

Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada
Minutes of the National Church Council Meeting via Zoom
September 9–11, 2021

Present:

Officers:	National Bishop Susan Johnson Gene Blishen, Treasurer	Linda Grainger, Secretary Sheila Hamilton, Vice-Chair
Council:	Rev. Chris Bishopp Bruce Cook Rev. Jane Gingrich Rev. Dr. James Hendricksen Kathleen Jensen Rev. Íris Kristjánsdóttir Pat Lovell – <i>NCC rep to CoGS, meeting co-chaplain</i>	Rev. Dr. Kimber McNabb John Nilson Linda Sander Curt Satre Rev. Canon Dr. Murray Still - <i>CoGS rep to NCC</i>
Synod Bishops:	Bishop Sid Haugen, SASK Synod Bishop Larry Kochendorfer, ABT Synod <i>(absent)</i> Bishop Greg Mohr, BC Synod	Bishop Michael Pryse, Eastern Synod Bishop Jason Zinko, MNO Synod
Staff:	Trina Gallop Blank, Assistant to the Bishop, Communications and Resource Generation Rev. Paul Gehrs, Assistant to the Bishop, Justice and Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations Rev. Lyle McKenzie, Assistant to the Bishop, Worship Deacon Gretchen Peterson, Assistant to the Bishop, Youth & Leadership – <i>meeting co-chaplain</i> Kyle Giesbrecht, Director of Finance and Administration Rev. Dr. Ali Tote, Assistant to the Bishop, Faith, Order and Doctrine <i>(September 9&10 only)</i> Desiree Mendoza, Meetings and Communications Coordinator	
Guest:	Bishop Suzanne Dillahunt, Southern Ohio Synod, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) – <i>September 9&10 only</i>	
Presenters:	Lisa Thiessen, Executive Director and John Wolff, President/Board Chair – Group Services Inc. (GSI) – <i>September 10 only</i>	

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 2021, 6:00 P.M.

Business Session One:

Opening Prayer

Led by meeting co-Chaplain, Deacon Gretchen Peterson.

Recognition of Territory

Vice-Chair Sheila Hamilton called the meeting to order.

I acknowledge that as we meet I am on traditional lands of the Haudenosaunee, the Anishinaabe and the Metis Nation. We acknowledge that ELCIC buildings and ministries, from coast to coast to coast, are traditional territories of Indigenous Peoples.

We are grateful to the wisdom and insight offered by the custodians of this land from time immemorial and continuing into the present day.

The ELCIC is committed to reconciled relationships between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Peoples. One expression of this commitment is working with ecumenical partners to advocate for legislation that creates a framework to implement the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

We recognize that we have much to learn and we are committed to seeking healing, reconciliation and renewed relationships together.

Welcome

Vice-Chair Sheila Hamilton welcomed our guest Bishop Suzanne Dillahunt of the Southern Ohio Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA). She also welcomed Rev. Dr. Ali Tote, Assistant to the Bishop for Faith, Order and Doctrine.

Check-in

Approval of Agenda

Business Session One:

-Appointments – to be included in the Report of the National Bishop

Business Session Four: New Business

-Policy on Endorsing Student Research Project

-Vaccine Passports

M/S That NCC approves the amended meeting agenda. **CARRIED.**

Code of Conduct

NCC Covenant

Bruce Cook was asked to read the NCC Covenant to the meeting group.

Declaration of Conflicts of Interest

No conflicts of interest were expressed.

Approval of March 5–7, 2021 NCC Meeting Minutes

M/S That NCC approves the March 5–7, 2021 NCC meeting minutes. **CARRIED.**

Approval of E-vote Minutes

M/S That NCC approves the April 12, May 12 and May 16, 2021 e-vote minutes.

CC-2021-17 That NCC approves the Faith, Order and Doctrine Committee to examine the theology and practice of virtual celebration of the sacrament of Holy Communion with recommendations for practice to be shared, through an interim or final report, with NCC by March 2022. Faith, Order and Doctrine is asked to consult with our Anglican and ELCA partners. FOD is also asked to consult with the Program Committee for Worship and the Conference of Bishops. **CARRIED.**

CC-2021-18 That NCC appoints Rev. Dr. Gordon Jensen to Faith, Order and Doctrine, filling a vacant term until August 31, 2022. **CARRIED.**

CC-2021-19 That NCC approves the 2020 audited ELCIC Financial Statements (see attached). **CARRIED.**

CARRIED.

Report of the National Bishop

Bishop Susan Johnson gave an oral report to supplement her written report. She also gave appreciation to the staff, officers and synod bishops, for the work done.

Call to Specialized Ministry

CC-2021-20 That NCC issues a call to Specialized Ministry to Rev. Jason Ashby to serve as a Chaplain to the Canadian Armed Forces. **CARRIED.**

Appointment of Bishop Jason Zinko to Lutheran Council in Canada

CC-2021-21 That NCC appoints Bishop Jason Zinko as ELCIC representative to the Lutheran Council in Canada to a term that ends in December 2022. The term is renewable. **CARRIED.**

Appointment of Rev. Lori Pilatzke to the Church Council on Justice and Corrections

CC-2021-22 That NCC appoints Rev. Lori Pilatzke as the ELCIC Representative on Board of the Church Council on Justice and Corrections (CCJC) for a three-year term beginning in September 2021. **CARRIED.**

Reappointment of Mark Heinen to CLWR Board

CC-2021-23 That NCC reappoints Mark Heinen to the board of the Canadian Lutheran World Relief for the term of September 2021 to September 2024. **CARRIED.**

Lutheran/Anglican/Moravian Action for National Convention (with breakout)

Rev. Paul Gehrs presented the background on the Lutheran/Anglican/Moravian working group's work towards Full Communion relationship.

Breakout/Small Group Discussion Questions:

1. What benefits and opportunities do you see in this Full Communion agreement?
2. What questions or concerns do you have about this proposed agreement?
3. Any other comments?

CC-2021-24 That NCC approves and recommends for adoption to the 2022 National Convention the agreement *One Flock, One Shepherd: Lutherans, Anglicans, and Moravians – Called to Walk Together in Full Communion* declaring that a relationship of Full Communion exists among the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada, the Anglican Church of Canada, and the Moravian Church in North America. **CARRIED.**

Vision Statement Task Force

Trina Gallop Blank, Assistant to the Bishop for Communications and Resource Generation, presented to NCC. She introduced task force member Rev. Aneeta Saroop, who joined her in the presentation. Names of other task force members were mentioned which included Rev. Daranne Harris, Cheryl Bauer-Hyde, Rhonda Bretcher, Bruce Cook, and Rev. Dr. Kimber McNabb.

The vision Statement Task Force recommends to NCC the following vision statement for the ELCIC:

God's grace and unconditional love calls us to be a diverse, inclusive community that celebrates all and upholds life-giving relationships.

Breakout/Small Group Discussion Questions:

- Do you feel inspired by this statement?
- Does this describe the kind of church you'd like to be a part of?
- Any other first impressions?

CC-2021-25 That NCC adopts the vision statement presented by the task force— “God’s grace and unconditional love calls us to be a diverse, inclusive community that celebrates all and upholds life-giving relationships.” **CARRIED.**

Reports——

Synod Bishops

The Synod Bishops provided written reports to NCC.

Bishop Greg Mohr of the BC Synod shared in his synod communication that he will be retiring. He will continue to serve until the election of the new synod bishop in January 2022. Bishop Greg was very thankful for the great friendships formed and the work that has been done. He looks forward to his retirement but will miss the meetings with NCC.

Rev. Dr. James Hendricksen added a couple of highlights not included in the report of the ABT Synod. These would include the recognition of Brian Rude’s retirement.

Conference of Bishops

Bishop Greg Mohr provided an oral report to NCC in addition to his written report

LWF Council Report

CoGS Report

Rev. Dr. Murray Still gave a short oral report to supplement his written report.

Closing Prayer

Led by the meeting co-Chaplain.

Meeting adjourned.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 10 2021, 10:30 A.M. – 2:30 P.M.

Business Session Two:

Sheila Hamilton called the meeting to order.

Opening Prayer

Led by the meeting co-Chaplain, Pat Lovell.

Anti-Oppression Training

Guest facilitators Delia Joseph and Karen Ridd led NCC in the anti-oppression training.

In addition to the pre-homework and workbook provided before the meeting, the facilitators also made their presentation available for NCC to use. NCC members, guest and staff can download the file from Box: National Office Documents>NCC Docket>2021 09>[ELCIC Final Oppression Training.pptx](#)

Closing Prayer

Led by the meeting co-Chaplain.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 10 2021, 3:30 P.M. – 5:30 P.M.

Business Session Three:

Bishop Susan Johnson called the meeting to order.

Opening Prayer

Led by the meeting co-Chaplain Deacon Gretchen Peterson.

ELCIC Group Services Inc. (GSI) Corporation Meeting

Lisa Thiessen, Executive Director and John Wolff, President/Board Chair, of ELCIC Group Service, Inc. presented to NCC.

M/S That NCC tables the resolution presented by ELCIC Group Services until after the report of the Finance Committee. **CARRIED.**

ELCA Guest – Bishop Suzanne Dillahunt

Bishop Suzanne Dillahunt of the Southern Ohio Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America gave her remarks to NCC.

Bishop Suzanne shared to NCC how she appreciates the partnership shared between our two churches. She mentioned that ELCA continues to live as a future church, growing younger and diverse. As a synodical bishop, Bishop Suzanne appreciates our prayers. She added that this meeting's anti-oppression training was a gift to her.

The 2022 ELCA Churchwide Assembly will take place in Columbus, Ohio from August 8–12. Bishop Suzanne extends her invitation to NCC, to consider attending.

Closing Prayer

Led by the meeting co-Chaplain.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2021, 11:00 A.M. – 2:00 P.M.

Business Session Four:

Bishop Susan called the meeting to order.

Opening Prayer

Led by the meeting co-Chaplain.

Committee Reports—

Governance Committee

Sheila Hamilton presented the report of the Governance Committee.

Breakout/Small Group Discussion Questions:

1. What surprised you?
2. What did you disagree with?
3. What is missing?

Constitution Committee

Linda Grainger presented the report of the Constitution Committee.

Constitution and Bylaw Amendments from the Eastern Synod Assembly 2021

CC-2021-26 That NCC approves the Eastern Synod Constitution and Bylaw amendments as presented. **CARRIED.**

Bylaw amendments from MNO Synod Convention 2021

CC-2021-27 That NCC approves the MNO Synod Bylaw amendments as presented. **CARRIED.**

Faith, Order and Doctrine

A written update was included in the Report of the National Bishop. Rev. Íris Kristjánsdóttir who sits in the FOD Committee said there were no more updates.

Finance

Treasurer Gene Blishen called on Kyle Giesbrecht, Director for Finance and Administration to present the ELCIC Financial Statements.

Follow-up discussion on GSI

A discussion took place regarding GSI. NCC agreed to request for current bylaws and governance documents that will help NCC to understand their relationship with them. The action agreed upon is for NCC to meet for further discussion.

Women of Faith Fund

Bruce Cook, NCC liaison to the Women of Faith Fund gave an oral report in addition to his written report.

The Women of Faith Fund received 33 applications. Twenty-seven were approved and six were declined. Bruce mentioned that there were various and creative ways of ministering even during this time of uncertainty caused by the pandemic. These various ways of ministering expressed in the different applications bring an amount of hope for the church's future. The program since its establishment was able to fulfill all of the expectations, goals, and objectives. As the program winds down, any residual funds will be given to LWF.

Bishop Susan mentioned to have even a few people on the advisory committee receive and review reports at the conclusion of the program.

CC-2021-28 That NCC approves the residual funds in the Women of Faith Fund be remitted to The Lutheran World Federation, and allocated to Gender Justice and Women's Empowerment. **CARRIED.**

Unfinished Business

Officers' Minutes of the Meeting

M/S That NCC approves the minutes of the offices' meeting on May 25, 2021 as presented.

CARRIED.

ELCIC GSI Resolution of the Sole Member

M/S To bring back the GSI Resolution to the table. **CARRIED.**

M/S That NCC approves the Resolution of the Sole Member of ELCIC Group Services as presented and that the signing officers of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada (ELCIC) be authorized to execute the resolution. **CARRIED.**

(Appendix A: GSI Minutes of the Annual Information Meeting with signed Resolution of the Sole Member of ELCIC Group Services, Inc.)

Talking Points/Highlights

Anti-Oppression Training

Lutheran/Anglican/Moravian Agreement

Strategic Planning

Women of Faith Fund

Vision Task Force

16 Days of Activism against Gender Violence (November 25–December 10)

Guest Acknowledgment: ELCA's Bishop Suzanne Dillahunt (*what she brought to the table as a reflection of everything we do*)

Season of Creation resources used in worship

Constant conversation with GSI

(Appendix B: September 2021 NCC Meeting Highlights)

New Business

Policy on Endorsing Student Research Project

CC-2021-29 That NCC appoints a working group to review the Policy on Endorsing Student Research Project consisting of Bishop Jason Zinko, Rev. Dr. James Hendricksen, Trina Gallop Blank, Rev. Dr. Kimber McNabb, and Deacon Gretchen Peterson. The working group will report back to NCC on its next meeting in March 2022. The working group will also consider how this policy will affect those student research projects. **CARRIED.**

Vaccine Passports

Synod Bishops shared current provincial guidelines that vary from province to province.

Meeting Evaluation

Desiree will send a survey to NCC members requesting feedback on this meeting.

Closing Prayer

Led by the meeting co-Chaplain Deacon Gretchen Peterson.

Next Meetings:

Next Meetings:

2022

March 4–6 (Friday-Sunday) – *TBD in person or online (prep for National Convention)*

Chaplain-Bruce Cook

Bible Study-Rev. Canon Dr. Murray Still

July 12-15*

**Planned dates for Assembly 2022. Please wait for further information and official announcement.*

September 15–17 (Thursday-Saturday) – *Scheduled one week later after the WCC 11th Assembly, August 31–September 8.*

2023

March 3–5 (Friday-Sunday)

September 7–9 (Thursday-Saturday)

Meeting Adjourned.

**ELCIC Group Services Inc.
Minutes of the GSI Annual Information Meeting at the National Church
Council September 10, 2021 via Zoom**

Present:

- | | | |
|----------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Officers: | National Bishop Susan, Johnson
Gene Blishen, Treasurer | Linda Grainger, Secretary
Sheila Hamilton, Vice-Chair |
| Council: | Rev. Chris Bishopp
Bruce Cook
Rev. Jane Gingrich
Rev. Dr. James Hendricksen
Kathleen Jensen
Rev. Íris Kristjánsdóttir
Pat Lovell (<i>NCC rep to CoGS</i>) | Rev. Dr. Kimber McNabb
John Nilson
Linda Sander
Curt Satre
Rev. Canon Dr. Murray Still (<i>CoGS rep to NCC</i>) |
| Synod Bishops: | Bishop Sid Haugen, SK Synod
Bishop Larry Kochendorfer, ABT Synod (<i>absent</i>)
Bishop Greg Mohr, BC Synod | Bishop Michael Pryse, Eastern Synod
Bishop Jason Zinko, MNO Synod |
| Staff: | Trina Gallop Blank, Assistant to the Bishop, Communications and Resource Generation
Rev. Paul Gehrs, Assistant to the Bishop, Justice and Interfaith and Ecumenical Relations
Rev. Lyle McKenzie, Assistant to the Bishop, Worship
Deacon Gretchen Peterson, Assistant to the Bishop, Youth & Leadership
Kyle Giesbrecht, Director of Finance and Administration
Rev. Dr. Ali Tote, Assistant to the Bishop, Faith, Order and Doctrine
Desiree Mendoza, Meetings and Communications Coordinator | |
| Guest: | Bishop Suzanne Dillahunt, Southern Ohio Synod, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) | |
| Presenters: | Lisa Thiessen, Executive Director and John Wolff, President (Group Services Inc.) | |

Annual Information Meeting

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2021, 3:00 P.M.

John Wolff called the meeting to order.

Lisa Thiessen, Executive Director and John Wolff, President/Board Chair of ELCIC-Group Services, Inc. presented.

Pension Plan

-financial highlights, stats, plan and policy amendments

ELCIC Group Services Inc.

-financial highlights, stats, corporate activities

Governance

Eastern Synod motion

Resolution

-accept financial statements, appoint auditors, elect directors

M/S That NCC tables the resolution presented by ELCIC Group Services until after the report of the Finance Committee. **CARRIED.**

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2021, 11:00 A.M. – 2:00 P.M.

Resolution of the Sole Member

M/S To bring back the GSI Resolution to the table. **CARRIED.**

M/S That NCC approves the Resolution of the Sole Member of ELCIC Group Services as presented and that the signing officers of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada (ELCIC) be authorized to execute the resolution. **CARRIED.**

(See Attachment: Signed Resolution of the Sole Member of ELCIC Group Services, Inc.)

RESOLUTION OF THE SOLE MEMBER
of
ELCIC GROUP SERVICES INC.
(herein called the "Corporation")

BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

- (1) as recommended by the Board of Directors of ELCIC Group Services Inc., that the 2020 financial statements of the Corporation and the ELCIC Pension Plan together with the report or comments of the auditors are hereby received; and
- (2) as recommended by the Board of Directors of ELCIC Group Services Inc., that PriceWaterhouseCoopers LLP is hereby appointed auditor of the Corporation to hold office until the next annual meeting of members at such remuneration as may be fixed by the directors, the directors being hereby authorized to fix such remuneration; and
- (3) as recommended by the Board of Directors of the Corporation, that the following persons are hereby elected as directors of the Corporation for a term of four (4) years to terminate at the Annual Meeting of the Corporation then held, or until a successor is elected:

Meeting

John Wolff
Cathy Wilke
Ray Henrickson
Wenzel Hoberg.

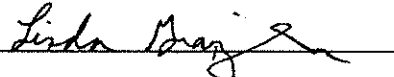
The foregoing resolution is hereby signed by the sole member of the Corporation entitled to vote thereon at a meeting of the member.

DATED the ^{11th} 10th day of September, 2021

Jy.

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN CANADA

Per: 
Bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada

Per: 
Secretary of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada



September 2021

National Church Council Meeting Highlights

National Church Council (NCC) met via zoom for its September 2021 meeting. NCC members met for four sessions over three days from September 9 to 11.

The following are a few of the major highlights from the meeting. For specific wording on motions and additional actions, draft minutes will be posted once available on the NCC section of the ELCIC website:

<https://elcic.ca/National-Church-Council/National-Church-Council-Minutes.cfm>

RECONCILED RELATIONSHIPS

Indigenous justice and reconciliation, challengers of racism and privilege

NCC members participated in four hours of anti-oppression training by Delia Joseph and Karen Ridd which focused on recognizing and dealing with microaggressions in the workplace. The goals of the session included: recognizing microaggressions and their impact; identifying common microaggressions; understanding the concept of “implicit bias” and identifying one’s own biases; exploring the impacts of microaggression and bias on health care; gaining tools for dealing with microaggressions as a bystander, as a target and as the one doing microaggression. The facilitators also provided a number of resources for ongoing study.

ONE BODY WORKING TOGETHER - National and international partnerships

NCC approved and recommended for adoption to the 2022 National Convention the agreement *One Flock, One Shepherd: Lutherans, Anglicans, and Moravians – Called to Walk Together in Full Communion* declaring that a relationship of Full Communion exists among the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada, the Anglican Church of Canada, and the Moravian Church in North America. In order for the agreement to come into effect, approval in each denomination needs to follow due process. The Lutheran-Anglican-Moravian Working Group is preparing educational materials in order to build awareness among National Convention delegates, leaders and congregations regarding the value of these relationships, the purpose for this agreement, and the history of each tradition/denomination.

ONE BODY WORKING TOGETHER - Shared vision across all expressions of the church

NCC members continued working on the ELCIC Strategic Plan, participating in small group discussions to further the development of a new plan. A Strategic Plan Working Group will continue this work throughout the fall of 2021 with a draft Strategic Plan expected at the March 2022 NCC meeting. The ELCIC Strategic Plan helps identify and prioritize the work of the National Church. The current 2018-2022 ELCIC Strategic Plan identifies four areas of focus: *Courageous Innovation, Reconciled Relationships, One Body Working Together and Empowered Disciples*.

COURAGEOUS INNOVATION - Flexibility in sharing and deploying financial resources

The ELCIC Women of Faith Fund was established in 2011 in recognition of the significant contributions of the women of the Evangelical Lutheran Women (ELW). The initial contributions to the fund came from the residual amount that remained following the dissolution of the ELW. Individuals and groups have been invited over the years to apply for grants from the fund for projects and initiatives that: nurtured faith and spiritual growth; fostered supportive communities; developed leadership skills; and worked towards justice and peace. In the 10 years since the fund has been established, grant money has supported initiatives from coast to coast to coast. 2021 marks the final year of the fund with over \$50,000 being allocated this year to 19 applications.

Recommended by the Women of Faith Fund Committee, NCC passed a motion that will allow for the remaining funds to be sent to support Women's Ministry of The Lutheran World Federation, allocated to Gender Justice and Women's Empowerment.

ONE BODY WORKING TOGETHER - *Shared vision across all expressions of the church*

The Vision Statement Task Force presented its final report and recommendations to NCC at this meeting. A 2018 NCC motion directed "the officers to establish a task force to engage in broad consultation across the church to develop recommendations for a new vision statement." In the presentation to NCC, task force members shared highlights from the various ways they engaged ELCIC members in their work, ensuring they met their mandate to be as broad as possible in their consultation. NCC members approved the proposed new ELCIC vision statement, "God's grace and unconditional love calls us to be a diverse, inclusive community that celebrates all and upholds life-giving relationships." Further work will be done to communicate this broadly and develop this statement into a new tagline, replacing the current *In Mission for Others* tagline.

ONE BODY WORKING TOGETHER – *National and international relationships*

NCC welcomed Bishop Suzanne Dillahunt, Southern Ohio Synod, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA). Bishop Suzanne brought greetings from ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton. She shared with NCC how much she appreciates the partnership shared between our two churches. She mentioned that ELCA continues to live as a future church, attempting to grow as a younger and more diverse church. As a synodical bishop, Bishop Suzanne appreciates our prayers. She added that this meeting's anti-oppression training was a gift to her.

EMPOWERING DISCIPLES – *Faithful gospel witnesses, Baptismal vocation*

NCC member Pat Lovell and Deacon Gretchen Peterson, Assistant to the National Bishop for Youth and Leadership, led worship and prayers for the meeting which lifted up Season of Creation resources.

The next meetings of NCC are scheduled as follows:

- March 4–6, 2022
- July 2022, TBA (coinciding with Assembly 2022)
- September 15–17, 2022
- March 3–5, 2023
- September 7–9, 2023