

Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada

Minutes of the National Church Council Meeting via Zoom

September 15-17, 2022

Present:

Officers: National Bishop Susan Johnson Bruce Cook, Vice-Chair
Gene Blishen, Treasurer

Council: Rev. Chris Bishopp Heidi Van Schaik
Sarah Harrington Rev. Canon Dr. Murray Still, CoGS rep to NCC (*present*
Stephen Holmes *Friday and Saturday*)
Kathleen Jensen
Rev. Kevin Powell

Synod Bishop Larry Kochendorfer, ABT Synod Bishop Jason Zinko, MNO Synod
Bishops: Bishop Sid Haugen, SASK Synod Bishop Michael Pryse, Eastern Synod

Staff: Trina Gallop Blank, Assistant to the Bishop, Communications and Resource Generation
Kyle Giesbrecht, Director of Finance and Administration
Deacon Gretchen Peterson, Assistant to the Bishop, Youth & Leadership
Carmen Ramirez, Assistant to the Bishop, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion
Desiree Mendoza, Meetings and Communications Coordinator

Guest: Bishop Leila M. Ortiz, Metro DC Synod, ELCA

Online: Linda Grainger, Secretary (*present* Rev. Dr. Kimber McNabb
Thursday and Friday) Rev. Katrina Vigen
Bill Gastmeier Rev. Paul Gehrs, Assistant to the Bishop, Justice and
Rev. Dr. Marc Jerry (*present Friday and* Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations
Saturday)

Absent: John Nilson
Bishop Kathy Martin, BC Synod

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2022, 7:00 P.M.

Business Session One:

Bishop Susan Johnson called the meeting to order.

Check-ins

Recognition of Territory

We would like to begin by acknowledging that we are gathered on ancestral lands, on Treaty One Territory and that the land on which we gather is the traditional territory of Anishinaabeg, Cree, Oji-Cree, Dakota, and Dene People, and the homeland of the Métis Nation.

We respect the treaties that were made on these territories, we acknowledge the harms and mistakes of the past, and we dedicate ourselves to move forward in partnership with Indigenous communities in a spirit of reconciliation and collaboration.

Welcome

Bishop Susan welcomed everyone to NCC including the new members, who are participating in-person and online.

Approval of Agenda

Addition to the Agenda under New Business: Letter from the project coordinators of *Remembering Today for the Church of Tomorrow* which include: Don Sjoberg, Karen Kuhnert, Gordon Jensen, Stephen Larson and Rebecca Larson.

(Appendix A: Remembering Today for the Church of Tomorrow letter on project updates; letter on For the Sake of the Gospel webinar event and copy of draft poster for the webinar event)

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

Code of Conduct

Bishop Susan mentioned about our hybrid set-up and suggested for it be included under online process of the *Code of Conduct* document.

The Complaint Handling Committee (CHC) for this meeting was Deacon Gretchen Peterson and Carmen Ramirez.

NCC Covenant

Bishop Susan encouraged everyone to look at it in the next months leading up to our 2023 March meeting at which time it will be reviewed.

Declaration of Conflicts of Interest

Rev. Paul Gehrs asked to be excused when his sabbatical request is being presented to NCC for action.

Approval of March 4–6, 2022 NCC Meeting Minutes

M/S That NCC approves the March 4-6, 2022 NCC meeting minutes. **CARRIED.**

Approval of E-vote Minutes

M/S That NCC approves the May 5, May 31 and June 21, 2022 e-vote minutes.

CC-2022-27 That NCC approves the 2021 audited ELCIC Financial Statements.
CARRIED.

CC-2022-28 That NCC appoints the following persons as delegates to the 2023 Lutheran World Federation (LWF) Assembly: Benjamin (Ben) Lukenchuk, Celly Manirakoze and Rev. Katherine Gohm. **CARRIED.**

CC-2022-29 That NCC issues a Call to Specialized Ministry to Rev. Michael Hackbusch to serve as a Chaplain to the Canadian Armed Forces. **CARRIED.**
CARRIED.

Orientation

Kyle Giesbrecht, Director of Finance and Administration introduced and explained the purpose and use of Box to NCC particularly to the new members. He also showed a quick demonstration on how to access the folders.

Bishop Susan mentioned to the group the various governance documents in Box and encouraged everyone to be familiar with it and ask any questions. She explained signing up for the various NCC committees; policies around in-camera meetings; email meetings; and policy on Conflict of Interest. She highlighted that an appendix for acronyms needs to be developed for the Governance Manual.

Closing Worship

Led by Rev. Lyle McKenzie, who filled in for meeting chaplain Rev. Dr. Marc Jerry.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 2022, 9:00 A.M. – 12:00 P.M.

Business Session Two:

Opening Prayer

Led by the meeting chaplain, Rev. Dr. Marc Jerry.

Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity and Expression (SOGIE) Training

Guest Facilitators Morgan Stirling and Kristin Sheffield led the Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity and Expression (SOGIE) Training for NCC.

The facilitators covered acronyms; difference between sexual orientation and gender identity; gender modality; use of pronouns; privilege and oppression; etc.

Morgan introduced the topic and hoped the group would gain more knowledge, increase their level of comfort, and have a better understanding of the 2SLGBTQ+ community by the end of the session.

To see the full slide presentation for the SOGIE training, please click on the following link: <https://elcic.app.box.com/folder/173965728839> . You can also view the video “Sometimes You’re a Caterpillar” found in the same folder in Box.

Closing Prayer

Led by the meeting chaplain.

(Lunch)

Business Session Three:

Opening Prayer

Led by the meeting chaplain.

Vice-Chair Bruce Cook chaired the meeting.

Report of the National Bishop

In addition to her written report, Bishop Susan mentioned that Rev. Lyle McKenzie, Assistant to the Bishop for Worship is resigning from his position. She thanked Lyle for his work and encouraged everyone to express their thanks. Bishop Susan also introduced Carmen Ramirez, Assistant to the Bishop for Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion to the group.

With regards to the recent World Council of Churches (WCC) 11th Assembly in Karlsruhe, Germany (August 31–September 8), Bishop Susan attended as a delegate; Trina Gallop Blank served on the communications team; and Rev. Paul Gehrs was an advisor to the delegation. Rev. Canon Dr. Murray Still was a delegate of the Anglican Church of Canada. Near the conclusion of the Assembly, Bishop Susan was elected to the 150-member WCC Central Committee on September 6th and was also elected to the Executive Committee on September 8th. At the conference, Bishop Susan was part of the public issues committee and worked on the statement on the human rights and self-determination of Indigenous peoples across the world.

Bishop Susan mentioned that she appreciated the worship at the conference and added that some resources can be used at our assembly planning with the Anglicans in 2023. From the assembly, Bishop Susan highlighted that there is an urgency on what needs to happen concerning climate change.

Business Arising from the Report

Unified Ordination Rite

Rev. Lyle McKenzie shared more on the work of the task group which comprised of himself, Rev. Erik Parker (Chair), Bishop Larry Kochendorfer, Deacon Dr. Faith Nostbakken, Rev. Tanya Varner, and Lorraine Reinhardt, regarding the *Unified Ordination Rite* in addition to the written report.

CC-2022-30 That NCC affirms the unified *Rite of Ordination* and asks that it be distributed for use across the church. **CARRIED.**

(Appendix B: Unified Ordination Rite)

Sabbatical Leave Request for Rev. Paul Gehrs, Assistant to the Bishop

(Rev. Paul Gehrs signed out of the online meeting.)

CC-2022-31 That NCC approves the requested Sabbatical Leave for Rev. Paul Gehrs, Assistant to the Bishop for Justice and Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations for three months in the summer of 2023. **CARRIED.**

CLWR Board Appointments

CC-2022-32 That NCC makes the following appointments to the Canadian Lutheran World Relief (CLWR) Board for a three-year term from September 2022 to September 2025:

- Reappoint Pauline Klemencic for a third term (Eastern Synod),
- Reappoint Mark Johnson for a second term (BC Synod),
- Appoint Rowan Dymund for a first term (young adult representative).

CARRIED.

Task Forces on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

CC-2022-33 That the mandate for the task forces addressing: 1. Ableism; 2. Racism, White Supremacy, and issues of Racial Injustice; and 3. Homophobia, Biphobia, and Transphobia be extended until the end of the special National Convention in 2023. **CARRIED.**

Task Force on Carbon Neutrality

CC-2022-34 That the mandate for the Task Force on Carbon Neutrality be extended until the end of the special National Convention in 2023. **CARRIED.**

Staff Presentation – Strategic Plan

The 2022-2025 ELCIC Strategic Plan was presented to NCC. Presenters included: Trina Gallop Blank, Rev. Paul Gehrs, Rev. Lyle McKenzie, Deacon Gretchen Peterson, and Carmen Ramirez. It was noted that the Mission Statement needs to be corrected so that it is the same as that in the ELCIC Constitution.

(Suggested edit under Healthier Church section of the proposed 2022-2025 ELCIC Strategic Plan)

M/S Work to make the church a safer place by reviewing the protection policy, sexual misconduct policy and manual on discipline **with an emphasis on self-care.** **CARRIED.**

CC-2022-35 That NCC approves the 2022-2025 ELCIC Strategic Plan as amended. **CARRIED.**

(Appendix C: 2022-2025 ELCIC Strategic Plan)

Bishop Susan took over as chair.

Reports— Officers

Constitution Committee

Linda Grainger added to the report of the Constitution Committee.

CC-2022-36 That NCC adopts the recommendation from the Constitution Committee to approve the amendments to the BC Synod Constitution and Bylaws. **CARRIED.**

CC-2022-37 That NCC adopts the recommendation from the Constitution Committee to approve the amendments to the Bylaws of the ABT Synod. **CARRIED.**

Synod Bishops

The synod bishops which included Bishops Kathy Martin, BC Synod; Larry Kochendorfer, ABT Synod; Sid Haugen, SASK Synod; Jason Zinko, MNO Synod; and Michael Pryse, Eastern Synod were invited to share any additional information to supplement their written reports. Bishop Susan encouraged NCC to give all synod bishops a round of applause for their commitment and various works done.

Report of the Conference of Bishops

Bishop Jason Zinko presented the policy items for consideration by NCC.

CC-2022-38 That NCC approves the recommendation from the Conference of Bishops to form a taskforce to examine our current methods of formation, theological education, curriculum delivery requirements, and the candidacy process with respect to rostered leaders, and to provide recommendations for future processes that will better serve this Church. **CARRIED.**

CC-2022-39 That NCC approves the Guidelines for Discipline of a Congregation or Synodically Recognized Ministry. **CARRIED.**

(Appendix D: Guidelines for the Discipline of a Congregation or Synodically Recognized Ministry)

CC-2022-40 That NCC approves the Guidelines for the Discipline of Congregational Members. **CARRIED.**

(Appendix E: Guidelines for the Discipline of Congregational Members)

CC-2022-41 That NCC approves the Model Policy for the Appeal of Congregational Discipline. **CARRIED.**

(Appendix F: Model Policy for the Appeal of Congregational Discipline)

CC-2022-42 That NCC approves the Guidelines for a Special Committee Appointed when a Congregation Member is Appealing to Synod Council Regarding Discipline. **CARRIED.**

(Appendix G: Guidelines for a Special Committee for Appeal of Discipline of a Congregational Member)

These documents will be sent out to synods for their action.

Report of the Council of General Synod

Rev. Canon Dr. Murray Still provided an oral report to NCC.

(Appendix H: Report of the Council of General Synod)

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) – Bishop Leila Ortiz

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) guest Bishop Leila M. Ortiz from the Metro DC Synod shared her gratitude to everyone on NCC for the warm welcome. With the past and ongoing issues of civil unrest and racism in the US, all these serve as a cause for reflection to everyone. Bishop Ortiz admitted that it's a challenge to live prophetically and as a church, denominationally; nationally; and locally. As someone who comes from a Pentecostal background, she provides a fresh lens in the Lutheran church. Bishop Ortiz shared that they are now asked to revisit their documents to check if it's in keeping with the gospel.

ELCA is having more interfaith conversation that will strengthen relationships. The church is doing their best to live as best as they could and respond to the gospel. It's about calling people in, instead of calling people out. Using the biblical passage on the *Walk to Emmaus*, Bishop Ortiz shared the hope that everyone will see—and experience the awakening of Christ, offering himself and inviting us to tell the story that he is still present.

(Break)

(Proceed to Sandman Hotel for GSI Presentation)

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2022, 9:00 A.M. – 12:00 P.M.

Business Session Four:

Bishop Susan called the meeting to order.

Opening Prayer

Led by the meeting chaplain.

Dates for the Assembly with the Anglicans / Special Convention

The Assembly is scheduled on June 28-July 2 in 2023.

Discussion—

What is before us in the next three years with a focus on the special convention in 2023

NCC discussed that they will need to re-examine the work of the last NCC to bring it to the special convention including Full Communion with the Moravians and the reports from the four task forces.

Bishop Susan shared about the quarterly reports to NCC and encouraged everyone to read those documents. If anyone has any questions, please send her an email.

Unfinished Business

Remembering Today for the Church of Tomorrow

A letter from the project coordinators of *Remembering Today for the Church of Tomorrow* comprised of Don Sjoberg, Karen Kuhnert, Gordon Jensen, Stephen Larson and Rebecca Larson was received by NCC. The group wanted to provide updates on their ongoing and finished projects, and upcoming events. NCC received their request and as a course of action, information on their events or initiatives will be shared in the various communications channels of the ELCIC.

(Appendix A: Remembering Today for the Church of Tomorrow letter on project updates; letter on “For the Sake of the Gospel” webinar event and copy of draft poster for the webinar event)

(Break)

NCC Committee Appointments

NCC-2022-43 That NCC approves the appointments to the following NCC committees —

Governance – Bruce Cook, Bill Gastmeier, Rev. Dr. Murray Still and Heidi Van Schaik

Constitution – Linda Grainger, Sarah Harrington, Kathleen Jensen, Rev. Dr. Marc Jerry and Rev. Dr. Kimber McNabb

Finance – Gene Blishen, Rev. Chris Bishopp, Rev. Kevin Powell and Rev. Katrina Vigen

Audit – Stephen Holmes, Mark Kneale (non-NCC and CA) and John Nilson

Council of General Synod (CoGS) – Rev. Chris Bishopp

Faith, Order, and Doctrine (FOD) – Rev. Dr. Kimber McNabb

CARRIED.

(Break)

Meeting Highlights

Successful hybrid meeting

SOGIE Training

Strategic Plan

Convention dates

New Ordination Rite

Extending the work of the task forces to the next March meeting and then to convention

Welcoming Moravian Church into the communion

Welcoming Carmen Ramirez into our midst

ELCA Guest

Orientation
Information with GSI

(Appendix I: September 2022 NCC Meeting Highlights)

Meeting Evaluation

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

Closing Worship

Next Meetings:

Next Meetings:

2023

March 3–5 (Friday-Sunday)

Chaplains – Rev. Dr. Murray Still and Kathleen Jensen

Bible Study –

September 7–9 (Thursday-Saturday)

2024

March 1-3 (Friday-Sunday)

September 5-7 (Thursday-Saturday)

Meeting Adjourned.



Remembering Today for the Church of Tomorrow

Dear Bishop Johnson,
September 12, 2022

Blessings to you Bishop Susan! We are writing in advance of National Church Council. We wanted to provide you, the staff, National Church Council, and the Conference of Bishops an update on our project's progress as we have some completed work and some upcoming events to share.

We have a number of videos ready to launch on our website: www.canadianlutheranhistory.ca. Those who gather for National Church Council might wish to view the diaconal ministry videos at their leisure:

Anne Keffer - A Diversity of Ministries

Anne Keffer, Michelle Collins, Scott Knarr, Sherry Coman - Diaconal Ministry

These two videos have been quietly released along with a dedicated webpage for Diaconal Ministry on our website: <https://canadianlutheranhistory.ca/diaconate>. Videos on Jim Chell, Paul Bosch and John Vedell may be released by the end of this week.

We have soft-launched our website. Take a look! Suggestions are welcome. We look forward to formally launching our website in the near future. The website is a "living archive" that will continue to improve, change and grow over time.

The promos for all our videos in progress can be seen at our YouTube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC3cdlNoCcoSBdVOCXWT7Ruw>. At 100 subscribers the channel will get a proper name so please encourage people to subscribe!

Considerable progress has also been made on locating missionaries of the ELCIC and predecessors. We look forward to a publication in this regard before Christmas.

Karen Kuhnert has recently been to the Archives in Waterloo which continues in limited in-person hours for staff and researchers. Laurier Archives is helping to move our website forward. This includes letting the wider church know what progress has been made on cataloguing our important historical resources. Regarding the ELCIC truck-load of archival material, Laurier Archives has been working chronologically beginning with the ELCIC predecessor body collections first. In addition, significant work has been happening in archiving national Lutheran Student Movement content in Waterloo, and campus ministry records in Alberta. As well, Laurier Archives has recently tweeted a photo of the progress on the Canadian Lutheran World Relief content (180 boxes). All of these efforts will be promoted in our upcoming webinars.

As you are aware from a companion letter, before and after Reformation Day (October 25 and November 15) we intend to host two webinars that are now in the later stages of planning. We are excited to be introducing Amanda Oliver, Laurier's Head of Archives and Special Collections to the wider church community on October 25 during the first of our upcoming webinars.

We would appreciate a push for these webinars by the larger church community and staff if possible. Perhaps with the two webinars, the videos and the launch of the website there is sufficient content for a *Canada Lutheran* article and some space in each of the independent synodical publications.

As always, please let us know if there is any way we can be of service,

Project Coordinators

Donald Sjoberg, ELCIC National Bishop, retired

Karen Kuhnert, Archivist, Eastern Synod, ELCIC

Gordon Jensen, LTS Saskatoon

Stephen Larson, ELCIC retired

Rebecca Larson, ELCIC retired



Remembering Today for the Church of Tomorrow

Dear Bishop Johnson,
September 12, 2022

Blessings of the autumn to you and congratulations on your election to the WCC Central Committee! Today we are sending you two letters. This letter is in regard to two online webinars that deal with Inter-Lutheran Confessional Lutheranism that we imagine for this autumn of 2022. The second letter provides an update on our project with an aim to have something for you to share with the National Church Council in September. We have several videos completed and they are about to be launched on our website.

Enclosed you will find a draft poster for a two-part online event called “For the Sake of the Gospel”. As the poster indicates we would like the two events to feature Gordon Jensen teaching on the importance of our calling as a church to proclaim the Gospel, and the tradition of Lutheran “Free Conferences” that have been very helpful in Canada, and which often laid the groundwork for what we would now call inter-Lutheran initiatives. The webinars would be recorded for future use. The events are open invitations. These webinars are intended to be hosted by our project but co-sponsored by the schools in Waterloo and Saskatoon. The aim is that the follow-up third event would be in-person and online and be more fully “Inter-Lutheran” as were the old Lutheran Life Lectures or Lutheran Council in Canada events.

The first online event would explain what “free conferences” are in our tradition and ideally would include a presentation by Norman Threinen, the former executive director of the Lutheran Council in Canada and a respected colleague of Don Sjoberg in the Joint Commission on Inter-Lutheran Relationships. Our hope is that you, and a suitable guest from the LC-C in the Lutheran Council in Canada would attend the online event and be introduced with a few words from each of you. The second event would include campus ministry and CLWR videos, with Karin Achtelstetter also being invited to attend, to be introduced along with you and the LC-C representative.

Do you think that this plan is suitable? Helpful? Beneficial? Do you have alternate suggestions? If so, we would be delighted to hear your thoughts. We would like the advertising to be distributed by September 20 and this aim provides time for changes from you and/or Church Council.

With every thanks,

Project Coordinators

Donald Sjoberg, ELCIC National Bishop, retired

Karen Kuhnert, Archivist, Eastern Synod, ELCIC

Gordon Jensen, LTS Saskatoon

Stephen Larson, ELCIC retired

Rebecca Larson, ELCIC retired

OCTOBER 25, 2022

7:30-9:30 PM (WATERLOO) & 5:30-7:30 PM (SASKATOON)

FOR THE SAKE OF THE GOSPEL

PART I:

CONFESSIONAL LUTHERAN IDENTITIES IN
CANADIAN CONTEXTS
AN OVERVIEW OF "FREE CONFERENCES"

WELCOME AND GREETINGS BY DON SJOBERG
OVERVIEW OF CONFESSIONAL LUTHERANISM
BY GORDON JENSEN
WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?
WHAT IS A "FREE CONFERENCE"
WHAT HAS BEEN THEIR PURPOSE
WHAT BENEFIT MIGHT THEY HAVE FOR THE FUTURE

BREAK AND QUESTIONS

RECOGNITION OF COLLEGIAL GUESTS BY DON SJOBERG

THE "AFFIRMATION AND APPEAL" OF 1970 BY NORMAN
THREINEN

NOVEMBER 15, 2022

5:30 PM IN (HALIFAX) - 1:30 PM IN (VANCOUVER)

FOR THE SAKE OF THE GOSPEL

PART II:

INTER-LUTHERAN ENCOUNTERS IN CANADA
(CAMPUS MINISTRY AND CLWR)

REMEMBERING CAMPUS MINISTRY - VIDEO
WELCOME AND GREETINGS BY DON SJOBERG
LIVING OUT CONFESSIONAL LUTHERANISM
BY GORDON JENSEN
IN 1954 WE THOUGHT...
IN 1970 WE THOUGHT...
WHAT ARE WE THINKING NOW?

WHAT ARE OUR CURRENT QUESTIONS FOR THE SAKE OF THE
GOSPEL?

BREAK AND QUESTIONS

RECOGNITION OF COLLEGIAL GUESTS BY DON SJOBERG

REMEMBERING CLWR - VIDEO
CANADIAN LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF

CALL FOR PAPERS

"WHERE DO WE SEE
GRACE AND GOSPEL
IN CANADIAN LUTHERAN
CONTEXTS TODAY?"

&

HOW DO WE PROCLAIM IT?

ANTICIPATING A FOLLOW-UP
ONLINE & IN-PERSON CONFERENCE,
WE ARE CALLING FOR PAPERS BY
STUDENTS, FACULTY, LAITY AND
ROSTERED LEADERS (CLERGY &
DIACONAL LEADERS) FOR
SUBMISSIONS ON THIS TOPIC.

DIRECTIONS FOR SUBMISSIONS WILL
BE PROVIDED
OCTOBER 25 AND NOVEMBER 15.



REMEMBERING TODAY FOR
THE CHURCH OF TOMORROW
Canada@clwa.ca



The Ordination of a Pastor, Deacon or Bishop

The Ordination of a Pastor, Deacon or Bishop

Prepared by a working group of the Program Committee for Worship Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada

PB - Presiding Bishop

PO - Presenter(s) of Ordinand(s)

PG - Presenter(s) of Gift(s)

O - Ordinand(s)

A - Assisting Minister

Bold print - Assembly

1. WELCOME AND LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT/ WELCOME TO THE LAND

2. THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

Children in the assembly may be invited to gather around the font and lift the water with the presider.

PB - Holy God, holy and merciful, holy and mighty, you are the river of life, you are the everlasting wellspring, you are the fire of rebirth.

Your steadfast love fills the earth.

Your steadfast love fills the earth.

Glory to you for oceans and lakes, for rivers and streams. Honour to you for cloud and rain, for dew and snow. Your waters are below us, around us, above us: our life is born in you. You are the fountain of resurrection. We bless you for these gifts of water: *(Local waters may be named.)*

Your steadfast love fills the earth.

Your steadfast love fills the earth.

Your love flows through water, a sign of your saving power:

Noah's family, and the animals survive the flood, Hagar discovers your well.

The Israelites escape through the sea, and they drink from your gushing rock.

The Ethiopian eunuch is washed in the waters of baptism,

and the Samaritan woman will never be thirsty again.

Your steadfast love fills the earth.

Your steadfast love fills the earth.

Your love flows through water, calling all the baptized to live out their unique vocation in daily life, in the church and in the world. Shower us with your Holy Spirit. Fill us with your love. Clothe us and all people with your grace.

Pour out your Spirit upon the church that it may be:
faithful in service, prophetic in witness, and missional in loving response to your world. Your steadfast love fills the earth.

Your steadfast love fills the earth.

Satisfy the thirst of all with your living water, Jesus Christ, our Saviour, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

3. *The assembly stands for the Entrance Song and remains standing through the Prayer of the Day.*

4. ENTRANCE SONG

5. GREETING

6. KYRIE and/or CANTICLE OF PRAISE

7. ANNOUNCEMENT OF ELECTION/CALL AND PRESENTATION OF THE ORDINAND

The presiding bishop (PB) meet the Ordinand(s) (O) and Presenter(s) of the Ordinand(s) (PO) in front of the Communion table. The presentation takes place separately for each ordinand.

PO: I present (*name*) who has been called to serve as a (*pastor/deacon/bishop*).

PB: Our church rejoices that (*congregation/synod/the church in convention*) has chosen (*name*) as (*pastor/deacon/bishop*). Let (*their*) call be certified.

PO: I certify the call of (*name*) as (*pastor/deacon/bishop*).

PB: Dear servants of God, witnessing on behalf of the whole church, is it your will to ordain (*name*) to serve as a (*pastor/deacon/bishop*) with prayer and laying on of hands?

Yes, by the grace of God.

The Ordination of a Pastor, Deacon or Bishop

PB: (Name[s]) before your ordination(s), join now with the whole assembly in attending to the word of God.

We pray together:

The assembly joins in silence for prayer.

8. PRAYER OF THE DAY

9. FIRST READING

10. PSALM

11. SECOND READING

The assembly stands for the Gospel Acclamation and for the reading of the Gospel.

12. GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

13. GOSPEL

The assembly is seated.

14. SERMON

Following the sermon, the assembly joins in silence for reflection.

The assembly stands for the Hymn of the Day.

15. HYMN OF THE DAY

16. The presiding bishop joins the ordinand(s) at the font at the conclusion of the Hymn of the Day.

The assembly is seated.

17. THE PROMISES

PB: Gathering people through water and the word, God builds the church of living stones in which Christ is the cornerstone. Through baptism, all of God's people are called to use their gifts to bear the good news into the whole world.

As the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada—a missional, prophetic, and diaconal church, we are called by Christ to serve people, communities, and creation in the mission of God. The Spirit calls us to uphold the unique baptismal vocation of every person in service of God’s mission, nurturing the understanding and practice of Christian faith in action. The Spirit calls us to risk-taking and new ideas, paying particular attention to those in minorities, their voices and representation. The Spirit calls us into partnerships with others in compassion for God’s world and awareness of community needs. The Spirit calls us to invite into the Christian journey those who are seeking good news and liberation in the gracious promise of God in the risen Christ.

The word(s) appropriate to the ordination(s) are spoken:

Pastor

Pastors have a particular calling to inspire the whole church for mission through word and sacrament, to provide leadership in the church’s mission, to work collegially with all public ministers, communicating God’s care for all people and all creation.

Pastors are equipped to teach the people they serve to reflect theologically about their vocations in relationship to God’s mission and encouraging them to serve the common good.

Pastors are empowered to serve people with the Gospel in words of scripture, the water of life, and the meal of grace, to share the traditions of the church and bring fresh ideas to their communities, and to continue in their own learning, formation, and growth.

Deacon

Deacons have a particular calling to inspire the whole church for mission through word and service, to provide leadership in the church’s mission, to work collegially with all public ministers, communicating God’s care for all people and all creation.

Deacons are equipped to create pathways for all people to participate in God’s mission, through faithful reflection of the Gospel and encouraging them to serve the common good.

Deacons are empowered to serve people with the Gospel in places where church and society intersect, especially on the margins, to engage in partnerships in service of neighbour and stranger, to bring fresh ideas to the diverse communities they serve, and to continue in their own learning, formation, and growth.

Bishop

Bishops have a particular calling to inspire the whole church for mission under the authority and as representative of the synod/national church, working with all expressions of the church to encourage partnership and collaboration for mission, communicating God's care for all people and all creation.

Bishops are empowered to encourage the church to take risks, to be nimble, to be realistic in assessing the future, always pointing to the Gospel as touchstone. Bishops see opportunities for learning in successes and failures, encouraging lay leadership and accompanying deacons and pastors, congregations, and specialized ministries, in their work together to serve the common good.

Bishops represent the church in ecumenical, multi-faith and international relationships, both to offer and to learn, on behalf of and in partnership with the church, and to continue in their own learning, formation, and growth.

The first statement is spoken for each ordinand. The promises are spoken together if there are multiple ordinands.

18. PB: By acclamation of God's people, *(name)*, you are chosen to serve as *(pastor/deacon/bishop)*.

Believing that you are called by God to take up the work of a *(pastor/deacon/bishop)*, will you exercise this call to ordained ministry honouring God, equipping God's people, serving God's world through living and speaking the Gospel promise?

O: *May God give me a spirit of thanksgiving. I will, by the grace of God.*

PB: Will you be faithful in prayer and worship, immersed in the Holy Scriptures and sustained by the means of grace? Will you pray for God's people, giving and receiving consolation from them?

O: *May God give me an understanding of the heart and mind of Jesus Christ. I will, by the grace of God.*

PB: The church in which you are ordained confesses that the Holy Scriptures are the word of God and are the foundation of its faith and life. Will you carry out this ministry in accordance with the Holy Scriptures, the ecumenical Creeds, and the Confessions of the Lutheran church?

O: *May God lead me in joyful witness to Christ crucified and risen. I will, by the grace of God.*

The Ordination of a Pastor, Deacon or Bishop

PB: Will you work to build up the whole Body of Christ, together with pastors, deacons, bishops, and all people of the church, in our missional, diaconal, and prophetic call?

O: *May God equip me to promote wholeness in the church and in creation. I will, by the grace of God.*

PB: Will you faithfully offer hospitality in Christ, welcoming the stranger, practicing inclusion, working towards equity, and striving for justice and peace in God's world?

O: *May God give me ears to hear, eyes to see and hands to embrace the stranger, the outcast and the broken-hearted. I will, by the grace of God.*

PB: Will you live in the promise of the resurrection, caring for creation as an active witness to the mystery of God's love that is making all things new?

O: *May God anoint me in gladness with all the earth as I pray and serve. I will, by the grace of God.*

19. *The presiding bishop addresses the assembly.*

PB: Will you, the gathered people of God and speaking for the whole church, receive *(name[s])*, as pastor/deacon/bishop? Will you support *(their)* ministry among you, partner with *(them)* in serving our neighbours and our communities, learn together, pray together, share the meal together, and work to unify the church in God's call to love and reconcile the world?

We will, by the grace of God.

20. *The presiding bishop makes the sign of the cross on the ordinand(s)' forehead(s) in remembrance of their baptism and sealing in the Holy Spirit.*

PB: Almighty God, who has given you the will to do these things, graciously give you the strength and compassion to perform them.

Amen.

21. CONFESSION OF FAITH

A: We confess the faith of the church, the faith in which all our vocations are given expression...
I believe...

While confessing the Apostles' Creed, the presiding bishop and ordinand(s) are given basins of water and green boughs to sprinkle the confessing assembly in remembrance of baptism.

When the Creed is concluded the presiding bishop addresses the assembly.

PB: You are baptized servants of God.

We are anointed; yes! — ministers of Christ!

22. *The ordinand(s) kneel, if able.*

23. PRAYERS OF ORDINATION WITH LAYING ON OF HANDS

PB: Through baptism, all of God's people are called to use their gifts to bear the good news into the whole world. By God's commission and according to apostolic usage, we set apart (name[s]) as (pastor[s]/deacon[s]/bishop.) We pray together.

Silent prayer is offered.

24. *The Ordination Hymn is sung*

25. *At the conclusion of the Ordination Hymn, those laying on hands arrange themselves around the ordinand(s). The presiding bishop prays, hands upraised in thanksgiving:*

PB: Blessed are you, Holy and Ever-living God, you call forth light and hope and a world to come, shining throughout the ages with boundless love for all creation, creating a people to love and serve you.

Blessed are you, Only-Begotten One,
you save and shepherd us, laying down your life for ours.
You passed through the great depth of the cross
to lead us beside still waters of saving health.
You are risen, renewing your people with gifts for your ministry of peace
as you are making all things new.

Blessed are you, Purifying Advocate,
you gather into one your people to serve you throughout the world, to hallow your sacred
name and do your perfect will.
Renew your church that people may come to faith and creation may be restored.

The Ordination of a Pastor, Deacon or Bishop

In your mercy, anoint your servant(s) *(name[s])* ,
stirring up in *(her/him/them)* your power and gifts for ordained ministry.

26. *The presiding bishop lays both hands on the head of each ordinand. Others who are participating in the laying on of hands place or extend hands on/toward the ordinand.*

27. *Following a time of silent prayer, the presiding bishop continues, praying for each ordinand in turn.*

PB: Send your Holy Spirit upon *(name)* filling *(them)* with your grace, to make *(them)* a *(pastor/ deacon/bishop)* of your church, ordained to serve you.

O Blessed and Holy Trinity,
give to your servant, power in *(their)* proclamation of the word, perseverance in faithful service and wisdom in feeding your people. May *(their)* life so reflect your grace.

Strengthen her/his/their leadership to call your church to faith, unity and discipleship throughout all of creation. Form *(them)* to follow Christ in joyful service and courageous trust, through Jesus Christ, our Saviour.

Amen.

28. *The ordinand(s) stand and face the assembly. The following is said for each ordinand.*

PB: Receive *(name)* as a messenger of God, praying and serving together as witnesses to Christ.

We receive you as a messenger of Christ, serving together in God's everlasting household of peace. Thanks be to God.

29. SIGNS OF MINISTRY

The new deacon/pastor is presented with a stole.

PB: Receive this stole as a sign of your work, and live in obedience to Christ Jesus, serving all people and remembering Jesus' promise: "Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light." (Matthew 11:28-30)

O: Amen.

Pastor - Plate and cup

PB: Receive this plate and cup as a sign of your calling to the ministry of Word and Sacrament.

O: Amen.

Deacon - A basin and towel

PB: Receive this basin and towel as a sign of your calling to the ministry of Word and Service, a symbol that you are to serve as Christ served, humbling himself and taking the form of a servant.

O: Amen.

Bishop - A pectoral cross and staff

PB: Receive this cross and staff as a sign of your calling to the ministry of shepherding Christ's flock in faithfulness and unity.

O: Amen.

The new pastor(s)/deacon(s)/bishop are presented with a Bible.

PB: Receive the Holy Scriptures as a sign of your calling to ministry.

O: Amen.

30. ENCOURAGEMENT AND ACCLAMATION

Various voices are chosen to give encouragement, keeping in mind diverse representation and a mix of ordained and non-ordained. (Other appropriate additional scripture passages may be included.)

"Pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance, gentleness. Fight the good fight of the faith; take hold of the eternal life to which you were called." (1 Timothy 6:11-2)

"Take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you guardians, to feed the church of God that he obtained with the blood of his own Son." (Acts 20:28)

"Think of us in this way, as servants of Christ and stewards of God's mysteries. Moreover, it is required of stewards that they be found trustworthy." (1 Corinthians 4:1-2)

"God has told you, O mortal, what is good;
and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness,
and to walk humbly with your God?" (Micah 6:8)

The Ordination of a Pastor, Deacon or Bishop

Care for God's people, bear their burdens and do not betray their confidence.

Be faithful in life and in teaching that you uphold truth, giving no occasion for false security or illusory hope. Cross every barrier that stands between the church and its ministry in the world. Seek out those places where the gospel of Jesus Christ meets the world's need. Give and receive comfort as you serve those in need, care for the sick, comfort the distressed, and, through word and actions, witness faithfully to God's love for all people.

And be of good courage, for God has called you, and your labour in God is not in vain.

The following acclamation is said for each ordinand.

PB: Let it be acclaimed that (*name*) is called and ordained (*pastor/deacon/bishop*) in the Church of Christ. (*Name*) has Christ's authority to serve God's people as together we bear God's creative and redeeming love to all the world.

Amen. Thanks be to God.

The assembly offers acclamation with applause.

31. PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

The assembly may stand or sit for the prayers of intercession. The prayers are prepared locally for each occasion, using the following pattern or another appropriate form.

An assisting minister invites the assembly into prayer with these or similar words.

With the whole people of God in Christ Jesus,
let us pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation.

*Prayers reflect the wideness of God's mercy for the whole world—
for the church universal, its ministry, and the mission of the gospel;
for the well-being of creation;
for peace and justice in the world, the nations and those in authority, the community;
for the poor, oppressed, sick, bereaved, lonely;
for all who suffer in body, mind, or spirit;
for the congregation, and for special concerns.
Additional prayers may come from the assembly.*

Prayers of thanksgiving for the faithful departed may include those who recently have died and those commemorated on the church's calendar.

The Ordination of a Pastor, Deacon or Bishop

Each portion of the prayers ends with these or similar words:

OPTION A: God of mercy

God of mercy,
hear our prayer.

OPTION B: Hear us, O God

Hear us, O God.
Your mercy is great.

The presiding minister concludes the prayers with these or similar words.

Into your hands, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray,
trusting in your mercy; through Jesus Christ, our Savior.
Amen.

32. THE PEACE

PB: The peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.

After the people greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace, the Holy Communion continues with the liturgy of the Meal.

Notes on the Service: Ordination - Pastor, Deacon, Bishop

Because all of its baptized members share in Christ's ministry of love and service, the church equips and supports them for their ministries in the world. Within this context of ministry, the church calls some of its baptized members for specific ministries.

Within the people of God and for the sake of the gospel ministry entrusted to all believers, God has instituted the office of ministry and three orders within it - Word and Service, Word and Sacrament, Word and Oversight. In the service of Ordination, the church entrusts this office and orders to those who have accepted the church's call and sends them into this ministry.

Ordination is properly set within the service of Holy Communion, following the sermon and the hymn of the day. The Nicene Creed or the Apostles' Creed may precede the ordination rite.

Time of Gathering

It is the ancient custom of the church that the ordination take place on a Sunday, within a eucharistic celebration. However consideration should be given to the timing of the ordination, so as to involve colleagues, members from other congregations or ministries, and ecumenical partners. Therefore, a time other than Sunday morning might be the most appropriate time for an ordination.

If feasible a feast day may be chosen for the date of the ordination. The following days are especially appropriate: January 18 (The Confession of St. Peter), June 29 (St. Peter and St. Paul, Apostles), July 22 (St. Mary Magdalene), September 14 (Holy Cross Day), or any festival of an apostle or commemoration of a pastor, deacon, bishop or other messenger of Christ.

Ordinations do not occur during Holy Week because of the solemn character of that time.

The opportunity to provide a livestream of the service should be considered for wider church engagement. Local context and technological capabilities will dictate how best to proceed.

Liturgical Leadership and Participation

The bishop presiding for the liturgy is also the chief ordaining minister and is either the Bishop of the whole church or a Bishop of a Synod. In the case of the ordination of a Bishop, it is the convention that it requires three bishops laying on hands to ordain a bishop, and one bishop to ordain a pastor or deacon. Others may assist the ordination with the laying-on of hands, particularly at the invitation of the ordinand.

Those who present the ordinand are often chosen from among mentors in faith, or may be selected from official representatives or officers of the congregation, specialized ministry, synod or church body issuing the call.

The Ordination of a Pastor, Deacon or Bishop

Care should be given to invite full communion partners of the ELCIC. In the case of a bishop's ordination, local diocesan active and retired Anglican bishops. In the case of the ordination of pastors and deacons, local active and retired Anglican priests and deacons. Consideration should also be given to the invitation of other ecumenical partners and local interfaith communities.

Special consideration should be given to those fulfilling roles within the liturgy, with attention to including a diverse set of persons representing both lay and ordained, members of the ELCIC, ecumenical partners and other faith communities. Ordinarily, ordained pastors and bishops do not serve in the role of the assisting minister (though deacons do), while lectors and acolytes are usually lay persons. Ministers of communion are drawn from the whole people of God, whether ordained or lay.

Normally, the presiding bishop also presides at the meal, though it may be appropriate for the newly ordained bishop or pastor (such as if the installation rite is included) to preside during that portion of the liturgy according to local custom or circumstance.

In an announcement, bulletin notice, or the sermon, the assembly is made aware that those present speak on behalf of the whole church.

When crafting the rite for a particular ordination, it is appropriate to use and substitute the preferred and appropriate pronouns of those participating and being named in the liturgy.

The Shape of the Rite

The ordination rite is set within the liturgy for Holy Communion normally using settings found in ELCIC worship resources, though consideration for alternate liturgical settings may be appropriate. The presentation of the ordinand occurs immediately following the Cantic of Praise. The Promises and Prayers of Ordination occur immediately after the Hymn of the Day, following the Sermon.

Because it is a festival occasion, the preparatory rite of confession and absolution is not used.

The Rite in Detail

7. The ordination candidate is presented using their full name; thereafter only the first or customary name is used. The ordinand is presented vested in an alb. If the ordination candidate is already ordained to another order of ministry, the appropriate stole is also worn.

24. The ancient and traditional Ordination Hymn is a sung prayer. A contemporary composite translation is *Creator Spirit, Heavenly Dove* ELW 577. Other possible hymnic versions are ELW 395, ELW 578. An alternative might be *Veni Sancte Spiritus*, ELW 406, for which a Taizé leader's part is available, or another hymn invoking the Holy Spirit.

25. Laying on of hands — The chief ordaining minister gathers together with other bishops present and additional participants for the laying on of hands. Those participating should be chosen ahead and can include both clergy and lay.

26. The gathered assembly may also be invited to extend their hands.

29. Signs of ministry could include other gifts as appropriate. They may reflect local custom and/or ordinand's choice and could include signs of ministry such as: a deacon's medallion, a chasuble, a bishop's cope and/or ring.

Propers

Colour

The colour for the Day is red.

Prayer(s) of the Day

If the ordination occurs on a feast day, the prayer appropriate to the day may be used prior to the following. If there are multiple ordinands to multiple orders, the prayers appropriate to each order of ministry would be used in succession.

Deacon

O God, through the ages you have called from among your people those who will carry out the ministry of word and service in the church. Let your blessing rest now on all who answer that call. Grant that name/s, now to be ordained to this ministry, may carry out the ministry of word and service faithfully in the power of your Spirit. Give them understanding of the gospel, sincerity of purpose, diligence in ministry, and the beauty of life in Christ, that many people will be served and your name be glorified; through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

Pastor

Almighty and merciful God, you built your church on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, and you instituted the office of the ministry of word and sacrament so that the apostolic and prophetic work might continue throughout the ages. Grant that name/s, now to be ordained, may carry out this ministry faithfully in the power of your Spirit; through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

Bishop

Ever-creating Word, you call your church to apostolic faithfulness. Make us all rise up and follow quickly where you lead us. Use name/s in your office of bishop to strengthen your church in unity of true faith and to emblazon the world with your presence; through Jesus Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Scripture

The ELCIC has approved the usage of NRSV Bible Translation for Scripture

First Reading

Exodus 3:1-12	God calls Moses
Numbers 6:22-27	The Aaronic blessing
Numbers 11:16-17	God's spirit on seventy elders of Israel
Numbers 27:15-20, 22-23	Moses laid his hands on him and commissioned him
Ruth 1:1-19a	The Faithfulness of Ruth
Isaiah 12:2-6	God is my salvation; sing for joy.
Isaiah 40:3-11	God will feed the flock like a shepherd
Isaiah 42:5-9	I have called you; I have taken you by the hand
Isaiah 43:8-13	You are my witness, my servant whom I have chosen
Isaiah 52:7-10	The messenger who brings good news
Isaiah 61: 1-4 (5-8)	The spirit of the Lord God is upon me
Jeremiah 23:1-6	God will raise up faithful shepherds
Jeremiah 23:23-29	Speak God's word faithfully
Ezekiel 34:11-16	I will seek out my sheep
Amos 5:14-15, 24	Let justice roll down like waters
Micah 6:6-8	Do justice, love kindness, walk humbly with God

Psalm

Psalm 15	LORD, who may abide upon your holy hill? (Ps. 15:1)
Psalm 16	In your presence there is fullness of joy. (Ps. 16:11)
Psalm 20	Now I know that the Lord will help his anointed (Ps. 20:6)
Psalm 40:1-17	I love to do your will, O my God. (Ps. 40:8)
Psalm 67	Let all the peoples praise you, O God. (Ps. 67:3)
Psalm 84	My heart and my flesh rejoice in the living God. (Ps. 84:2)
Psalm 91	You are my refuge and my stronghold, my God in whom I put my trust. (Ps. 91:2)
Psalm 95	We are the people of God's pasture and the sheep of God's hand. (Ps. 95:7)
Psalm 96	Declare the glory of the LORD among the nations. (Ps. 96:3)
Psalm 99	Proclaim the greatness of the LORD our God. (Ps. 99:5)
Psalm 103	Bless the Lord, O my soul (Ps. 103:1)
Psalm 113	Let the name of the LORD be blessed from this time forth forevermore. (Ps. 113:2)
Psalm 121	My help comes from the LORD, the maker of heaven and earth. (Ps. 121:2)

The Ordination of a Pastor, Deacon or Bishop

Psalm 122 I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go to the house of the LORD." (Ps. 122:1)
Psalm 133 How good and pleasant it is to live together in unity. (Ps. 133:1)

Second Reading

Acts 6:2-7 Seven are chosen to serve
Acts 20:17-35 Keep watch over yourselves and over all the flock
Romans 10:13-17 Faith comes from what is heard
Romans 12:1-8 Gifts that differ according to the grace given to us
1 Corinthians 1:3-9 God will strengthen you; God is faithful
1 Corinthians 4:1-5 Servants of Christ and stewards of God's mysteries
1 Corinthians 11:17-26 Proclaim the Lord's death until he comes
1 Corinthians 12:4-13 Varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit
1 Corinthians 13:1-7 Nothing gained without love
1 Corinthians 15:1-11 For I handed on to you as of first importance what I in turn had received
2 Corinthians 4:1-6 By God's mercy we are engaged in ministry
2 Corinthians 5:14-20 The love of Christ urges us on
Ephesians 4:1-16 Each of us given grace according to the measure of Christ's gift
Philippians 2:5-13 God is at work in you
Colossians 3:12-17 Love binds everything together in perfect harmony
Hebrews 6:10-12 The full assurance of hope
1 Timothy 3:1-9 Now a bishop must be above reproach
1 Timothy 6:11-16 Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called
2 Timothy 1:6-14 The gift of God that is within you through the laying on of my hands
2 Timothy 4:1-5 Carry out your ministry fully
1 Peter 4: 8-11 Serve with the strength God supplies
1 Peter 5:1-4 Tend the flock of God that is in your charge

Gospel Acclamation & Proper Verse

The appointed Proper Verse for St. John, Apostle and Evangelist; The Conversion of St. Paul; St. Bartholomew, Apostle; Holy Cross Day; St. Matthew, Apostle and Evangelist, or Reformation Day may be used, or, instead, Alleluia.

Let your light shine before others, so that they may see | your good works and give glory to your Fa- | ther in heaven. Alleluia. (Matthew 5:16). Alleluia.

How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of the messenger who an- | nounces peace, *who brings good news, who announc- | es salvation. Alleluia. (Isa. 52:7)

The Ordination of a Pastor, Deacon or Bishop

During Lent, the Proper Verse may be Matthew 28: 19-20, Luke 4:18-19, Galatians 6:14 or Return to the Lord...

Gospel

Matthew 5:1-11	The Beatitudes
Matthew 9:1-8	God gives authority to forgive
Matthew 9:35-38	God sends out labourers into the harvest
Matthew 16:13-23 [24-28]	Proclaim the Messiah, the Son of the living God
Matthew 20:20-28	The Son of Man came not to be served but to serve
Matthew 25:31-40	As you did it to one of the least, you did it to me
Matthew 28:16-20	The great commission
Mark 1:14-20 J	esus calls the first disciples
Mark 4:1-9	Parable of the sower
Mark 6:30-44 J	esus teaches and feeds the people
Mark 9:33-41	Whoever wants to be first must be last
Mark 10:35-45	The Son of Man came not to be served but to serve
Luke 10:1-12, 16-20	Sending of the seventy
Luke 12:35-38	Blessed are those whom the master serves
Luke 22:24-30	I am among you are one who serves
Luke 24:44-50	Witnesses to the crucified and risen Christ
John 10:7-18	The good shepherd
John 13:[3-11]12-17,20	Wash one another's feet
John 15:1-8	I am the vine, you are the branches
John 17:1-9, 18-21	As you have sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world
John 20:19-23	Receive the Holy Spirit
John 21:15-19	Feed my sheep

Creed

The Apostles' and Nicene Creed are the traditional creeds of the church, however other confessions of faith could be considered.

Preface

The Preface for Apostles is used.

The Ordination of a Pastor, Deacon or Bishop

Prayer after Communion

A: Consecrate us with the Spirit of your love, O Blessed Trinity, and by this holy food teach us to adore one another and the world you so love; strong in faith, serving in mission, and united in peace through Jesus Christ our saving God.

Amen.

Suggested hymns from Evangelical Lutheran Worship

- 358 Great God, Your Love Has Called Us
- 400 God of Tempest, God of Whirlwind
- 401 Gracious Spirit, Heed Our Pleading
- 406 Veni Sancte Spiritus
- 407 O Living Breath of God Soplo de Dios viviente
- 551 The Spirit Sends Us Forth to Serve
- 576 We All Are One in Mission

Suggested hymns from All Creation Sings

- 978 God Welcomes All
- 980 Come, Holy Spirit, Descend
- 984 May the God of Hope Go with Us Dios de la esperanza
- 991 Go to the World
- 1042 May This Church Be like a Tree Que este iglesia sea un árbol
- 1047 What Is the World Like 1048 Founded on Faith
- 1086 O God, Who Gives Us Life



ELCIC Strategic Plan 2022 - 2025

September 2022 - NCC

MISSION STATEMENT:

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.

VISION STATEMENT:

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

Areas of Focus

As a National Church, we are called to focus on ...

- ...striving to be a Healthier Church
- ...seeking to cultivate Effective Partnerships
- ...encouraging Relational Leadership
- ...leading with Compassionate Justice

These four areas of focus are where the church and staff are asked to use the gifts they've been given to work toward the vision.

Healthier Church

As we strive to be a Healthier Church, we foster collaboration across all expressions of the church to maximize resources and to minimize duplication; and to develop a sense of connection by developing and promoting trust, good communication, creativity and Collaboration.

Hebrews 10: 24- 25

"and let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds, not neglecting to meet together, but encouraging one another and all the more as you see the Day approaching."

Action Plan:

- Work to make the church a safer place by reviewing the protection policy, sexual misconduct policy, manual on discipline.
- Develop and implement a 2022–25 Communications Plan to align with new 2022–25 Strategic Plan, including developing a plan in partnership with synods, and implementing ELCIC's new logo, tagline and vision statement.
- Continue working with synods on resource generation strategy, relaunch the ELCIC Praise Appeal, grow giving for the appeal.
- Plan the next iteration of "living our faith" / spiritual renewal after the completion of the current initiative and make it operational.

Effective Partnerships

As we seek to cultivate Effective Partnerships, we maximize participation and resources through effective accompaniment and engagement with partners.

1 Corinthians 3:19

"For we are God's servants, working together; you are God's field, God's building."

Action Plan:

- Work with ecumenical partners to nurture ecumenical Christian communities and witness in Canada.
- Intentional review of all ecumenical and interfaith partnerships for alignment with the vision, strategic plan, and capacity of our whole church with report back to NCC.
- Promote and incorporate full communion with Anglicans and Moravians working to understand how it impacts existing bilateral programming.

Relational Leadership ¹

As we work to cultivate Relational Leadership, we seek to deepen diversity and equity, and encourage inclusive communities.

Ephesians 4:12

"to equip the saints for the work of ministry for building up the body of Christ."

Action Plan:

- Create a plan to address the current and future leadership needs of the church.
- Create Diversity, Equity, Inclusion plan for the whole church, including review of nomination and appointment policies, continuing education for NCC and NO staff and national committees, and help synods recreate these measures at a synodical level.
- Live into the vision of "Reimagining our Church", including equipping the laity for discipleship.
- Share how deacons can help us in our understanding of what it means to be a diaconal and prophetic church.

Compassionate Justice

As we lead with Compassionate Justice, we engage in rooted reflection and action as Lutherans on issues that matter.

Isaiah 1: 17

"learn to do good, seek justice, rescue the oppressed, defend the orphan, plead for the widow."

Action Plan:

- Work towards decolonizing the church and addressing discrimination and privilege
- Redouble our efforts to address the climate crisis
- Engage with synods and faith communities to address issues of compassionate justice through learning, discernment, accompaniment, and action.
- Work with partners to advocate for justice, healing, and reconciliation in particular as Indigenous and non-Indigenous People together
- Review and revise the policy on how the ELCIC addresses social issues, using *Reimagining Our Church* as a lens for insights.

In living out the call to unconditional love, we ask God to help and guide us to creatively carry out the mission and vision of the ELCIC.

¹ Relational Leadership: a relational process of people together attempting to accomplish change or make a difference to benefit the common good.

This philosophy values being ethical and inclusive.

It acknowledges the diverse talents of group members and trusts the process to bring good thinking to the socially responsible changes group members agree they want to work toward.

Relationships are the key to leadership effectiveness.

Relational leadership involves a focus on five primary components:

- Ethics: Upholds values and standards of morality
- Purpose: Having a common set of values and vision to move an initiative forward
- Empowerment: Sharing power with others to embrace what they have to offer
- Inclusivity: Welcoming and open to diverse points of view and diverse identities
- Process-Orientation: The focus is on the group and how the group works together

Komives, S.R., Lucas, N., & McMahon, T.R. (1998) *Exploring leadership: For college students who want to make a difference*. San Francisco: Jossey-Bass Publishers.



**Guidelines for Discipline
of a Congregation or
Synodically Recognized Ministry**

Guidelines for Discipline of a Congregation or Synodically Recognized Ministry

The process for discipline of a congregation or synodically recognized ministry are laid out in the constitutions and bylaws of the synod and this church:

Synod Constitution – Membership (Article V Section 2 in Eastern; Article V Section 3 in MNO, SK; Article V Section 4 in ABT; Significant differences in BC – see below)

This synod may revoke its recognition of any congregation or synodically recognized ministry in the manner described in the bylaws of this church.

ELCIC Constitution Article VI Congregations

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.

ELCIC Administrative Bylaws Part II Congregations

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.

Guidelines for Discipline of a Congregation or Synodically Authorized Ministry

ELCIC Administrative Bylaws Part III Synodically Recognized Ministries

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.

BC Bylaws – Membership (Section 5)

A congregation and its baptized members may be suspended or excluded from this Church and this Synod by action of this Synod if the congregation persists in any of the following offences:

- a) turning aside from the faith confessed by this Church and this Synod as set forth in Article 2 (Confession of Faith) of the Constitution of this Church;
- b) refusing or neglecting to exercise proper discipline over its members;
- c) willfully violating or disregarding the constitution and bylaws or official actions of this Church and this Synod

The Bishop of this 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 ministers and laity 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 and this Synod.

Disciplinary action of the Synod Council may be appealed to the Court of Appeal of this Church within thirty days of receiving notification of the action of the Synod Council. The decision of the Court of Adjudication is final.

1. If, after the synod bishop has admonished the congregation in writing, the congregation persists in its actions, the synod council shall appoint a representative committee of lay and rostered persons to investigate the matter. No person shall be appointed from the congregation or synodically recognized ministry in question, nor anyone who has a close relationship with a member of the same, nor any member of the synod council.
2. The committee shall appoint a chairperson and a secretary.
3. The committee shall receive copies of all correspondence and any notes taken of phone calls or online meetings from the bishop and the congregational council.
4. The committee shall interview, at separate times, the synod bishop and the congregational council. The committee may call additional witnesses as it deems necessary. Witnesses may bring a person with them for support, but such persons shall not have voice in the hearing. Witnesses shall only be present during the time of their testimony.
5. Once the committee has completed all interviews it shall meet in camera to deliberate. The committee shall create a written report to the synod council outlining the process they followed and concluding with their recommendation.
6. Once it has made its determination, the committee shall make a complete file of all documentation to be stored securely in the synod office.
7. The synod council may ask to meet with the committee or with the committee chair to ask questions that arise from the report.
8. The synod council shall meet in camera to deliberate.
9. The decision of the synod council shall be shared in writing with the congregation or synodically authorized ministry. This written communication should include information about the possibility of an appeal to the Court of Appeal.



Guidelines for the Discipline of Congregational Members

Guidelines for the Discipline of Congregational Members

The Model Constitution for Congregations outlines a process for reconciliation and discipline of a member:

ELCIC Model Constitution and Bylaws for Congregations

Bylaws Part II

Reconciliation and Discipline of a Member

Section 1. In situations when a member:

- a. causes strife or division within the congregation;
- b. advocates doctrines which are contrary to the Holy Scriptures and the Confessions of the Church; or
- c. has engaged in conduct that is unbecoming a member of the body of Christ;
the goal of the congregation shall be reconciliation using restorative practices and/or mediation in accordance with Matthew 18: 15-18.

Section 2. When, in the opinion of the Congregational Council, reconciliation cannot be achieved, the Congregational Council shall administer discipline. A person who is requested to appear before a properly called meeting of the Congregational Council shall be advised in writing no less than ten (10) days prior to the hearing. The written notice shall include the time and place of the hearing and shall specify the exact reason for the hearing. If a person fails to appear at the time and place without valid excuse, the Congregational Council, with a quorum present, may proceed with the hearing and may reach its conclusion in the member's absence. Should the Congregational Council by a two-thirds (2/3) vote support disciplinary action, the Congregational Council shall impose one of the following:

- a. censure before the Congregational Council or the congregation,
- b. suspension from membership until evidence is given of sufficient repentance and amendment,
- c. exclusion from membership and participation in the life of the congregation.

In the event of the imposition of (b) or (c) above, the action of the Congregational Council shall be in writing.

Section 3. There shall be a right of appeal to the congregation according to a policy approved by the Congregational Council and shall include consultation with the bishop of the synod.

Section 4. Right of further appeal from a decision of the congregation shall be as provided in the constitution and bylaws of the synod.

In the instance of alleged criminal behaviour, the matter must be reported to police and the bishop shall be consulted. The legal process should be completed before a congregational process begins.

The following process should be considered if a hearing is convened by the Congregational Council. Should the member in question be a member of the Congregational Council, their membership in the Congregational Council shall be suspended pending completion of the disciplinary process. In addition, should the member in question be the chairperson of the Congregational Council, the vice-chairperson or other member of the council shall be designated to convene the hearing.

1. The member appearing before the Congregational Council shall be entitled to bring one person for personal support. This person shall not have voice in the meeting.
2. The member is entitled to bring legal counsel if they wish, at their own expense. The Congregational Council is also entitled to bring legal counsel, at the expense of the congregation.
3. Both the member and the Congregational Council are entitled to call witnesses. Witnesses shall only be present for the duration of their testimony. Council should be sensitive to the needs of the witnesses and may allow testimony from a distance. Both the member and the Congregational Council are entitled, in turn, to question the witnesses. Witnesses are entitled to bring a support person with them. Such a person is not entitled to voice in the meeting.
4. The member shall also be subject to questions by the Congregational Council.
5. Once all witnesses have testified, the member shall be excused, and the council shall deliberate in camera.
6. Once a decision has been reached, the member shall be brought back into the meeting to hear the determination. A formal letter shall subsequently be sent to the member that outlines the determination and the possibility of appeal to the congregation as per Section 3 above.



Model Policy for the Appeal of Congregational Discipline

Model Policy for the Appeal of Congregational Discipline

Effective Date: _____

Approved by: _____ Congregational Council (motion number) date

Review Date: _____

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Model Constitution and Bylaws for Congregations, Part II:

Section 2: *When, in the opinion of the Congregational Council, reconciliation cannot be achieved, the Congregational Council shall administer discipline. A person who is requested to appear before a properly called meeting of the Congregational Council shall be advised in writing no less than ten (10) days prior to the hearing. The written notice shall include the time and place of the hearing and shall specify the exact reason for the hearing. If a person fails to appear at the time and place without valid excuse, the Congregational Council, with a quorum present, may proceed with the hearing and may reach its conclusion in the member's absence. Should the Congregational Council by a two-thirds (2/3) vote support disciplinary action, the Congregational Council shall impose one of the following:*

- a. censure before the Congregational Council or the congregation,*
- b. suspension from membership until evidence is given of sufficient repentance and amendment,*
- c. exclusion from membership and participation in the life of the congregation.*

In the event of the imposition of (b) or (c) above, the action of the Congregational Council shall be in writing.

Section 3. *There shall be a right of appeal to the congregation according to a policy approved by the Congregational Council and shall include consultation with the bishop of the synod.*

Section 4. *Right of further appeal from a decision of the congregation shall be as provided in the constitution and bylaws of the synod.*

The process of discipline is meant to correct and restore members to our community and the baptismal covenant they have made with God. This policy provides a process for a member who has been disciplined by the congregational council and wishes to make a first appeal to the congregation, according to *ELCIC Model Constitution and Bylaws for Congregations (Part II Section 3)*

1. A lay member of this congregation who wishes to appeal discipline imposed by their congregational council shall appeal in writing to the chairperson within thirty (30) days after the member has been notified of the disciplinary action. When the appellant is the chairperson, the appeal shall be sent to the vice-chairperson.
2. The chairperson, or vice-chairperson when the appellant is the chairperson, shall contact the bishop of the synod for consultation. Copies of the original action and written decision of the congregational council shall be forwarded to the bishop of the synod along with pertinent background information.
3. The chairperson shall call a special congregational meeting as provided for in the congregational bylaws, and shall call the meeting within sixty (60) days of the written request for appeal.
4. The appeal process shall be:
 - a. The special meeting will begin with reading the initial complaint, the determination of the congregational council, and the disciplinary action imposed by the congregational council;
 - b. The member appearing before the congregation shall be entitled to bring one person for personal support. This person shall not have voice in the meeting.
 - c. The member is entitled to bring legal counsel if they wish, at their own expense. The Congregational Council is also entitled to bring legal counsel, at the expense of the congregation.
 - d. The appellant and/or congregational council may call witnesses only with respect to whether or not due process was followed by the congregational council or to introduce new evidence which was not available previously. Witnesses are not required to be sequestered. Both the appellant and the Congregational Council are entitled, in turn, to question the witnesses. Witnesses are entitled to bring a support person with them. Such a person is not entitled to voice in the meeting.
 - e. The appellant shall also be subject to questions by the Congregational Council.
 - f. Once all witnesses have testified, the congregation shall vote by secret ballot on a motion to uphold the congregational council decision. A simple majority is needed.
5. Following the meeting, a formal letter shall be sent to the member that outlines the determination of the appeal and the possibility of further appeal to the synod as per the bylaws of the synod.



**Guidelines for a Special Committee
appointed when a congregation member
is appealing to Synod Council
regarding discipline**

Guidelines for a Special Committee appointed when a congregation member is appealing to Synod Council regarding discipline

In circumstances where a member of a congregation has been disciplined by a congregational council, and after an appeal to a congregational meeting where an appeal has failed, the member has the right to appeal to the Synod Council as per the following:

Synod Constitution - Congregations (Article VI Section 10 in Eastern, MNO, SK; Article VI Section 9 in ABT; not present in BC)

A lay member of any congregation who is under discipline by his/her congregation may appeal to this synod in the manner described in the bylaws of this synod.

Synod Bylaws – Congregations (Part II, Section 1.d in Eastern, MNO, Part II Section 1.c in SK, ABT; Bylaw 4, Section 9 in BC)

A lay member of a congregation who wishes to appeal discipline imposed by his/her congregation on that member shall appeal in writing to the bishop within thirty (30) days after the disciplinary action has been taken. The appellant shall send copies of the appeal to the pastor and to the secretary of the congregation. The bishop shall appoint a special committee to investigate the appeal. The decision of the committee shall be reported to the appellant, the pastor and secretary of the congregation and to the bishop. The decision of the committee shall be final.

In such circumstances:

1. The bishop shall appoint 3 lay and 2 rostered members to serve on the special committee. Such persons shall not, nor ever have been, a member of the congregation in question or have a personal relationship with the appellant.
2. The committee shall appoint a chairperson and a secretary.
3. The committee shall interview the appellant and the Congregational Council.
4. The appellant shall be entitled to bring one person for personal support. This person shall not have voice in the meeting.

Guidelines for a Special Committee appointed when a congregation member is appealing to Synod Council regarding discipline

5. The appellant is entitled to bring legal counsel at their own expense.
6. The congregational council is entitled to bring lead counsel at the expense of the congregation.
7. The committee is entitled to bring legal counsel at the expense of the synod.
8. The appellant may call witnesses only with respect to whether or not due process was followed by the congregational council or to introduce new evidence which was not available previously. Witnesses shall only be in the committee meeting for the duration of their testimony. Both the appellant and the committee are entitled, in turn, to question the witnesses. Witnesses are entitled to bring a support person with them. Such a person is not entitled to voice in the meeting.
9. After reviewing all materials and hearing witnesses, the committee shall deliberate in camera.
10. The decision of the committee shall be reported to the appellant, the pastor of the congregation and secretary of the Congregational Council and to the bishop. The decision of the committee shall be final.
11. The record of the work of the committee shall be delivered to the bishop and stored securely in the synod office.

Report of the Council of General Synod (CoGS) to NCC (September 2022)

At the Council of General Synod, we have been working on a Strategic Plan and examination of the governance of the General Synod. The CoGS has met as a hybrid meeting as a result of the global pandemic. Meetings of CoGS are now using a consensus model for decision making.

The CoGS determined the next meeting of the General Synod will be held in July 2023. This allowed us to stay in synch with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada's obligation to host a National Convention in 2022. Thankfully, the ELCIC meeting held online allowed for the ELCIC to meet with Anglicans in a Joint Assembly in Calgary in July 2023.

Healing and reconciliation between Indigenous and non-Indigenous have long been a part of the ACC planning. Following the 1993 apology of the ACC for damages as a result of Residential Schools, Indigenous elders called for change and in 1994. Indigenous leaders in Winnipeg drafted the National Native Covenant that called for self-determination for Indigenous people within the Anglican Church.

In the years to follow, with the assistance of the Governance Working Group, the General Synod approved Canon 22 to bring about self-determination. At the 2019 General Synod in Vancouver, General Synod approved the formation of a fifth Indigenous Province in Canada, making the national Indigenous Anglican bishop an Archbishop.

Since the 2018, Indigenous Sacred Circle, the ACIP has worked on a constitution and bylaws for the Fifth Province. Archbishop Mark Macdonald fulfilled his role by acting as a "midwife" to draft what is now known as the Covenant and Our Way of Life. Though the documents are provisional, they will be made official at the next in person Sacred Circle in May 2023. Two online Sacred Circles gave input to the documents along with the writing and editing of the Focus Group, Indigenous House of Bishops Leadership Circle and ACIP.

The second online Sacred Circle was held over two days following the Council of General Synod (CoGS) meeting early November. Bishop Kito from New Zealand was a featured guest and gave the sacred gathering words of comfort and hope.

ACIP uses the Sacred Circle for discussion and decision making. For First Nations, the circle is a sacred symbol. The circle is also a model for human interaction. The circle is not hierarchical and decisions are made by consensus.

Prior to the next in person gathering of Sacred Circle, the Covenant and Our Way of Life will be shared with Indigenous bishops who have a significant number of Indigenous constituents. The documents are being translated into Indigenous languages and regional consultations will happen. ACIP and Sacred Circle see the Covenant and Our Way of Life as living documents.

An in person Sacred Circle was scheduled for 2021 but the global pandemic brought that to a halt and resulted in a reorganized way of communicating through online ways such as Zoom. The interim years of 2018 to 2022 have brought about a response to lay formation, a young

adults group, partnership with the Red Cross, Gospel Jamborees, Gospel Based discipleship weekdays, podcasts, suicide prevention workshops and memorials for communities where the remains of children from Residential Schools were located. Most recently, Indigenous Anglicans rejoiced in a number of ordinations held in Prince Albert, Saskatchewan. Continued weather challenges from blistering heat, forest fires, flooding and mudslides added to the need for pastoral response along with the very recent addition of the Covid Omicron variant.

ACIP has planned for a young adults in person Sacred Circle in March 2023 and an in person Sacred Circle in May in Ontario.

Members of ACIP met with the Archbishop of Canterbury in Prince Albert Saskatchewan in May 2022. Indigenous Anglicans appreciated the apology and look forward to the action that will follow.

Following the resignation of the National Indigenous Anglican Archbishop, a Search Committee was established to hire a new NIAAB, national Indigenous Ministries Coordinator and administrative assistant following the death of the Rev Canon Ginny Doctor and retirement of Teresa Mandricks.

The plan is to endorse the Covenant and Our Way of Life and welcome a new NIAAB and staff at the next in person Sacred Circle.

The Rev Canon Dr Murray Still, co-chair of the ACIP returned from Karlsruhe, Germany and the World Council of Churches where “Churches Beyond Borders” presented a 90-minute workshop on the Doctrine of Discovery. Churches Beyond Borders is a cooperation between the Anglican and Episcopal Church in the United States of America (ECUSA) and the ELCIC and Evangelical Lutheran Church of America. The workshop was well received and promoted a good working relationship that will continue.

Report submitted by:

The Rev. Canon Dr. Murray Still
CoGS representative to NCC



September 2022

National Church Council Meeting Highlights

The ELCIC's National Church Council (NCC) met September 15–17, 2022. This was the first time NCC met in a hybrid model with some members attending in person in Winnipeg and others online. For over two years, NCC has been meeting via zoom due to pandemic cautions.

The following are just a few highlights from the recent council meeting. For specific wording on motions and additional actions from the meeting, please view the draft minutes which will be available online at <http://elcic.ca/National-Church-Council/National-Church-Council-Minutes.cfm>.

NCC meetings open and close with worship. NCC members take turns leading worship, the chaplain for this meeting was Rev. Dr. Marc Jerry.

This was the first meeting of the new council since elections took place at the 2022 ELCIC National Convention. Council members took part in an orientation session which reviewed process and governance.

SOGIE Training

A half day of the agenda was devoted to SOGIE (sexual orientation, gender identity, and gender expression) training. Trainers Morgan Stirling and Kristin Sheffield led NCC members through a training session focusing on the importance of language and learning more about the diversity of all of God's creation. The 2019 ELCIC National Convention directed NCC to adopt the practice of taking part in anti-oppression training together at one of their meetings in the year following each National Convention. This session is just one step in equipping NCC to do its work and models the practice of ongoing learning.

Strategic Planning

At the March 2022 meeting, NCC members adopted a new strategic plan which centres around a call to focus on: striving to be a Healthier Church; seeking to cultivate Effective Partnerships; encouraging Relational Leadership; and leading with Compassionate Justice. At the March meeting, NCC requested the National Bishop work with staff to develop priorities for each of the four areas of focus. The National Bishop shared the progress of this work at the September meeting. Staff worked to create an action plan. Instead of having a long list for each area of focus, which was the format of the previous strategic plan, this new strategic plan includes three to five general goals to work towards in each area.

Special Guest

NCC welcomed Rev. Leila M. Ortiz, Bishop of the Metro DC Synod, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA). Bishop Ortiz spoke of the recent ELCA Assembly, issues of race and justice, and interfaith conversations. She asked for prayers for the ELCA, and the United States as a whole, as they head towards the 2024 election.

GSI orientation and meeting

Lisa Thiessen, executive director of Group Services Inc (GSI), and John Wolff, GSI's board chair, welcome and hosted NCC for an orientation to the pension and benefits plan of the ELCIC. John provided an overview of how GSI and ELCIC operate together, and Lisa provided current statistics and highlights from the plans.

Welcomes and goodbyes

NCC welcomed new staff member Carmen Ramirez, Assistant to the Bishop, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion. Carmen started at the beginning of August.

NCC also offered thanks to Rev. Lyle McKenzie, Assistant to the Bishop for Worship. Following 12 years in this position, Lyle has given notice that he will be stepping down from this role at the end of the year.

Other action at this NCC meeting included:

Taskforce mandates extended

NCC extended the mandates for several task forces including: the task force addressing ableism, the task force addressing racism, white supremacy and racial injustice; the task force addressing homophobia, biphobia and transphobia, and the task force on carbon neutrality. All four task forces had their mandates extended to the end of the ELCIC's special convention which will take place in 2023. The original term was till the 2022 ELCIC National Convention, but recommendations from their work will now be brought forward for discussion at the 2023 special convention. The approval of this motion allows the task forces to continue their work until that time.

New Rite of Ordination

NCC affirmed a new unified Rite of Ordination, which will now be available for distribution and use across the church. The new ordination rite uses the Ordination of a Bishop as a template, which is unique to the ELCIC, but addresses other priorities requested by Faith, Order and Doctrine and relating to Reimagining Our Church.

<https://elcic.ca/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/ReimaginingOurChurch-PublicMinistryintheELCIC.pdf>

The next meeting of NCC will take place in March 2023.