

**THE FIFTEENTH BIENNIAL CONVENTION**  
**Synod of Alberta and the Territories**  
**Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada**  
**June 19 - 21, 2014**  
**Augustana Campus, University of Alberta, Camrose, Alberta**  
**Living Worship - Shaping Life ... In the Potter's Hand**

**Thursday, June 19, 2014**

The fifteenth biennial convention of the Synod of Alberta and the Territories began at 2:00 p.m. in the Augustana Chapel with a worship service and the Order for Opening of Convention. Bishop Larry Kochendorfer presided and National Bishop Susan C. Johnson preached.

**FIRST SITTING**

1. **OPENING**

At 3:30 p.m. Chair Rev. Tim Posyluzny, Synod Chairperson, welcomed delegates, guests and visitors to the fifteenth biennial convention of the Synod of Alberta and the Territories.

2. **INTRODUCTIONS**

Chairperson Rev. Tim Posyluzny invited those on the podium to introduce themselves:

- recording secretary Dave Stolee,
- Secretary Marilyn Murray,
- Treasurer Stephen Wildfang, and
- Bishop - The Rev. Dr. Larry Kochendorfer.

Other special guests were introduced, including National Bishop Susan Johnson, Bob Granke from CLWR, Rev. Dr. Kevin Ogilvie from Lutheran Theological Seminary. Rev. John Lentz was introduced as convention chaplain.

Chair, Rev. Tim Posyluzny introduced rostered people new to the Synod since the last convention, as well as those who have retired.

Assistant to the Bishop, Rev. Dr. Julianne Barlow introduced members from the newly organized congregation, Spirit of Grace Lutheran Church, Brooks.

ABT 14-01 MOVED AND SECONDED that Spirit of Grace Lutheran Church, Brooks, be accepted onto the roster of congregations of the Synod of Alberta and the Territories. CARRIED.

3. **ORIENTATION OF DELEGATES**

Chair, Rev. Tim Posyluzny provided orientation to the convention; and Convention Committees were introduced.

Wayne Street explained the role of the parliamentarians and Jonathan Mohr outlined procedures related to the Committee on Reference and Counsel.

4. **REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE FOR REGISTRATION AND ATTENDANCE**

The Committee for Registration and Attendance reported the attendance as of 3:30 p.m. as follows:

Rostered delegates	96	
Lay delegates	76	(Total delegates - 172)
Visitors	19	
Guests	12	

A quorum was declared.

5. **AGENDA**

ABT 14-02 MOVED AND SECONDED that the agenda for the convention be adopted as distributed.

MOVED AND SECONDED that the agenda be amended by moving the presentation of the budget to 3:20 p.m. on Friday. The motion to amend the agenda was CARRIED.

The motion as amended was CARRIED.

6. **FIRST BALLOT FOR BISHOP**

National Bishop Susan Johnson introduced the process for election of bishop and explained ecclesiastical balloting.

Chaplain John Lentz led in a prayer of discernment. Ballots were collected and balloting was declared closed.

7. **REPORT OF THE NATIONAL BISHOP**

National Bishop Susan Johnson reported on the mission, goals, and activities of the ELCIC. She emphasized the call to spiritual renewal: Pray, Read, Worship, Study, Serve, Give and Tell. There was an opportunity for questions and discussion.

Delegates were invited to discuss in small groups what excites them about the ELCIC, and if there was one more thing the national church could do, what would it be?

8. **ELECTIONS COMMITTEE REPORT**

The Committee on Elections reported on the first ballot for bishop as follows:

172 ballots were cast. Three were spoiled.

Bishop Larry Kochendorfer	148	Rev. John Boyd	1
Rev. Dennis Aicken	2	Rev. L. (Scott) Brown	1
Rev. John Lentz	2	Rev. Bart Eriksson	1
Rev. Timothy Posyluzny	2	Rev. Peter Grundler	1
Rev. Markus Wilhelm	2	Rev. Cindy Halmarson	1
Rev. Ryan Andersen	1	Rev. Dr. Marc Jerry	1
Rev. Dr. Julianne Barlow	1	Rev. Matthew (Matt) Lyseng	1
Rev. Kevin Powell	1	Rev. Dr. Timothy Wray	1
Bishop Donald Sjoberg	1		
Rev. Julianna Wehrfritz-Hanson	1		

127 ballots were required for election. Bishop Larry Kochendorfer was declared elected. His election was welcomed with standing applause.

ABT 14-03 MOVED AND SECONDED that the ballots be destroyed. CARRIED.

At 5:20 the Conference Deans offered gifts to the assembly that represented each of the five conferences. Convention Chaplain John Lentz led in prayer.

The convention recessed for supper.

Chair, Rev. Tim Posyluzny called the convention to order at 7:00 p.m.

9. **REPORT OF THE BISHOP**

Bishop Kochendorfer spoke to the convention about his hopes and dreams for the Synod, as well as the challenges. He invited several rostered and lay persons to describe programs and activities that demonstrate God=s Spirit in the Synod.

Chair, Rev. Tim Posyluzny recessed the first sitting at 8:19 p.m.

A vesper service of healing was held in the chapel following the first sitting. The service included prayers of remembrance for those listed in the Necrologist=s report.

A reception sponsored by the Lutheran Theological Seminary followed the service.

**Friday, June 20, 2014**

At 8:00 a.m. there was a worship service with communion in the chapel. Rev. Marc Jerry presided and Rev. John Lentz preached.

***SECOND SITTING***

At 9:00 a.m. the convention gathered in song, led by Dr. Joy Berg.

Chair, Rev. Tim Posyluzny called the second sitting of the convention to order.

10. **REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE FOR REGISTRATION AND ATTENDANCE**

The Committee for Registration and Attendance reported the current official attendance as follows:

Rostered delegates	98
Lay delegates	78
Visitors	30
Guests	30

11. **REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON MINUTES**

The Committee on Minutes reported that they had reviewed the minutes of the first sitting and found them accurate.

ABT 14-04 MOVED AND SECONDED that the minutes of the first sitting be approved. CARRIED.

12. **REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE FOR REFERENCE AND COUNSEL**

The Committee for Reference and Counsel presented Petition 1, which was included in the Bulletin of Reports.

*Petition #1 (First Reading)*

ABT 14-05 MOVED AND SECONDED that the Synod Constitution Article VI, Section 10, be

amended to read as follows:

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 of the congregation 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 shall be held not less than 90 days and not more than 180 days after the first vote to withdraw.

The motion was CARRIED.

13. **REPORT OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE**

Marilyn Murray was nominated as secretary for a four-year term ending in 2018. There were no further nominations, and Marilyn Murray was declared elected.

Stephen Wildfang was nominated as treasurer for a four-year term ending in 2018. There were no further nominations, and Stephen Wildfang was declared elected.

Nominations for Synod Council were presented as follows:

Southwestern Conference	rostered	Rev. Phil Holck
East Central Conference	lay	Irene Motta
Northern Conference	rostered	Rev. John Boyd
		Rev. Ann Salmon
Southern Conference	rostered	Rev. Reg Berg

One additional nomination was received:

Northern Conference	rostered	Rev. Kevin Powell
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There were no further nominations, and Rev. Phil Holck, Irene Motta, and Rev. Reg Berg were declared elected.

Rev. Trish Schermund was nominated for the rostered position on the Lutheran Theological Seminary Board of Governors. Rev. Douglas Heine was also nominated.

ABT 14-06 MOVED AND SECONDED that nominations cease. CARRIED.

There will be an election for the Northern Conference position on Synod Council and for the rostered position from ABT to the Lutheran Theological Seminary Board of Governors.

14. **GREETINGS FROM EL SALVADOR**

Bishop Kochendorfer and Gail Berg reported on the visit they made to El Salvador with their spouses in the summer of 2013. Rev. Brian Rude reported on his work as Synod staff person serving the En Misión con El Salvador: Mission in El Salvador.

15. **REFLECTING ON THE WORD OF MISSION**

Assistant to the Bishop for Mission, The Rev. Dr. Julianne Barlow led a reflection on five texts relating to mission.

The convention recessed for a health/refreshment break from 10:30 to 11:00 a.m.

16. **KEYNOTE SPEAKER: ALAN J. ROXBURGH**  
Rev. Dr. Alan Roxburgh of The Missional Network made a presentation on Shaping Missional Ministries.
17. **RECOGNITION OF ROSTERED CHURCH LEADERS - 25 YEARS OF SERVICE**  
The following rostered leaders were recognized for having served 25 years of ordination during the last biennium:  
Rev. Gary Aicken, Rev. Peter Grundler, Rev. Dr. Larry Kochendorfer, Rev. Keith Loewen, Rev. Dr. Louis Morin, Rev. Dr. Chris Nojonen, Rev. Klaus Ohlhoff, Rev. Ann Salmon, Rev. Hanna Schwabe and Rev. Marty Tuer.

The first sitting closed at 12:10 p.m. with Chaplain Rev. John Lentz leading the convention in table grace.

### ***THIRD SITTING***

At 1:20 p.m. the convention gathered in song, led by Dr. Joy Berg. She also provided information about the National Worship Conference to be held on July 20-23, 2014 in Edmonton.

Chair, Rev. Tim Posyluzny called the Third Sitting to order at 1:25 p.m.

18. **REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE FOR REGISTRATION AND ATTENDANCE**  
The Committee for Registration and Attendance reported as follows:

Rostered delegates	101
Lay delegates	79
Visitors	30
Guests	33

19. **KEYNOTE SPEAKER: ALAN J. ROXBURGH**  
Rev. Dr. Alan Roxburgh of The Missional Network offered his second presentation - Shaping Missional Discernment.
20. **BUDGET PRESENTATION**  
Stephen Wildfang presented the proposed operating budgets for the Synod for 2014 and 2015 that were included in the Bulletin of Reports.

ABT 14-07 MOVED AND SECONDED that the budgets for 2014 and 2015 be adopted as presented.

MOVED AND SECONDED that funding to Campus Ministry for 2015 be restored to the 2013 level - i.e. \$77,400 and that this be achieved by budgeting \$20,700 for Canadian Mission. The motion to amend was CARRIED.

The motion to adopt the budgets as amended was CARRIED.

21. **ELECTIONS COMMITTEE**  
Ballots were distributed for election of a rostered Synod Council member from the Northern Conference and for a rostered member to the Lutheran Theological Seminary Board of Governors. Convention Chaplain, Rev. John Lentz led in prayer. Balloting was declared closed.
22. **REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE FOR REFERENCE AND COUNSEL**

The Committee for Reference and Counsel presented Petitions 2, 3, 4 and 5 which were included in the Bulletin of Reports.

*Petition #2* (Second Reading)

ABT 14-08 MOVED AND SECONDED that the Synod Constitution, Article XII.2 be amended by moving the second and third sentences to the Bylaws, so that the amended Section shall read:

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.

The motion was CARRIED.

*Petition #3* (Second Reading)

ABT 14 -09 MOVED AND SECONDED that the Synod Constitution, Article XIII.3 be amended by moving the phrases with respect to terms and limitations to the Bylaws, so that the amended section shall read:

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.

The motion was CARRIED.

ABT 14-10 MOVED AND SECONDED that Petition 4 included in the Bulletin of Reports providing for an amendment to the Bylaws be referred to Synod Council.

The motion was CARRIED.

ABT 14-11 MOVED AND SECONDED that Petition 5 included in the Bulletin of Reports providing for an amendment to the Bylaws be referred to Synod Council.

The motion was CARRIED.

23. **CANADIAN LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF**

Bob Granke presented a report on the work of Canadian Lutheran World Relief.

24. **RECOGNITION OF ROSTERED CHURCH LEADERS - 40 YEARS OF SERVICE**

The following rostered leaders were recognized for having been ordained for 40 years:

Rev. Don Bolstad, Rev. Bill Bulger, Rev. Steve Hall, Rev. Dave Larsen, Rev. Norm Lentz, Rev. Rod McLeish, and Rev. Gary Watts.

Chair, Rev. Tim Posyluzny closed the third sitting at 4:35 p.m.

**Friday, June 20, 2014**

A Festival Banquet was held at the Norsemen Inn at 6:00 p.m.

The following rostered persons were honoured for serving this church for fifty years: Rev. Harold Gniewotta, Rev. Garnet Leach, Rev. Holger Madsen, Rev. Bob Moland, Rev. Jim Rasmussen and Rev. Guenther Schoepf.

Honoured for 60 years of ministry were Rev. Barry Lyall, Rev. Dr. Lothar Schwabe and Rev. Dr. Don Sjoberg.

**Saturday, June 21, 2014**

At 8:00 a.m. a service of morning prayer was held in the chapel.

***FOURTH SITTING***

At 9:00 a.m. the convention gathered in song, led by Dr. Joy Berg.

Chair, Rev. Tim Posyluzny called the Fourth Session to order.

**25. REPORT OF THE NECROLOGIST/ARCHIVIST**

Rev. Gary Nickel, Synod archivist/necrologist, presented his report, and emphasized the importance of maintaining and preserving congregational records.

His written report in the Bulletin of Reports included the names of rostered persons and spouses of rostered persons who have died in the last biennium. This includes Olga Marie Saugen, Mary Becker, Rev. Arno Edgar Bablitz, Rev. Clifford Henry Nelson, Rev. Rudolf Jacob Busch, Rev. Laverne Eagles, Rev. Herman George Bickel, Rev. Antti Lepisto, Missionary, Lydia Hanson Foster, Rev. Paul Langohr, Rev. Don Scott, Rev. Dr. S. Theodore (Ted) Jacobson, Norma Elizabeth Alksne, Rev. Ted Maakestad, Rev. Milton Schmitke, Rev. Galen Morstad, Rev. Fred Zinck, Linda Evelyn Stengel, Rev. Paul Eriksson, Gladys Rude, Rev. Arnold Hagen, Rev. Theodore (Ted) K. Arndt, Winnifred (Winn) Johanna Voigts and Rev. Stanley Rude.

**26. REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE FOR REGISTRATION AND ATTENDANCE**

The Committee for Registration and Attendance reported the current official attendance is now as follows:

Rostered delegates	102
Lay delegates	79
Visitors	30
Guests	34

**27. ELECTIONS COMMITTEE**

The Committee on Elections reported on the election of a rostered member of Synod Council from the Northern Conference:

148 ballots were cast. 14 were spoiled. 68 were needed to elect.

Rev. John Boyd	25
Rev. Ann Salmon	67
Rev. Kevin Powell	42

There was no election, and another ballot will be prepared.

The results of the vote for a rostered position on the Lutheran Theological Seminary Board of Governors were as follows:

148 ballots were cast. 1 was spoiled. 74 were needed to elect.

Rev. Trish Schmermund	67
Rev. Douglas Heine	80

Rev. Douglas Heine was declared elected.

28. **GREETINGS FROM LUTHERAN COLLEGIATE BIBLE INSTITUTE**  
Joe Stolee, LCBI board member, brought greetings and introduced Kari Ree, Recruitment Officer for LCBI, who made a presentation about the school.
29. **REFLECTING ON THE WORD OF MISSION**  
Assistant to the Bishop for Mission, The Rev. Dr. Julianne Barlow led a continued reflection on 2 Corinthians 4:5-9, and 11.
30. **ELECTIONS COMMITTEE**  
Ballots were distributed for the rostered position on Synod Council from the Northern Conference. Chair, Rev. Tim Posyluzny led in prayer. Balloting was declared closed.

The convention recessed for a health/refreshment break from 10:15 to 10:35 a.m.

31. **QUESTIONS RELATED TO PROGRAM COMMITTEE REPORTS**  
Attention was drawn to the program committee reports included in the Bulletin of Reports. Delegates were invited to ask questions about the work of the committees and about their reports.
32. **KEYNOTE SPEAKER: ALAN J. ROXBURGH**  
Rev. Dr. Alan Roxburgh of The Missional Network made a presentation on Shaping Missional Leaders - Possibilities and the Future.

The fourth sitting closed at 12:00 p.m. with Kari Ree leading the convention in table grace.

#### ***FIFTH SITTING***

The fifth sitting gathered at 1:00 p.m. with singing led by Dr. Joy Berg.

33. **REPORT FROM LUTHERAN THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY**  
Rev. Dr. Kevin Ogilvie, President of Lutheran Theological Seminary, presented his report. A written report was included in the Bulletin of Reports.
34. **REPORT OF SYNOD COUNCIL**  
Marilyn Murray, Synod Secretary, introduced the Report of Synod Council that was included in the Bulletin of Reports and invited questions and comments.

Wayne Street, member of Synod Council, reported on the Mission Priorities and Outcomes 2014-2016 developed by Synod Council, where were included in the Bulletin of Reports.

ABT 14-12 MOVED AND SECONDED that the Mission Priorities and Outcomes 2014-2016 be approved as included in the Bulletin of Reports.

The motion was CARRIED.

Stephen Wildfang drew attention to the Report of the Treasurer, including the audited financial statements for the year ended December 31, 2013.

ABT 14-13 MOVED AND SECONDED that the financial statements for 2013 be adopted as presented.



The motion was CARRIED.

Chair, Rev. Tim Posyluzny introduced and thanked the members of Synod Council whose terms are expiring: Rev. Markus Wilhelm, Rev. Julianna Wehrfritz-Hanson, and Rev. David Holmes.

35. **REPORT FROM THE COMMITTEE ON THE REPORT OF THE BISHOP**

Rev. Calvin Skriver and Rev. Julianna Wehrfritz-Hanson reported on behalf of the Committee on the Report of the Bishop. Rev. Julianna Wehrfritz-Hanson led a prayer. The committee expressed thanks to Bishop Kochendorfer for his faithful leadership. Delegates expressed their support for Bishop Kochendorfer with applause.

36. **KEYNOTE SPEAKER: MICHAEL HARVEY**

Michael Harvey made a presentation on Creating a Culture of Invitation.

37. **REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON ELECTIONS**

The Committee on Elections reported the results of the elections of a rostered member from the Northern Conference to Synod Council:

143 ballots were cast, with none spoiled. Results were as follows:

Rev. Ann Salmon	88
Rev. Kevin Powell	55

Rev. Ann Salmon was declared elected.

ABT 14 -14 MOVED AND SECONDED that all ballots cast at this convention be destroyed. CARRIED.

38. **REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE FOR REFERENCE AND COUNSEL**

Jonathan Mohr presented the following petitions on behalf of the Committee for Reference and Counsel:

*Petition #6*

ABT 14-15 MOVED AND SECONDED that the Synod of Alberta and the Territories in convention petition the National Church Council of the ELCIC to develop a social statement or policy resolution to address concerns related to the criminal justice and correctional systems in Canada. CARRIED.

*Petition #7*

ABT 14-16 MOVED AND SECONDED that the Bylaws of the Synod of Alberta and the Territories be amended in accordance with motions ABT 14-07 and ABT 14-08 as approved by this Synod Convention, as follows:

1. By adding the following two sentences as a new third paragraph in Section 1 of Part VII, Synod Council:

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.

2. By creating the following sentence as a new Section 1 of Part VIII, Duties of the Synod Officers, and renumbering the existing sections accordingly:

Section 1. Officers of the Synod shall serve for a term of four years, without limitation.

3. By renaming Part VIII as ASynod Officers@.

The motion was CARRIED.

39. **REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON MINUTES**

The Committee on Minutes was thanked for their review of the minutes of the first four sittings.

ABT 14-17 MOVED AND SECONDED that the minutes of the fifth sitting be referred to Synod Council for approval. CARRIED.

40. **WELCOME TO THE NEXT CONVENTION**

Rev. Reg Berg and Rev. Markus Wilhelm of the Southern and Northern Conferences extended a welcome to the sixteenth Synod Convention which will be held in 2016.

41. **EXPRESSIONS OF THANKS**

Thanks were expressed for those who provided refreshments for the convention, including the West Conference for cookies, all conferences for refreshments, and the Lutheran Theological Seminary for the opening reception.

Canadian Lutheran World Relief and Faith Life Financial were thanked for their assistance with travel expenses of the keynote speakers.

Bishop Kochendorfer announced that Sharon Villetard will conclude her work with the Synod at the end of August. She was thanked for her outstanding work with the Synod since its inception and presented with flowers. The convention showed their appreciation of her work with standing applause.

42. **ADJOURNMENT**

ABT 14-18 MOVED AND SECONDED that the convention be adjourned. CARRIED.

At 4:00 p.m. the convention gathered in the chapel for a closing worship service and Bishop Kochendorfer led the Order for Closing of Convention.