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## **Retreat Location**

Meetings were held in Dana Lodge at Camp Kuriakos, Sylvan Lake, and participants were very impressed with the renovations to Dana Lodge, which included a larger meeting and eating area, covered deck, and additional washroom and shower facilities. Cathy Kochendorfer prepared delicious meals for us. Camp Director Rev. Art Weiss and Assistant Camp Director Paul Kopjar joined us one evening for worship and visiting.

## **Worship and Prayer**

Chaplain at our Synod Council retreat, Rev. Dr. Julianne Barlow, Assistant to the Bishop for Mission, led Council in a time of Dwelling in the Word each morning, prayer throughout the day, and presiding at the Eucharist Friday morning and facilitating Holden Evening Prayer each evening.

## **Guests – Alan Roxburgh, The Missional Network**

The Rev. Dr. Alan Roxburgh, together with Rev. Dr. Julianne Barlow, facilitated learning and planning as participants focussed on listening to material gathered at Participating in Hope 1 and 2.0, and Synod Convention. Together we discerned new perspectives and the growing optimism that exists of how the Holy Spirit is leading us into new ways and possibilities. This work prepared us well as we begin to re-vision and re-imagine what a new configuration might look like for our Synod and the exciting possibilities that might arise as we move forward. The cycle of listening, discerning, experimenting, reflecting and learning is one in which Synod Council has engaged and further opportunity for listening and discerning will take place at the October Conference gatherings.

## **Guests –National Church Council member (NCC), Rev. Dr. Marc Jerry**

On behalf of our NCC members Les Pearson and Judy Wry, Marc highlighted the recent meeting of National Church Council.

- Reformation Challenge update: to date, 305 refugee sponsorships, 44 scholarships for ELCJHL Schools, 43,144 trees planted, and \$124,960 dollars for the LWF Endowment Fund. Each congregation is encouraged to register their involvement via: [elcic.ca/reformationchallenge](http://elcic.ca/reformationchallenge).
- received the Orders of Ministry Study Guide, “To Love Our Neighbours As Ourselves”, which is now available for reflection and study. A survey is also included.  
<http://elcic.ca/faithorderdoctrine/OrdersofMinistry.cfm>
- received the Global Mission Task Force Report;
- moved that Diaconal Minister Gretchen Peterson be appointed as Assistant to the National Bishop – Youth.
- Received the report of the Women of Faith Fund; 34 applications were received, with 28 partially funded.
- Approved Sick Leave Policy and a Parental Leave Policy, effective January 1, 2017. Further information is available on the GSI website: [www.elcicgsi.ca](http://www.elcicgsi.ca)
- Adopted Synodically Recognized Ministry Guidelines and Constitutional References.

## **Agenda Items of Synod Council**

- New Council Members met with Wayne Street, Synod Council Chair, and Bishop Larry for an orientation.
- Bishop Larry reported that Rev. Dr. Julianne Barlow, Assistant to the Bishop for Mission, will serve as Commissary while he is on Sabbatical, November 1, 2016 – January 31, 2017.

- Salary Guidelines for 2017 were approved. Synod Treasurer, Stephen Wildfang, reported that beginning in 2017, harmonized guidelines for all items listed under “Other Benefits” will be implemented. By mutual agreement by all synods these benefits are identical across the ELCIC. Each Synod will set its own scale for annual base salary and housing allowances. The ABT Salary Guidelines and Harmonized Guidelines are available on the Synod website, under Administration/Compensation Guidelines.
- Mark Ree, Lay Representative, West Central, was appointed to chair the Council’s Constitution Review Committee.
- Members of the Bishop’s Performance Review Committee were appointed:
  - Rev. Reg Berg, Rostered Representative, Southern
  - Terrie Coombs, Lay Representative, Southwestern
  - Wayne Street, Synod Council Chair
  - Rev. Dr. Deborah Ann Taylor, Rostered Representative, East Central
- Synod Delegates to National Convention 2017, were appointed to “meet the total number of delegates eligible to attend National Convention as allotted by the ELCIC. These appointments will seek to reflect a balance of gender, geographical and diaconal/ordained minister representation.” Synod Bylaw, Part VI, Section 2b. (A complete list of elected and appointed Synod Delegates to National Convention, 2017 will soon be added to the Synod website, under the Convention/National tab.)
- received the Executive Summary of the Synod Convention as prepared by the convention manager, Wendy Christensen Grosfield. Many positive comments were received, including paperless registration and organization of delegates for discussion. Changes concerning coffee breaks and recognizing anniversaries of ordination at the Banquet are being discussed for Convention 2018. Thank you to Wendy, Synod Staff, and the Local Arrangements Team for a very smooth and meaningful convention.

## Synod Budget

Synod Council was provided with a report of operating income and expenses of the Synod for the period January 1 to August 31, 2016. For the eight-month period to date in 2016, financial support from congregations is 4% lower than the same period in 2015. At this point we might expect, if this trend continues, to see an annual shortfall in congregational revenue of approximately \$40,000. To date expenditures are within budget expectations. The Synod has adequate surplus to withstand the expected shortfall for 2016. We would expect to reduce spending in 2017 by the amount of any 2016 shortfall. The precise impact of 2017 spending reductions on particular budget lines has not been determined at this time.

We ask that our members and congregations consider their response to our current financial situation and thank them for continued prayers and financial support of our ministry together.

## Reflections: from an Anglican Observer/Member

The Ven. Alan Perry, Executive Archdeacon, Anglican Diocese of Edmonton, reflected on this, his first experience as Anglican representative on Synod Council. He highlighted the Council’s “Welcome, Worship and Work”, sharing an appreciation for the warm welcome, engaging worship and meaningful work, which included conversation, decision-making, good humor and care for the Bishop.