delegates provided that such delegates are from a majority of the synods.

Section 23. No error or omission in giving notice of any triennial or special convention or any adjourned convention, whether triennial or special, shall invalidate such convention or make void any proceedings taken thereat and any delegate may at any time waive notice of any such convention and may ratify, approve and confirm any or all proceedings taken or had thereat. For purpose of sending notice to any delegate, director or officer for any convention or otherwise, the address of the delegate, director or officer shall be such individual's last address recorded on the books of this church.

PART VIII NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS

Section 1. The procedure for nominations in general shall be as follows:

- a. The National Church Council shall appoint six (6) members, one (1) from each synod as well as the secretary of this church, to serve on the Committee on Nominations.
- b. The committee shall elect its own convenor at an initial meeting called by the secretary. They shall prepare a slate of nominations for election by the convention to fill vacancies in the membership of the National Church Council and Court of Appeal except as otherwise provided. This slate shall be complete at least three (3) months prior to each convention.
- c. At least six (6) months prior to the convention, the secretary shall publish on the official website of this church a list of vacancies to be filled at the convention.
- d. The Committee on Nominations shall select two (2) nominees for each vacancy having concern for inclusive representation and the particular needs of the National Church Council and Court of Appeal and also for geographical and synodical distribution, but nominating no person holding an elected position whose term does not expire at the time of the convention.
- e. Should any of the nominees indicate inability to serve, the Committee on Nominations shall make whatever alteration to the list of nominations as may be necessary.
- f. Following the report of the Committee on Nominations to the convention, opportunity shall be given for nominations from the floor.
- g. The report shall provide the following information about each nominee: occupation, synod, and a brief statement of experience. Like information shall be given by the nominator to the Committee on Conduct of Elections for each person nominated from the floor.
- h. Upon completion of all nominations, the secretary shall ensure the official ballots are prepared.

Section 2. The officers shall be elected in the following order: bishop, vice-chair, secretary, and treasurer.

Section 3. In elections by the convention, the following rules shall apply:

- a. All elections shall be by ballot. In all elections except as otherwise provided a majority of the votes cast on any ballot shall elect.
- b. When the National Bishop is eligible for re-election, the first ballot shall contain one (1) name only in a yes or no vote on election of the incumbent National Bishop. Two-thirds (2/3) of the ballots cast shall be required for election.

- c. Should the election fail, the election shall proceed with an ecclesiastical ballot of nominations from the floor. On this ballot for bishop, three-fourths (3/4) of the votes cast shall be required for election. Thereafter, only such votes as are cast for persons who have received votes on the first or nominating ballot shall be valid. On the second ballot, two-thirds (2/3) of the votes cast shall be required for election. On the third ballot, a majority of the votes cast shall elect. On the fourth ballot, the voting shall be limited to five (5) persons receiving the highest vote on the third ballot, and a majority of the votes cast shall elect. On the fifth ballot, the voting shall be limited to the three (3) persons receiving the highest vote on the fourth ballot, and a majority of the votes cast shall elect. On the sixth ballot, the voting shall be limited to the two (2) persons receiving the highest vote on the fifth ballot, and a majority of the votes cast shall elect.
- d. Following the second ballot for bishop, each eligible person receiving one(1) or more votes will be invited to provide a brief biography. This may include congregational membership, degrees earned and honorary, pastorates and other positions held in the church, secular profession or occupation, membership on boards, special committees or agencies. Following the third ballot, those five (5) persons receiving the highest number of votes cast will be invited to address the convention. Following the fourth ballot, those three(3) persons receiving the highest number of votes cast will be invited to respond to questions submitted in writing from the convention delegates and selected by the Committee on Conduct of Elections. As each responds, the other two (2) will be sequestered.
- e. On the first ballot for vice-chair, three-fourths (3/4) of the votes cast shall be required for election. Thereafter, only such votes as are cast for persons who have received votes on the first or nominating ballot shall be valid. On the second ballot, two-thirds (2/3) of the votes cast shall be required for election. On the third ballot, the voting shall be limited to the four (4) persons receiving the highest vote on the second ballot, and a majority of the votes cast shall elect. On the fourth ballot the voting shall be limited to the three (3) persons receiving the highest vote on the third ballot, and a majority of the votes cast shall elect. On the fifth ballot the voting shall be limited to the two (2) persons receiving the highest vote on the fourth ballot, and a majority of the votes cast shall elect.
- f. The Committee on Conduct of Elections shall make available to the convention the following information concerning each person appearing on the third ballot for vice-chair: congregational membership, degrees earned and honorary, positions held in the church, secular profession or occupation, membership on boards, special committees or agencies.
- g. National Church Council shall nominate a person for the offices of secretary and treasurer. Opportunity will be given for nominations from the floor of the convention.
- h. If no nominee receives a majority of votes on the first ballot for elections of secretary, treasurer, members of the National Church Council or Court of Appeal, only the names of the two (2) persons receiving the highest number of votes but not elected on the preceding ballot shall be entered on the next ballot.
- i. At no point during the election will any eligible person be permitted to withdraw his or her name from any ballot, nor will any person be compelled to provide a biography or address the convention.
- j. The result of each ballot in every election shall be announced in detail to the convention by the Committee on Conduct of Elections.

- Section 4. In determining eligibility for re-election to the National Church Council or Court of Appeal, a term of office of eighteen (18) months or more shall be counted as a full term.
- Section 5. All terms of office, except as otherwise provided in these bylaws, shall begin at the conclusion of the convention at which the election thereto occurred.
- Section 6. A person shall not be eligible to serve on National Church Council and Court of Appeal concurrently.

PART IX NATIONAL CHURCH COUNCIL

(Constitution, ARTICLE XIII)

- Section 1. The National Church Council (referred to as "the council") shall meet at least once per year.
- Section 2. In addition to the officers, the National Church Council shall consist of five (5) rostered members, one (1) from each synod; five (5) laypersons, one (1) from each synod; and one (1) layperson at large from the synod with the most baptized members. There shall be one (1) additional member appointed by the Council of General Synod (COGS) of the Anglican Church of Canada for a term to be determined by COGS.
- Section 3. The following persons are disqualified from being a director:
- a. anyone who is less than eighteen (18) years of age;
 - b. anyone who is incapable; or
 - c. a person who has the status of bankrupt.
- Section 4. Directors, other than the officers and synod bishops, shall be elected by the convention for a term of three (3) years and are eligible for re-election but may not serve more than three (3) consecutive terms.
- Section 5. The office of director shall be automatically vacated:
- a. if the director resigns from office by delivering a written resignation to the secretary of this church;
 - b. if the director is found to be incapable;
 - c. if the director becomes bankrupt; or
 - d. on the director's death;
 - e.
- provided that if any vacancy shall occur for any reason in this paragraph contained, the council may, by majority vote, fill the vacancy by appointment until the next convention.
- Section 6. A majority of the members of the council shall constitute a quorum.
- Section 7. Meetings of the National Church Council may be called by the bishop or by the officers and shall be called by the bishop upon the written request of a majority of the directors.
- Section 8. Meetings of the National Church Council may be held at such time and place in Canada as is determined by the bishop or by the officers, provided that fifteen (15) days written notice of such meeting shall be given, other than by mail, to each director.
- Section 9. No error or omission in giving notice of any meeting of the council or any adjourned meeting of the council shall invalidate such meeting or make void any proceedings taken thereat and any director may at any time waive notice of any such meeting and may ratify, approve and confirm any or all proceedings taken or had thereat. Each director is authorized to exercise one (1) vote.

- Section 10. If a majority of directors consent thereto generally or in respect of a particular meeting, a director may participate in a meeting of the council or of a committee of the council by means of electronic facilities that permits all persons participating in the meeting to hear each other. Each council member participating in such a meeting by such means is deemed to be present at the meeting.
- Section 11. The National Church Council may conduct a vote of the council via email. Protocol for conducting these votes shall be outlined in a policy approved by the National Church Council. Results of the vote shall be recorded in the minutes of the next council meeting.
- Section 12. A resolution in writing, signed by a majority of directors entitled to vote on that resolution at a meeting of the council or committee of the council, is as valid as if it had been passed at a meeting of the council or committee of the council.
- Section 13. The minutes of the National Church Council and the minutes of the officers shall be available to the directors, and such others as the council shall determine, each of whom shall receive a copy of such minutes.
- Section 14. The National Church Council shall arrange for the celebration of the duly authorized rite of this church when a new National Bishop is set apart to that office. The bishop of this church (or if such office is vacant, the council) shall appoint a bishop to preside at the rite.
- Section 15. The National Church Council shall issue letters of call to the rostered salaried staff of this church, to rostered pastors and rostered deacons serving within the structures and agencies of this church, and to those in special service in accordance with the bylaw provisions (Part IV, Section 3 or Part V, Section 3).
- Section 16. The National Church Council shall approve personnel policies applicable to all program and support staff.
- Section 17. The National Church Council may appoint such agents and engage such employees as it shall deem necessary from time to time and such persons shall have such authority and shall perform such duties as shall be prescribed by the council at the time of such appointment.
- Section 18. The directors and members of committees appointed by the directors shall serve as such without remuneration and no director or committee member shall directly or indirectly receive any profit from such position, provided that a director or a committee member may be paid reasonable expenses incurred by such individual in the performance of that individual's duties. Nothing herein contained shall be construed to preclude any director or committee member from serving this church as an officer or in any other capacity and receiving compensation therefor.
- Section 19. The National Church Council shall be responsible for organizing the National Convention.
- Section 20. The National Church Council may issue official statements on social or moral issues in the name of this church between its conventions when, in the judgment of the council, an emergency exists or when delay of such action until the next convention would impair the timeliness of an utterance that this church ought in conscience to make. Concurrence of two-thirds (2/3) of the total membership of the council shall be required in each such instance.
- Section 21. The bishop of this church shall be an ex officio member of all committees of council with voice and vote.

PART X OFFICERS

(Constitution, ARTICLE XIV)

- Section 1. The officers other than the bishop shall be elected by the convention for a term of three (3) years according to procedures established in the administrative bylaws. The bishop shall serve for a term of six (6) years. All officers shall be eligible to be re-elected without term limit and shall serve until their successors assume office.
- Section 2. Should a vacancy occur *ad interim* in any of the offices with the exception of the office of bishop, the National Church Council is empowered to fill the same until the next regular convention or to call a special convention to fill the vacancy. Each election by a convention shall be for a full term of office.
- Section 3. The terms of the officers other than bishop shall begin at the conclusion of the convention following election. The term of the bishop shall begin on the first day of September following election.
- Section 4. The bishop of this church shall:
- a. serve as its leader and counsellor;
 - b. seek to preserve its peace and order;
 - c. call, convene and preside over its conventions and the meetings of the National Church Council;
 - d. speak publicly and witness for the gospel on behalf of this church;
 - e. oversee the officers and program staff;
 - f. co-ordinate the work of its committees;
 - g. represent this church at meetings of recognized independent organizations;
 - h. convene meetings of the bishops of the synods;
 - i. serve as the primary representative of this church in all inter-church associations and councils in which it holds membership;
 - j. be responsible for co-ordinating administrative matters, clarifying areas of overlapping or unassigned accountability;
 - k. convene meetings of the officers and executive staff of this church for consultation, other persons may be included at the discretion of the bishop;
 - l. serve as a consultant in the nomination process for the election of chief executive officers of the institutions of this church;
 - m. convene and chair meetings of the officers;
 - n. prepare a report on the state of this church for presentation at the conventions of this church and of its synods;
 - o. make regular reports to the National Church Council, analyzing the programs of this church and aiding the council in setting priorities and emphases in the work of this church;
 - p. represent this church at conventions of the synods or appoint a member of the National Church Council or a staff member to be a representative;

- q. engage, with the approval of the National Church Council, such staff as is necessary to discharge the responsibilities assigned to the bishop;
- r. perform program responsibilities as may be necessary;
- s. serve full-time in office; and
- t. perform the additional duties prescribed in the constitution, administrative bylaws and resolutions of this church.

Section 5. The vice-chair shall:

- a. preside at conventions and at meetings of the National Church Council upon the request of the bishop;
- b. in the event of the death, resignation or incapacity of the bishop, convene the National Church Council to provide for the discharge of the bishop's duties pending the election of a new bishop at a regular or special convention; and
- c. perform the additional duties prescribed in the constitution, administrative bylaws and resolutions of this church.

Section 6. The secretary shall:

- a. keep or cause to be kept all record keeping duties on behalf of this church;
- b. maintain the roster of congregations and synodically recognized ministries of this church;
- c. have custody of the archives of this church, including:
 - i. official documents and records of this church;
 - ii. proceedings of the conventions of this church and of its synods; and
 - iii. biographical data of rostered pastors and rostered deacons who have served this church.
- d. gather and publish the statistics of this church;
- e. publish, as needed, the articles of incorporation and a current issue of the constitution and bylaws of this church and make available through the website of this church;
- f. publish the time and place of each regular convention of this church at least six (6) months in advance of the opening date of the convention;
- g. oversee the preparation and distribution of the *Bulletin of Reports* for each convention;
- h. maintain a record of delegates, advisory members and official visitors of the conventions;
- i. oversee registration of participants at regular and special conventions;
- j. ensure a report of each convention is made available on the website of this church;
- k. issue Certificates of Election and notify those concerned of resolutions adopted by each convention;
- l. respond to inquiries seeking information on policies approved or actions taken by the National Church Council and by the conventions of this church;

- m. ensure that appropriate corporations are established for health care institutions or agencies owned by this church or its synods, and review and make recommendations regarding all proposed constitutional amendments; and
- n. perform the additional duties prescribed in the constitution, administrative bylaws and resolutions of this church.

Section 7. The treasurer shall:

- a. be the fiscal officer of this church;
- b. keep or cause to be kept proper accounting records;
- c. keep or cause to be kept the deposit of money and the disbursement of funds;
- d. make full report of the financial affairs of this church to conventions and to the National Church Council;
- e. be responsible for the safekeeping of the securities, insurance policies, deeds, abstracts, mortgages and other legal instruments held by the National Church Council on behalf of this church and its boards; and
- f. perform the additional duties prescribed in the constitution, administrative bylaws and resolutions of this church.

Section 8. During the intervals between meetings of the National Church Council, the officers shall possess and may exercise (subject to any restrictions which the National Church Council may from time to time make) all of the powers of the National Church Council in the management and direction of the day-to-day operation of this church (save and except only such acts as must by the Act or these bylaws be performed by the National Church Council itself) in such manner as the officers may deem best in the interest of this church in all cases in which specific direction shall not have been given by National Church Council. All actions of the officers shall be reported to the National Church Council at the meeting next succeeding such actions and shall be subject to revision or alteration by the National Church Council, provided that no acts or rights or third parties shall be affected or invalidated by any such revision or alteration.

Section 9. Meetings of the officers shall be held at such time and place in Canada as is determined by the members of such committee provided that three (3) days written notice of such meeting shall be given, other than by mail, to each member of such committee. Three (3) members of such committee shall constitute a quorum. No error or omission in giving notice of any meeting of the officers or any adjourned meeting of the officers shall invalidate such meeting or make void any proceedings taken thereat and any member of such committee may at any time waive notice of any such meeting and may ratify, approve and confirm any or all proceedings taken or had thereat. Each member of the committee is authorized to exercise one (1) vote.

PART XI RECALL OR DISMISSAL OF AN OFFICER

Section 1. The recall or dismissal of an officer of this church or of an officer of a synod of this church and the vacating of the office may be effected:

- a. for willful disregard or violation of the constitution, administrative bylaws, authority or resolutions of this church;
- b. for such physical or mental disability or incompetence as may render the officer incapable of performing the duties of office; or

- c. for such conduct as would subject the officer to disciplinary action in the synod, congregation or synodically recognized ministry of which he or she is a member.

Section 2. Proceedings for recall or dismissal shall be instituted by filing with the chairperson of the Court of Appeal a petition stating specifically the charge or charges.

- a. A statement of charge against an officer of the National Church may be initiated by:
 - i. at least two-thirds (2/3) of the elected members of the National Church Council; or
 - ii. a petition signed by at least one-fifth (1/5) of those who were delegates to the latest convention of this church, at least fifteen (15) of whom shall be rostered delegates and at least fifteen (15) of whom shall be lay delegates representing at least two (2) synods with no more than twenty (20) from any one (1) synod.
- b. A statement of charge against a synod officer may be initiated by:
 - i. at least two-thirds (2/3) of the elected members of the Synod Council;
 - ii. at least one-fifth (1/5) of those who were delegates to the latest convention of the synod, at least one-quarter (1/4) of whom are rostered delegates and at least one-quarter (1/4) of whom are lay delegates; or
 - iii. at least two-thirds (2/3) of the elected members of the National Church Council.

Section 3. The chairperson of the Court of Appeal shall cause a copy of the statement of charge to be delivered to the accused officer, together with a notice of the time and place when the court will meet to hear the charges. The accused officer shall have the right to present a defence. After hearing such testimony as it may deem necessary and helpful, the court shall decide promptly whether the charges have been sustained and whether the accused officer shall be recalled or dismissed and the office vacated. If the charges are not sustained the statement of charge shall be dismissed. A judgment dismissing the charges shall be final and not subject to appeal. In any case, the court shall report the filing of the statement of charge and its disposition to the next convention of this church or, in the case of a synod officer, of the synod.

Section 4. Notice of a decision by the Court of Appeal that the charges have been sustained shall be given to the accused officer, and the officer may file an appeal of the decision with the Court of Appeal within forty-five (45) days after receipt of such notice. Such appeal shall be heard at the next convention and the convention may decide by a two-thirds (2/3) vote, after debate but without receiving testimony, that the officer shall be recalled or dismissed and the office vacated.

Section 5. After a decision that the charges have been sustained, if it is deemed by the Court of Appeal essential to good order that the accused officer should be meanwhile suspended, the Court of Appeal, a majority of members concurring, shall direct its chair to notify the National Church Council or Synod Council, which in such case shall require a two-thirds (2/3) vote, suspend the accused officer from performance of the duties of office pending action on an appeal, and may make provision for performance of such duties *ad interim*.

Section 6. The Court of Appeal shall promulgate such additional rules of procedure, as it may deem necessary for the performance of its duties under this item.

PART XII CONFERENCE OF BISHOPS

Section 1. There shall be a Conference of Bishops composed of the National Bishop and the synodical bishops.

Section 2. The Conference of Bishops shall be convened by the National Bishop at least annually.

- Section 3. The Conference of Bishops shall:
- a. attend to the spiritual and collegial nurture of its members;
 - b. reflect and provide vision on issues that affect the life of the church;
 - c. develop and share objectives and strategies concerning pastoral leadership;
 - d. recommend policy and practice to the National Church Council;
 - e. advise National Church Council on referred matters; and
 - f. strive to achieve consistent practice across the synods.

PART XIII COLLEGES, UNIVERSITIES AND SEMINARIES

Section 1. *Ownership and Governance of Schools*

Ownership of the colleges and universities of this church shall be vested in this church.

Section 2. Each school shall present a report to the convention of this church.

Section 3. Ownership and Governance of Seminaries

Ownership of the Lutheran Theological Seminary Saskatoon shall be vested in the four (4) western synods. Ownership of the Martin Luther University College shall be vested in the Eastern Synod. The Board of Governors shall be elected or appointed by the appropriate synods.

PART XIV BENEFIT AND PENSION PLANS

(Constitution, ARTICLE XV)

Section 1. A pension plan and group benefits plan shall be maintained through a wholly owned subsidiary of this church. The board of directors of such subsidiary shall be elected by the National Church Council and such board of directors shall manage and supervise the administration of the pension plan and group benefits plan and their portfolios.

Section 2. Entities associated with this church shall co-operate with the wholly owned subsidiary of this church to ensure that the following pension and benefit plans are available for their respective employees:

- a. a contributory pension plan constructed on the money-purchase principle;
- b. a group benefits plan that provides life and disability insurance and such other benefits as may be determined by the board appointed to administer the group benefits plan.

Section 3. The entities associated with this church shall ensure that each eligible employee is properly enrolled in the pension plan referred to in Section 2.a, and that all necessary documents are completed and all necessary contributions are made in order to provide for such participation.

Section 4. The entities associated with this church shall ensure that each eligible employee is properly enrolled in the group benefits plan referred to in Section 2.b, and that all necessary documents are completed and all necessary payments are made in order to provide for such participation.

PART XVI SPECIAL INTEREST CONFERENCES

(Constitution, ARTICLE XVI)

- Section 1. Upon receipt of formal notice from not fewer than six (6) congregations and not fewer than six (6) rostered pastors or rostered deacons of a desire for the formation of a Special Interest Conference representing a specific national and cultural heritage, the bishop of this church shall convene the interested persons for the purpose of organizing such a conference. As long as at least four (4) congregations and at least four (4) rostered pastors or rostered deacons desire the continuation of the conference, it shall not be disbanded involuntarily.
- Section 2. Other special interest conferences of a like character may be organized and continued in existence by the convention or the National Church Council at its discretion upon the expression of a similar desire on the part of any number of congregations and rostered pastors or rostered deacons of this church.
- Section 3. The officers of a Special Interest Conference and the committee on arrangements for its next annual or biennial meeting shall constitute the entire continuing organization of the conference unless an exception to this rule is granted in a specific instance by the National Church Council.

PART XVII COURT OF APPEAL

(Constitution, ARTICLE XVII)

- Section 1. The Court of Appeal shall consist of five (5) members, three (3) lay and two (2) rostered, who shall be elected by the convention for a term of three (3) years. No member may hold a position on National Church Council, Synod Council or a synodical committee for theological education and leadership. No member shall serve more than two (2) 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 2. A quorum shall consist of three (3) members including at least one (1) lay and one (1) rostered member. A majority must concur in any decision.
- Section 3. The court shall elect its own chair and secretary.
- Section 4. Due notice of the time and place of meetings of the court shall be given by its secretary to all persons involved in the case.
- Section 5. The court may make rules and orders in any matter of procedure not provided for in this bylaw in order to facilitate the proper and expeditious handling of its business.
- Section 6. Disciplinary actions of Synod Councils may be appealed to the court. The decisions of the court in such matters shall be final. Such decisions shall be reported to the parties involved in the appeal and to the bishop of this church.
- Section 7. An appeal must be filed with the secretary of the court within forty-five (45) 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.
- Section 8. All decisions of the Court of Appeal shall be posted on the official website of this church and in the *Bulletin of Reports* in full or in summary form, as directed by the chair of the court.

PART XVII INDEMNIFICATION

- Section 1. This church may indemnify a director or officer of this church, a former director or officer of this church or another individual who acts or acted at this church's request as a director or officer, or an individual acting in a similar capacity, of another entity, against all costs, charges and expenses, including an amount paid to settle an action or satisfy a judgment, reasonably incurred by the individual in respect of any civil, criminal, administrative, investigative or other proceeding in which the individual is involved because of that association with this church or other entity.
- Section 2. This church may advance moneys to a director, officer or other individual for the costs, charges and expenses of a proceeding referred to in Section 1. The individual shall repay the moneys if the individual does not fulfil the conditions of Section 3.
- Section 3. This church may not indemnify an individual under Section 1 unless the individual:
- a. acted honestly and in good faith with a view to the best interests of this church, or, as the case may be, to the best interests of the other entity for which the individual acted as director or officer or in a similar capacity at this church's request; and
 - b. in the case of a criminal or administrative action or proceeding that is enforced by a monetary penalty, the individual had reasonable grounds for believing that the individual's conduct was lawful.
- Section 4. This church may with the approval of a court, indemnify an individual referred to in Section 1, or advance moneys under Section 2, in respect of an action by or on behalf of this church or other entity to procure a judgment in its favour, to which the individual is made a party because of the individual's association with this church or other entity as described in Section 1 against all costs, charges and expenses reasonably incurred by the individual in connection with such action, if the individual fulfils the conditions set out in Section 3.
- Section 5. Despite Section 1, an individual referred to in that section is entitled to indemnity from this church in respect of all costs, charges and expenses reasonably incurred by the individual in connection with the defence of any civil, criminal, administrative, investigative or other proceeding to which the individual is subject because of the individual's association with this church or other entity as described in Section 1, if the individual seeking indemnity:
- a. was not judged by the court or other competent authority to have committed any fault or omitted to do anything that the individual ought to have done; and
 - b. fulfils the conditions set out in Section 3.

Signatures of two directors/trustees:

Sign

Print Name

Date: _____

Sign

Print Name

Date: _____



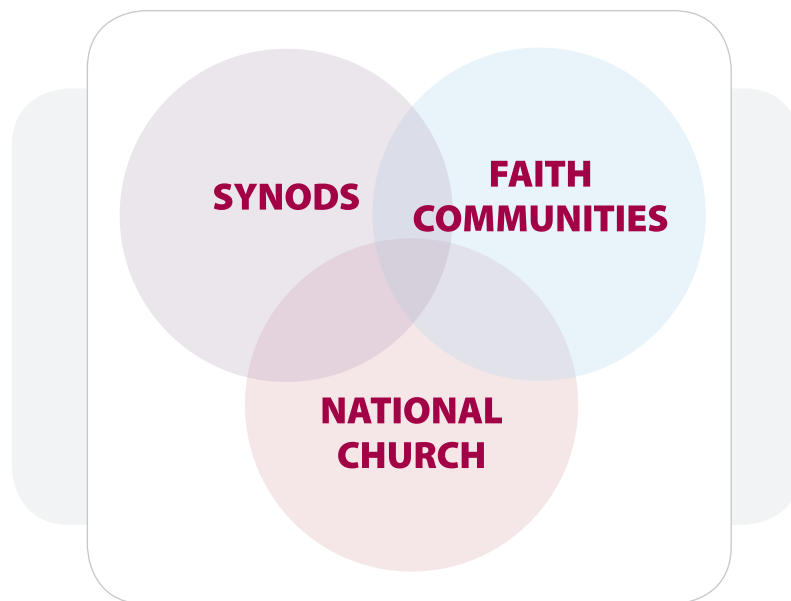
Relationships, Interconnectedness and Responsibilities in the ELCIC: One Body Working Together

For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ.

~ 1 Corinthians 12:12

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, the administration of the sacraments, and through service in Christ's name.

The image below illustrates the relationship and interconnectedness between the National Church, the Synods and local faith communities.



There is a renewed hope for a stronger relationship so that all parts of the body of this church can support and strengthen each other. Those responsibilities are presented under the categories found in our Constitution; they are central to our functioning as a church body and include responsibilities for the National Church, the Synods and local faith communities.

Although primary functions are outlined in the chart that follows, a variety of strategies are used to build understanding and acceptance including the use of bible studies, task forces, committees, discussion groups, regional gatherings, Conference of Bishops, Synod and National Conventions as well as Synod and National Councils.

One Body Working Together

FAITH COMMUNITIES	SYNODS	NATIONAL CHURCH
WORSHIP		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> strengthen and feed God’s people through regular sacramental ministry and preaching of the Word use available resources to enhance the local worship experience 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ordain and install rostered leaders ensure worship resources are available 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> establish policies and standards for worship develop resources to support worship oversee the work of the Program Committee for Worship arrange for worship conferences
WITNESS		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> develop programs to engage the local community 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> support outreach through the provision of mission grants and provide programs to assist faith communities in understanding their local context 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> encourage and support outreach by highlighting ministries and allocating designated funds
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> continue to live out our Full Communion relationship with the ACC through shared worship and ministry in local contexts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> continue to live out our Full Communion relationship with the ACC in seeking opportunities for shared ministries and other collaborative ministries 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> continue to live out our Full Communion relationship with the Anglican Church of Canada (ACC)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> seek out opportunities to live differently with Indigenous Peoples 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> provide leadership to build greater understanding of the issues facing Indigenous Peoples 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> recognize and implement the values and principles of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples advocate for the implementation of the TRC Calls to Action.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> lead and engage in dialogue and interaction at a community level 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> encourage a ministry of hospitality and understanding 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> support ‘Welcoming the Stranger’ by providing resources to encourage actions (learn, connect, pray and act)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> engage in and act to support their local church and the wider church 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> distribute and provide resources that promote the support of the wider church 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> develop and distribute resources to promote and encourage stewardship for the wider church
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> share information from the National Church and their Synod as well as share events and happenings in the life of the faith community with the National Church or Synod 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> facilitate the distribution of information from the National Church and NCC and various appointed committees respond to requests for information 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> communicate effectively to Synods and faith communities respond to requests for information
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> support elected or appointed delegates to participate in National Convention and receive and discuss the information shared with faith communities upon their return 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> be governed by the decisions made at National Convention on matters affecting synodical life elect delegates to attend National Conventions and empower them to participate in debates and voting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> plan National Conventions as per constitutional requirements

One Body Working Together

FAITH COMMUNITIES	SYNODS	NATIONAL CHURCH
EDUCATION		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • support and adhere to policies for rostered leaders and engage in employment agreements with rostered leaders as well as provide for suitable field placements that may include internships • encourage and support rostered and lay leader continuing education 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • responsible for theological education including mentoring and candidacy programs and examining committees working with the seminary as well as continuing education for rostered and lay leaders 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • set policies and standards regarding candidacy
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • support intergenerational relationships to support our younger generations • provide opportunities and support for youth ministry 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • provide resources to support youth ministry 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • provide leadership and resources for youth ministry • arrange Canadian Lutheran Anglican Youth gathering
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • identify and encourage lay members with the skills for ministry • support candidates for ministry including providing opportunities for field placements and internships 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • implement and oversee the establishment and use of authorized lay ministries where appropriate • prepare, train and supervise candidates for authorized lay ministry 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • establish policies, standards and protocols for authorized lay ministry
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • engage in a process of listening, discerning, experimenting, evaluating and reflecting to respond to where God is leading us in the neighbourhood 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • provide leadership, direction and resources to promote and encourage the development of missional formation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • lead in the exploration, development and support of faith communities and missional formation facilitated through the continuing support of the Church Extension and Capital Fund
SERVICE		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • challenge the causes and responds to the consequences of human suffering and poverty by promoting and supporting the work of CLWR 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • promote and encourage support of CLWR 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • work in partnership with CLWR through a Memorandum of Understanding and be responsible for Board appointments
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • engage in issues and projects within their local context and provide a unified voice and action 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • support national advocacy priorities, identify synodical advocacy issues and promote their support 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • create public policies and identify advocacy issues which are priorities for the ELCIC
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • work to build ecumenical and interfaith relationships within their own communities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • support and encourage participation in ecumenical and interfaith relationships including shared ministry 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • support ecumenical and interfaith relationships by setting policies and guidelines • support partnerships which provide ecumenical support and strengthen relationships with organizations such as Lutheran World Federation, World Council of Churches, full communion with the Anglican Church of Canada (Waterloo Declaration) • support special interest conferences

One Body Working Together

FAITH COMMUNITIES	SYNODS	NATIONAL CHURCH
SERVICE		
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• support Synodical and National Church global partners and connections as well as establish their own global partner congregations and global projects for their local context	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• develop companion partners under the National Church's global mission policies and guidelines	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• support global mission by setting policies and standards to be observed in connection to partner churches and organizations in a global context