

SECTION D – REPORTS OF THE OFFICERS AND COUNCIL COMMITTEES

As trustees of the synod (Bylaws, Part VII), the synod council supervises and evaluate the mission and ministry of the synod. This section describes how these duties are carried out and the results of these actions.

Chairperson's Report

Dear Sisters and Brothers, who make up the Synod of Alberta and the Territories,

Grace to you all and peace—

In that this is my final report to you as chairperson I have decided to take a different approach. Rather than highlighting synod council's work in support of our Bishop's mission priorities of which there were many good undertakings I am simply going to outline my reasons not to seek re-election, offer a personal list of milestones marked over the last eight years, and of course, recognize with thanks the many who do so much in our synod.

A bylaw state that an Officer of Synod shall serve for a term of four years (becoming six years) *without limitation* (Part VIII Section 1.) This bylaw is open to the leading of the Holy Spirit, provides for accountability, and creates stability within our synod. However, I have decided not to exercise this privilege and so not to run for a third term. My decision was essentially shaped by the following two reasons. First, my stepping aside allows for the continued development of new and fresh leadership which is open to either lay or rostered members of our wonderfully resourced synod. Second, by leaving this office I am free to serve in our synod and national church in new and different ways. Please know that I have enjoyed and appreciated serving our synod as the chairperson.

Over the last eight years our synod has done much and experienced much and from these eight years I would like to share with you my personal top ten list.

1. Being elected to serve as chair under Bishop Ron Mayan in June, 2008 and then being re-elected in 2012—my hope is that I lived up to the affirmation and trust these elections signaled.
2. During this period experiencing our synod loosing thirty congregations—a heartbreaking and stressful time.

3. Along with synod council endorsing Bishop Mayan's decision to call Rev. Dr. Larry Kochendorfer as Assistant to the Bishop and in October, 2012 chairing a special convention of synod that resulted in him becoming our bishop.
4. As chair being appointed to represent our synod on the national church's Task Force on Structural Renewal. While the suggestion to merge the four western synods in to two synods was rejected, the move to a triennial convention model along with plans to create "areas" which provide for greater mutual support of local congregational initiatives is happening.
5. Creating the position of Assistant for Mission with Rev. Dr. Julianne Barlow called by Synod to serve in this new position. This action marks a concrete shift in focus from "the Issue" to "Mission."
6. Locating the office for our Assistant for Mission in Calgary resulting in a more geographically balanced presence of synod leadership.
7. Shortening the duration of synod conventions by almost a day—for me, this represents better stewardship of our delegates' time.
8. Introducing the practice of having three conference conventions rather than five thus allowing for a better use of our Bishop's time and allowing for uniformity in theme and focus within conferences.
9. Witnessing the benefits of Augustana-Edmonton's legacy within synod which included a large gift to benevolence, funding for education and support around matters of inclusion (Rethinking Welcome) and of mental health (CARE) and funding for campus ministries.
10. Participating in "Participating in Hope" in 2015 and again in 2016 wherein synod council representatives facilitated local congregations in coming together in order to share ideas, connect with other Lutherans, and support one another.

While I recognize that this list is nowhere near exhaustive these are the events, changes, and experiences in our

synod that had personal impact on me.

A final privilege is to thank some of the many women and men who contribute so much to the care and well-being of our synod.

Thank-you to our synod council—these people, lay and rostered, women and men have answered Our Lord's call and your invitation by election to provide leadership. Capably representing their conferences are:

- Southwestern: Terri Coombs and Rev. Phil Holck
- East/Central: Irene Motta and Rev. Paul McCormick
- West/Central: Mark Ree and Rev. Gary Aiken
- Northern: Mike Harmon and Rev. Ann Salmon
- Southern: Wayne Street and Rev. Reg Berg

Our Synod Council also includes an able executive notably Marilyn Murray—Secretary, Stephen Wildfang—Treasurer, Rev. Tim Posyluzny—Chairperson, Rev. Dr. Larry Kochendorfer—Bishop. What a privilege to have worked with such a group of dedicated and skilled individuals.

At our synod council meetings, the National Church Council is represented by Judy Wry, Les Pearson and the Rev. Marc Jerry and from the Anglican Communion as observer and member of synod council is Rev. Erin Philips—thank-you all for taking on these added responsibilities.

Leadership at the conference level is provided by conference councils and deans. Our deans are often congregations' first contact with synod and represent bishop/synod when required. They also provide synod council/bishop with insight into local matters. Presently serving as deans are: Rev. Kristian Wold—Southwestern; Rev. Eleanor Ness—East/Central; Rev. Kathy Calkins—West/Central; Rev. Trish Schmermund—Northern; and Rev. Reg Berg Southern. I gratefully acknowledge your servant leadership.

Our synod is blessed to have a deployed staff serving in a variety of ways and places. Thanks goes out to all of these dedicated women and men. Included in this group are Bishop Don Sjoberg (ret.), Rev. Gary Nichol, Diaconal Minister Faith Nostbakken, Rev. Daranne Harris, Wendy Christensen-Grosfield (recently replacing Colleen McGinnis as editor for our synod's insert in the Canada Lutheran), and Trudy Davis (recently retired after many

years as our faithful bookkeeper).

Finally, a word of gratitude to our synod staff, all of whom work more than full-time: Darla Wildfang, Executive Assistant, who warmly blends competency and patience, Rev. Dr. Julianne Barlow, the Assistant for Mission who brings a passion for mission; and Rev. Dr. Larry Kochendorfer, the Bishop of Synod, who, as our shepherd and leader, provides us with vision, care, and wisdom along with being a model for healthy ministry.

In conclusion I thank all of you who make our synod the vital Christ-centered expression of the larger church it is.

My prayer is that:

God, the Creator, would create in us a continued appetite for justice;

God, the Incarnate, would fill us with an ongoing desire for reconciliation;

God, the Comforter, would free us to live out our faith with boldness and joy;

And God, the Great Three in One, would empower us to hopeful action. Amen

Yours in mutual ministry,
Rev. Tim Posyluzny STM
Chairperson

Secretary's Report

A. The following meetings of the Synod Council were held with actions recounted in the following sections B-D of this report.

June 19, 2014

June 21, 2014

September 19, 2014

October 1, 2014 (electronic)

December 1, 2014 (electronic)

January 13, 2015 (electronic)

February 27, 2015 (electronic)

March 13, 2015

August 5, 2015 (electronic)

September 18, 2015

November 15, 2015 (electronic)
 January 29, 2016 (electronic)
 March 10-12, 2016
 April 27, 2016 (electronic)
 May 5, 2016 (electronic)
 May 10, 2016 (electronic)
 May 13, 2016 (electronic)

The following Executive Committee meetings were held, with actions ratified at a subsequent meeting of the Council:

July 10, 2014
 September 9, 2014
 December 3, 2014
 February 13, 2015
 April 10, 2015
 June 12, 2015
 November 17, 2015
 January 19, 2016
 February 25, 2016
 April 21, 2016

B. Appointments

- SC14-26: That The Rev. Canon Erin Phillips, Lethbridge be appointed to serve on Synod Council, beginning Fall 2014.
- SC14-27: That Les Pearson, Unity Lutheran, Medicine Hat be appointed to sit on the Synod Campus Ministry Team.
- SC15-17: That Myrna Husdal, Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd, Lethbridge and Dr. Elizabeth Wallace, First Lutheran, Calgary be appointed to 4 year terms as Member at Large of the Committee for Theological Education and Leadership.
- SC15-18: That The Rev. Paul McCormick, Synod Council member, Chair; Dan Ethier, Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd, Lethbridge; and The Rev. Calvin Skriver, Lord of Glory, Lac la Biche be appointed to

2 year terms on the Congregational Constitution Review Committee.

- SC16-24: That Darcy Calkins, Greg Linglebach, and The Rev. Susan Horton be appointed for a second 4-year term to the Committee for Theological Education and Leadership.
- SC16-25: That The Rev. Prema Samuel be appointed to a 4-year term to the Committee for Theological Education and Leadership.

C. Roster Status

- SC14-36: That a call be extended for special ministry - Interim Ministry to The Rev. Dr. Kayko Driedger Hesslein.
- SC14-37: That Faith Nostbakken be approved for consecration pending receipt and acceptance of a call.
- SC14-38: That The Rev. Arnold Alksne be granted retired status effective October 12, 2014.
- SC14-40: That The Rev. Jason Anderson be issued a Call to Special Service – Chaplaincy.
- SC15-01: That Diaconal Minister Signi Bruner be granted retired status effective January 31, 2015.
- SC15-02: That The Rev. Deborah Moroz be granted retired status effective January 31, 2015.
- SC15-03: That The Rev. Art Weiss be issued a Call to Special Service - Executive Director, Camp Kuriakos as of February 1, 2015.
- SC15-04: That The Rev. Peter Grundler be issued a Call to Special Service – Chaplain, at Glenrose Rehab. Hospital, beginning January 5, 2015.
- SC15-15: That Senior Seminarian Shane Hein be approved for ordination pending completion of studies, and receipt and acceptance of a call.
- SC15-16: That the following roster status be granted:
- The Rev. Ryan Andersen, OLC Year 1
 - The Rev. Judy Jarvis, OLC Year 2
 - The Rev. Angela Bergquist, OLC Year 2
 - The Rev. Jim Appleby, OLC Year 2
 - The Rev. Glenn Widdis, OLC/Study Leave Year 2

- The Rev. Dr. Brian Rude, OLC Year 3
 - Diaconal Minister Lila de Waal,
Removed from Roster
- SC15-21: That The Rev. Peter Chau be granted retired status effective September 1, 2015.
- SC16-01: That Diaconal Minister Karen Wedman be issued a Call to Special Service - Director of Mission Effectiveness with the Good Samaritan Society as of January 4, 2016.
- SC16-15: That the following roster changes be approved:
- The Rev. Greg Kern be removed from roster.
 - The Rev. John Boyd, OLC year 1
 - The Rev. Cindy Werner, OLC year 1
 - The Rev. Ryan Andersen, OLC - year 2.
 - The Rev. Judy Jarvis, OLC – year 3
 - The Rev. Jim Appleby, OLC – year 3
- SC16-16 That the following roster changes be approved:
- Diaconal Minister Lorraine Schrader be placed on OLC – year 1;
 - Diaconal Minister Sarah Rudd be called to Special Service – Chaplain at Good Samaritan Society, Edmonton.
- SC16-17 That The Rev. Angela Bergquist and The Rev. David Petterson be granted retired status effective February 19, 2016 and March 12, 2016 respectively.
- SC16-24 That Diaconal Minister Melissa May be issued a Call to Special Service - On Eagle's Wings.
- SC16-25 That Senior Seminarian Lindsey Skakum be approved for ordination pending completion of studies, and receipt and acceptance of a call.
- SC16-26 That Senior Seminarian Erik Sorenson be approved for ordination pending completion of studies, and receipt and acceptance of a call.
- SC16-30 That The Rev. Dr. Brian Rude be granted retired status effective June 1, 2016.

D. Administrative Decisions

- SC14-30: That the Synod compensation guidelines for 2015 be adopted with a 3% increase. An amendment was proposed for a 6% increase across the board. The motion as amended was carried.
- SC14-32: That the Synod Council recommends an increase in the remuneration package, including cost of living plus merit pay, for Bishop Larry Kochendorfer.
- SC14-35 That St. Paul Lutheran Church, Burstall, SK be transferred to the Synod of Alberta and the Territories.
- SC14-39 That the constitutional amendment submitted by Hosanna Lutheran Church, Edmonton, be approved as proposed.
- SC15-06 That the 2015 budget of the Synod of Alberta and the Territories be adopted as presented.
- SC15-14 That the constitutional amendments submitted by St. John's Lutheran Church, Alberta Beach, be approved as proposed.
- SC15-19 That funds of \$30,000 be provided from the Ratz fund for two internship placements from 2015-2017 within the Synod.
- SC15-20 That the Synod of Alberta and the Territories Companion Synod Covenant with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Colombia (IELCO) be renewed for another five years (2020) pending approval by IELCO, with re-evaluation to take place in 2019.
- SC 15-23 That Synod Council approve the second iteration of Participating in Hope synod-wide gatherings, to be named Participating in Hope 2.0.
- SC15-24 That Council adopt the 2016 Compensation Guidelines as presented.
- SC 15-38 That the 2016 Convention Theme, Logo, Draft Budget and Draft Agenda be approved as presented.
- SC15-39 That the Nominations and Election of Synod Delegates to National Convention draft proposal be adopted for presentation at Conference Conventions and drafted into

- the appropriate Synod bylaw.
- SC15-45 That all rostered leaders (active and retired) be eligible to stand for election as delegates to National Conventions.
- SC16-07 That Council approve the audited 2015 financial statement mindful that there will be minor adjustments requested by the auditors in the final version.
- SC16-08 That the Synod budget be adopted as presented for 2016.
- SC16-09 That the amended Synod Constitution be brought to convention for first reading.
- SC16-10 That the amended Synod Bylaws be brought to convention in draft form as information only.
- SC16-11 That the Nominations and Elections of National Convention Delegates, proposed addition to Synod Bylaws Section VI, be brought to convention for action.
- SC16-12 That the combined offerings from the 2016 Convention services be divided equally, with half designated for the ELCIC Reformation Challenge- LWF Endowment Fund, and half for the ABT Synod Bishop's Discretionary Fund.
- SC16-13 That the report from the Bishop's Performance Review be accepted with gratitude and that Synod Council recommends an increase in the remuneration package, including cost of living plus merit pay, for Bishop Larry Kochendorfer.
- SC16-14 That the constitutional amendment submitted by Lakeland Lutheran Church, Cold Lake, be approved as proposed.
- SC16-22 That Bishop Larry Kochendorfer be granted a three month sabbatical Nov. 1, 2016 through Jan. 31, 2017.
- SC16-29 That Synod Council present Dianne Kieren and Laureen Wray as nominees for the position of lay representative to the Lutheran Theological Seminary, Saskatoon Board of Governors.

Treasurer's Report

Financial highlights

In the two years since our 2014 convention benevolence giving from congregations declined by \$44,000. This represents a 6% decline. While this decline is not as precipitous as the decline reported to the 2012 convention, it nonetheless challenges us to continue operating in the face of declining financial resources. Confronting this fiscal situation means that funding for ministry has remained unchanged since 2014 and there is no projected increase in overall annual spending for the coming biennium. The results for 2015 include a special one-time gift of \$100,000 from the members of Augustana Lutheran Church (Edmonton) which was gifted to the synod in February 2015 after the congregation closed at the end of 2014. This generous gift is greatly appreciated.

Annual results for 2015 show a modest deficit of \$16,866 – this is attributed to the non-cash amortization expense of \$37,339. Overall operations were within budget limits – there were some increases in expenditures over the amounts budgeted that were funded by directed gifts and reserve allocations.

Some other items of particular interest are:

- We have a reserve fund of \$178,000 and another \$80,000 of additional surplus. These are fully funded by cash and term deposits. This provides some measure of comfort in the near term.
- In 2015 we provided scholarships of \$42,000 to support the tuition costs of seminarians. In addition, we hold about \$32,000 in unspent directed gifts for scholarships at the end of 2015. The intent is to disburse these funds in 2016.
- We still provide significant funding for Theological Education, Canadian Mission and Campus Ministry from our operational budget.

Synod Council has approved the audited financial statements for 2015 and these include comparative results for 2014. These audited financial statements are presented for adoption by convention.

National Harmonization of Compensation Guidelines

Since 2014 a project to harmonize compensation and benefits across the ELCIC has been facilitated by Lisa Thiessen, Executive Director of ELCIC Group Services Inc. With input from all synods there is agreement to harmonize the compensation guidelines across the ELCIC with the exception of the annual amounts for base salary, housing and pastoral supply. The annual rates for base salary, housing and pastoral supply will continue, for the time being, to be set by each synod. A summary of the expected impact on each synod follows this report. The most significant change for ABT rostered leaders is the acceleration of vacation entitlements compared to our existing guidelines. The Synod Council sets the annual compensation guidelines, so the information that follows is presented primarily for information to rostered leaders and their congregational leadership. To be clear, ABT will still issue a comprehensive set of compensation guidelines annually for congregations to use. The harmonized components will be reflected in the annual compensation guidelines approved by Synod Council in the fall of each year commencing in the fall of 2016.

Recommended Budgets

Our governance policy precludes us from operating with a budgeted deficit. Using best estimates for 2016 revenue a benevolence amount of \$685,000 is projected. Based on the forecasted revenue, spending commitments must be addressed to balance the budget. This means that all spending across ministry and administrative areas has been frozen for 2016 and 2017.

The Synod in convention is requested to approve the overall proposed annual spending amounts as presented.

Respectfully,
Stephen Wildfang, CPA, CA

Summary of Significant Changes by Synod Related to Harmonization of Compensation Guidelines

Synod	Document 1 Sections staying with Synod	Document 2 Sections that will be Harmonized	Most Significant Changes
BC	I. Pastors' Salary VI. Supply VII. Deacons	II. Benefits III. Expenses IV. Bereavement & Compassionate Leave	Health and dental premiums will move from being shared to 100% employer paid.
	V. Contractual Arrangements I would recommend removing this.		
ABT	Base Salary; Other Benefits 1,2 Supply preaching	Other Benefits 3-10 Vacation	Vacation moves to 5 weeks at 11 years (current at 15 years) and 6 weeks at 21 years.
SK	A. Salary and Housing B. Components Supply preaching	C. Benefits D. Professional expenses	Vacation starts at 4 weeks instead of 3; 6 weeks are earned at 21 years instead of 18 Bereavement and compassionate care will be 2 weeks; previously 3 days plus travel time.
MNO	A. Salary scale B. Housing Allowance E. Interim & Pulpit supply	C. Benefits D. Professional expenses	Health and dental premiums will move from 75% to 100% employer paid. Vacation schedule does not have the 5 year bonus week. 6 weeks after 21 years (current max at 5 years)
East	A. Salary & Housing Schedules for Diaconal, Pastoral, Part-time, Interim	B. Professional Expenses C. Benefits D. Professional expenses	Vacation moves to 5 weeks at 11 years (current at 15 years) and 6 weeks at 21 years (current max 5 years). Bereavement and compassionate care will be 2 weeks; previously one week plus travel time.

In addition to the changes listed in the chart, two new items will be added to the harmonized guideline:

1. A sick leave policy to bridge the waiting period to short term disability, and
2. A national supplemental pay program for those on maternity and parental leave.

With respect to congregations that provide a parsonage, consideration should be given to paying a competitive salary and collecting rent from the pastor, as the employment benefit of a parsonage will no longer be insurable in 2017.

Proposed Operating Budget

Synod of Alberta and the Territories Operating Budgets for 2016 & 2017

	2017 Budget	2016 Budget	2015 Actual	2015 Budget
Revenue				
Support from congregations	685,000	685,000	682,377	714,000
Special gifts & other contributions	75,000	75,000	149,095	72,500
Interest and other	5,000	5,000	12,284	5,000
Total revenue	765,000	765,000	843,756	791,500
Expenditures				
National Church support	142,000	142,000	142,000	142,400
Seminary support	104,000	104,000	104,000	104,000
Ministry teams				
Canadian Mission	19,750	19,750	19,567	20,000
Social Ministry	250	250	37	750
Campus Ministry	77,000	77,000	76,556	77,400
Communications	12,500	12,500	12,408	12,500
Theological Education	6,000	6,000	10,868	6,300
Other ministries and programs	3,900	3,900	4,262	2,400
	119,400	119,400	123,698	119,350
Synod support	399,600	399,600	399,834	425,750
Total expenditures	765,000	765,000	769,532	791,500
Surplus (deficit)	0	0	74,224	0

(Allocations from designated gifts and reserve allocations are excluded from these figures)



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INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE MEMBERS

Report on the Financial Statements

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the Synod of Alberta and the Territories of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada, which comprise the balance sheet as at December 31, 2015 and the statement of operations, statement of changes in net assets and cash flows for the year then ended, and a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information.

Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations, and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditors' Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. Those standards require that we comply with ethical requirements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our qualified audit opinion.

Basis for Qualified Opinion

In common with many charitable organizations, the Synod derives revenue from voluntary cash donations, the completeness of which is not susceptible of satisfactory audit verification. Accordingly, our verification of these revenues was limited to the amounts recorded in the records of the Synod and we were not able to determine whether any adjustments might be necessary to contributions, excess revenue (expenses), current assets and net assets.

Qualified Opinion

In our opinion, except for the effect of adjustments, if any, which we might have determined to be necessary had we been able to satisfy ourselves concerning the completeness of contributions referred to in the preceding paragraph, the financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Synod of Alberta and the Territories of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada as at December 31, 2015 and the results of its operations and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations.

Independent Auditors' Report to the Members of Synod of Alberta and the Territories, continued

We do not express an opinion on the budgeted figures provided on the Statement of Operations and Schedule of Ministries Expenses, which are provided for information only.

Vko LLP

Vko LLP

Chartered Accountants

Edmonton, Alberta

March 12, 2016

SYNOD OF ALBERTA AND THE TERRITORIES
(EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN CANADA)

Balance Sheet

December 31, 2015, with comparative figures for 2014

	2015	2014
Assets		
Current assets:		
Cash and term deposits (note 3)	\$ 776,580	\$ 585,726
Accounts receivable	5,749	6,249
Prepaid expenses	8,970	7,410
	<u>791,299</u>	<u>599,385</u>
Trust assets (note 4)	465	465
Investments (note 5)	2	2
Property and equipment (note 6)	696,345	752,197
	<u>\$ 1,488,111</u>	<u>\$ 1,332,049</u>
Liabilities and Net Assets		
Current liabilities:		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	\$ 21,150	\$ 68,535
Deferred contributions (note 7)	511,545	289,629
	<u>532,695</u>	<u>358,164</u>
Deferred capital contributions (note 7)	26,916	28,499
Trust liabilities (note 4)	465	465
	<u>560,056</u>	<u>387,128</u>
Net assets:		
Invested in property and equipment	669,428	703,697
Restricted (note 8)	178,379	219,476
Unrestricted	80,248	21,748
	<u>928,055</u>	<u>944,921</u>
Contingent liability (note 9)		
	<u>\$ 1,488,111</u>	<u>\$ 1,332,049</u>

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

On behalf of Synod Council:

Ray Kalsbach Bishop

Ray Mung Treasurer

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SYNOD OF ALBERTA AND THE TERRITORIES
(EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN CANADA)

Statement of Operations

Year ended December 31, 2015, with comparative figures for 2015 budget and 2014

	2015	Budget	2014
Revenue:			
Benevolence contributions	\$ 682,377	\$ 714,000	\$ 714,975
Other contributions	424,034	72,500	258,183
Interest and other	18,455	5,000	16,831
Amortization of deferred contributions	1,583	-	1,583
	<u>1,126,449</u>	<u>791,500</u>	<u>991,592</u>
Designated gifts (schedule 1)	287,246	-	256,569
	<u>1,413,695</u>	<u>791,500</u>	<u>1,248,161</u>
Expenses:			
National church support	142,400	142,400	142,000
Ministries (schedule 2)	516,839	223,350	458,409
Synod support ministry (schedule 3)	394,860	425,750	490,694
Other (schedule 4)	51,777	-	46,137
Amortization	37,339	-	39,432
	<u>1,143,315</u>	<u>791,500</u>	<u>1,176,672</u>
Designated gifts (schedule 1)	287,246	-	256,569
	<u>1,430,561</u>	<u>791,500</u>	<u>1,433,241</u>
Excess revenue (expenses)	\$ (16,866)	\$ -	\$ (185,080)

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

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SYNOD OF ALBERTA AND THE TERRITORIES
 (EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN CANADA)

Statement of Changes in Net Assets

Year ended December 31, 2015, with comparative figures for 2014

	Invested in property and equipment		Restricted for future operations		2015		2014	
					Total	Total	Total	Total
Balance, beginning of year	\$	703,697	219,476	21,748	944,921	1,130,001		
Excess revenue (expenses)		(35,756)	-	18,890	(16,866)	(185,080)		
Acquisition of equipment		1,487	-	(1,487)	-	-		
Transfer (note 8)		-	(41,097)	41,097	-	-		
Balance, end of year	\$	669,428	178,379	80,248	928,055	944,921		

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

SYNOD OF ALBERTA AND THE TERRITORIES
 (EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN CANADA)

Statement of Cash Flows

Year ended December 31, 2015, with comparative figures for 2014

	2015	2014
Cash provided by (used in):		
Operations:		
Excess revenue (expenses)	\$ (16,866)	\$ (185,080)
Items not involving cash:		
Amortization of property and equipment	37,539	39,432
Amortization of deferred contributions related to property and equipment	(1,583)	(1,583)
Change in non-cash operating working capital:		
Decrease (increase) in accounts receivable	500	(2,782)
Decrease (increase) in prepaid expenses	(1,560)	(6,910)
Increase (decrease) in accounts payable and accrued liabilities	(47,405)	57,308
Increase (decrease) in deferred contributions	221,916	20,052
	192,541	(85,513)
Financing and investments:		
Purchase of property and equipment	(1,487)	(649)
Increase (decrease) in cash and term deposits	190,854	(86,162)
Cash and term deposits, beginning of year	585,726	671,898
Cash and term deposits, end of year	\$ 776,580	\$ 585,726

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

SYNOD OF ALBERTA AND THE TERRITORIES
(EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN CANADA)

Notes to Financial Statements

Year ended December 31, 2015

The mission of Synod, as a regional expression of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada ("ELCIC") and the universal church and as an instrument of the Holy Spirit, is to bring the Gospel of Jesus Christ to people in Canada and around the world through the proclamation of the Word and the administration of the Sacraments and through service in Christ's name.

The Synod of Alberta and the Territories of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada is incorporated without share capital as a non-profit organization under a special act of the legislature of the Province of Alberta. The Synod is a charitable organization under the Income Tax Act and as such is exempt from income taxes and able to issue donation receipts for income tax purposes.

The name of the Synod was amended to "Synod of Alberta and the Territories" by members in convention in May 1990. For legal purposes the name remains as "Alberta Synod".

1. Basis of presentation:

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations.

2. Significant accounting policies:

(a) Measurement uncertainty:

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amount of assets and liabilities, disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the period. Such estimates are periodically reviewed and any adjustments necessary are reported in earnings in the period in which they become known. Actual results could differ from these estimates.

(b) Cash and cash equivalents:

Cash includes cash and cash equivalents. Cash equivalents include deposits held at financial institutions.

(c) Revenue recognition:

The Synod follows the deferral method of accounting for contributions. Restricted contributions are recognized as revenue in the year in which the related expenses are incurred. Unrestricted contributions are recognized as revenue in the year received with the exception of benevolence, which includes amounts received after the year-end that have been recorded as an expense for the year by contributing congregations. Endowment contributions are recognized as direct increases in net assets

SYNOD OF ALBERTA AND THE TERRITORIES
(EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN CANADA)

Notes to Financial Statements, continued

Year ended December 31, 2015

2. Significant accounting policies, continued:

(c) Revenue recognition, continued:

Restricted investment earnings are recognized as revenue in the year in which the related expenses are incurred. Unrestricted investment earnings are recognized as revenue when earned.

(d) Property and equipment:

Purchased assets are recorded at cost. Contributed assets are recorded at fair market value at the date of contribution. Amortization is provided on a straight-line basis over the estimated useful lives of the various assets using the following rates per annum:

Building	5%
Computer equipment	25%
Office equipment	25%

(e) Contributed goods and services:

Contributed goods and operational services are recorded as a revenue and expense at fair market value when the contribution is received. Contributions of other services, such as volunteer labour, are not recognized in the financial statements.

3. Restricted cash:

The Synod maintains separate bank accounts and term deposits for funds received subject to certain restrictions. As at December 31, 2015, \$115,730 (2014 - \$89,609) was restricted for use in specified programs.

4. Trust assets and liabilities:

The Synod acts as agent for the Alberta Finnish Ministry and funds from this trust are disbursed at their direction.

	2015	2014
Assets:		
Finnish Ministry	\$ 465	\$ 465
Liabilities:		
Finnish Ministry	\$ 465	\$ 465

SYNOD OF ALBERTA AND THE TERRITORIES
(EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN CANADA)

Notes to Financial Statements, continued

Year ended December 31, 2015

5. Investments:

	2015		2014	
Equity in Mulhurst Lutheran Church Camp, at nominal value	\$	1	\$	1
Equity in other assets, at nominal value		1		1
	\$	2	\$	2

6. Property and equipment:

	2015		2014	
Land	\$	240,000		240,000
Building		734,894		491,304
Computer equipment		280,335		525
Office equipment		29,727		268
		16,508		
	\$	1,022,215	326,570	696,345
				732,197

7. Deferred contributions:

Deferred contributions represent restricted operating funding received in the current period that is related to a subsequent period. Deferred capital contributions represent restricted funding received to acquire property and equipment. This amount will be amortized to revenue over the life of the related capital assets.

Deferred contributions at the year end date are comprised of the following amounts:

	2015		2014	
Canadian Missions				118,012
Ri Salvador Ministry	\$	146,343		69,794
Mental Health Initiative		64,819		
Creative Initiatives		97,573		
Support Our Students		94,348		34,126
Study Conference		32,311		14,687
Other ministries		14,458		53,010
		63,693		
	\$	511,545		289,629

SYNOD OF ALBERTA AND THE TERRITORIES
(EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN CANADA)

Notes to Financial Statements, continued

Year ended December 31, 2015

8. Restriction on net assets:

Amounts restricted for endowment purposes are subject to internally imposed restrictions established by the Synod Council in 2006 stipulating that the capital be maintained permanently. In 2007 the endowment was transferred to the Edmonton Community Foundation under similar restrictions. Ongoing contributions received for the endowment are transferred annually to the Edmonton Community Foundation. The Synod retains the right to all future earnings from the transferred amount. Investment earnings are restricted to assist in theological education of qualified candidates.

The Synod Council has also restricted a total of \$178,379, comprised of a bequest of \$468,897 plus accumulated interest to date of \$12,126 less allocations of \$302,644, as a reserve for future operational and new ministry initiatives. The amounts will be shown on the Statement of Changes in Net Assets in the year the funds are utilized. During the year \$41,067 (2014 - \$95,642) was utilized to support initiatives.

9. Contingent liability:

The Synod has a limited guarantee of \$150,000 related to a mortgage of one of its congregations. The guarantee would only be enforced in the event of a mortgage default by the congregation and the value of the underlying property at such time was less than the outstanding mortgage. As of the year end no amounts have been advanced or paid related to the guarantee.

10. Financial Instruments:

Risks and concentrations:

The Synod is exposed to various risks through its financial instruments, without being exposed to concentrations of risk. The following analysis provides a measure of the Synod's risk exposure at the balance sheet date of December 31, 2015.

Liquidity risk:

Liquidity risk is the risk that an entity will encounter difficulty in meeting obligations associated with financial liabilities. The Synod is exposed to this risk mainly in respect of its accounts payable.

Credit risk:

Credit risk is the risk that one party to a financial instrument will cause a financial loss for the other party by failing to discharge an obligation. The Synod is not significantly exposed to this risk.

Market risk:

Market risk is the risk that the fair value or future cash flows of a financial instrument will fluctuate because of changes in market prices. Market risk comprises three types of risk: currency risk, interest rate risk and other price risk. The Synod is not significantly exposed to these risks.

SYNOD OF ALBERTA AND THE TERRITORIES
 (EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN CANADA)

Schedule 1

Schedule of Designated Gifts

Year ended December 31, 2015, with comparative figures for 2014

	2015	2014
Augustana University chaplaincy	\$ 438	\$ 1,660
Campus Ministry	63,742	16,690
Canadian Lutheran Bible Institute	1,870	1,810
Canadian Lutheran World Relief	163,762	153,308
Church camps	20,181	6,824
Food banks	-	1,760
L.A.M.P.	885	580
L.I.M.E.	3,615	4,650
Lutheran Theological Seminary	6,722	12,392
On Eagle's Wings Ecumenical Ministries Inc.	3,786	13,507
World Missions:		
- designated	2,200	2,400
- undesignated	11,319	5,883
Other designated gifts	8,726	35,105
	\$ 287,246	\$ 256,569

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Schedule of Ministries Expenses

Schedule 2

Year ended December 31, 2015, with comparative figures for 2015 budget and 2014

	Canadian Missions	Social Ministry	Campus Ministry	Communications	Theological Education and Leadership			World Missions	Other Ministries	Total
					Leadership	Education	World Missions			
Committee meetings and travel	\$ 100	\$ -	\$ 306	\$ -	\$ 3,843	\$ 159	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 4,408	
El Salvador	-	-	-	-	-	-	52,436	-	52,436	
Examining committee	-	-	-	-	943	-	-	-	943	
Grants and subsidies	-	-	-	-	42,000	-	-	-	42,000	
Programs	90,477	37	182,528	12,408	28,413	-	22,173	-	336,036	
Seminary grant	-	-	-	-	104,000	-	-	-	104,000	
Worship	-	-	-	-	-	-	48	-	48	
Cost recovery and fees	-	-	-	-	(23,032)	-	-	-	(23,032)	
	\$ 90,577	\$ 37	\$ 182,834	\$ 12,408	\$ 156,167	\$ 159	\$ 74,657	\$ -	\$ 516,839	
2015 Budget	\$ 20,000	\$ 750	\$ 77,400	\$ 12,500	\$ 110,300	\$ -	\$ 2,400	\$ -	\$ 223,350	
2014 Actual	\$ 62,314	\$ 114	\$ 165,885	\$ 13,530	\$ 153,418	\$ 300	\$ 62,848	\$ -	\$ 458,409	

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SYNOD OF ALBERTA AND THE TERRITORIES
 (EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN CANADA)
 Schedule of Synod Support Ministry Expenses

Schedule 3

Year ended December 31, 2015, with comparative figures for 2014

	2015	2014
Salaries and benefits	\$ 272,602	\$ 376,733
Bank charges	860	1,095
Casual and contract labour	23,869	14,733
Council projects	6,765	12,086
Conferences and deans	3,132	2,994
Council and officers meetings	5,500	5,363
Equipment rental and maintenance	6,817	6,698
Insurance	1,194	1,180
Office and computer supplies	12,441	10,136
Postage and delivery	3,728	4,405
Professional fees	7,995	8,188
Rent	21,000	21,000
Stationery and printing	1,085	50
Telephone and internet	5,102	3,961
Travel	22,870	22,072
	\$ 394,960	\$ 490,694

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SYNOD OF ALBERTA AND THE TERRITORIES
 (EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN CANADA)
 Schedule of Other Expenses

Schedule 4

Year ended December 31, 2015, with comparative figures for 2014

	2015	2014
Pastoral counseling and assistance	\$ 8,630	\$ 4,084
Convention, net	-	(12,187)
Missional ministry initiative	43,147	54,240
	\$ 51,777	\$ 46,137

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Synod of Alberta and the Territories - DRAFT Constitution

CONSTITUTION of The Synod of Alberta and the Territories

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Existing ABT Constitution - 2014	Proposal
ARTICLE I Name and Incorporation Section 1. The name of the synod functioning under this constitution shall be The Alberta Synod whose operating name shall be The Synod of Alberta and the Territories of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada.	No change
Section 2. The synod shall be incorporated under the laws of Alberta.	No change
Section 3. The seal of the synod shall consist of a cross encircled by the words "The Alberta Synod - Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada." The bishop shall have custody of the seal.	No change
ARTICLE II Territory The Territory of this synod shall be the province of Alberta plus the Yukon Territory, the Northwest Territories and Nunavut.	No change

Existing ABT Constitution - 2014	Proposal
<p>ARTICLE III Confession of Faith Section 1. This synod confesses the Triune God - Father, Son and Holy Spirit - as the one true God. It proclaims the Father as Creator and Preserver; His Son, Jesus Christ, as Redeemer and Lord; and the Holy Spirit as Regenerator and Sanctifier.</p>	<p>No change possible</p>
<p>Section 2. This synod confesses that the Gospel is the revelation of God's saving will and grace in Jesus Christ, which He imparts through Word and Sacrament. Through these means of grace the Holy Spirit creates believers and unites them with their Lord and with one another in the fellowship of the Holy Christian Church.</p>	<p>No change possible</p>
<p>Section 3. This synod confesses the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments as the inspired Word of God, through which God still speaks, and as the only source of the Church's doctrine and the authoritative standard for the faith and life of the Church.</p>	<p>No change possible</p>
<p>Section 4. This synod confesses the following symbols, comprising the Book of Concord of 1580, which it subscribes specifically as witnesses to the way in which the Holy Scriptures have been correctly understood and explained and confessed for the sake of the Gospel, namely</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. the Apostles', the Nicene, and the Athanasian Creeds as the chief confessions of the Christian faith; b. the Unaltered Augsburg Confession as its basic formulation of Christian doctrine; c. Luther's Small Catechism as a clear summary of Christian doctrine; d. the Apology of the Augsburg Confession, Luther's Large Catechism, the Smalcald Articles with the Treatise, and the Formula of Concord as further witnesses to the Unaltered Augsburg Confession. 	<p>No change possible</p>
<p>ARTICLE IV Mission Section 1. As the regional expression of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada, in faithfulness to the Lord of the Church, this synod shall facilitate and advance the mission of this church within its territory. Guided and empowered by the Holy Spirit, it shall carry out this mission by shepherding its congregations and ordained ministers,</p>	<p>ARTICLE IV Mission Section 1. As the regional expression of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada, in faithfulness to the Lord of the Church, this synod shall facilitate and advance the mission of this church within its territory. Guided and empowered by the Holy Spirit, it shall carry out this mission by shepherding and engaging its</p>

Existing ABT Constitution - 2014	Proposal
and by engaging in other forms of ministry which proclaim God's Word and serve to bring reconciliation to the world.	congregations, synodically recognized ministries, specialized ministries, and ordained rostered ministers, and by engaging in other forms of ministry which who proclaim God's Word, build community and serve to bring reconciliation to the world.
Section 2. The mission of this church, as an expression of the universal church and as an instrument of the Holy Spirit, is to bring the Gospel of Jesus Christ to people in Canada and around the world through the proclamation of the Word and the administration of the Sacraments and through service in Christ's name.	No change
<p>ARTICLE V Membership</p> <p>Section 1. The membership of the synod consists of member congregations. Baptized individuals who are members of a congregation ("baptized members") shall exercise their privileges and responsibilities through participation in the congregation in which they are members.</p>	<p>ARTICLE V Membership</p> <p>Section 1. The membership of the synod consists of member congregations and synodically recognized ministries that are recognized by this synod in the manner described in the bylaws of this church. Baptized individuals who are members of a congregation or synodically recognized ministry ("baptized members") shall exercise their privileges and responsibilities through participation in the congregation or synodically recognized ministry in which they are members.</p>
Section 2. The synod shall recognize those congregations on its territory that are recognized by the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada and certified to it by the secretary of the church.	No change
Section 3. Additional congregations may be recognized by the synod acting on behalf of this church in the manner described in the constitution and bylaws of this church.	No change
Section 4. The synod may revoke its recognition of any congregation in the manner described in the constitution and bylaws of this Church.	Section 4. The synod may revoke its recognition of any congregation or synodically recognized ministry in the manner described in the constitution and bylaws of this Church.
<p>ARTICLE VI Congregations</p> <p>Section 1. Constitutions</p> <p>Every congregation which is recognized by this synod shall have a constitution which, in the judgment of the Synod Council, is in harmony with the constitution and bylaws of this Church and of the synod.</p>	<p>ARTICLE VI Congregations</p> <p>Section 1. Constitutions</p> <p>Every congregation which is recognized by this synod shall have a constitution which, in the judgment of the Synod Council, is in harmony with the constitution and bylaws of this Church and of the synod.</p>

Existing ABT Constitution - 2014	Proposal
<p>Section 2. Representation to ELCIC Conventions</p> <p>Every parish not represented by an ordained minister shall elect a lay delegate to the convention of this Church. If a parish has more than eight hundred (800) baptized members two lay delegates shall be elected, unless a pastor of the parish has been chosen by the conference, in which case one lay delegate shall be elected.</p>	<p>Section 2. Representation to ELCIC Conventions</p> <p>Every parish not represented by an ordained minister shall elect a lay delegate to the convention of this Church. If a parish has more than eight hundred (800) baptized members two lay delegates shall be elected, unless a pastor of the parish has been chosen by the conference, in which case one lay delegate shall be elected.</p> <p>Representation of this synod to ELCIC Conventions will follow the process outlined in the bylaws of this synod.</p>
<p>Section 3. Representation to the Synod and Conference Conventions</p> <p>Every congregation of the synod shall choose a delegate or delegates to represent it at conventions of the synod and at meetings of the conference to which the congregation is assigned in accordance with procedures as defined in the bylaws of the synod. An alternate or alternates may act in the stead of the delegate or delegates in the event of their absence.</p>	<p>Section 3. Representation to Synod Conventions and Conference Conventions</p> <p>Every congregation of this synod shall choose a delegate or delegates to represent it at conventions of this synod and at meetings of the conference area gatherings to which the congregation is assigned in accordance with procedures as defined in the bylaws of this synod. An alternate or alternates may act in the stead of the delegate or delegates in the event of their absence.</p>
<p>Section 4. Relation to Synod</p> <p>The alignment of congregations in pastoral charges shall be subject to approval of Synod Council.</p>	<p>Section 4. Relation to Synod</p> <p>The alignment of congregations in pastoral charges shall be subject to approval of Synod Council.</p>
<p>Section 5. Petitions</p> <p>Congregations shall have the right to petition this synod, according to procedures set forth in the bylaws.</p>	<p>Section 5. Petitions</p> <p>Congregations shall have the right to petition this synod, according to procedures set forth in the bylaws.</p>
<p>Section 6. Solicitation of Funds</p> <p>The approval of this Church or a convention of the synod or of its council shall be required for the solicitation of funds from congregations for institutions, agencies and causes of this Church.</p>	<p>Section 6. Solicitation of Funds</p> <p>The approval of this Church or a convention of the synod or of its council shall be required for the solicitation of funds from congregations for institutions, agencies and causes of this Church.</p>
<p>Section 7. Provision of Pastors</p> <p>When a pastor resigns, the congregational council shall receive the resignation, report it to the congregation and notify the bishop of the synod.</p>	<p>Section 7. Provision of Pastors</p> <p>When a pastor resigns, the congregational council shall receive the resignation, report it to the congregation and notify the bishop of the synod.</p>

Existing ABT Constitution - 2014	Proposal
<p>Section 8. Advice of the Bishop In case of strife and division in a congregation, the congregational council shall seek the advice of the bishop of the synod.</p>	<p>Section 8. Advice of the Bishop In case of strife and division in a congregation, the congregational council shall seek the advice of the bishop of the synod.</p>
<p>Section 9. Appeals from Discipline A lay member of any congregation, who is under discipline, may appeal to the synod. All such appeals must be in writing to the bishop within thirty (30) days after the disciplinary action has been taken. Copies of said appeal shall be transmitted by the appellant 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 final and reported to the appropriate parties.</p>	<p>Section 9. Appeals from Discipline A lay member of any congregation, who is under discipline, may appeal to the synod. All such appeals must be in writing to the bishop within thirty (30) days after the disciplinary action has been taken. Copies of said appeal shall be transmitted by the appellant 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 final and reported to the appropriate parties.</p> <p>A lay member of any congregation who is under discipline by his/her congregation may appeal to the synod in the manner described in the bylaws of this synod.</p>
<p>Section 10. Procedures for Withdrawing A congregation desiring to withdraw from this church shall notify the synod bishop. Decision to withdraw must be approved by a two-thirds majority vote at a legally called and conducted meeting and immediately reported to the synod bishop. Decision to withdraw shall not be effective until action has been ratified by a two-thirds majority vote of those who were members at the time of the first vote. This subsequently legally called and conducted meeting held not less than 90 days and not more than 180 days after the first vote to withdraw.</p>	<p>2ND READING 2016 Section 10. Procedures for Withdrawing A congregation desiring to withdraw from this church shall notify the synod bishop. Decision to withdraw must be approved by a two-thirds majority vote at a legally called and conducted meeting and immediately reported to the synod bishop. Decision to withdraw shall not be effective until action has been ratified by a two-thirds majority vote of those who were members at the time of the first vote. This subsequently legally called and conducted meeting held not less than 90 days and not more than 180 days after the first vote to withdraw.</p>
<p>Section 11. Congregation Becoming Defunct A congregation which has ceased to exist or whose membership has so diminished in numbers as to render it impossible or impractical for the congregation to function according to its constitution and bylaws shall, after consultation with any remaining members, be deemed by the synod of which it was a part to be defunct. The synod through the Synod Council shall appoint trustees, including where feasible former members of the congregation, who shall take charge and control of the property of said congregation to hold, manage and convey the same on behalf of this synod.</p>	<p>Section 11. Congregation Becoming Defunct A congregation which has ceased to exist or whose membership has so diminished in numbers as to render it impossible or impractical for the congregation to function according to its constitution and bylaws shall, after consultation with any remaining members, be deemed by the synod of which it was a part to be defunct. The synod through the Synod Council shall appoint trustees, including where feasible former members of the congregation, who shall take charge and control of the property of said congregation to hold, manage and convey the same on behalf of this synod.</p>

Existing ABT Constitution - 2014	Proposal
	<p>ARTICLE VII Synodically Recognized Ministries Section 1. This synod shall maintain a roster of synodically recognized ministries.</p>
	<p>Section 2. Synodically recognized ministries may choose a representative to conventions of this synod in accordance with the procedures as defined in the bylaws.</p>
	<p>Section 3. The approval of this church or a convention of this synod or of its council shall be required for the solicitation of funds from synodically recognized ministries for institutions, agencies and causes of this Church.</p>
	<p>Section 4. A lay member of any synodically recognized ministry who is under discipline by his/her synodically recognized ministry may appeal to this synod in the manner described in the bylaws of this synod.</p>
<p>ARTICLE VII Ordained Ministers Section 1. The synod shall have a roster of ordained ministers.</p>	<p>ARTICLE VIII Ordained Ministers Rostered Ministers – Ordained Section 1. The synod shall have a roster of ordained ministers.</p>
<p>Section 2. The standards of acceptance and continuance on the roster of ordained ministers shall be defined in the bylaws of the synod.</p>	<p>Section 2. The standards of acceptance admission and continuance on the roster of ordained ministers shall be defined in the bylaws of the synod this church.</p>
<p>Section 3. An ordained minister shall preach the Word, administer the Sacraments and conduct public worship in harmony with the faith and practices of the Church; shall baptize, confirm and marry in accordance with the teaching of the Church and with the laws of the province; shall visit the sick and distressed and bury the dead; shall inculcate piety in individual and family life and provide pastoral leadership to all schools and auxiliary organizations of the congregation; shall install members of the congregational council and, with the council, administer discipline; shall seek out and encourage qualified persons to prepare for the ministry of the Gospel and strive to extend the Kingdom of God in the community, at home and abroad; and shall encourage the members to be generous in support of the ministry of the congregation, the synod and the church.</p>	<p>Section 3. An ordained minister shall preach the Word, administer the Sacraments and conduct public worship in harmony with the faith and practices of the Church; shall baptize, confirm and marry in accordance with the teaching of the Church and with the laws of the province; shall visit the sick and distressed and bury the dead; shall inculcate piety in individual and family life and provide pastoral leadership to all schools and auxiliary organizations of the congregation; shall install members of the congregational council and, with the council, administer discipline; shall seek out and encourage qualified persons to prepare for the ministry of the Gospel and strive to extend the Kingdom of God in the community, at home and abroad; and shall encourage the members to be generous in support of the ministry of the congregation, the synod and the church. (moved into bylaws)</p> <p>An ordained minister shall conduct himself/herself in accordance with the constitution, bylaws and policies of this synod and of this Church.</p>

Existing ABT Constitution - 2014	Proposal
<p>ARTICLE VIII Diaconal Ministers Section 1. The synod shall have a roster of diaconal ministers.</p>	<p>ARTICLE IX Diaconal Ministers Rostered Ministers - Diaconal Section 1. The synod shall have a roster of diaconal ministers.</p>
<p>Section 2. The standards of acceptance and continuance on the roster of diaconal ministers shall be defined in the bylaws of this synod.</p>	<p>Section 2. The standards of acceptance admission and continuance on the roster of diaconal ministers shall be defined in the bylaws of this synod Church.</p>
	<p>Section 3. A diaconal minister shall conduct himself/herself in accordance with the constitution, bylaws and policies of this synod and of this church.</p>
<p>ARTICLE IX Full Communion Provisions Section 1. Ordered ministers of churches with which this church has a full communion agreement, who are serving in this church under the provisions of that full communion agreement, shall have the same rights and privileges as the equivalent order of ministry in this Church.</p>	<p>ARTICLE X Full Communion Provisions Section 1. Ordered ministers of churches with which this church has a full communion agreement, who are serving in this church under the provisions of that full communion agreement, shall have the same rights and privileges as the equivalent order of ministry in this Church.</p>
<p>ARTICLE X Conferences Section 1. The synod shall be organized regionally into conferences whose members and boundaries shall be determined by the synod in convention upon the recommendation of the Synod Council.</p>	<p>ARTICLE XI Conferences Areas Section 1. The synod shall be organized regionally into conferences areas whose members number and boundaries shall be determined by the synod in convention upon the recommendation of the Synod Council Synod Council.</p>
<p>Section 2. The role of the conferences shall be defined in the bylaws of the synod.</p>	<p>Section 2. The role of the conferences areas shall be defined in the bylaws of the synod.</p>
<p>ARTICLE XI Conventions Section 1. The convention of the synod shall be its highest legislative authority.</p>	<p>ARTICLE XII Conventions Section 1. The convention of the synod shall be its highest legislative authority.</p>
<p>Section 2. Conventions of this synod shall be held according to times, policies, and procedures as described in the bylaws of the synod.</p>	<p>No change</p>
<p>ARTICLE XII Synod Council Section 1. Synod Council is the governing body of the synod and shall carry out all normal functions and responsibilities on behalf of the synod in accordance with the constitution, the bylaws and resolutions of the synod in convention.</p>	<p>ARTICLE XIII Synod Council Section 1. Synod Council is the governing body of the synod and shall carry out all normal functions and responsibilities on behalf of the synod in accordance with the constitution, the bylaws and resolutions of the synod in convention.</p>

Existing ABT Constitution - 2014	Proposal
Section 2. Synod Council shall consist of the officers of the synod, and members elected and appointed according to procedures defined in the bylaws of the synod. Synod Council may appoint a replacement member to fill a vacancy between conventions.	Section 2. Synod Council shall consist of the officers of the synod, and members, all of whom shall be members in good standing of congregations or synodically recognized ministries of this synod , elected and appointed according to procedures defined in the bylaws of the synod. Synod Council may appoint a replacement member to fill a vacancy between conventions.
Section 3. The terms of the elected members shall begin the first day of the third month following election.	No change
Section 4. The bishop shall be an ex officio member of Synod Council.	No change
ARTICLE XIII Officers Section 1. The officers of the synod shall be the chairperson, the secretary and the treasurer. Two of the three officers shall be lay members of the synod.	ARTICLE XIV Officers Section 1. The officers of the synod shall be the chairperson, the secretary and the treasurer. Two of the three officers shall be lay members of the synod.
Section 2. The duties of the officers shall be defined in the bylaws of the synod.	No change
Section 3. The officers shall be elected by the synod convention according to procedures defined in the bylaws of the synod. All officers shall serve until their successors assume office.	No change
Section 4. Synod Council may appoint a replacement officer to fill a vacancy between conventions.	No change
Section 5. The terms of officers shall begin no later than the first day of the third full month following election.	No change
Section 6. The recall or dismissal of an officer of the synod shall follow the procedure set out in the constitution and bylaws of this church.	No change
Section 7. Synod Council may extend a call to an assistant to an officer in accordance with procedures defined in the bylaws of the synod. Such persons shall be ineligible for membership on Synod Council.	No change
ARTICLE XIV The Office of the Bishop Section 1. The bishop shall be a pastor and counselor to all pastors and lay members of the synod, and with the Synod Council, shall be the guardian of the procedures relating to the good standing in the faith, and the welfare of congregations, pastors and institutions of the synod.	ARTICLE XV The Office of the Bishop Section 1. The bishop shall be a pastor and counselor to all pastors and lay members of the synod, and with the Synod Council, shall be the guardian of the procedures relating to the good standing in the faith, and the welfare of congregations, pastors and institutions of the synod.

Existing ABT Constitution - 2014	Proposal
Section 2. The bishop shall be the chief executive officer of the synod, and an ex officio member of all committees of the synod.	No change
Section 3. The bishop, as the chief executive officer of the synod, has full authority, responsibility and accountability to discharge all duties and obligations of that office as mandated in the constitution, the bylaws and by resolution of Synod Council.	No change
Section 4. The authority to elect and call a bishop shall rest with the synod at a regular convention or a special convention called for this purpose. Synod Council shall seek the advice and counsel of the bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada in the call process.	No change
Section 5. All synod staff and staff committees shall be accountable to the bishop. The bishop may delegate responsibility to other staff as deemed appropriate.	No change
<p>ARTICLE XV Committees</p> <p>Section 1. Synod Council shall have authority to establish such committees deemed necessary for the mission of the synod.</p>	<p>ARTICLE XVI Committees</p> <p>Section 1. Synod Council shall have authority to establish such committees deemed necessary for the mission of the synod.</p>
	<p>Section 2. Terms of reference for, and membership on, any committee shall be defined in the bylaws of the synod or in a policy manual.</p>
<p>ARTICLE XVI Theological Institutions</p> <p>Section 1. This synod acknowledges its responsibility to maintain a theological seminary within the guidelines provided by this church, to strengthen this seminary spiritually and academically, and to provide for its financial support.</p>	<p>ARTICLE XVII Theological Institutions</p> <p>Section 1. This synod acknowledges its responsibility to maintain a theological seminary within the guidelines provided by this church, to strengthen this seminary spiritually and academically, and to provide for its financial support.</p>
<p>Section 2.</p> <p>a. The Board of Governors of Lutheran Theological Seminary, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, shall control and manage the seminary and determine its academic and administrative affairs. The property of the seminary, both real and personal, shall be held by the Board of Governors in trust for and under the guidance of the British Columbia Synod, Alberta Synod, Saskatchewan Synod and Manitoba/Northwestern Ontario Synod.</p>	No change

Existing ABT Constitution - 2014	Proposal
<p>b. The board may, in consultation with the church, propose to the synod(s) an increase in the number of its members, such increase to include an equal number of ordained ministers and lay persons. Any proposal for increase in the number of members of the board must have the approval of the synod(s).</p>	<p>No change</p>
<p>c. The term of office for each member of the board shall be four years except in the following cases:</p> <p>i. Where a member is appointed to fill a vacancy, such appointment shall be by the Synod Council and shall be for the remainder of the term of the predecessor.</p> <p>ii. In the case of the first of any new elections in connection with increasing the number of the said board, the terms of office shall be for two or four years, so spaced that one-half of the membership of the board shall be elected each biennium.</p>	<p>c. The term of office for each member of the board shall be four six years except in the following cases:</p> <p>i. Where a member is appointed to fill a vacancy, such appointment shall be by the Synod Council and shall be for the remainder of the term of the predecessor.</p> <p>ii. In the case of the first of any new elections in connection with increasing the number of the said board, the terms of office shall be for two or four three or six years, so spaced that one-half of the membership of the board shall be elected each biennium triennium.</p>
<p>d. Members of the board shall be eligible to serve for not more than two consecutive terms.</p>	<p>No change</p>
<p>e. Financial support for the seminary shall be determined by a process of consultation between the Board of Governors, this Church and the Synod Council.</p>	<p>No change</p>
<p>f. The board shall make an annual report to the regular convention of the synod.</p>	<p>No change</p>
<p>ARTICLE XVII Auxiliaries There shall be synodical units of the official auxiliaries of this church. Such units shall report to the Synod Council and conventions. The bishop, or an appointee, shall have seat and voice at synodical unit conventions and board meetings.</p>	<p>ARTICLE XVIII Auxiliaries There shall be synodical units of the official auxiliaries of this church. Such units shall report to the Synod Council and conventions. The bishop, or an appointee, shall have seat and voice at synodical unit conventions and board meetings.</p>
<p>ARTICLE XVIII Bylaws Section 1. This synod may adopt such bylaws, not in conflict with this constitution, as may be necessary. Such bylaws may be amended at any convention by a two-thirds vote of the delegates present and voting. At least one day shall elapse between first presentation and convention action unless unanimous consent to amend is given.</p>	<p>ARTICLE XIX Bylaws Section 1. This synod may adopt such bylaws, not in conflict with this constitution, as may be necessary. Such bylaws may be amended at any convention by a two-thirds vote of the delegates present and voting. At least one day shall elapse between first presentation and convention action unless unanimous consent to amend is given.</p>

Existing ABT Constitution - 2014	Proposal
Section 2. Bylaws relating to convention procedure may be suspended by a two-thirds vote of the delegates present and voting.	No change
<p>ARTICLE XIX Amendments Section 1. The Confession of Faith as stated in Article III shall be that of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada, and is not amendable.</p>	<p>ARTICLE XX Amendments Section 1. The Confession of Faith as stated in Article III shall be that of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada, and is not amendable.</p>
<p>Section 2. Amendments to this constitution shall be in writing and may be proposed by either</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. the National Church Council b. the Synod Council, c. a congregation of the synod, or d. ten delegates 	<p>Section 2. Amendments to this constitution shall be in writing and may be proposed by; either</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. the National Church Council b. the Synod Council, c. a congregation of the synod if such proposal was first approved at a duly called and conducted congregational meeting d. ten convention delegates
<p>Section 3. All proposed amendments must be reported to the convention no later than the first full day of business. The Synod Council shall make a report and recommendation during that convention on all proposed amendments. Adoption of an amendment shall require passage at this and the next regular convention by a two-thirds vote of the delegates present and voting. Notice of the full text thereof shall be sent to the pastors and congregations of the synod at least one month prior to the second reading. Further amendment at the second reading shall require unanimous consent. Such amendments shall be effective upon ratification by the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada in convention or by its National Church Council.</p>	<p>Section 3. All proposed amendments must be reported to the convention no later than the first full day of business. The Synod Council shall make a report and recommendation during that convention on all proposed amendments. Adoption of an amendment shall require passage at this and the next regular convention by a two-thirds vote of the delegates present and voting. Notice of the full text thereof shall be sent to the pastors and congregations rostered ministers, congregations and synodically recognized ministries of the synod at least one month prior to the second reading. Further amendment at the second reading shall require unanimous consent. Such amendments shall be effective upon ratification by the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada in convention or by its National Church Council.</p>

Synod of Alberta and the Territories - DRAFT Bylaws

Bylaws of The Synod of Alberta and the Territories

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Existing ABT Bylaws - 2014	Proposed Bylaws
<p>Part I Headquarters (Constitution, Article II) Section 1. The headquarters of this synod shall be located in Edmonton.</p>	<p>Part I Headquarters Offices (Constitution, Article II) Section 1. The headquarters head office of this synod shall be located in Edmonton.</p>
<p>Section 2. All executive offices shall be located at the headquarters of the synod unless otherwise approved by the synod council.</p>	<p>Section 2. All executive offices shall be located at the headquarters of the synod unless otherwise approved where designated by the synod council.</p>
<p>Part II Organizational Relationships Section 1. Congregation (Constitution, Article VI) a. In relating to congregations within its territory, the synod shall organize, recognize, receive, release and exclude congregations, and approve or disapprove of the relocation or the merger of congregations.</p>	<p>Part II Organizational Relationships Section 1. Congregations (Constitution, Article VI) a. In relating to congregations within its territory, the synod shall organize, recognize, receive, release and exclude congregations, and approve or disapprove of the relocation or the merger of congregations.</p>
<p>b. Congregations may petition the synod according to the procedures set forth in these bylaws, Part V, Section 8.</p>	<p>No change</p>
	<p>c. 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.</p>

Existing ABT Bylaws - 2014	Proposed Bylaws
	<p>Section 2. Synodically Recognized Ministries</p> <p>a. Synodically Recognized Ministries are groups and organizations other than congregations who promote and implement the mission of this church.</p>
	<p>b. This synod may organize, recognize, receive, release and exclude synodically recognized ministries within its geographical boundaries.</p>
	<p>c. A lay member of a synodically recognized ministry who wishes to appeal discipline imposed by his/her synodically recognized ministry 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 synodically recognized ministry. The bishop shall appoint a special committee to investigate the appeal. The decision of the committee shall be reported to the appellant, the synodically recognized ministry and to the bishop. The decision of the committee shall be final.</p>
<p>Section 2. Conferences (Constitution, Article IX)</p> <p>The synod shall be divided into five conferences as follows: East Central, Northern, Southern, Southwestern and West Central.</p> <p>a. All members of the congregations are encouraged to attend conference meetings. The voting membership shall be all ordained ministers and diaconal ministers residing within the territory of the conference, and three lay delegates from each congregation, the third of whom shall be a confirmed member under the age of twenty-five. Congregations having more than three hundred baptized members shall be entitled to an additional lay member for each additional two hundred baptized members or major fraction thereof.</p>	<p>Section 2. Conferences (Constitution, Article IX)</p> <p>The synod shall be divided into five conferences as follows: East Central, Northern, Southern, Southwestern and West Central.</p> <p>a. All members of the congregations are encouraged to attend conference meetings. The voting membership shall be all ordained ministers and diaconal ministers residing within the territory of the conference, and three lay delegates from each congregation, the third of whom shall be a confirmed member under the age of twenty five. Congregations having more than three hundred baptized members shall be entitled to an additional lay member for each additional two hundred baptized members or major fraction thereof.</p> <p>Section 3. Areas</p> <p>a. Areas are groups of congregations that work together in mission led by an Area Leadership Team.</p> <p>b. The bishop, in consultation with synod council, shall determine the number of areas and their geographical boundaries.</p>

<p>b. The bishop of the synod or the bishop's appointee shall attend the conference meetings.</p>	<p>b. The bishop of the synod or the bishop's appointee shall attend the conference meetings.</p> <p>Section 4. Area Leadership Teams (ALT) a. The bishop, in consultation with synod council, shall appoint an Area Leadership Team for each area based on gifts for leadership. b. Area Leadership Teams shall consist of two lay leaders and two rostered leaders (one of whom shall be appointed dean).</p>
<p>c. The purpose of the conferences shall be to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Assist its congregations and the synod in planning, promoting and implementing the mission of this Church; ii. Encourage fellowship among ordained and diaconal ministers and congregations; iii. Arrange opportunities for the study of the Bible and Lutheran confessions; iv. Respond in consultation with the synod to particular needs within its territory; v. Elect the required number of rostered ministers as delegates to the conventions of this Church; and vi. Elect representatives to synodical positions as determined in these bylaws. 	<p>c. The purpose of the conferences shall be to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Assist its congregations and the synod in planning, promoting and implementing the mission of this Church; ii. Encourage fellowship among ordained and diaconal ministers and congregations; iii. Arrange opportunities for the study of the Bible and Lutheran confessions; iv. Respond in consultation with the synod to particular needs within its territory; v. Elect the required number of rostered ministers as delegates to the conventions of this Church; and vi. Elect representatives to synodical positions as determined in these bylaws. <p>The role of the Area Leadership Team is to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Assist congregations and ministries within the area to plan, promote and implement the mission of this church; ii. Maintain contact with the synod bishop; iii. Serve as the bishop's representative, as requested, at installations, assisting with the call process, and conducting exit interviews; iv. Work with congregational leaders to create area ministry strategies; v. Arrange for continuing education opportunities for rostered and lay leaders to support and encourage area ministry strategies, annually in the fall; vi. Encourage networking and mutual support among rostered and lay leaders; vii. Provide pastoral support to area rostered leaders as required.

	viii. Provide recommendations to the bishop and synod council regarding the appointment of Area Leadership Team leaders.
d. A conference may adopt for itself any rules and regulations not in conflict with the constitution and bylaws of the synod.	d. A conference may adopt for itself any rules and regulations not in conflict with the constitution and bylaws of the synod. d. Area Leadership Teams shall report to the bishop annually and at other times as requested by the bishop.
e. Each conference shall meet at least once a year at a time and place set by the conference. Conferences shall designate their own quorums.	e. Each conference shall meet at least once a year at a time and place set by the conference. Conferences shall designate their own quorums. e. Area Leadership Team members shall be appointed for three year terms and are eligible for reappointment. In the event an Area Leadership Team member is unable or unwilling to serve the full term, the bishop may appoint a replacement to complete the term.
f. Each conference shall have the right to petition the synod according to procedures set forth in these bylaws, Part V, Section 8.	f. Each conference shall have the right to petition the synod according to procedures set forth in these bylaws, Part V, Section 8. f. The appointment of an Area Leadership Team member may be rescinded mid-term only upon resolution of synod council.
g. Each conference shall elect from its membership a dean, a chairperson, a secretary or secretary/ treasurer, and at least one other person who shall constitute a conference council. The conference may elect a treasurer who shall be a member of the council, or the council may appoint a treasurer who shall not be a member of the council.	g. Each conference shall elect from its membership a dean, a chairperson, a secretary or secretary/ treasurer, and at least one other person who shall constitute a conference council. The conference may elect a treasurer who shall be a member of the council, or the council may appoint a treasurer who shall not be a member of the council.
h. The conference council shall appoint persons to fill all vacancies in the council membership until the next meeting of the conference. In the event of the resignation of a conference dean, an interim dean shall be appointed by the conference council in consultation with the bishop. Time of service completed in fulfilment of vacant conference council positions shall not be included for the purposes of determining eligibility for further election.	h. The conference council shall appoint persons to fill all vacancies in the council membership until the next meeting of the conference. In the event of the resignation of a conference dean, an interim dean shall be appointed by the conference council in consultation with the bishop. Time of service completed in fulfilment of vacant conference council positions shall not be included for the purposes of determining eligibility for further election.
i. The conference council shall be authorized to receive and hold funds from its member congregations for the purpose of defraying reasonable administrative or program expenses related to the work of the conference. A printed financial report shall be presented at all regular meetings of the conference.	i. The conference council shall be authorized to receive and hold funds from its member congregations for the purpose of defraying reasonable administrative or program expenses related to the work of the conference. A printed financial report shall be presented at all regular meetings of the conference.
j. The dean of each conference shall report to the synod through the bishop.	j. The dean of each conference shall report to the synod through the bishop.

<p>k. The deans of the conferences and the bishop shall meet at least once a year for spiritual renewal and for general discussion of programs, plans and problems affecting conferences and the synod. Except where otherwise provided in this constitution and its bylaws, the function of such a meeting shall be consultative and advisory.</p>	<p>g. The deans of the conferences Area Leadership Team deans and the bishop shall meet at least once a year for spiritual renewal and for general discussion of programs, plans and problems affecting conferences and the synod. Except where otherwise provided in this constitution and its bylaws, the function of such a meeting shall be consultative and advisory. missional discernment.</p>
<p>l. The bishop may call upon the deans of the conferences to assist in the duties of installations and pastoral care of the ministers and congregations in their conferences.</p>	<p>l. The bishop may call upon the deans of the conferences to assist in the duties of installations and pastoral care of the ministers and congregations in their conferences.</p>
<p>Section 3. Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada (Constitution, Article V) In relating to the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada, the synod shall:</p> <p>a. Recognize where operating within the territory of the synod, all organizations recognized by the ELCIC, as provided for in the ELCIC Constitution, Article XVII, Section 3.</p>	<p>Section 3.5. Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada (Constitution, Article V) In relating to the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada, the synod shall: a. Recognize where operating within the territory of the synod, all organizations recognized by the ELCIC, as provided for in the ELCIC Constitution, Article XVII, Section 3. This synod shall recognize all organizations recognized by the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada.</p>
<p>Section 4. Theological Institutions (Constitution, Article XV)</p> <p>a. The Lutheran Theological Seminary in Saskatoon is owned by the Synods of Manitoba/Northwestern Ontario, Saskatchewan, Alberta and the Territories, and British Columbia. Its Board of Governors is made up of the bishops of those synods, a lay and clergy representative from each of those synods, and one clergy and two lay representatives appointed by this Church. Advisory members are the president of the Lutheran Theological Seminary and the national staff person assigned to relate to theological institutions.</p>	<p>Section 4. 6. Theological Institutions (Constitution, Article XV)</p> <p>a. The Lutheran Theological Seminary in Saskatoon is owned by the Synods of Manitoba/Northwestern Ontario, Saskatchewan, Alberta and the Territories, and British Columbia. Its Board of Governors is made up of the bishops of those synods, a lay and clergy representative from each of those synods, and one clergy and two lay representatives appointed by this Church. Advisory members are the president of the Lutheran Theological Seminary and the national staff person assigned to relate to theological institutions.</p>
<p>b. In relating to Lutheran Theological Seminary, Saskatoon, the synod in convention shall elect two members to the Lutheran Theological Seminary Board of Governors, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, one clergy and one lay, according to the terms determined by the seminary.</p>	<p>No change</p>
<p>Part III Ordained Minister/Congregation Relationship (Constitution, Article VII) Section 1. Ordination of approved candidates shall take place at a time and place designated by the bishop.</p>	<p>Part III Ordained Minister/Congregation Relationship Rostered Minister – Ordained (Constitution, Article VII) Section 1. Ordination of approved candidates shall take place at a time and place designated by the bishop.</p>

<p>Section 2. The synod shall have a call process manual approved by the synod council. A congregation wishing to extend a call shall follow the general procedures set out in the call process manual unless otherwise advised by the bishop due to unusual circumstances.</p>	<p>No change</p>
	<p>Section 3. Each minister, except those who are retired, disabled, on leave from call, or suspended from pastoral ministry, shall be in possession of a proper call from a congregation, a synod or this church itself. Such a call may be for an indefinite or a specified length of time. Before issuing the call, the calling agency shall consult with the bishop of this synod.</p>
<p>Section 3. A minister shall inform the congregational council and the bishop immediately upon receipt of a call to another ministry, and shall inform the calling agency and the bishop of any decision made within thirty days unless an extension is granted by mutual consent of all the parties involved. A minister shall terminate an existing call within two months of accepting another call, unless an extension is granted by mutual consent of all the parties involved.</p>	<p>Section 3 4. A minister shall inform the congregational council and the bishop immediately upon receipt of a call to another ministry, and shall inform the calling agency and the bishop of any decision made within thirty days unless an extension is granted by mutual consent of all the parties involved. A minister shall terminate an existing call within two months of accepting another call, unless an extension is granted by mutual consent of all the parties involved.</p>
<p>Section 4. If a conflict arises within a congregation that cannot be resolved internally, the pastor or the council chairperson shall notify the dean or the bishop in order that a mediation counsellor or other person with special expertise may be called in for the purpose of resolution and reconciliation. This process may be requested by the minister(s), the congregational council, or one quarter of the members in good standing of the congregation. Recommendations from the mediator shall be dealt with at a meeting of the congregation called for this purpose. If the conflict cannot be resolved satisfactorily by this process, the bishop shall be advised for follow up action.</p>	<p>Section-4 5. If a conflict arises within a congregation that cannot be resolved internally, the pastor minister or the council chairperson shall notify the dean or the bishop in order that a mediation counsellor or other person with special expertise may be called in for the purpose of resolution and reconciliation. This process may be requested by the minister(s), the congregational council, or one quarter of the members in good standing of the congregation. Recommendations from the mediator shall be dealt with at a meeting of the congregation called for this purpose. If the conflict cannot be resolved satisfactorily by this process, the bishop shall be advised for follow up action.</p>
<p>Section 5. When no term is specified, a regular call accepted by an ordained minister to a congregation shall constitute a relationship which may be terminated only for the following causes:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. The resignation of the minister b. The disqualification of the minister as a result of discipline c. The division of the pastoral charge d. The physical or mental incapacity of the minister e. The continued neglect of ministry by the minister f. The inability to conduct the ministerial office satisfactorily in a congregation in view of local conditions, without reflection 	<p>Section 5 6. When no term is specified, a regular call accepted by an ordained a minister to a congregation shall constitute a relationship which may be terminated only for the following causes:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. The resignation of the minister b. The disqualification of the minister as a result of discipline c. The division of the pastoral charge d. The physical or mental incapacity of the minister e. The continued neglect of ministry by the minister f. The inability to conduct the ministerial office satisfactorily in a congregation in view of local conditions, without reflection on

on the moral and spiritual character of the minister.	the moral and spiritual character of the minister.
i. In the last three contingencies, the bishop may, following consultation with the conference dean, appoint an advisory committee of two rostered ministers and two lay members to investigate. Upon the request of the congregational council or the rostered minister; or on receipt of a petition signed by at least one-third of the voting members of a congregation, the bishop shall appoint an advisory committee to investigate.	i. In the last three contingencies, the bishop may, following consultation with the conference dean, appoint an advisory committee of two rostered ministers and two lay members to investigate. g. Where the conditions set out in Section 6 d, e, f, are alleged the bishop may appoint an advisory committee of two rostered ministers and two lay members to investigate. Upon the request of the congregational council, or the rostered minister , or on receipt of a petition signed by at least one-third of the voting members of a congregation, the bishop shall appoint an advisory committee to investigate.
ii. The bishop may, with the concurrence of the congregational council, suspend the minister from ministerial duties pending the outcome of the formal proceedings when circumstances warrant.	ii. h. The bishop may, with the concurrence of the congregational council, suspend the minister from ministerial duties pending the outcome of the formal proceedings when circumstances warrant.
iii. An advisory committee appointed to investigate an allegation of physical or mental disability shall secure medical testimony to confirm or refute such allegation. If incapacity is confirmed, the bishop may, on the advice of the committee and with the concurrence of the congregational council, declare the pastorate vacant. Should the minister be restored to health, the bishop shall take steps to enable the minister to resume ministry in the congregation last served or in another ministry.	iii. i. An advisory committee appointed to investigate an allegation of physical or mental disability shall secure medical testimony to confirm or refute such allegation. The advisory committee shall secure medical testimony to confirm or refute an allegation of physical or mental disability. If incapacity is confirmed, the bishop may, on the advice of the committee and with the concurrence of the congregational council, declare the pastorate vacant. Should the minister be restored to health, the bishop shall take steps to enable the minister to resume ministry in the congregation last served or in another ministry.
iv. An advisory committee appointed to investigate an allegation of neglect of ministry or of local conditions that imperil the well-being of a congregation shall provide an opportunity for all concerned parties to be heard. At the conclusion of the investigation, the bishop, in company with the committee, shall bring recommendations to the minister and the congregation for consideration and action. Such counsel shall be offered in Christian love and is not to be regarded as a disciplinary measure. If the situation cannot be resolved amicably, the pastor may resign, or the congregation may terminate the call by a majority vote at a properly called congregational meeting.	iv. j. An The advisory committee appointed to investigate an allegation of neglect of ministry or of local conditions that imperil the well-being of a congregation shall provide an opportunity for all concerned parties to be heard. At the conclusion of the investigation, the bishop, in company with the committee, shall bring recommendations to the minister and the congregation for consideration and action. Such counsel shall be offered in Christian love and is not to be regarded as a disciplinary measure. If the situation cannot be resolved amicably, the pastor minister may resign, or the congregation may terminate the call by a majority vote at a properly called congregational meeting.
v. The foregoing procedure shall not be invoked when questions of doctrine or morality are involved. Such cases shall be treated as disciplinary matters.	v. k. The foregoing procedure shall not be invoked when questions of doctrine or morality are involved. Such cases shall be treated as disciplinary matters.
Section 6. Between called ministers an interim minister shall be appointed by the bishop in consultation with the congregational council in accordance with procedures set	Section 6. 7. Between called ministers an interim minister shall be appointed by the bishop in consultation with the congregational council in accordance with procedures set

<p>forth in the call process manual. An interim minister shall have the rights and duties of a regularly called minister. An interim minister shall not be eligible for call to the congregation he or she is serving as interim. Interim or ministers providing occasional pulpit supply during an interim shall refrain from exerting influence in the call process.</p>	<p>forth in the call process manual. An interim minister shall have the rights and duties of a regularly called minister. An interim minister shall not be eligible for call to the congregation he or she he/she is serving as interim unless provision for a call is stated within the interim contract. Interim or ministers providing occasional pulpit supply during an interim shall refrain from exerting influence in the call process.</p>
	<p>Section 6- 8. An ordained minister shall preach the Word, administer the Sacraments, and conduct public worship in harmony with the faith and practices of the church; shall baptize, confirm and marry in accordance with the teaching of the church and with the laws of the province; shall visit the sick and distressed and bury the dead; shall inculcate piety in individual and family life and provide pastoral leadership to all schools and auxiliary organizations of the congregation; shall install members of the congregational council and, with the council, administer discipline; shall seek out and encourage qualified persons to prepare for the ministry of the Gospel and strive to extend the Kingdom of God in the community, at home and abroad; and shall encourage the members to be generous in support of the ministry of the congregation, this synod and this Church.</p>
<p>Section 7. A minister shall not preach or perform any ministerial act within the parish of another minister except at the latter's request or consent, or visit or perform ministerial acts in a time of a ministerial vacancy, except by invitation of the interim minister or congregational council.</p>	<p>Section 7- 9. A minister shall not preach or perform any ministerial act within the parish of another minister except at the latter's request or consent, or visit or perform ministerial acts in a time of a ministerial vacancy, except by invitation of the interim minister or congregational council.</p>
<p>Section 8. The minister shall ensure that the congregation keeps accurate records of membership, baptisms, confirmations, marriages, burials and communicants, and shall report such statistics annually to the secretary of the Synod on the forms prescribed by the Church. These records shall be certified as being correct by the congregational secretary on the same forms. The congregational records shall be kept in a separate book which shall remain the property of the congregation.</p>	<p>Section 8- 10. The minister shall ensure that the congregation keeps accurate records of membership, baptisms, confirmations, marriages, burials and communicants, and shall report such statistics annually to the secretary of the Synod on the forms prescribed by the Church. These records shall be certified as being correct by the congregational secretary on the same forms. The congregational records shall be kept in a separate book which shall remain the property of the congregation.</p>
<p>Section 9. When members move, the minister shall commend them to the ministerial care of the parish in which their new home is located.</p>	<p>Section 9- 11. When members move, the minister shall commend them to the ministerial care of the parish in which their new home is located.</p>
<p>Section 10. All rostered ministers serving under call are expected to attend all conventions of the synod and the meetings of the conferences to which they belong.</p>	<p>Section 10- 12. All rostered rostered ministers serving under call are expected to attend all conventions of the synod and the meetings of the conferences conferences areas to which they belong.</p>

<p>Part IV Diaconal Ministers (Constitution, Article VIII) (As defined by this Church)</p>	<p>Part IV Diaconal Ministers Rostered Minister - Diaconal (Constitution, Article VIII) (As defined by this Church) Section 1. Consecration of approved candidates shall take place at a time and place designated by the bishop.</p>
	<p>Section 2. This synod shall have a call process manual approved by synod council. A congregation wishing to extend a call shall follow the general procedures set out in the call process manual unless otherwise advised by the bishop due to unusual circumstances.</p>
	<p>Section 3. Each minister, except those who are retired, disabled, on leave from call, or suspended from pastoral ministry, shall be in possession of a proper call from a congregation, a synod or this church itself. Such a call may be for an indefinite or a specified length of time. Before issuing the call, the calling agency shall consult with the bishop of this synod.</p>
	<p>Section 4. A minister under call shall inform the congregational council and the bishop immediately upon receipt of a call to another ministry, and shall inform the calling agency and the bishop of any decision made within thirty days unless an extension is granted by mutual consent of all the parties involved. A minister shall terminate an existing call within two months of accepting another call, unless an extension is granted by mutual consent of all the parties involved.</p>
	<p>Section 5. If a conflict arises within a congregation that cannot be resolved internally, the minister or the council chairperson shall notify the bishop in order that a mediation counsellor or other person with special expertise may be called in for the purpose of resolution and reconciliation. This process may be requested by the minister(s), the congregational council, or one quarter of the members in good standing of the congregation. Recommendations from the mediator shall be dealt with at a meeting of the congregation called for this purpose. If the conflict cannot be resolved satisfactorily by this process, the bishop shall be advised for follow up action.</p>
	<p>Section 6. When no term is specified, a regular call accepted by a minister to a congregation shall constitute a relationship which may be terminated only for the following causes:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. The resignation of the minister b. The disqualification of the minister as a result of discipline c. The division of the pastoral charge d. The physical or mental incapacity of the minister e. The continued neglect of ministry by the minister

	<p>f. The inability to conduct the ministerial office satisfactorily in a congregation in view of local conditions, without reflection on the moral and spiritual character of the minister.</p> <p>g. Where the conditions set out in Section 6 d, e, f, are alleged the bishop may appoint an advisory committee of two rostered ministers and two lay members to investigate. Upon the request of the congregational council, or on receipt of a petition signed by at least one-third of the voting members of a congregation, the bishop shall appoint an advisory committee to investigate.</p> <p>h. The bishop may, with the concurrence of the congregational council, suspend the minister from ministerial duties pending the outcome of the formal proceedings.</p> <p>i. The advisory committee shall secure medical testimony to confirm or refute an allegation of physical or mental disability. If incapacity is confirmed, the bishop may, on the advice of the committee and with the concurrence of the congregational council, declare the position vacant. Should the minister be restored to health, the bishop shall take steps to enable the minister to resume ministry in the congregation last served or in another ministry.</p> <p>j. The advisory committee appointed to investigate an allegation of neglect of ministry or of local conditions that imperil the well-being of a congregation shall provide an opportunity for all concerned parties to be heard. At the conclusion of the investigation, the bishop, in company with the committee, shall bring recommendations to the minister and the congregation for consideration and action. Such counsel shall be offered in Christian love and is not to be regarded as a disciplinary measure. If the situation cannot be resolved amicably, the minister may resign, or the congregation may terminate the call by a majority vote at a properly called congregational meeting.</p> <p>k. The foregoing procedure shall not be invoked when questions of doctrine or morality are involved. Such cases shall be treated as disciplinary matters.</p>
	<p>Section 7. A diaconal minister shall offer a ministry of Word and Service. This ministry will vary according to their particular discipline and the context in which they serve. In cooperation with other leaders the minister shall lead and equip the baptized for ministry, discerning, encouraging and supporting in others their own gifts.</p>
	<p>Section 8. All ministers serving under call are expected to attend all conventions of the synod and the meetings of the areas to which they belong.</p>

<p>Part V Conventions (Constitution, Article X) Section 1. The regular conventions of the synod shall be held biennially between national conventions.</p>	<p>Part V Conventions (Constitution, Article X) Section 1. The regular conventions of this synod shall be held biennially between national conventions in the year preceding regular national conventions.</p>
<p>Section 2. The secretary shall publish the time and place of each regular convention at least six months in advance. The secretary shall send out a bulletin of reports to all voting members at least thirty (30) days before each regular convention.</p>	<p>No change</p>
<p>Section 3. The voting membership of conventions shall consist of:</p> <p>a. One lay delegate from each congregation and, from congregations having more than three hundred (300) baptized members, one lay delegate for each additional two hundred (200) baptized members. A congregation is entitled to one extra voting delegate if that person is between the ages of 16 and 22 years as of December 31 of the convention year.</p> <p>b. Ordained ministers on the roster of the synod; c. Diaconal ministers on the roster of the synod; and d. All lay members of synod council.</p>	<p>No change</p>
<p>Section 4. At least sixty days prior to the opening day of the convention,</p> <p>a. Each congregation shall submit the name(s) and address(es) of its lay delegates to the synod secretary, and</p> <p>b. Each ordained and diaconal minister, active, non-parish, and retired, shall submit his/her name and address to the synod secretary.</p>	<p>No change</p>
<p>Section 5. One-third of the voting members shall constitute a quorum.</p>	<p>No change</p>
<p>Section 6. Seat and voice at conventions shall be granted to:</p> <p>a. The bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada and such other official representatives of this Church as may be designated by the national church council, b. Chairpersons of synodical committees in connection with their reports, c. Representatives of institutions and agencies related to or officially recognized by the synod, and d. The presidents of the synodical units of the official auxiliaries of this Church.</p>	<p>No change</p>

<p>Section 7. All arrangements for worship services or public meetings shall be made in consultation with the bishop.</p>	<p>No change</p>
<p>Section 8. Congregations and conferences may petition the synod in convention by submitting the petition in writing to the secretary of the synod for inclusion in the bulletin of reports. If the petition is too late for inclusion in the bulletin of reports, the secretary shall deliver the petition to the appropriate committee for presentation to the convention.</p>	<p>Section 8. Congregations and conferences may petition the synod in convention by submitting the petition in writing to the secretary of the synod for inclusion in the bulletin of reports. If the petition is too late for inclusion in the bulletin of reports, the secretary shall deliver the petition to the appropriate committee Committee for Reference and Counsel for presentation to the convention.</p>
<p>Section 9. The synod council shall approve the convention budget which will include the participation of all delegates - lay, ordained and diaconal. Convention costs shall be shared among the congregations by dividing the total convention costs by the total number of confirmed members in the synod times the number of confirmed members last reported by each congregation.</p>	<p>No change</p>
<p>Section 10. Special Conventions</p> <p>a. Special conventions for specified purposes shall be called by the chairperson of the synod within ninety days of receiving in writing a request for such a convention from:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. The synod council by at least a two-thirds majority vote, or ii. One-fifth of the congregations of the synod and one-fifth of the ordained ministers under call on its roster. 	<p>Section 10. Special Conventions</p> <p>a. Special conventions for specified purposes shall be called by the chairperson of the synod within ninety days of receiving in writing a request for such a convention from:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. The synod council by at least a two-thirds majority vote, or ii. One-fifth of the congregations of the synod and one-fifth of the ordained rostered ministers under call on its roster.
<p>b. The secretary shall give written notice of a special convention to each congregation, each ordained minister, and each diaconal minister, and shall publish the same at least thirty days prior to the opening date of the convention.</p>	<p>b. The secretary shall give written notice of a special convention to each congregation, each ordained minister, and each diaconal rostered minister, and shall publish the same at least thirty days prior to the opening date of the convention.</p>
<p>c. The voting members at a special convention shall consist of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. The lay delegates who were seated in the preceding regular convention provided that they have not been disqualified by termination of membership in the congregation they represented. Vacancies in the lay delegates shall be filled by the congregations affected at a regular or specially called congregational meeting. Vacancies thus filled shall be reported to the secretary of the synod not less than five days before the special convention. 	<p>c. The voting members at a special convention shall consist of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. The lay delegates who were seated in the preceding regular convention provided that they have not been disqualified by termination of membership in the congregation they represented. Vacancies in the lay delegates shall be filled by the congregations affected at a regular or specially called congregational meeting. Vacancies thus filled shall be reported to the secretary of the synod not less than five days before the special convention;

<p>ii. Ordained ministers on the roster of the synod at the time of the special convention; and</p> <p>iii. Diaconal ministers on the roster of the synod at the time of the special convention.</p>	<p>ii. Lay members of the current synod council;</p> <p>iii. iii. Ordained ministers on the roster of the synod at the time of the special convention; and</p> <p>iv. iv. Diaconal ministers on the roster of the synod at the time of the special convention.</p>
<p>Section 11. Nominations and Elections (Constitution, Articles XI-XIV)</p> <p>a. The convention shall elect synod council members, officers of the synod, and the bishop in the following manner:</p> <p>i. The committee on nominations shall nominate at least two persons for each synod council position.</p> <p>ii. Additional nominations may be made from the floor for all positions except that of the bishop and the chairperson, with the prior consent of the person being nominated.</p>	<p>Section 11. Nominations and Elections (Constitution, Articles XI-XIV)</p> <p>a. The convention shall elect synod council members, officers of the synod, and the bishop in the following manner:</p> <p>i. The committee on nominations shall nominate at least two persons for each synod council position.</p> <p>ii. Additional nominations may be made from the floor for all positions except that of the bishop and the chairperson, with the prior consent of the person being nominated.</p> <p>iii. All elections shall be by secret ballot.</p>
<p>iii. Synod council shall nominate the secretary and the treasurer. Nominations for chairperson shall be made by secret ballot without oral nomination. Nominations for two of the three synod officer positions shall be limited to lay persons.</p>	<p>iii. b. Synod council shall nominate the secretary and the treasurer. Nominations for chairperson shall be made by secret ballot without oral nomination. Nominations for two of the three synod officer positions shall be limited to lay persons.</p>
<p>iv. Nomination for bishop shall be made by secret ballot without oral nomination, and shall be limited to those who are qualified to be on the roster of ordained ministers of this Church.</p>	<p>iv. c. Nomination for bishop shall be made by secret ballot without oral nomination, and shall be limited to those who are qualified to be on the roster of ordained ministers of this Church.</p>
<p>v. All elections shall be by secret ballot.</p> <p>vi. In all elections, except for the offices of the bishop and chairperson, a majority of the votes cast shall elect.</p> <p>vii. The election of the bishop and the chairperson shall be held on alternate convention years.</p> <p>viii. If an election does not occur on a first ballot for any position except that of the bishop and the chairperson, voting on a second ballot shall be limited to the two persons receiving the highest number of votes cast on the first ballot.</p>	<p>v. All elections shall be by secret ballot.</p> <p>vi. d. In all elections, except for the offices of the bishop and chairperson, a majority of the votes cast shall elect.</p> <p>vii. e. The election of the bishop and the chairperson shall be held on alternate convention years.</p> <p>viii. f. If an election does not occur on a first ballot for any position except that of the bishop and the chairperson, voting on a second ballot shall be limited to the two persons receiving the highest number of votes cast on the first ballot.</p>
<p>ix. The election of the bishop and the chairperson shall be by secret ballot without oral nomination, and shall proceed in the following manner:</p> <p>1. On the first ballot, three-fourths of the votes cast shall elect. If the first ballot does not result in an election,</p>	<p>ix. g. The election of the bishop and the chairperson shall be by secret ballot without oral nomination, and shall proceed in the following manner:</p> <p>1. i. On the first ballot, three-fourths of the votes cast shall elect. If the first ballot does not result in an election,</p>

<p>it shall be considered a nominating ballot. Thereafter, voting shall be limited to those persons named on the first ballot.</p> <p>2. On the second ballot, two-thirds of the votes cast shall elect. If the second ballot does not result in an election, voting shall be limited to the four persons receiving the highest number of votes cast.</p> <p>3. On the third ballot, a majority of the votes cast shall elect. If the third ballot does not result in an election, voting shall be limited to the three persons receiving the highest number of votes cast.</p> <p>4. On the fourth ballot, a majority of the votes cast shall elect. If the fourth ballot does not result in an election, voting shall be limited to the two persons receiving the highest number of votes cast.</p> <p>5. On the fifth ballot, a majority of the votes cast shall elect.</p>	<p>it shall be considered a nominating ballot. Thereafter, voting shall be limited to those persons named on the first ballot.</p> <p>2. ii. On the second ballot, two-thirds of the votes cast shall elect. If the second ballot does not result in an election, voting shall be limited to the four persons receiving the highest number of votes cast.</p> <p>3. iii. On the third ballot, a majority of the votes cast shall elect. If the third ballot does not result in an election, voting shall be limited to the three persons receiving the highest number of votes cast.</p> <p>4. iv. On the fourth ballot, a majority of the votes cast shall elect. If the fourth ballot does not result in an election, voting shall be limited to the two persons receiving the highest number of votes cast.</p> <p>5. v. On the fifth ballot, a majority of the votes cast shall elect.</p>
<p>x. The result of each ballot in every election shall be announced to the convention.</p>	<p>x h. The result of each ballot in every election shall be announced to the convention.</p>
<p>b. Election of synodical representatives to the Lutheran Theological Seminary shall proceed as follows:</p> <p>1. The synod council, in consultation with the seminary, shall nominate one or more persons for each position for which election is required.</p> <p>2. Nominations may be made from the floor with the consent of those nominated.</p> <p>3. Normally, nominations will be presented in such a way that representation alternates between male and female at the completion of an individual's term or terms.</p> <p>4. A majority of the votes cast shall elect. If an election does not occur on a first ballot, voting on a second ballot shall be limited to the two persons receiving the highest number of votes cast on the first ballot.</p>	<p>b i. Election of synodical representatives to the Lutheran Theological Seminary shall proceed as follows:</p> <p>1 i. The synod council, in consultation with the seminary, shall nominate one or more persons for each position for which election is required.</p> <p>2 ii. Nominations may be made from the floor with the consent of those nominated.</p> <p>3 iii. Normally, nominations will be presented in such a way that representation alternates between male and female at the completion of an individual's term or terms.</p> <p>4 iv. A majority of the votes cast shall elect. If an election does not occur on a first ballot, voting on a second ballot shall be limited to the two persons receiving the highest number of votes cast on the first ballot.</p>
<p>c. Eligibility for positions as synod officers, synod council members and synod representatives to the Lutheran Theological Seminary Board of Governors shall be limited to the confirmed membership of the member congregations of the synod and of those church bodies in shared ministry within the Synod with whom the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada is in full communion.</p>	<p>c j. Eligibility for positions as synod officers, synod council members and synod representatives to the Lutheran Theological Seminary Board of Governors shall be limited to the confirmed membership of the member congregations of the synod and of those church bodies in shared ministry within the Synod with whom the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada is in full communion.</p>

<p>Section 12. The convention procedures shall be published in a convention manual approved by the synod council.</p>	<p>No change</p>
<p>Part VI Elections of Delegates to the National Church Convention (Constitution, Article VI, Sec. 2) Section 1. The synod secretary shall inform each of the conferences of the number of ordained delegates to be elected to the national church convention.</p>	<p>Part VI Nominations and Elections of Delegates to the National Church Convention (Constitution, Article VI, Sec. 2) Section 1. The synod secretary shall inform each of the conferences of the number of ordained delegates to be elected to the national church convention</p> <p>Section 1. Nominations for Delegates</p> <p>a. Six months in advance of a synod convention at which delegates to a national convention will be elected, the secretary of synod council shall call for nominations for lay, youth and rostered delegate positions. Nominations shall close 60 days prior to the opening of the convention at which the elections shall take place. There will be no nominations from the floor for delegates to national convention during the synod convention.</p> <p>b. Complete information including nomination process, conference, congregational membership and biographical details must be received at the synod office 30 days prior to the opening of the convention for the nomination to be accepted. Nomination forms will be available through the synod office.</p> <p>c. Eligible nominees shall be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. rostered members, called and actively serving a ministry such as a congregation, chaplaincy, or called interim, and member of a congregation within the existing conference boundary; ii. lay members in good standing in a congregation; iii. youth members in good standing in a congregation who will be between the ages of 16 and 25 inclusive on the first full day of the next national convention. <p>d. There shall be no restriction on the number of nominees who hold membership in any given congregation; however, congregations may only be represented by one delegate with the exception of youth delegates. In the event of an election of more than one delegate from a congregation, with the exception of youth delegates, the congregation's church council will be advised of the election following the synod convention by the secretary of synod council. In consultation with the executive committee and/or the synod bishop and the elected delegates the congregation's church council will determine by a majority vote who will serve as delegate.</p>

	<p>e. Nominations for lay and youth delegates will be accepted within existing conference boundaries provided:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. the nomination form is signed by 10 members of good standing of ABT synod congregations; or ii. the nominee is endorsed by either a congregational council or a congregational annual meeting of a member congregation. <p>f. Nominations for active rostered delegates will be accepted within existing conference boundaries provided:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. the nomination form is signed by 10 members of good standing of ABT synod congregations; or ii. the nominee is endorsed by either a congregational council or a congregational annual meeting of a member congregation; or iii. the nomination form is signed by 10 active rostered leaders in good standing of the ABT synod. <p>g. A list of all nominees and their biographies shall be published in the convention docket.</p>
<p>Section 2. Rostered delegates and alternates shall be elected at least seven months before the national church convention, after which the synod secretary shall inform those parishes eligible to elect lay delegate(s). Conferences are encouraged to consider those rostered ministers who have not previously attended a national church convention. Lay delegates and alternates shall be elected not earlier than twelve (12) months and not later than four (4) months before a convention by each member congregation which is not represented by a delegate who is a rostered minister elected by a conference.</p>	<p>Section 2. Rostered delegates and alternates shall be elected at least seven months before the national church convention, after which the synod secretary shall inform those parishes eligible to elect lay delegate(s). Conferences are encouraged to consider those rostered ministers who have not previously attended a national church convention. Lay delegates and alternates shall be elected not earlier than twelve (12) months and not later than four (4) months before a convention by each member congregation which is not represented by a delegate who is a rostered minister elected by a conference.</p> <p>Section 2. Allocation of Lay, Rostered and Youth Delegates</p> <p>a. During synod convention delegates will elect two lay and one rostered national convention delegates from each of the synod's areas (as defined in the synod bylaws). Two youth delegates shall be elected on an "at-large" basis without reference to a particular area. If the allotted number of seventeen delegates are not elected during synod convention for any reason, the synod council shall appoint the necessary number lay, rostered or youth delegate(s) at its next regularly scheduled meeting.</p> <p>b. Synod council shall appoint any remaining lay and/or rostered delegates at its next regularly scheduled meeting to meet the total number of delegates eligible to attend national convention as allotted by the ELCIC. These appointments will seek to reflect gender balance, geographical and diaconal/ordained minister representation.</p> <p>c. Elected lay, rostered and youth delegates are eligible to attend two, but not three, consecutive national conventions.</p>

<p>Section 3. Where more than one rostered delegate is elected from a congregation or a multiple-congregational parish, the additional rostered delegate must secure the written consent of the congregation or parish to pay the additional fee or make other arrangements for payment. (ELCIC Bylaws, Part V, Section 5)</p>	<p>Section 3. Where more than one rostered delegate is elected from a congregation or a multiple-congregational parish, the additional rostered delegate must secure the written consent of the congregation or parish to pay the additional fee or make other arrangements for payment. (ELCIC Bylaws, Part V, Section 5)</p> <p>Section 3 Order of Election a. Nominees (rostered, lay and youth) receiving the greatest number of votes on the first ballot from each conference shall be declared elected. Where multiple positions are being filled for any one delegate category, nominees shall be declared elected on the basis of the highest number of votes received on the first ballot. If necessary, second ballots shall be held to break ties.</p>
	<p>Section 4. Replacement of Delegates a. In cases where elected delegates are unable to attend the national convention or become ineligible to attend due to a change in roster status or a geographical / conference location change the executive committee and synod bishop shall appoint a replacement. Whenever possible, the replacement shall be the nominee who received the next greatest number of votes during the balloting process at the relevant synod convention.</p>
<p>Part VII Synod Council (Constitution, Article XI) Section 1. The elected membership of Synod Council shall consist of one ordained and one lay representative from each conference in the Synod. Appointed membership shall consist of one representative of a full communion partner who is actively serving in that partner Church. This person shall have seat, voice and vote. Members shall serve for four-year terms, with half of the terms expiring each biennium. No elected member is eligible to serve for more than two consecutive terms.</p>	<p>Part VII Synod Council (Constitution, Article XI) Section 1. The elected membership of Synod Council shall consist of one ordained and one lay representative from each conference area in the Synod. Appointed membership shall consist of one representative of a full communion partner who is actively serving in that partner Church. This person shall have seat, voice and vote. Members shall serve for four-year three-year terms, with half of the terms expiring each biennium. No elected member is eligible to serve for more than two three consecutive terms.</p>
<p>Section 2. The synod council shall:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Plan, coordinate, supervise and evaluate the activities of the synod in carrying out its mission and ministry, including development of appropriate policies for synod council; b. Be the directors of the corporation and trustees for the synod; c. Elect executive staff if and when such positions are created by the synod in convention; 	<p>Section 2. The synod council shall:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Plan, coordinate, supervise and evaluate the activities of the synod in carrying out its mission and ministry, including development of appropriate policies for synod council; b. Be the directors of the corporation and trustees for the synod; c. Elect Hire executive staff if and when such positions are created by the synod in convention;

<p>d. Issue letters of call to rostered ministers who are full-time officers or staff officials of the synod, or who are called to special service;</p> <p>e. Fill vacancies until the next convention except as otherwise provided;</p> <p>f. Determine the fact of the incapacity of an officer of the synod according to the procedures in the constitution and bylaws of this Church;</p> <p>g. Approve candidates for call, ordination and admission to the rosters of ordained and diaconal ministers;</p> <p>h. Appoint all committees for which there is no other provision;</p> <p>i. Carry out duties in good faith with a reasonable degree of diligence, care, and skill;</p> <p>j. Expect the same standard of conduct from lay and rostered members;</p> <p>k. Make and enforce its own policies, including the discipline of its members; and</p> <p>l. Perform such additional duties as prescribed in the constitution, the bylaws, or by resolutions of the synod in convention.</p>	<p>d. Issue letters of call to rostered ministers who are full-time officers or staff officials of the synod, or who are called to special service;</p> <p>e. Fill vacancies until the next convention except as otherwise provided;</p> <p>f. Determine the fact of the incapacity of an officer of the synod according to the procedures in the constitution and bylaws of this Church;</p> <p>g. Approve candidates for call, ordination or consecration, and admission to the rosters of ordained and diaconal ministers;</p> <p>h. Appoint all committees for which there is no other provision;</p> <p>i. Carry out duties in good faith with a reasonable degree of diligence, care, and skill;</p> <p>j. Expect the same standard of conduct from lay and rostered members;</p> <p>k. Make and enforce its own policies, including the discipline of its members; and</p> <p>l. Perform such additional duties as prescribed in the constitution, the bylaws, or by resolutions of the synod in convention.</p>
<p>Section 3. The synod council shall appoint an ordained minister to assume the duties and responsibilities of the bishop in the event of the resignation, incapacity, or death of the bishop, pending the election of a new bishop at the next regular or specially called synod convention.</p>	<p>No change</p>
<p>Section 4. The synod council shall hold at least two meetings annually.</p>	<p>No change</p>
<p>Section 5. Special meetings of the synod council may be called by the bishop or chairperson of the synod when circumstances warrant.</p>	<p>No change</p>
<p>Section 6. A majority of the members of the synod council shall constitute a quorum.</p>	<p>No change</p>
<p>Part VIII Synod Officers (Constitution, Article XII) Section 1. Officers of the Synod shall serve for a term of four years, without limitation.</p>	<p>Part VIII Synod Officers (Constitution, Article XII) Section 1. Officers of the Synod shall serve for a term of four six years, without limitation.</p>

<p>Section 2. The chairperson of the synod shall:</p> <p>a. Convene and preside over conventions of the synod and meetings of the synod council, and</p> <p>b. Perform additional duties as prescribed in the synod council governance and policy manuals.</p>	<p>No change</p>
<p>Section 3. The secretary shall oversee all secretarial and record keeping duties on behalf of the synod as prescribed in these bylaws and in the synod council governance and policy manuals.</p>	<p>No change</p>
<p>Section 4. The treasurer shall:</p> <p>a. Oversee all financial affairs and accounts of the synod, including deeds, mortgages, contracts, trust funds, investments, etc.,</p> <p>b. Be bonded under the fidelity coverage provided by the synod, and</p> <p>c. Perform additional duties as prescribed in the synod council governance and policy manuals.</p>	<p>No change</p>
<p>Part IX Duties of the Bishop (Constitution, Article XIII) Section 1. The bishop shall:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Provide spiritual leadership and counsel to the synod, its conventions, and conferences; b. Ordain or consecrate approved candidates for rostered ministry; c. Oversee the call process as outlined in the call process manual; d. Attest to all official documents of the synod as may be required; e. Appoint the synod archivist/necrologist to maintain historical records on behalf of the synod; f. Discipline staff and program committee members in keeping with Biblical principles; g. Report to the synod council and the synod convention all significant matters affecting the mission and ministry of the synod; and h. Perform other duties as prescribed in the constitutions and bylaws of this Church and the synod, and the synod council governance and policy manuals. 	<p>Part IX Duties of the Bishop (Constitution, Article XIII) Section 1. The bishop shall:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Provide spiritual leadership and counsel to the synod, its conventions, and conferences areas; b. Ordain or consecrate approved candidates for rostered ministry; c. Oversee the call process as outlined in the call process manual; d. Attest to all official documents of the synod as may be required; e. Appoint the synod archivist/necrologist to maintain historical records on behalf of the synod; f. Discipline staff and program committee members in keeping with Biblical principles; g. Report to the synod council and the synod convention all significant matters affecting the mission and ministry of the synod; and h. Perform other duties as prescribed in the constitutions and bylaws of this church and the synod, and the synod council governance and policy manuals.

<p>Part X Synod Council Committees (Constitution, Article XIV) Section 1. This synod shall participate in an Examining Committee serving the Synods of British Columbia, Alberta and the Territories, Saskatchewan, and Manitoba/Northwestern Ontario.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. The Synod Council of each synod shall appoint two lay persons and two rostered persons. Of the eight rostered persons appointed, at least one rostered person shall be a diaconal minister, with that position assigned to one of the synods by agreement of the synod bishops. Members shall be appointed to serve for a term of four years, with a limit of two consecutive terms, staggered so that no more than half are replaced at any one time. b. The President of Lutheran Theological Seminary shall annually appoint two faculty members. c. The synod bishops shall serve ex officio on the Examining Committee. d. It shall be the duty of this Committee to examine candidates for ordained and diaconal ministry and candidates for reception from other Lutheran churches with whom mutual recognition of ministry has not been established. The committee shall report its recommendations to the Synod Council of the Synod where the candidate is registered. e. Each examination shall be conducted by a sub-committee of the Examining Committee comprised of one faculty, two lay persons, two rostered persons, and the bishop of the candidate's synod. When a diaconal candidate is being examined, the sub-committee shall include a diaconal minister. f. Further terms of reference for, and procedures of, the Examining Committee shall be defined in the Candidacy Manual of this Church. 	<p>Part X Synod Council Standing Committees (Constitution, Article XIV) Section 1. Examining Committee This synod shall participate in an Examining Committee serving the Synods of British Columbia, Alberta and the Territories, Saskatchewan, and Manitoba/Northwestern Ontario.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. The Synod Council of each synod shall appoint two lay persons and two rostered persons. Of the eight rostered persons appointed, at least one rostered person shall be a diaconal minister, with that position assigned to one of the synods by agreement of the synod bishops. Members shall be appointed to serve for a term of four years, with a limit of two consecutive terms, staggered so that no more than half are replaced at any one time. b. The President of Lutheran Theological Seminary shall annually appoint two faculty members. c. The synod bishops shall serve ex officio on the Examining Committee. d. It shall be the duty of this Committee to examine candidates for ordained and diaconal ministry and candidates for reception from other Lutheran churches with whom mutual recognition of ministry has not been established. The committee shall report its recommendations to the Synod Council of the Synod where the candidate is registered. e. Each examination shall be conducted by a sub-committee of the Examining Committee comprised of one faculty, two lay persons, two rostered persons, and the bishop of the candidate's synod. When a diaconal candidate is being examined, the sub-committee shall include a diaconal minister. f. Further terms of reference for, and procedures of, the Examining Committee shall be defined in the Candidacy Manual of this Church.
<p>Section 2. The Committee for Theological Education and Leadership (Candidacy) shall be a standing committee of the synod council.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. The Committee for Theological Education and Leadership shall consist of eight members. Five of the members shall represent the conferences of the synod, and shall be appointed by the synod council upon nomination by the conference councils. The 	<p>Section 2. The Committee for Theological Education and Leadership (Candidacy) shall be a standing committee of the synod council.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. The Committee for Theological Education and Leadership shall consist of eight members. Five of the members shall represent the conferences areas of the synod and the remaining three shall be members at large. All are appointed by the synod

<p>other three members will be appointed by the synod council at large. Four of the committee members shall be lay persons, four shall be rostered. The synod bishop shall be an ex officio member. The committee will name its own chairperson and secretary.</p> <p>b. The appointed members shall serve for four year terms with a two consecutive term limit, staggered so that no more than half are replaced at any one time.</p> <p>c. It shall be the duty of this committee to select and endorse candidates for the ordained and diaconal ministry; review applications to the ministries of the synod by persons seeking readmission to the rosters of the synod; receive applications from candidates who come from Lutheran churches with whom mutual recognition of ministry has not yet been established, or who come from other churches; and refer candidates to the Examining Committee for colloquy according to the policies and procedures established by this Church.</p> <p>d. This committee shall receive applications for financial aid from ministry candidates, and authorize the disbursement of synod funds designated for this purpose.</p>	<p>council. members shall be appointed at large shall be appointed by the synod council. upon nomination by the conference councils. The other three members will be appointed by the synod council at large. Four of the committee members shall be lay persons and four shall be rostered. The synod bishop shall be an ex officio member. The committee will name its own chairperson and secretary.</p> <p>b. The appointed members shall serve for four six year terms with a two consecutive term limit, staggered so that no more than half are replaced at any one time.</p> <p>c. It shall be the duty of this committee to select and endorse candidates for the ordained and diaconal ministry; review applications to the ministries of the synod by persons seeking readmission to the rosters of the synod; receive applications from candidates who come from Lutheran churches with whom mutual recognition of ministry has not yet been established, or who come from other churches; and refer candidates to the Examining Committee for colloquy according to the policies and procedures established by this Church.</p> <p>d. This committee shall receive applications for financial aid from ministry candidates, and authorize the disbursement of synod funds designated for this purpose.</p>
<p>Section 3. The Congregation Constitutional Review Committee shall be a standing committee of the synod council.</p> <p>a. The Congregation Constitutional Review Committee shall consist of not less than three members and not more than five members appointed by the Synod Council, including the administrative coordinator from the synod office and one person from Synod Council who will serve as the chair.</p> <p>b. The appointed members shall serve for two-year terms with a two consecutive term limit, staggered so that no more than one-half are replaced at any one time.</p> <p>c. The purpose of the Committee shall be to:</p> <p>i. review congregations' constitutions and proposed amendments to ensure:</p> <p>- They do not conflict with the ELCIC or Alberta Synod Constitution or Bylaws;</p>	<p>Section 3. The Congregation Constitutional Review Committee shall be a standing committee of the synod council.</p> <p>a. The Congregation Constitutional Review Committee shall consist of not less than three members and not more than five members appointed by the Synod Council, including the administrative coordinator from the synod office one staff person and one person from Synod Council who will serve as the chair.</p> <p>b. The appointed members shall serve for two-year three-year terms with a two consecutive term limit, staggered so that no more than one-half are replaced at any one time.</p> <p>c. The purpose of the Committee shall be to:</p> <p>i. review congregations' constitutions and proposed amendments to ensure:</p> <p>- They do not conflict with the ELCIC or Alberta Synod Constitution or Bylaws;</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - They are based on the model constitution for congregations provided by the ELCIC for the guidance and practice of congregations within the ELCIC; - They provide consistency and clarity for congregational members in carrying out their ministerial and administrative duties and obligations including editing. - That differences in congregations and practices are recognized as acceptable in certain circumstances provided they do not conflict with the national and synodical governing documents. <p>ii. be available to confer and/or meet with a congregation or it's representatives to discuss proposed amendments and assist in helping the congregation make the amendments acceptable to Council examination.</p> <p>iii. make recommendations to Synod Council regarding the Model Constitution for Congregations, its procedures and other related matters.</p> <p>d. The following principles will guide the work of the Committee:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Most reviews may be handled by mail (e-mail) without the need for a face-to-face meeting. ii. Committee members' responses should be forwarded to the synod office to the attention of the administrative coordinator. iii. When there is a lack of consensus from the first round of Committee responses, then further communication will be solicited from the Committee. iv. If a proposed amendment from a congregation is unacceptable, and an understanding cannot be resolved by mail/phone call and negotiation, a real time meeting will be arranged that is mutually agreeable to the congregation and to most of the Committee members (this should occur infrequently). v. The Committee will then make recommendation to Synod Council through the appointed Council member, for approval or modification as deemed necessary. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - They are based on the model constitution for congregations provided by the ELCIC for the guidance and practice of congregations within the ELCIC; - They provide consistency and clarity for congregational members in carrying out their ministerial and administrative duties and obligations including editing. - That differences in congregations and practices are recognized as acceptable in certain circumstances provided they do not conflict with the national and synodical governing documents. <p>ii. be available to confer and/or meet with a congregation or it's representatives to discuss proposed amendments and assist in helping the congregation make the amendments acceptable to Council examination.</p> <p>iii. make recommendations to Synod Council regarding the Model Constitution for Congregations, its procedures and other related matters.</p> <p>d. The following principles will guide the work of the Committee:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Most reviews may be handled by mail (e-mail) without the need for a face-to-face meeting. ii. Committee members' responses should be forwarded to the synod office to the attention of the administrative coordinator staff liaison. iii. When there is a lack of consensus from the first round of Committee responses, then further communication will be solicited from the Committee. iv. If a proposed amendment from a congregation is unacceptable, and an understanding cannot be resolved by mail/phone call and negotiation, a real time meeting will be arranged that is mutually agreeable to the congregation and to most of the Committee members (this should occur infrequently). v. The Committee will then make recommendation to Synod Council through the appointed Council member, for approval or modification as deemed
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<p>e. Approval, amendment or rejection must be based on the review criteria as stated above. The Committee only recommends - the Synod Council approves, amends, or rejects.</p>	<p>necessary.</p> <p>e. Approval, amendment or rejection must be based on the review criteria as stated above. The Committee only recommends - the Synod Council approves, amends, or rejects.</p>
<p>Section 4. Synod council may appoint other ad hoc committees for a specific purpose and duration as deemed necessary.</p>	<p>No change</p>

Report of Archivist

As Archivist, I normally receive 3-6 inquiries or requests for information each month and frequently connect people with various church archives, including our synod's archives at the Alberta Provincial Archives Building.

I regularly receive archival materials from congregations and individuals, such as Master Records of parishes, as well as other materials which express the life, work, and history of parish or ministry. Also, I receive some books and periodicals. Most non-historical, religious books do not go into the Archives so I try to find a good home or use for them in our synod or elsewhere. At our last Synod Convention, I developed one option for such books; we now have a connection with the Seminary in Saskatoon for current church-related books that are no longer needed in parish or pastoral libraries. After display on a table at the Synod Convention, they then go to the Seminary for their or seminarian's use.

I also a member of the Alberta religious-based archivists group, centered in Edmonton area.

Archives begin when the Responsible Person records the information - new or old, or looks after the Minutes, or takes photos, or saves old documents locally. Archival items continue to exist such as when your mortgage burning happens [use a copy of the original – never burn the original!] and when your documents are kept together and safe – including the most important ones being kept in a fireproof place.

Church Councils share the responsibility for keeping the records and history of their church. How, about that suggestion for a fireproof container that has been floating around off and on over the years for those most valuable records? Did it get done?

Have you decided that some of the old "stuff" is no longer needed to be kept around the congregation? The Synod Archivist can help with this. Most of our retained materials go to the Provincial Archives in Edmonton [call 780- 427-1750 or 310-0000, or visit their website].

Are you looking to retrieve items of interest or records relating to someone or some church? There are many possible locations for very old records. The Archivist is available to help determine where to search and find some of that "old stuff".

Stay current with YOUR PARISH'S ARCHIVAL WORK:

You might use storage media such as computers and tablets, discs and memory sticks to assist in saving information. BUT, what will happen if the operator suddenly is not available to continue the work? Or, what if your computer crashes or has a meltdown? Fire or theft?

You may have newer ways to keep and store records, data and documents in electronic or digital form. Is yours as safe and secure as it can be? ALL ELECTRONIC RECORDS that CAN BE ALTERED are NOT considered adequate for official archives or legal purposes. Information and resources to help committees, leaders, and parish record keepers are important to have and be made available for use in the parish. Consider: are they thought of as the pastor's or the congregation's? What stuff will leave when the pastor leaves, and what stays?

And remember, the church building can burn down and can be replaced, but how, about your congregation's Master Records? It is important to protect and preserve your history.

In Christ's Service,
Gary Nickel, Pastor
Archivist, ABT Synod

Report of Necrologist

If you learn of someone who has died and has served this synod as Rostered personnel at some time in their life, or their spouse, please let the Necrologist or Synod Office know so that these people and their information may be noted with Remembrance. Information received is frequently limited to start with, so the skills of a detective are often needed to complete a person's information - and therefore your help is always welcome.

Rostered (active and retired) leaders and their spouses are encouraged to check and maintain their biographical information with Synod Office.

Pastor Gary Nickel, ABT Necrologist

Keeping in mind the comforts from the message of Christ and Easter, we remember since the lead-up to the 2014 Synod Convention, these Servants and keep their loved ones in our thoughts and prayers:

ESTHER GRANT, 81, died 16 August 2014 in Saskatoon SK. Schooled in a one-room SK schoolhouse, she became a Registered Nurse with highest marks in 1953 and in 1956 married Gene Grant who was ordained in 1958. Parish ministry followed in Sexsmith, AB; at Mount Olivet, Sherwood Park, AB; then in the USA in Jamestown, ND and Rochester MN, returning to Canada at Rose Valley, SK and Saskatoon, SK. Active in church and community wherever they moved, and "with family the centre of her life", she continued nursing in the fields of surgery, emergency, psychiatry, and geriatrics, later serving as Staff Educator and as Director of Nursing until her retirement in 1995. Esther received Canadian and Saskatchewan awards for implementing a unique back program, early computer programs for the speech impaired, and new methods to monitor behavioral outcomes in dementia, and published on the topic of ethics and long term care.

The Rev. CLIFFORD C. GUEBERT, 83, died 17 September, 2014 in Edmonton, AB. He graduated from Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, MO, married Bel [Howitt], and was ordained and installed at St. Mark, North Vancouver, BC, all in the summer of 1956. Ministry continued in Didsbury and Edmonton, AB in the former Missouri Synod until that church's conflicts in the 1970s, at which time he resigned and did secular work while serving several vacancies in the Edmonton area, including

Emmaus, Calahoo and then Gloria Dei, Edmonton [both as Interim and Full-Time] from 1984-87. In 1986 he and Gloria Dei, Edmonton joined the newly formed ELCIC. In 1987, Gloria Dei merged with St. Luke to become Hosanna, Edmonton where he served until retirement in 1996. His wife Bel died in 2000. Cliff married again, to Ursula Buller in 2011, who enjoyed joining him with his various continuing ministries and their mutual hobbies. Following retirement, he served as Interim Pastor at Grace Lutheran, Gnadenthal; St. Matthew, Thorsby; Lakeland, Cold Lake; St. John, Alberta Beach; St. Peter, Millet; and as Interim Chaplain at Univ. of Alberta, Augustana Faculty.

LAVERA ERICKSON, 89, died 30 September, 2014 in Camrose, AB. A registered nurse at the Deaconess Hospital in Minneapolis, MN, in 1949 she married Pr. Merle Erickson and they moved to a parish in Bagley, MN from 1949-51, then Bethlehem, Hawarden and Hanley, Hanley, SK from 1951-56; continuing on to Sharon, Donald; Edberg, Edberg {Ferry Point}; and Hope, Forestburg [Pleasington], AB, from 1956-1962 when Merle died of cancer. LaVera then moved the family to Camrose, AB and supported and encouraged her seven children to continue to pursue their education. Resuming her career in nursing at Rosehaven in Camrose, LaVera remained there until her retirement in Camrose, when she devoted some time traveling throughout Canada and the world visiting family and friends.

DOROTHY STOLEE, 98, died 12 October 2014 in Camrose, AB. She grew up in the Donald area and in 1940 married Pr. Selmer Stolee, also from there. They moved to parishes in Carrot River Parish, Fairy Glen, SK from 1940-47; Bawlf Parish, Bawlf, AB from 1947-57; Mt. Zion, New Westminster, BC from 1958-65; and Central, Provost, AB, from 1965-73. While raising a large family, she took a very active part in parish ministry including: playing piano and organ, teaching Sunday School, involvement with the Ladies Aid, preparing certificates and participating in some pastoral visits – often without running water, electricity, or indoor plumbing. The tradition of a Sunday meal started before morning worship and eaten afterward at home is a fond memory of their 9 children, as are their other meal-and-family times each day served with love. They retired in 1973 to a farm near Donald near where they both had been raised and were able to enjoy many relaxing years while hosting many family visits. Interim work followed at Peace, Claresholm, AB, and Valley of Hope and White Valley, Eastend, SK, as well as some

teaching at CLBI in Camrose, AB. Selmer died in 1985, and in recent years, Dorothy lived in Sunrise Village in Camrose.

ROBERT GORMLY, 69, died 22 October 2014, in Haida Gwaii, BC. He was the spouse of Pr. Benedicte Gormly who was ordained in 1990 and served Parkside, Prince Albert, SK from 1990-93; and was Interim Pastor at Our Saviour, Edmonton, AB during 1994; Benedicte was then on Disability until 2005, when she served St. John, New Sarepta, AB from 2005-14. They retired to Haida Gwaii, BC, in the spring of 2014.

MERLIENE HAUGEN, 93, died 17 November 2014, in Camrose, AB. Growing up and actively taking part in the activities and chores on a farm near Enchant, AB, she financed her attendance at the Canadian Lutheran Bible Institute by raising sheep on the farm, and was a member of the first graduating class there. Pastor Henry Haugen was serving a neighboring parish as well as in the Enchant area where they met, and they were married in 1947. They moved to Peace, Claresholm, AB, from 1947-51; and then to Salem, Kingman, AB from 1951-60, where the parsonage was being remodeled, necessitating their living first in an old farmhouse in Bardo. Their children increased to six before they moved to Camrose, AB where Henry became chaplain to Bethany Home and Hospital, in 1960, and then later became Administrator. Great home-cooked food and holidays with relatives were among the memories of the children who had grown to seven, and in Camrose, for the "first time she had a home of her own – and with running water", a characteristic of many rural clergy families of the time. Merliene became involved with the Bethany Auxiliary and the ELW Circle, and their Sunday worship was with Messiah. Later, after the children moved from home, Merliene and Henry enjoyed traveling to Norway, the homeland of their ancestors. In 1997 they moved to a condo, Henry died in 2005, and she moved to Sunrise Village in 2013. Wherever Merliene lived she continued to take part in and enjoy community life and live the theme, "Jesus Loves Me".

MISSIONARY HENRY VOSS, 96, died 27 November 2014, in Calgary, AB.

MISSIONARY RUTH VOSS, 92, died 29 November 2010, in Calgary, AB [not previously reported to Necrologist]. Serving as missionaries with the Lutheran Mission New Guinea (LMNG) under the old American Lutheran Church, to the Territory of New Guinea prior to the nation's independence, Henry and Ruth moved from site to site in New Guinea

wherever his skills for construction and maintenance were needed. They arrived just after the completion of World War II which had devastated New Guinea, and were prime examples of people who quietly went, AB out offering their service and talents wherever there was a need within LMNG. He subsequently served under the pre-ELCIC's Evangelical Lutheran Church of Canada.

They both arrived in New Guinea in 1946, Henry a little later than Ruth. As Lay Missionaries, Henry worked first primarily in construction at Finschhafen and later at Yagaum, and Ruth was a Registered Nurse at Finschhafen and later at Yagaum. They met at Finchhafen and were married in Yagaum in 1949. Henry's further construction work took them to Kewamugi, Lae, Wau, KSL, and the Balob Teacher's College. Later, Ruth became a housewife and mother while giving outpatient care and teaching scripture in the town schools wherever they lived. For one term, Henry worked as an aircraft mechanic on mission planes in Madang, having served in the Canadian Air Force in World War II. They completed their ministries in Papua New Guinea in 1972, retiring after 27 years. Maintenance work in Winnipeg, MB and later in Calgary, AB followed with another retirement in 1983.

The Rev. HAROLD BROSE, 93, died 4 January 2015, in Stony Plain, AB. Beginning pastoral ministry as a seminarian in 1946 at St. Peter's, Ottawa, ON, he graduated from Waterloo Lutheran Seminary and was ordained in 1947. Ministry followed at St John's, Waterloo, ON as Youth Pastor, then to St Matthew's, Conestoga and St James, St Jacobs, ON from 1948-53. He married Leona [Nabert] in 1952. They moved to Redeemer, Toronto from 1953-57 while providing facilities for German, Swedish, Estonian, Lithuanian, and Hungarian mission congregations, and "Mission by Fission" creating 3 new missions simultaneously. Harold became a Mission Developer and pastor to Emmanuel, Scarborough, from 1957-63 and celebrated the construction of a church building in 1961. They then served at Emmanuel, Scarborough from 1963-68; Ascension, Edmonton, AB from 1969-73; St. Matthews, Spruce Grove and Good Shepherd, Stony Plain, AB from 1973-76; and St. Matthews, Spruce Grove from 1976-82. Retirement in 1982 was followed by Harold's Interim Ministries at St. Matthews, Thorsby from 1982-84; St. John's of Golden Spike from 1984-85; Trinity, Westlock from 1985-86; Augustana, Edmonton in 1987; Central, Edmonton from 1988-89; St. John's, Alberta Beach from 1989-90; and supply at Holy Cross, Inuvik, NWT in 1986.

The Rev. ERWIN LANGE, 79, died 18 February 2015 in Simcoe, ON. He met his wife Astrid in Regina, SK where they were married in 1962. He attended Lutheran Theological Seminary in Saskatoon, SK and was ordained in 1963. They then moved to the parishes of Salem, Shaunavon, SK; Ardal, Geysir in Arborg, MB; St. John's, Montreal, QC; Trinity, Windsor, ON; and Redeemer, Coaldale, AB. After serving in Coaldale they retired from there to the Simcoe, ON area. Erwin will be remembered as a minister with a wonderful and witty sense of humour who continually helped people throughout his life, as well as being a rescuer of animals.

Diaconal Minister Sister FRIEDA GATZKE, 85, died 25 February, 2015 in Victoria, BC. Upon graduation from Pacific Lutheran University, Parkland, WA, she took studies at the Lutheran School for Church Workers, in Baltimore, MD. In 1959, she was concentrated and set apart to the Office of Deaconess at Grace, Victoria, BC, and was then called by the United Lutheran Church in America's Board of American Missions as a Parish Worker to the Edmonton, AB area where she had lived when she was younger, becoming involved in the beginnings of Prince of Peace and All Saints [later to become Ascension, Edmonton], and then to St. Marks, Regina, SK 1961, followed by more "home missions" work at Emmanuel, Scarborough, ON and Grace, Oakville, ON. She was "loaned" as Director of Religious Education to the transitioning parish of San Pedro [St. Peters], Miami, FL from 1962-64, then served as Field Secretary for Deaconess Services for the Board of College Education and Church Vocations in New York City, NY, and returned to St. Peters as Minister of Education from 1966-71. Frieda was called as a Lay Assistant with the Division for Missions in North America of the Lutheran Church in America to serve First Lutheran, Calgary, AB from 1971-78, and as Associate in Ministry at the Lutheran Church of Our Saviour, Calgary, AB from 1978-81, and was the first Canadian to be elected Directing Deaconess of the Lutheran Deaconess Community (ELCA) in Gladwyne, Pennsylvania from 1982-91. Upon retiring in 1991, she moved to and served as Pastoral Care Assistant at Luther Court, Victoria, BC, as well as to the wider community. "She found joy in whatever work needed to be done, traveled light, letting go and moving on when the call came."

The Rev. HOLGER MADSEN, 84, died 11 March, 2015 in Fort Saskatchewan, AB. A carpenter for 10 years first on the West Coast from 1946 and later heading his construction company, he "answered the Lord's Call" and completed his

4 Year-B.A. degree at Dana College, Blair, NE in 3 years and then graduated from Lutheran Theological Seminary in Saskatoon, SK, in 1964. Married in 1956 to Helga [Boberg], they moved to the parishes of Christ, Terrace, BC along with Redeemer, Kitimat and a preaching point in Hazelton, BC from 1964-68; Mt. Olivet, Sherwood Park, AB from 1968-73; Ansgar Danish, Edmonton, AB from 1974-86; St. John (Ardrossan), Sherwood Park, AB from 1986-93; then Interim ministry at Lord of Life, Edmonton, AB from 1994-95, and retired in 1995 to Sherwood Park, AB. Later, he assisted in the development of Glory, Sherwood Park, AB. Holger was the first Secretary for the Lutheran Association of Missionaries and Pilots, utilized his background to launch and lead the creation of the 180-suite Ansgar Villa in Edmonton, and helped found and organize the Danish Canadian National Museum & Gardens in Dickson, AB.

NATALIE BURKE, 75, died 26 April, 2015 in Medicine Hat, AB. Born in Chicago, IL and raised in Edmonton, AB, she attended Concordia College in Edmonton and worked in various law offices throughout Alberta and Saskatchewan. Natalie married Arnie Burke in 1967 and they later moved to Saskatoon and the Seminary in 1978. His ordination was followed by ministry in the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod in Oyen, AB and later in Australia. They joined the ELCIC in 1998, and did Interim Ministry at Peace, Wainwright and Sharon, Irma, AB from 1998-2000. A Call then followed to the parish in Bethany, Tilley and Faith, Rolling Hills, AB from 2000-2003 with retirement following.

CAROLINE HOLMES, died 22 May, 2015, in Calgary, AB. Born in Illinois, she became a Registered Nurse, graduating from the Lutheran school for nursing, and worked as a R.N. until it was time to raise a family. She married Corliss Holmes and was "at his side for 60 years as he ministered at Lutheran Churches" of Emmanuel, Meeting Creek and Saron, Clive, AB from 1958-61; Immanuel, New Westminster BC from 1961-67; and Church of the Cross, Calgary, AB from 1967-1994. She resumed her nursing in later years and was a unit clerk at Rockyview Hospital until her retirement.

MARY SEVERSON, 80, died 3 September, 2015, in Camrose, AB. Married (nee Sundby) to Pastor Allen Severson for 58 years, they moved to Birch Hills Parish, SK from 1952-56, then joined the Staff where she served as Teacher and Dean of Girls at Lutheran Collegiate Bible Institute, Outlook, SK from 1956-58. Parishes served were Dunbar, Vancouver, BC from 1958-63; Kindersley, Marengo, SK from 1963-66; Edberg, Edberg, AB from 1966-

73; and then Allen was Chaplain for Bethany Homes and Hospital, Camrose, AB from 1973-89 until his early retirement. Mary was "the voice" of Tape Ministry of Evangelical Lutheran Women's Espirit for 20 years and enjoyed mentoring many young people throughout her lifetime.

The Rev. HAROLD GNIEWOTTA, 87, died 6 September, 2015, in Edmonton, AB. Born in Germany, he came to Canada and later received his B.A. from University of British Columbia, and married Elsie in 1963 when an Intern Pastor in Shellbrook, SK. He graduated from the Lutheran Theological Seminary in Saskatoon, SK in 1963. Then, saying that "Being called as a pastor is the greatest calling in the world", he first served a bilingual parish in Emmanuel, Emerson and Zion, Friedensthal, MB from 1963-67. Moving to Alberta, they served at St. Paul's, Rolly View from 1967-72; St. John's, Wetaskiwin and Trinity, Falun from 1972-78; Heimthal Moravian and St. Paul's, Heimthal [Ellerslie-Edmonton] from 1978-81; when he then became Chaplain for the Good Samaritan Society at Dr. Gerald Zetter Care Centre, Edmonton from 1981-91. Giving thanks for good health, he "never missed one Sunday" during his ministry. After his wife Elsie died in 2006, he then traveled a lot and wrote for 8 different publications, as well as authored a book of his meditations and stories.

The Rev. RON WESLEY, 61, died 13 September, 2015, in Edmonton, AB. Together with his wife Mary, he ministered first in the Lutheran Church-Canada, and in 1993 joined the ELCIC and then ministered in the following congregations in Alberta: Holy Cross, Okotoks from 1993-1997; Ascension, Edmonton from 1997-2000; Mount Olivet, Sherwood Park as Interim Pastor from 2000-2001; Trinity, Warburg as Interim Pastor from 2001-2002; St. John of Golden Spike from 2002-2008; and Trinity, Westlock from 2009-2010. He retired in 2009.

LORRAINE MOHR, 91, died 21 September, 2015, in Camrose, AB. Born in Wisconsin, Lorraine [nee Kassube] worked as a secretary and accountant until her marriage in 1949 to Pastor Randolph ["Randy"] Mohr (d.2006). They served at the parish of Christ, Edmonton, AB from 1949-53, then St. John, Castor, AB and St. Peter, Stettler, AB from 1953-72, where she participated in church and community activities and worked as a bookkeeper. They moved to Calgary, AB in 1972 and Lorraine worked as the Calgary Office Manager for the Canadian Bible Society from 1972-87. Before retirement to Camrose, AB in 1996, they attended Highwood, Calgary and later Lutheran Church of

the Master, Airdrie, AB, and assisted in the ministry of Lord of All, Strathmore, AB. In 1996, they became active members of Bethel and of the Camrose community, and following Randy's death, Lorraine moved to Bethany Meadows Care Facility. She was known as "an adventurous cook and baker, and for her warm hospitality", and as a Sunday School Teacher and Bible Study Leader and Author.

The Rev. Dr. GEORGE EVENSON, 104, died 24 October, 2015, in Camrose, AB. A school teacher after college, he returned to school, graduating from Luther Seminary, St. Paul, MN, in 1938, the same day he married Ruth Marguerite Pederson (d., 1987). He then accepted a call to Moose Jaw SK. He was instrumental in the re-opening of Outlook Lutheran College, Outlook SK in 1939, now known as the Lutheran Collegiate Bible Institute, where he served as President, Business Manager, Teacher and Choir Director, from 1940-1951. He served the parish of Central, Edmonton, AB from 1951-54, later becoming President of Camrose Lutheran College, Camrose, AB from 1955-56. He was a professor at Luther Theological Seminary, Saskatoon, SK from 1957-74, and received his Doctor of Divinity in 1955 from Luther Theological Seminary. He returned to the parish as Pastor at Mt. Olivet, Sherwood Park, AB from 1974-80. Upon retirement in 1980, he began part time teaching duties at Canadian Lutheran Bible Institute, Camrose, AB from 1980-85. Involved in Church-wide ministries for many years at the same time as his other duties, he taught at the Lutheran Seminary in Madagascar and was a guest lecturer in Papua New Guinea. He authored published histories of the ELCC, LCBI, and CLBI, and numerous articles to church and theological journals. Retirement also involved many parish interim ministries, restructuring, and supply ministries, and served as Synod Archivist and Necrologist for several years.

The Rev. Dr. ARTHUR HOLMES, 90, died 4 April, 2016, in Farmington, MN. Born in Los Cruces New Mexico, Art joined the U.S. Coast Guard, went on to Seattle Door Company, and then into the Lutheran Ministry. Following seminary, Art was ordained and started his ministry at Forest Heights Lutheran Church. He later moved to Canada to serve as Dean of Students at Camrose Lutheran College, Camrose, AB, and then became Director of the Edmonton City Center Church Corporation, Edmonton, AB. Art "shared great stories, youthful behavior and playful character" throughout his ministry and life, eventually returned to parishes in the United States, and later retired from the pulpit in Cottonwood MN while continuing to

prepare his weekly sermons well into his 80's, "just in case someone might need him to fill in". He was preceded in death by his loving wife Myrna.

Congregation Constitutional Review Committee

The Congregation Constitutional Review Committee makes recommendations to Synod Council regarding constitution changes requested by congregations, and regarding the Synod's own constitution. Since last convention, the committee has seen the turnover of all of its members and its link to the Bishop's office has changed. Despite this, the committee has provided guidance to several congregations, and submitted proposed changes to the Synod Constitution, which will be brought to this convention.

The most common constitution changes congregations are bringing for review are reductions to the Annual General Meetings quorum or the membership of church council. The most common constitution change we discourage is to remove a specific quorum for the A.G.M., which is dangerous because it does not provide an appropriate check on the power of the incumbent church council. If your congregation is planning a change to its constitution, please feel free to engage the committee early in the process, and we will try to make sure the process is as smooth as possible.

On behalf of the committee,

The Rev. Paul McCormick (chair)
The Rev. Dr. Julianne Barlow (staff liaison)
Dan Ethier
The Rev. Calvin Skriver

Synod Examining Committee

This committee is a standing committee of Synod Council. Our mandate is to examine candidates for ordained and diaconal ministry. Membership in the ABT Synod Examining Committee consists of Judy Gusdal, Diaconal Minister Karen Wedman, Rev. David Larsen, Paul Chell, Bishop Larry Kochendorfer, and the representative from Lutheran Theological Seminary, Rev. Dr. Gordon Jensen.

The ABT Synod Examining Committee met September, 2014, to examine Diaconal Ministry Candidate, Dr. Faith

Nostbakken and a recommendation for consecration was forwarded to Synod Council, and approved.

Members of the ABT Synod Examining Committee also participate in the Western Synods Examining Committee. Membership consists of the Candidates Synodical Bishop, one representative from each of the four western Synods, and a faculty member from Lutheran Theological Seminary.

The Western Synods Examining Committee met at Peace Lutheran, Leduc on February 26, 2015 to examine Pastoral Candidate, Shane Hein. The WSEC recommended to the Alberta and the Territories Synod Council that Shane Hein be approved for ordination pending completion of studies, and receipt and acceptance of a call. This was approved by Synod Council.

The members of the Western Synods Examining Committee met at Peace Lutheran, Leduc March 31-April 1, 2016 to examine Pastoral Candidates Lindsey Skakum (ABT Synod), Lisa Janke (MNO Synod), Erik Sorenson (ABT Synod) and Diaconal Candidate, Brigitte McKenzie (BC Synod).

The committee presented recommendations to the respective Synod Councils that each candidate be ordained or consecrated pending completion of their studies and receipt and acceptance of a call. These were approved by the appropriate Synod Councils.

It is a pleasure to serve on this committee, to see the quality of students who were examined, and we look forward to seeing them serve in their Synods.

Submitted by Diaconal Minister Karen Wedman

Synod Committee for Theological Education and Leadership (CTEL)

CTEL works on behalf of the church to guide people in ministry choices which may lead to Ordination as a Pastor or Consecration as a Diaconal Minister. In the ABT Synod we now relate to four interns, eleven seminary students, and nine others at various points in the registration process. Each committee member maintains contact with one or more students to answer questions about the evaluations needed from family, community, and church members. These include a Structured Interview, a Psychological Evaluation, and Yearly Developmental Interviews. Face-to-face contact with students and interns on two-year

residencies happens at least once a year at the CTEL September Retreat, now held at Mulhurst Lutheran Camp. Last September we held a first-ever Open House for prospective candidates and their families with presentations on the role of CTEL and the role of the Lutheran Theological Seminary. These presentations have also been shared with our national coordinating group (the Program Committee for Leadership in Ministry / PCLM) for possible use in other synods.

The Committee distributes funds from the Synod's "Support our Students" fund and from the interest on the Bishop Steve Kristenson Endowment Fund. Both funds grow by donations from individuals and congregations. These funds are a response to a 1998 Synod Motion to work towards the goal of paying full tuition fees for all candidates endorsed for studies.

In May The Rev. Darryl and The Rev. Rita Roste conducted training for Structured Interviewers in Calgary and Area. Such interviewers work in pairs to help people evaluate their sense of ministry. We hope to offer another training session for the northern part of the province.

At the Synod Convention in June, CTEL members invite convention goers to join them for lunch on Friday, June 17th. We hope for conversation with potential candidates for rostered ministry and conversations with congregational members about how to support candidates. With so many students "staying home" to take on-line and intensive classes from LTS, the congregation can have a much more regular interaction with them and provide important opportunities that support class work.

Committee members are:

The Rev. Susan Horton, Chair (At Large)
Darcy Calkins, Vice-Chair (West Central)
The Rev. Greg Anderson, Secretary (Northern)
Myrna Husdahl (Southern)
Greg Lingelbach (South West), who also serves as chair of PCLM
The Rev. Dr. Gordon Jenson (Seminary Liaison)
Bishop Larry Kochendorfer (Synod Liaison)

The East Central rep is changing from Diaconal Minister Bev Swanson to The Rev. Prema Samuel.

Your prayers and support for ministry candidates and for the members of CTEL are an important part of our work together.

In Christ,
The Rev. Susan Horton

Report of the Deans

Northern Conference

Dear friends in mission,

Thanks to Rev. Marcus Wilhelm for providing guidance and support after my election as Northern Conference Dean at the Northern Conference Convention in October 2015. As he said in leaving this position – it truly is a blessing to work alongside God's people! I am grateful for the trust given and the work we share.

We are geographically a large conference as you know. But we are also "large in heart." It's very encouraging to meet, listen, pray, and laugh together as we look for God in familiar places and at the edges of the same. Like so many places, there is much that challenges us but, we also recognize that our belonging in God's family is safe. And so, we do the best we can, learning along the way a little bit more about this thing called "faith!"

In 2016 several Participating in Hope events were held in the Northern Conference. Our meetings were smaller this second time around but, still meaningful experience to hear people exploring old texts for new insight. God is still speaking to, with and through us! What a treasure we have been gifted!

This same treasure of good news is highlighted in our convention theme: Liberated by God's Grace. Have you thought deeply about what liberation means? Sometimes we tend to take it for granted in our lives. Freedom is costly and joyful and not to be taken for granted; every morning as we awake it simply asks to be shared as we wander about the world. That status of liberation is with you wherever you go. Thanks be to God!

Movement in this conference included:

1. March 8, 2015 – Installation of The Rev. Tim Posyluzny, Mount Zion, Edmonton.
2. March 11, 2015 – exit interview with DM Sarah Rudd, Holy Spirit, Edmonton.
3. September 16, 2015 – exit interview with The Rev. John Strecker-Baseler, St. Paul's Millcreek, Edmonton
4. November 5, 2015 – Installation of The Rev. David Melax at Lord of Life Lutheran Church, Edmonton.

5. November 15, 2015 – Installation of Rev. Doug Hanson-Torwalt at St. John's Lutheran Church of the Golden Spike.
6. January 17, 2016 – Installation of Rev. Beryl St. Germain, Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Stony Plain.
7. February 4, 2016 - Exit Interview with Rev. Kirk Tastad, Holy Family Lutheran Church, Yellowknife.
8. February 11, 2016 - Exit Interview with Rev. Calvin Skriver, Lord of Glory Lutheran Church, Lac La Biche.
9. February 28, 2016 - Installation of Rev. Jason Anderson, Trinity Lutheran Church, Edmonton.

In the Northern Conference we celebrated with (and were saddened) by the closure of Augustana Lutheran Church, Edmonton. For some 85 years this congregation faithfully served on the corner of 107 ST and 99 AV which is now a bustling area of downtown. Time and change would have their way and the congregation decided to close its doors but, not its ministry! Bits and pieces, large and small, from banners to pews to sound equipment, Augustana generously distributed itself to people and places far and near. Even the ELCIC National Convention (Edmonton 2015) benefitted from this disbursement as Augustana's interior doors were re-purposed and recycled into a Table and Ambo for the convention (the Table has a new home at Good Samaritan Southgate, the Ambo at Holy Spirit Lutheran Church, Edmonton.) In addition, the congregation modeled a new way of ministry in establishing funding for ongoing important work. Even the members have become gifts themselves as they have been welcomed into Edmonton area congregations! Many thanks to Augustana for your faithful service and forward thinking.

We are thankful for the gift of time and wisdom from our conference council members:

Chairperson: Rev. Aaron Schnell, Treasurer: Rev. Phil Penrod, Secretary: Marilyn Goebel,
 Council Members: Cindy Schriener, Dan Bablitz, Mike Harmon, Diaconal Minister Sarah Rudd, Rev. David Melax, Rev. Doug Heine.
 Outgoing Council members: Rev. Kathie Schmitke, Rev. Ann Salmon, Rev. Marcus Wilhelm.

In Christ,
 Rev. Trish Schermund
 Dean, Northern Conference

West Central Conference

The short letter of Philippians has long since been one of my favourite "go-to" books in Scripture. Packed full of rejoicing, gratefulness, and humility of Christian community, rooted and grounded in the humility of Christ and the gift of the cross; it is hard to believe all of this is contained in only four chapters. And so I begin my Dean's report with:

"I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ." Philippians 1:3-6

Truly I am grateful, for not only the partnership that is gift to me in my own congregation, but the partnership we share as a conference and a Synod in the work God has called us to. The word "**partnership**" has taken on greater meaning for me as I have begun to think much deeper on the idea of *area ministry*. And while for many, area ministry becomes more focused during times of financial hardship, or when a congregation struggles to find and keep a pastor, I wonder—could God be up to something more here? Could we be missing out on the greater gifts of what it means to be God's people together?

And while all of that is ambling around in my head, I am also very mindful of the congregations and ministries within our own conference who struggle, often in silence, over finances and pastors and ministries that end. And while the promise is that no single congregation or ministry will last forever, I wonder how we might work better at the work God calls us all to, and to which we are called to join in together?

I hope that over the next year we might, as a conference, seek out and create partnership opportunities, get to know one another, enter into deeper care and relationship, and discover together the joy of God working in our midst. And, as always, giving thanks to God for the gift of our partnership in the Gospel!

News from West Central Conference Council: I give thanks specifically for those who have served on our West Central Council this past year: **Vivian Holtby, Carol Bell, Howard Melnikel, Dallas Craven, Diaconal Minister Virginia Burke, Rev. Art Weiss, and Rev. Dr. Chris Nojonen.**

Some of the things our council has talked about this year:

- **Conference Fees:** With the changes to the National Church structure and how we come together in convention, convention fees will be paid directly by the Synod, thereby eliminating the need for congregations to pay and then be reimbursed. WCC, in keeping with all the other Alberta Synod Conferences, has agreed to continue collecting both a conference fee and national fees as follows: West Central Conference Fee: \$1; Youth Education Grant: \$.50; National Convention Fee: \$2; for a total of \$3.50 per reported confirmed member. The amount allocated for National Convention will be forwarded directly to the Synod.
- **New Grant Available to West Central Conference Congregations:** Taking hold of the Reformation challenge issued to all congregations of the ELCIC, the West Central Conference Council passed a motion to challenge all West Central Conference congregations to plant trees in their own communities. A dollar for dollar grant (up to a maximum of \$200 per WCC congregation) has been set up to help with this goal. For more information, contact me at krcalkins@shaw.ca. And make sure to record the trees you plant on the ELCIC website by clicking "Get Involved in the ELCIC Reformation Challenge!".
- **West/East Central Conference Convention,** hosted by our East Central Conference in Camrose in October.
- **Upcoming West Central Conference Gatherings:** The WC conference council is working hard to plan two conference-wide events to bring people together for hotdogs, laughter, conversation and some creative ideas for our conference to join in the Reformation Challenge in possibly raising money towards ELCJHL School Scholarships. Details are forth-coming.

Spirit-led Leadership: We give thanks for the many and creative ways the Spirit is working in our conference to provide leadership for ministry in our area.

- For regular opportunities to meet as rostered leaders in our regular monthly gatherings on the second Tuesday of each month. Thanks to *Good Shepherd, Red Deer* and *Rev. Marc Jerry* for their hospitality in hosting most of these

gatherings, and to the leaders who lead us in time of devotion, communion and worship.

- Thanks also to *Peace, Leduc* and *Rev. Matt Lyseng* for their hospitality in hosting monthly ministerial gatherings in the Leduc area.
- For area leadership and the opportunity to meet at the **Congregational Life Event:** "Walking Together: Mental Health Through our Lifetime," with keynote speaker *Dr. Sharon Smith*, and hosted by *Good Shepherd, Red Deer*. This is an annual event planned by our Synod, and an opportunity for both lay and rostered leaders to gather together in worship, learning and lively conversation about issues of faith and life. If you have never attended any of these events, mark you calendars for April 2017. It is a day well spent!

As we give thanks for our leadership, we remember ministries and leaders in transition; we pray for the Spirit's leading, peace and discernment:

- For *St. Peter's, Millet*, in the call process; for interim pastor *Rev. Rolf Nosterud* and supply ministry as well.
- For *Grace, Gnadenthal*, and interim pastor Rev. Marvin Krebs.
- For *St. Paul's, Rolly View*, in the call process and interim pastor *Rev. Kathie Schmitke*.
- For *Grace, Bentley and Epiphany, Rimbey*, in the call process; and for all those who provide supply ministry there.
- For *Trinity, Warburg* who held their concluding service of worship on March 6th of this year.

Collaborative Partnerships: It is exciting to see the many and interesting collaborative partnerships throughout our conference:

- **Anglican/Lutheran Partnerships:**
 - *Rocky Mountain House* Evangelical Lutheran/Anglican Parish served by *Rev. Dr. Chris Nojonen*
 - *Grace, Bentley* (ELCIC) and *Epiphany, Rimbey* who continue to work and minister together, seeking new pastoral leadership at this time.
 - *Good Shepherd* (ELCIC), *St. Luke's* (Anglican), *St. Leonard's* (Anglican), *Red*

Deer, who come together for VBS, Lent and Holy Week Services, pulpit exchanges and other activities.

- **Lutheran Theological Seminary:**
 - We are pleased to have seminarian *Jailyn Corbin* continuing her two-year internship at Peace, Leduc.
- **Area Ministry:**
 - Many of the more northern congregations in our conference (Leduc, Wetaskiwin, Millet, Rolly View, Thorsby, etc.) have come together for area-wide confirmation, for plays and musical productions, and have regularly participated in pulpit exchanges, potlucks and community gatherings in their area.

Hope-filled Discipleship: The West Central Conference has bursaries for youth in the areas of Christian education and learning. Four grants of \$300 are available each year, so if you know of youth in your area traveling on Christian mission, taking Christian education or other formational learning events, have them talk to me or someone else on WCC Council to fill out the application. We have already awarded one bursary this year to recipient, Tova Berg from Messiah, Camrose.

We hold in our prayers and give thanks for our outdoor camp ministries heading into full swing, particularly those camps in our conference area: *Mulhurst Lutheran Camp and Camp Kuriakos*, for the leadership, counsellors, program directors, cooks, and other volunteers. May God bless this vital ministry that is often one of the most formative and faith building times in the lives of our young people.

Innovative Tradition, Expressions of God at work in our Synod:

- **Participating in Hope:** What a great joy to once again participate in the "*Participating in Hope*" gatherings within our conference in February this year. Thanks to Synod Council Members *Rev. Gary Aicken, Sundre; and Mark Ree, Bentley* who helped to lead us through the day, and to the two host congregations, *Peace, Leduc, and Peace, Innisfail*. The opportunity to gather as congregations in areas to share our stories, our

hope, our joys and our struggles, was a meaningful and rich experience for all those who participated. We look forward to hearing from our Synod as the conversations are compiled, as we hear and celebrate God at work in our area, our church and Synod!

- **Creative Initiatives Grant:** Our Synod provides Creative Initiative Grants for congregations who experiment and wonder, *What would it look like if...?* The grant is designed to bring people together in conversation with their community, to try something new and to ask, "What did we learn?" On Ash Wednesday, February 10, 2016, *Peace, Innisfail* hosted a community art show designed to engage their community in a conversation of Lenten themes of justice, love of neighbour, ecology and environment.

As I close this report, we cannot forget the work of our **Synod** leadership, staff and volunteers. In **Bishop Larry, Assistant to the Bishop Julianne**, and all those who serve our Synod, we are blessed with leaders of varied gifts—the greatest of these, in my mind—gifts of deep faith in God, humility, and hopeful leadership. We pray for you! We are blessed by you! Thank you! And thanks be to God!

Come! Live in the light!

Shine with the joy and the love of the Lord!

We are called to be light for the kingdom,

To live in the freedom of the city of God.

We are called to act with justice.

We are called to love tenderly.

We are called to serve one another.

To walk humbly with God. Amen.

(From Evangelical Lutheran Worship, Hymn #720, *We Are Called*)

Rev. Kathy Calkins, Dean, West Central Conference

East Central Conference

Grace to you and peace from God, our Creator, Redeemer, and Sanctifier.

The East Central Conference is pleased to welcome the Synod of Alberta and the Territories to Camrose and to our conference for the 2016 Synod Convention.

The members and congregations in our conference, like so

many throughout our Synod, struggle with the challenges that have come with the down turn in the oil and gas sector of our economy. Our congregations continue to serve with a heartfelt love for God, their communities, and their fellow members. They look forward with the hope that is ours through Jesus Christ. We are very aware that it is only through the grace of God that we continue to serve within the communities we are part of.

Changes in the conference in the last two years are as follows:

1. Rev. Charlotte Strecker-Baseler accepted the call to serve as the pastor for Scandia Lutheran, Armena, and St. Joseph Lutheran, Hay Lakes.
2. Rev. Dr. Deborah Ann Taylor accepted the call to serve as pastor for Bethel Lutheran, Camrose.
3. Rev. Julianna Wehrfritz-Hanson accepted the call to Edberg, Edberg; Bethesda, New Norway; St. Peter, Bashaw; and Zion, Bashaw congregations. Pastor Julianna had been serving these congregations on an interim basis.
4. Rev. Bill Harder resigned his position with the Bawlf Parish (Bawlf Lutheran, Skudness Lutheran, and Zion Lutheran). Rev. John Strecker-Baseler accepted the call to serve the Bawlf Parish. Rev. Bonnie Arends provided interim ministry.
5. Rev. Garth Wehrfritz-Hanson and Rev. Prema Samuel accepted calls to serve as chaplains with the Bethany Group.
6. Rev. Calvin Skriver accepted the call to serve Messiah Lutheran, Camrose as Senior Pastor. Diaconal Minister Bev Swanson provided interim ministry.
7. Rev. Bonnie Arends provided interim ministry at Bethel Lutheran, Camrose and for the Bawlf Parish. She is working part-time for the Family Violence Action Society
8. Diaconal Minister Signi Bruner has retired from her position as a Chaplain with the Bethany Group. She is working part-time for the Camrose & District Support Services and the Family Violence Action Society.

9. Rev. Barry Vall has retired from his counselling position at the University of Alberta - Augustana Campus.
10. Rev. Dr. Hans-Dittmar Mundel has retired as a professor at the University of Alberta - Augustana Campus.
11. The members of Bethania Lutheran, Sedgewick had their last service on May 29. Rev. Rick Laurendeau continues to serve Hope Lutheran, Forestburg, Trinity Lutheran, Lougheed, and St. John Anglican, Sedgewick. The congregation's lasting legacy to the Sedgewick community will be that their building will be put to good use by "The Good As New" store which has served the community for a number of years.
12. Rev. Dr. Arnold Hagen, Mrs. Mary Severson, and the Rev. Dr. George Evenson have died. They were faithful servants of God throughout their lives. They will be missed by their family and friends.

Many of our congregations participated in the two sets of *Participating in Hope* conversations. Bethany Lutheran, Hughenden, and Scandia Lutheran, Armena hosted the events. Those who participated found the conversations good opportunities to listen and to build relationships with others in our Conference.

An information session on Missional Formation was held on April 30 at Scandia Lutheran, Armena. Over twenty rostered and lay people attended the event. There seems to be enough interest in the process to form a group to begin in November 2016.

We had eight delegates from the East Central Conference to the 2014 National Convention in Edmonton (three rostered and five lay).

The East Central Conference hosted the Joint Conference Convention at Bethel Lutheran, Camrose in 2014. The theme was *Fed and Nourished, Filled and Refreshed*. Rev. Mark Jerry was the keynote speaker. He presented on the *Word and Sacrament Ministry* study document. The 2015 Joint Conference Convention was hosted by the West Central Conference at St. Peter's Lutheran, Millet. The theme was *Living Well with the Land: Touch the Earth Lightly*. The Rev. Dr. Cam Harder was the keynote speaker.

The current East Central Conference Council members are: Rev. Eleanor Ness (Dean), Mr. Horst Schreiber

(Chairperson), Ms. Kathy Nelson (Secretary/Treasurer), Deacon Signi Bruner, Rev. Julianna Wehrfritz-Hanson, Mr. Mark Wight, and Mrs. Linda Aker Paulgaard. Rev. Bill Harder resigned from his position on the council at the end of December 2014. Mrs. Anne Roper completed her terms on the Conference Council. Thank you to all those who have served as members of the Conference Council during the last two years. Your dedication, willingness to serve, and wisdom in guiding the conference is appreciated. We are blessed as a conference to have such faithful people serving on our behalf.

God bless you all as you carry on the various ministries God has called you into.

Rev. Eleanor Ness, Dean, East Central Conference

South West Conference

Seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to the Lord on its behalf, for in its welfare you will find your welfare... For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope. (Jeremiah 29:7, 11)

The story of the SW Conference (the city of Calgary and surrounding communities) of the past two years has been one of economic downturn. In the midst of massive layoffs, companies going out of business, and budget constraints – all of which has affected members of our churches – we continue to pray to the Lord on behalf of this city, and seek its welfare. This is exemplified in the daily and weekly ministries of our churches supporting the Interfaith Food Bank, Inn From the Cold (a city-wide program to involve church and community groups as emergency shelters), community meal programs, tax clinics, women's shelters, and many, many other activities.

A major initiative taken on by the SW Conference in 2015 was to pool our resources to sponsor one or more refugee families. A steering committee with membership from several churches was diligent in preparing the way by researching costs, and divvying up volunteer tasks that different churches could take on. At the time of this writing we are waiting to hear from the government about a possible match; a refugee family could arrive within weeks.

At the same time as we seek the welfare of our city, we also take time to nurture our own relationships between churches, and nourish ourselves on the Word. In 2014 and

2015 congregations from around the SW Conference gathered for Participating in Hope meetings, which were designed to create conversation between church communities about what gives them hope and joy in ministry. The process was well received, and those who participated reported feeling energized in their local ministries as they put into words the great things they were doing, and heard from others about the creative ministries they were engaged in.

Also in the past two years we have gathered for our annual shared Conference Conventions (in 2014 at Good Shepherd, Lethbridge, and in 2015 at the Church of the Cross in Calgary). It continues to be wonderful to share this time of education and fellowship and business with representatives from the Southern Conference.

Ministry changes of the past two years include the following:

- Rev. Bart Eriksson resigned from All Saints, Calgary to accept a call to St. Peter's Lutheran Church (C.A.L.C.) in Cochrane.
- Rev. Kevin Powell took up the position of interim pastor at First, Calgary.
- Rev. Ryan Andersen resigned from Advent, Calgary. He has moved into the position of Director of the Metro Calgary Alliance.
- Rev. Daranne Harris resigned her call at Hope, Calgary to accept the position of Vice President and Chief Mission Officer with the Bethany Care Society.
- Rev. Michael Wellman accepted the call to Highwood, Calgary.
- Rev. Dr. Tim Wray accepted the call to Church of the Master, Airdrie.
- Rev. Deborah Kerr has accepted the call to Advent, Calgary.
- Rev. Wallace Bornhuse has accepted the call to All Saints, Calgary.

Rostered and professional workers continue to meet monthly for "mutual conversation and consolation." It is a very important point of connection for our rostered leaders, most of whom work on their own in their congregations. The monthly mid-morning meeting provides a chance to build supportive relationships and share information in the Conference.

Many thanks go to the SW Conference executive committee, which meets about three times a year: Rev. Dr. Kayko Driedger Hesslein, Greg Lingelbach, Dorothy Schumaker, and Helga Weissenberger.

Even as we in the SW Conference pray and work on behalf of a city in economic straits, we trust that in and through it all the Lord has plans for us for our welfare, to give us a future with hope.

Rev. Kristian Wold, Dean, South West Conference

Southern Conference

As I write this Report, I'm having a hard time believing that another two years have passed since we gathered for Synod Convention!

There are a few things I want to tell you about – some that are past, some that are unfolding now, and some that are still to come. I'll begin with...

What has been: Since we last gathered for our Synod Convention in 2014, I have had the privilege of installing four Pastors in four of our Congregations:

Pr. Janice Whitelock, Spirit of Grace, Brooks, Sep-14-2014

Pr. Jeff Decelle, Unity Lutheran Church, Medicine Hat, Oct-26-2014

Rr. Dyanna Couture, Nazareth Lutheran Church, Standard, Nov-02-2014

Pr. Shane Hein, St. Peter Lutheran Church, Medicine Hat, (Jun-23-2015)

The congregation of Redeemer (Hanna, AB) is being served by Colin Millang, licensed to serve in a Pastoral Capacity, as he continues his studies at the Lutheran Theological Seminary, Saskatoon.

This means that all the Congregations in this Conference that were seeking a Pastor now have one! No Pastoral Vacancies! At the same time, we need to remember those congregations that must rely on Pastoral Supply or other arrangements.

What's happening now: In September 2015, many Congregations and Pastors in the Southern Conference began a Journey in Missional Formation, in partnership with The Missional Network. The second iteration of this journey

is intentionally "targeting" the Southern Conference, with the goal of helping our Congregations refocus on mission in the community around us.

This is a wonderful opportunity, and includes very intentional support / mentoring for both the Rostered Leaders and Congregational Guiding Teams that are involved. And it has raised another challenge – how do we also provide support for Rostered Leaders in this Conference who are not involved in this journey (including those who are retired)?

In the end, it was decided that, on a quarterly basis, we would "forego" the monthly Missional Formation Cohort Gathering for Rostered Leaders, and instead gather with all the Rostered Leaders in the Conference (who so desire and are able) for the expressed purpose of fellowship, mutual support, and encouragement.

And I have to say that I'm thrilled at the relational quality of these times that we gather as Rostered Leaders! Our concern is not a discussion of Lectionary Texts or Theology (though there's nothing wrong with these!). Our purpose is different: we gather simply to support and encourage one another. We gather first for a meal, following which we go to a more private venue where we spend time "Dwelling in the Word". The rest of our time is wide-open, yet we have been nurturing an atmosphere that allows for all to share not only their joys, but also their struggles, whether these be "professional" or "personal". We spend time together praying for one another – especially around the concerns that have been shared. And before we hit the road at the end of our time, we are fed and nourished for our continuing journeys by our Lord who meets us in the Eucharist.

Changes that are unfolding: As I'm sure you know, at the 2015 ELCIC National Convention, a decision was made to change the number of delegates to future National Conventions. This also required a change in the way that delegates from each Synod are selected.

Detailed information on this change, and the Nomination / Election Process has been provided by our Synod Office, and at this Synod Convention, we will be electing Delegates to the 2017 ELCIC National Convention.

Related to this change is that, from this point forward, the Registration Costs for all Delegates to the National Convention will be paid by our Synod (under the Synod Budget). The Southern Conference has decided that when we collect "Conference Dues", we will continue to also

collect funds for National Convention Delegate costs with these funds then being forwarded to the Synod Office. As we transition into this new model, we will also continue to be in dialogue with Synod Office regarding a recommended dollar amount per congregational member.

I'm looking forward to seeing many of you in Camrose at the 2016 Convention of the Synod of Alberta and the Territories!

Thank you for your continued partnership in ministry and mission within your own community and geographical area, the Synod of Alberta and the Territories, and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada!

Blessings in Christ
 Rev. Reg Berg, Southern Conference Dean

Roster of Synod Council

Synod of Alberta and the Territories
 Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada

Bishop	2018	Rev. Dr. Larry Kochendorfer
Chairperson	2016	Rev. Tim Posyluzny
Treasurer	2018	Stephen Wildfang
Secretary	2018	Marilyn Murray
Southwestern	2016	Terrie Coombs
Southwestern	2018	Rev. Dr. Phil Holck
East Central	2016	Rev. Paul McCormick
East Central	2018	Irene Motta
West Central	2016	Mark Ree
West Central	2016	Rev. Gary Aicken
Northern	2016	Michael Harmon
Northern	2018	Rev. Ann Salmon
Southern	2016	Wayne Street
Southern	2018	Rev. Reg Berg
Full Communion Partner Representative	2018	The Rev. Canon Erin Phillips