

Faith

Hpe

Love

...the greatest
of these is LOVE

1 Corinthians 13:13

17th Biennial Convention

Synod of Alberta and the Territories
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada

June 14-16, 2018

University of Alberta – Augustana Campus
Camrose, Alberta

Table of Contents

SECTION A—GENERAL CONVENTION INFORMATION	A2
Agenda	A2
Anniversaries	A4
Greetings.....	A5
Nominees for Election – Synod Council.....	A11
Nominees for Election - Lutheran Theological Seminary Board of Governors.....	A11
Nominees for Election – 2019 National Convention Delegates.....	A12
Process of Election: Bishop	A13
Nomination Form.....	A14
Motion Slip	A16
SECTION B—WORKING TOGETHER AT CONVENTION	B1
Summary of Bourinot's Rules of Order	B1
Bourinot's Rules at a Glance	B3
Petitions	B4
Committee for Reference and Counsel.....	B4
Biographical Data on Nominees - ABT Synod Council Positions.....	B5
Biographical Data on Nominees - Lutheran Theological Seminary Board of Governors	B9
Biographical Data on Nominees - ABT Delegates to National Convention	B10
Synod of Alberta and the Territories Constitution Amended June, 2016	B29
Synod of Alberta and the Territories Bylaws Amended June, 2016	B34
SECTION C—THE BISHOP'S OFFICE	C1
Bishop's Report	C1
Abiding in Right Relations (AiRR) Ministry Team Report.....	C16
Congregational Action and Response for Mental Health (CARE) Ministry Team Report	C16
Global Mission Ministry Team Report	C17
Leadership Development Ministry Team Report.....	C18
Missional Formation Ministry Team Report.....	C18
Study Conference Planning Ministry Team Report	C19
Synod Campus Ministry Team Report	C19
Synod Youth Ministry Team Report	C22
Worship and the Arts Ministry Team Report	C23
SECTION D—REPORTS OF THE OFFICERS AND COUNCIL COMMITTEES	D1
Chairperson's Report	D1
Mission Priorities and Outcomes: 2018 – 2021.....	D2
Secretary's Report	D3
Treasurer's Report	D6
Synod of Alberta and the Territories – DRAFT Constitution	D7
Synod of Alberta and the Territories – DRAFT Bylaws.....	D19
Report of Archivist.....	D43
Report of Necrologist	D43
Congregational Constitutional Review Committee Report	D47
Synod Examining Committee Report	D47
Candidacy Committee Report (formerly CTCL).....	D47
Area Deans Reports.....	D48
Roster of Synod Council	D53
SECTION E— PARTNER REPORTS	E1
Report of the National Bishop	E1
Canadian Lutheran World Relief	E3
Lutheran Collegiate Bible Institute	E4
Lutheran Theological Seminary, Saskatoon	E5

Section A—General Convention Information

Throughout our Convention: as you worship, listen, pray, discern, and share stories, you are invited to write your thoughts to the following statements on sticky notes and post them to the large print paper in the assembly hall:

I am hearing God say to us..., and,

I sense that one of the places the Spirit is inviting our Synod to join with God in God's work is...

Agenda

Faith, Hope, Love
...the greatest of these is love.

*"And now faith, hope and love abide, these three;
and the greatest of these is love." I Corinthians 13:13*

Thursday, June 14

- 9:00 am Synod Council meeting – Roger Epp Board Room
- 10:30 am Registration
- 11:30 am Convention Committee - Committee for Reference and Counsel meets – Roger Epp Board Room
- 12:30 pm Choir Rehearsal for Opening Eucharist – all singers are welcome – Augustana Chapel
This year's convention choir sings only at the Opening Eucharist.
- 1:00 pm Orientation for first time Delegates – Convention Hall
- 2:00 pm Opening Eucharist - Augustana Chapel
- First Sitting
- 3:30 pm Greetings
Recognition of Guests and Leaders of the Convention
Seating of new rostered leaders and those retired since 2016
- 3:50 pm Reflection *Expectations of our time together*
- 4:05 pm Orientation of all Delegates
Report from Registration and Attendance Committee

- 4:15 pm First Ballot for Bishop – Conducted by National Bishop Susan Johnson
- 4:30pm Standing Order - Greetings/Report from the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada
National Bishop Susan Johnson
- 5:10 pm Standing Order - Greetings from Lutheran Theological Seminary, Saskatoon
The Rev. Dr. William Harrison, President
- 5:30 pm Dinner
- 7:00 pm Second Ballot for Bishop
- 7:15 pm Report of the Bishop ...*abounding in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit... Rom.15:13*
- 7:45 pm Video *Spirit-led Leadership*
- 7:55 pm Reflection
- 8:15 pm Evening Worship - Jazz Vespers including Healing Rite and Remembrance of Those Who Have Died
Augustana Chapel

Following Evening Worship – Welcome Reception

Friday, June 15

- 7:30 am Breakfast
- Second Sitting
- 8:15 am Worship with Communion - Convention Hall
(9:00 am – Deadline for submissions to the Committee for Reference and Counsel)
- 9:15 am Report from the Registration and Attendance Committee
- 9:20 am Third Ballot for Bishop
- 9:30 am Video *Hope-filled Discipleship*
- 9:40 am Reflection
- 10:00 am Committee on Minutes – Report #1
Nominating Committee
Committee for Reference and Counsel – Report #1
Constitution and Draft Bylaw Amendments
- 10:15 am Health/Refreshment Break

10:45 am Keynote Presentation– *Faith – The Rev. Dr. Anna Madsen*
Presentation Conversation: ‘What are we hearing God say to us?’, ‘What does this mean for us?’

11:45 am Standing Order - Greetings from En Misión Con El Salvador: In Mission with El Salvador
The Rev. Dr. Brian Rude

12:05 pm Verbal Report from Synod Council
 • Action Items from the 2016 Synod Convention
 • Approval of Significant Actions
 • Questions related to Ministry Team Reports

12:15 pm **“Lunch and Learn” Events (must be previously registered) or Lunch in the Cafeteria**

Third Sitting
 1:15 pm Gathering with Song

1:20 pm Report from the Registration and Attendance Committee
 Fourth Ballot for Bishop (if necessary)

1:30 pm Standing Order - Greetings from The Evangelical Lutheran Church of Colombia (IELCO)
Bishop Atahaulpa Hernandez
Signing of the Covenant

2:00 pm Report of the Treasurer
 Adoption of Audited Statements

2:20 pm Fifth Ballot for Bishop (if necessary)
 First Ballot for Secretary (nominated by Synod Council)
 First Ballot for Synod Council
 First Ballot for Lutheran Theological Seminary Representative (nominated by Synod Council)

2:30 pm Standing Order - Greetings from Canadian Lutheran World Relief
The Rev. Dr. Karin Achtelstetter, Executive Director

2:50 pm Committee on Minutes – Report #2
 Committee for Reference and Counsel – Report #2
 Constitution and Draft Bylaw Amendments

3:15 pm Health/Refreshment Break

3:45 pm Presentation – *Hope – The Rev. Dr. Anna Madsen*
Presentation Conversation: ‘What are we hearing God say to us?’, ‘What does this mean for us?’

4:45 pm Video *Innovative Tradition*

4:55 pm *Reflections*

5:15 pm Report from Elections Committee
 Elections for 2019 National Convention Delegates

6:30 pm *Festival Banquet at the Norsemen Inn; Celebration of Rostered Leader’s Anniversary – 25, 40, 50 and 60 years and presentation of The Synod of Alberta and the Territories Stephen D. Wildfang Synod Leadership Award*

Saturday, June 16

7:30 am Breakfast

Fourth Sitting
 8:15 am Worship with Communion - *Convention Hall*

9:15 am Report from the Registration and Attendance Committee

9:20 am Video *Collaborative Partnerships*

9:30 am *Reflections*

9:50 am Constitution and Draft Bylaw Amendments (if necessary)

10:05 am Report from Elections Committee

10:15 am Health/Refreshment Break - *“Chillin with the Chaplains” – gelato event*

10:45 am Keynote Presentation – *Love – The Rev. Dr. Anna Madsen*
Keynote Presentation Conversation: ‘What are we hearing God say to us?’, ‘What does this mean for us?’

11:45 am Standing Order - Greetings from Lutheran Collegiate Bible Institute, Outlook, SK
Wayne Hove, President

12:05 pm Report of the Necrologist/Archivist

12:15 pm **“Lunch and Learn” Events (must be previously registered) or Lunch in the Cafeteria**

Fifth Sitting
 1:15 pm Gathering with Song

1:20 pm	Constitution and Draft Bylaw Amendments (if necessary)
1:50 pm	Report from Elections Committee (if necessary)
1:55 pm	Committee on Minutes – Report #3
2:00 pm	Report from the Committee Examining the “Report of the Bishop”
2:10 pm	Approval of Mission Priorities (2018-2021)
2:15 pm	Committee for Reference and Counsel – Report #3
2:25 pm	Reflections Take Homes Gifting of Resources – DVD Resource and Study Guide
2:45 pm	Unfinished Business
2:50 pm	Presentation of Gifts
3:00 pm	Brief Sending Worship with Installation of Synod Council and Lutheran Theological Seminary Representative and Blessing of the Bishop – Augustana Chapel
3:45 pm	Synod Council meeting (current and newly elected members) – Roger Epp Board Room

Anniversaries

Anniversary Celebrants for this two-year period are:

25 Years (1992-1993)

- Rev. Ingrid Cramer-Doerschel
- Rev. John Strecker-Baseler
- Rev. Charlotte Strecker-Baseler
- Rev. Douglas Hanson-Torwalt
- Rev. Juliette Trudeau
- Rev. Markus Wilhelm

40 Years (1977-1978)

- Rev. Arthur Weiss
- Bishop Ronald Mayan

50 Years (1967-1968)

- Rev. Raymond Christenson
- Rev. Yun-Ming Chu
- Rev. Philip Hink
- Rev. Telmor Sartison
- Rev. Ferdinand Tober
- Rev. William Wiegert
- Rev. Friedmut Wilhelm

60 Years (1957-1958)

- Rev. Bent Damkar
- Rev. Vincent Eriksson
- Rev. Corliss Holmes

Greetings



Augustana Campus

Dear Synod Convention Attendees:

My colleagues and I at the University of Alberta's Augustana Campus feel it's an honour to be able to host you for this year's convention, which I understand has the theme of "Faith, Hope, and Love."

As I write this welcome, I am reminded that just two nights ago Dr. Joe Wiebe, Assistant Professor of Religious Studies at Augustana, explained to the audience gathered for our annual Report to the Community why he thought love was the perfect topic for his First-Year Seminar course that last fall helped to introduce twenty new students to their university journey. I trust your own discussions, worship, and celebrations will have similar lasting value.

Beyond the confines of your Convention, I want to encourage your engagement with our Campus. Although we are now part of a large public university, Augustana retains important core values that go back to our founding as Camrose Lutheran College in 1910. These inform our understanding of the purpose of a liberal education, and they continue to guide the work of important campus programs such as the Chaplaincy and the Chester Ronning Centre for the Study of Religion and Public Life.

I wish you a successful convention and look forward to opportunities to meet many of you.

Sincere regards,

Allen Berger
Dean and Executive Officer, Augustana Campus, University of Alberta



The City of **Camrose**

5204 – 50 Avenue, Camrose, Alberta T4V 0S8 PH. (780) 672-4426 FAX (780) 672-2469

On behalf of Camrose City Council and all of the citizens of Camrose, as Mayor it is my honor to welcome the clergy, presenter's and guests from around the world to the Alberta Synod Convention.

The Augustana Campus of the University of Alberta has a proven record in their ability to host Provincial, National and International events while demonstrating outstanding hospitality. This event provides the opportunity to meet with your collaborative partners to support each other in ministry, to encourage faith, hope, and love as you journey together. I salute all of those who have committed their time and energy to the convention.

We hope you will have the opportunity to enjoy the wide range of activities and opportunities available in our beautiful City. Whether you spend your time in one of our scenic urban parks, enjoying the unique shops of our Historical Main Street, or sampling other local cultural events, we hope your stay with us is a good one.

Thank you for visiting Camrose and blessings to you.

Sincerely,

The City of Camrose

Norman Mayer
Mayor



Montana Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

May 1, 2018

To the Sisters and Brothers in Christ at the Convention of the Synod of Alberta and the Territories,

Grace and peace to you.

I send you greetings from your brothers and sisters to the south—the Montana Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. Like you, we gather together in early June to hear the Good News together and make plans for our future ministry.

May God bless and inspire you as you gather to hear Dr. Madsen, and as you greet your companions from the Iglesia Evangelica Luterana de Colombia. What a rich and fruitful time you have ahead of you.

Please know that the Montana Synod has you in prayer as you meet in Convention.

Your sister in Christ,

Jessica Crist, Bishop

The Right Reverend Larry Robertson D.D.
Bishop of Yukon
Box 31136
Whitehorse, Yukon Y1A 5P7
Telephone: [867] 667-7746
Fax: [867] 667-6125
Email: synodoffice@klondiker.com



DIOCESE OF YUKON ✚
ANGLICAN CHURCH OF CANADA

May 3, 2018

To the Synod Convention meeting in June 14-16.

This is beyond doubt one of the busiest times for a Synod. Nevertheless, as we walk forward in love **with the Father's call, the Spirit's guiding and the Son walking by our side it can also be one of the** most rewarding. With the confusion in our world around us I am not surprised that the theme of our Synod which took place May 4th and 5th **was "Love in all things" with 1 Corinthians 13 as our reading, is so similar with your theme of "Faith, Hope and Love" with 1 Corinthian 13:13 as your verse.**

If we as a church want to make an impact in the world around us, then God's Love is the way to do it. **As you enter your Synod, I pray that you will be a shining example of God's Love to the world around you, that God's Love will control all your proceedings and in all things "Faith, Hope and Love" will surround you, protect you and enfold you.**

Be assured of our prayers for you during this time as you walk together in Christ's Love, and to my friend Bishop Larry, know my thoughts and prayers are with you and more importantly that our Lord will never leave your side throughout your synod.

Again, our blessings and prayers are with you.

Your Friends,

Bishop Larry Robertson and the Synod of the Diocese of Yukon

May 1, 2018

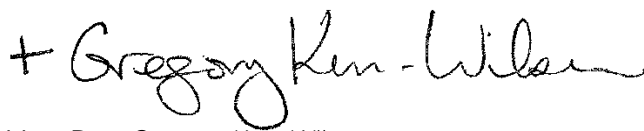
Dear Delegates - brothers and sisters in Christ,

Greetings to you as you meet for your Synod Convention in Camrose, Alberta in June.

This year's theme of "Faith, Hope and Love" are the foundation of our Christian walk and mission. In a world so full of fear, anger and hopelessness, we need to hear again the message of these three core values and virtues that make our lives different. It also speaks profoundly of how the Gospel addresses the deepest of human needs, both in our world and in our own culture where a focus on the things of this world only brings the imprisonment of consumerism, individualism, and the fame and shame impulses of our time. None of it can deliver the true liberty which comes by God's grace, through faith in Jesus Christ.

I pray your time together will be fruitful, and that with open minds and hearts, you may seek the guiding of the Holy Spirit in all your deliberations. My prayers are with you.

Peace in our Lord Jesus,



The Most Rev. Gregory Kerr-Wilson
Archbishop of Calgary

/cat

Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy of Edmonton Українська Католицька Едмонтонська Єпархія

June 14, 2018

Glory be to Jesus Christ!

Dear Bishop and Delegates:

On behalf of the Ukrainian Catholic Church throughout Alberta, I extend greetings to the delegates of the Synod of Alberta and the Territories on the occasion of your Synod Convention.

The theme of your Convention, “Faith, Hope and Love,” is an invitation for all of us, who are created in the image and likeness of God, to grow together in life, in faith, and in spiritual understanding.

By God’s grace, each of us through the grace of baptism has been called to share in the mission of our Lord in proclaiming the Good News of the Gospel Message; and sharing is none other than giving witness daily to God’s transforming love in the world.

May the Holy Spirit bless your Synod Convention that it may be a time of gratitude and renewed faith, unity and visioning for now and the future.

May this same Spirit guide our respective Churches to an ever-closer fostering of unity through prayer, by example of life, and by working together.

Fraternally in Christ!



Most Rev. David Motiuk
Eparchial Bishop

9645 – 108 Avenue, Edmonton, AB T5H 1A3
Phone (780) 424-5496; Fax (780) 425-2330
chancery@edmontoneparchy.com; www.edmontoneparchy.com

Nominees for Election – Synod Council and Lutheran Theological Seminary Board of Governors

Bishop	(Ecclesiastical ballot)	for a six-year term, ending 2024
Synod Council		
OFFICERS	Secretary	for a three-year term, ending 2021
		1. Rev. Anna Thede (nominated by Synod Council)
COUNCILORS		for a three-year term, ending 2021
Northern Area	rostered	1. Rev. Heidi Wachowiak 2. Deacon Sarah Rudd
East Central Area	lay	1. Shae Belanger 2.
Southwestern Area	rostered	1. Rev. Daranne Harris 2. Rev. Dr. Phil Holck (e)*
Southern Area	rostered	1. Rev. Janice Whitelock 2.

Lutheran Theological Seminary Board of Governors

	for a three-year term, ending 2021
rostered	1. Rev. Doug Heine (e)* (nominated by Synod Council)

* eligible for re-election

Nominees for Election – 2019 National Convention Delegates

Northern Area	lay	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ryan Coultis 2. Linda Klinger 3. Brenda Petriw 4. Keith Scheidt 5. Ron Schlegelmilch 6. Gretta Smith 7. Sharon Specht 8. David Unsworth 9. Andrea Wilhelm 10. AnnE Zimmerman
---------------	-----	--

Northern Area	rostered	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Rev. Lindsey Jorgensen – Skakum 2. Deacon Faith Nostbakken 3. Rev. Aaron Schnell 4. Rev. Heidi Wachowiak
---------------	----------	--

West Central Area	lay	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 2.
-------------------	-----	--

West Central Area	rostered	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Rev. Kathy Calkins 2. Rev. Erik Sorenson
-------------------	----------	--

East Central Area	lay	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 2.
-------------------	-----	--

East Central Area	rostered	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Rev. Paul McCormick 2.
-------------------	----------	--

Southwestern Area	lay	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Anne Harding 2. Garth Hein 3. Cheryl Ann Holtz 4. Michell Plested 5. Helga Weissenberger
-------------------	-----	---

Southwestern Area	rostered	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Rev. Kristian Wold 2.
-------------------	----------	---

Southern Area	lay	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Cheryl Berg 2. Robin Niebergall
---------------	-----	---

Southern Area	rostered	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Rev. Jeff Decelle 2.
---------------	----------	--

Process of Election: Bishop

The process of electing a Bishop is set out in the Bylaws (Part V) and may be found in Section B – Working Together at Convention.

The election of a Bishop proceeds without oral nominations. If the first ballot does not result in election, it is considered a nominating ballot. All elections shall be by secret ballot.

The following chart is designed to illustrate those bylaws in a schematic form for easy reference.

Ballot	Names on Ballot	Information Provided	Votes Needed to Elect
1 st (or nominating)	Blank	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.	3/4 majority of votes cast.
2 nd	All names written on the first ballot	List of those nominated on first ballot.	2/3 majority of votes cast.
3 rd	The four persons who received the highest vote on the second ballot.	Candidates provide Biographical forms	Majority of votes cast.
4 th	The three persons who received the highest vote on the third ballot.	Candidates address the assembly.	Majority of votes cast.
5 th	The two persons who received the highest vote on the fourth ballot.	Candidates respond to questions from convention delegates.	Majority of votes cast.

The result of each ballot in every election shall be announced to the convention.

Nomination Form

BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION FOR NOMINEES in the Synod of Alberta and the Territories

Nomination for: _____
(please print neatly)

Area: _____ Lay _____ Rostered _____
(Northern, West Central, East Central, Southern, Southwestern)

Name: _____

Address: _____ P.C. _____

Phone: Cell/Res. _____ Bus. _____

E-mail: _____

Home Congregation (and city/town): _____

Occupation (current and/or past): _____

Describe your participation in the church *(include service in your local congregation, in the larger church, service in the community, and how you share the gifts God has given you.)*: _____

Why are you interested in serving in this capacity? _____

Share your concerns and hopes for the Synod of Alberta and the Territories: _____

Additional comments you wish to share: _____

Nominated by _____ Congregation: _____

This page has been left blank in order to facilitate the use of the form on the previous page.

Motion Slip

Synod of Alberta and the Territories

Number: _____ (for office use only)

Moved by: _____

Seconded by: _____

THAT _____

CARRIED: _____

Date: _____

This page has been left blank in order to facilitate the use of the form on the previous page.

SECTION B—WORKING TOGETHER AT CONVENTION

This section is primarily background reference for various aspects of our work together. For example, it offers examples of how to use **Bourinot's** Rules of Order; provides membership lists for the convention committees who are appointed to oversee such things as the accuracy of the minutes, the validity of resolutions, or the attendance figures; and sites the articles of the Synod Constitution and parts of the Synod Bylaws which will be useful when discussing the amendments proposed.

Summary of Bourinot's Rules of Order

GENERAL PRINCIPLES

1. Proper opportunity is afforded to all concerned for an expression of opinion.
2. Rights of a minority are respected.
3. Clear decisions are reached.
4. Proceedings are governed by an assessment of the issues rather than by personality factors.

MOTIONS

1. When properly presented before the meeting a motion may be withdrawn by its mover and seconder only with the assent of the meeting as a whole.
2. A question once decided cannot be brought up again at the same sitting. If it should be necessary to rescind a motion that has been passed, notice of intention in writing can be given at one sitting and dealt with at the next sitting. In the case of a motion that has been defeated, a motion to reconsider, requiring a two-thirds majority vote, can be introduced by giving notice in writing at one sitting for decision at a later sitting. Alternatively, another motion similar to the defeated motion but differing in some particulars may be introduced at the discretion of the chair.

AMENDMENTS

1. An amending motion must be strictly relevant to the main motion. It must not alter in a material way the principle embodied in the main motion but should merely vary its terms in one or more particulars.
2. An amendment may be moved to the amendment. It must not materially alter the underlying intent of either the original amendment or the main motion.

3. If a member wishes to make an amendment, but it is not in order at the time in view of the fact that two amendments are already before the meeting, notice of the amendment may be given, as this proposal might affect the vote on the amendments awaiting decision.

SPECIAL MOTIONS

1. Motion to adjourn debate or sitting must be seconded and voted immediately. It is not debatable.
2. Proceeding to next business must be seconded and voted immediately. It is not debatable.
3. A motion **"that** the debate be closed and a vote be taken on the **motion"**:
 - i. must be moved by someone who has not spoken in the debate;
 - ii. must be seconded;
 - iii. is not debatable;
 - iv. and requires a two-thirds majority of votes cast.

This motion should be used in place of motions to **"call for the question"** or **"move the previous question."** The latter wordings cause confusion because they have different meanings and consequences in Canadian and U.S. usage, and although we follow Canadian rules of order (Bourinot), the common understanding of the latter wordings tends to follow U.S. usage.

4. Deferment. Motions to postpone to a specified time or indefinitely must be seconded and are not debatable nor amendable. The use of the phrase **"to table"** is not recommended as it has different meanings and consequences in Canadian and U.S. rules of order and is not understood the same way by everyone.

5. Reference or Committal. A motion to refer to a standing or special committee must be seconded, may be amended and debated, but only with respect to the reference or committal, not on the main subject at issue.
6. Debatable and Non-Debatable Motions. Generally, the distinction is made that substantive issues on which there will obviously be varying opinions are open to debate, while those of a procedural nature are not.
7. Substitute Motion. A substitute motion cannot be made. If a delegate wishes, **“notice of motion”** may be given. This means that if the current question being debated is defeated, a different motion may then be introduced.

POINT OF ORDER

A point of order should be raised when the alleged irregularity occurs; it is not acceptable if other proceedings have intervened.

DEBATE

If you wish to speak to a question before the house, proceed to a microphone and wait to be recognized by the chair. Upon recognition please state your name and the congregation you represent before addressing the question.

If you are making a motion, please also prepare it in writing using the motion slip form in Section A.

Bourinot's Rules at a Glance

To get an exact count after a close vote:

You say: "I call for a recount "	Interrupt? Yes	Seconded? No	Debatable? No	Amendable? No	Vote Needed: --
--	-------------------	-----------------	------------------	------------------	--------------------

To object to a procedure:

You say: " Point of order "	Interrupt? Yes	Seconded? No	Debatable? No	Amendable? No	Vote Needed: Chair decides
---------------------------------------	-------------------	-----------------	------------------	------------------	-------------------------------

To request info:

You say: "I want to request info/ clarification "	Interrupt? No	Seconded? --	Debatable? --	Amendable? No	Vote Needed: --
--	------------------	-----------------	------------------	------------------	--------------------

To find out when you can make a motion:

You say: " When would it be in order for me to move that... "	Interrupt? No	Seconded? No	Debatable? No	Amendable? --	Vote Needed: --
---	------------------	-----------------	------------------	------------------	--------------------

To challenge ruling of the chair:

You say: "I appeal the chair's decision "	Interrupt? No	Seconded? Yes	Debatable? No	Amendable? No	Vote Needed: Majority
---	------------------	------------------	------------------	------------------	--------------------------

To make a motion:

You say: " I move that... "	Interrupt? No	Seconded? Yes	Debatable? Yes	Amendable? Yes	Vote Needed: Majority
---------------------------------------	------------------	------------------	-------------------	-------------------	--------------------------

- withdraw by mover and seconder only with the assent of the meeting
- reintroduced only at following sittings
- Rescindable only at subsequent sittings

For reconsideration of a motion:

You say: "I must give in writing that I move at the next sitting that a question be reconsidered. "	Interrupt? No	Seconded? Yes	Debatable? Yes	Amendable? Yes	Vote Needed: 2/3 Majority
---	------------------	------------------	-------------------	-------------------	------------------------------

To amend a motion:

You say: "I move to amend the motion by substituting (deleting/adding) the words... "	Interrupt? No	Seconded? Yes	Debatable? Yes	Amendable? Yes (once)	Vote Needed: Majority
---	------------------	------------------	-------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------

To make a motion to adjourn the meeting:

You say: "I move that this meeting be adjourned. "	Interrupt? No	Seconded? Yes	Debatable? No	Amendable? No	Vote Needed: Majority
---	------------------	------------------	------------------	------------------	--------------------------

Petitions

Petitions not directly related to matters on the agenda, may be considered by the convention. The petition should have an action component and be duly seconded before being referred to the elected secretary of the synod. The secretary will forward the petition to the Committee for Reference and Counsel. (See below for a description of the role of Reference and Counsel.)

If a petition is submitted to the Committee for Reference and Counsel during the Convention, then it must be delivered to that Committee before 9:00 a.m. on the Friday (last full day of business) of the Convention.

After the motion has been read to the convention, it becomes part of the minutes and is subject to debate. When a motion (original or amended) is adopted, it becomes a resolution; that is to say, it becomes the decision or determination of the assembly with the matter under consideration.

Committee for Reference and Counsel

The Committee for Reference and Counsel is the impartial, discerning mind of the Convention, who acts inclusively and pastorally to:

- . facilitate the orderly presentation of petitions so that the voice of petitioners is heard;
- . clarify petitions so that the intent of the petition is complete, accurate and properly worded;
- . support the chair by assessing the petition for compliance with constitutions, bylaws, decisions of previous conventions.

Six people, three lay and three rostered, (four of whom shall be delegates), are appointed by the Bishop to receive and study petitions submitted to the Secretary of the Synod by congregations, conferences, Synod Council, committees, or delegates.

Some of the petitions will have been submitted early enough to be included in the Bulletin of Reports; those received after publishing deadline will be forwarded by the Secretary of the Synod to the Reference and Counsel as they are received.

The petitions, which come to Reference and Counsel properly moved and seconded, will be presented to the Assembly with one of the options outlined here.

The Committee for Reference and Counsel will present the petition:

- a. without recommendation, for decision by the assembly; or
- b. without recommendation (but amended with the consent of the petitioners, for additional information to add clarity; or

- c. with recommendation to the chairperson that the petition be ruled out of order for stated reasons (for example, what is being proposed is already in place, or is contrary to unalterable parts of the constitution); or
- d. refer to a specified committee or office for consideration or
- e. with a dilatory motion (that is, a **'housekeeping'** motion that is not debatable or amendable) to:
 - i. defer to a specified later time; or
 - ii. defer indefinitely, if the petition is one that the assembly would want neither to pass nor to defeat; or
- f. with recommendation that the petition be referred to Synod Council if the petition was received too late during the convention for the Committee to complete its deliberations.

Committee for Reference and Counsel will also:

- . recommend special orders for the hearing of representatives who are not on the approved agenda;
- . grant or deny permission to distribute printed matter or other items to the Assembly; and
- . assist the chairperson as the chairperson may request during the course of the convention.

Use of a standard petition form is required. It is designed to give focus and helpful direction in the development of a petition. This will be distributed to all congregations prior to Convention. Petitions must be submitted to Reference and Counsel by 9:00 a.m. on Friday of Convention. Those submitted after this deadline will not be brought before the assembly for consideration.

Biographical Data on Nominees ABT Synod Council Positions

Northern Area - Rostered

Nomination for: Synod Council - ROSTERED
Northern Area

Name: Rev. Heidi Wachowiak

Address: 5213 Crabapple Link SW, Edmonton, AB T6X 2H6

Phone: (780) 224-3956

Home Congregation: St Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church
Ellerslie, Edmonton

Occupation (current or past): Senior Pastor

Describe your participation in the church (include service in your local congregation, in the larger church, service in the community, and how you share the gifts God has given you):

I have participated in church all of my life including involvement in the wider church since my youth. I have served the church as a youth and education worker for many years and now as the senior pastor at St Paul's Ellerslie. This is my third call since graduating from seminary in 2015. I have also served as national staff, volunteered on synodical and national committees, and planned youth gatherings on all levels. Currently in my community I attend End Poverty Edmonton meetings - both in the larger city and in my local community.

Why are you interested in serving in this capacity?

I have always been interested in serving beyond the congregation - I believe it is important to share the gifts I've been given in many ways. I have appreciated getting to know the workings of synod council as I have served for the past year. I have learned more deeply about our mission priorities and how they are lived out in our synod. I would appreciate the opportunity to continue to serve in this capacity as I feel I am just beginning.

Share your concerns and hopes for the Synod of Alberta and the Territories:

I have lots of hope for our synod - there are many caring and hardworking people to make for a positive way forward. I have witnessed how carefully synod council takes listening for where God is calling us into the future. In this rapidly changing world I believe this is our hope and our way forward.

Nomination for: Synod Council - ROSTERED
Northern Area

Name: Rev. Anna Thede

Address: 9009 163 Street NW, Edmonton, AB T5R 2N8

Phone: 780-405-7840

Home Congregation: Hosanna Lutheran Church, Edmonton

Occupation (current or past): Pastor

Describe your participation in the church (include service in your local congregation, in the larger church, service in the community, and how you share the gifts God has given you): In the church I serve in a variety of ways from my position as Assistant Pastor at Hosanna Lutheran Church, Edmonton. In my parish I love to teach, preach, sing, and engage with others. Visitation is one of my favorite parts of ministry. My current primary ministries are: Youth, Seniors, lay visitation ministries, and the worship and music committee. I belong to several clergy clusters in the Edmonton area, which help me connect to and learn from others. I was a full and active participant in the Synod's Missional Formation program - a practice which I still use and value in my ongoing ministries. I see the request to serve as Synod Secretary as an opportunity to use my gifts to care for others and help in a wider context.

Why are you interested in serving in this capacity? I am interested in serving as Synod Council Secretary because it would allow me to use my gifts of organization in a way which might help the wider church. Though I have not served in such a capacity before I would use this as a learning opportunity, as well as an opportunity to work with others from around the Synod and help us all identify and join God at work in the world around us.

Share your concerns and hopes for the Synod of Alberta and the Territories: My hope for the Synod is that the Spirit guides our continuing search for places where God is at work. I pray we join in God's work using the gifts we are all given to help one another and creation in the name of our Lord Jesus. Though I am often unsure what shape the church will have in the future, I truly believe that as long as the Holy Spirit is at work in the world there is a place and role for the church within society, and that the ABT Synod has a role to play in graciously living and loving others following the example of our God.

Northern Area - Rostered

Nomination for: Synod Council - ROSTERED
Northern Area

Name: Deacon Sarah Rudd

Address: 13342 154 Ave. NW, Edmonton, AB T6V 1G2

Phone: (780) 499-8289

Home Congregation: Holy Spirit Lutheran Church, Edmonton

Occupation (current or past): Chaplain

Describe your participation in the church (include service in your local congregation, in the larger church, service in the community, and how you share the gifts God has given you):

I've served on synodical and national youth committees

helping or organize gatherings, and on the northern conference council. More recently my focus has been on ministry with older adults.

Why are you interested in serving in this capacity?

I think the diaconal ministry of relationship-building and bridging church and world could assist with synod councils work.

Share your concerns and hopes for the Synod of Alberta and the Territories:

My hope is for a church that walks with people, supporting congregations and especially lifting up those who need a specific welcome and perhaps different supports: youth, elders, and those in need of inclusion.

East Central Area - Lay

Nomination for: Synod Council - LAY
East Central Area

Name: Shae Belanger

Address: 6306 45Ave, Camrose, AB T4V 0C2

Phone: (780) 878-4257

Home Congregation: Scandia, Armena

Occupation (current or past): Administrative Assistant
Describe your participation in the church (include service in your local congregation, in the larger church, service in the community, and how you share the gifts God has given you):

I have been on church council for many years starting when I was in high school as part of the Education Committee. I have served on two call committees both as member and as vice chair of the committee. I participated in the National Church Convention in 2001 as a youth delegate. I have been

Scandia's delegate to the 2015 conference convention and to the Synod Convention in 2016. In 2017 and 2018 I served as a member of our internship committee. I have served on Synod Council since the fall of 2016 as the lay member for the East Central Area. I have also served as a Sunday School Teacher, and communion assistant. In the community my husband and I have coached children's soccer and when I am able I have volunteered at my children's school.

Why are you interested in serving in this capacity?

I have enjoyed my time spent on synod council and feel that I am starting to better understand the workings of the larger church and what is happening throughout the synod. By serving on synod council for another term, I can capitalize on the knowledge I have gained of the wider church and continue to contribute to synod council. I am hopeful that I can help guide the synod forward as we work towards a church that honors the past while adapting to the future.

Share your concerns and hopes for the Synod of Alberta and the Territories:

I feel that the church is at a time when there are great changes happening throughout society, the wider church and inside of congregations. The church must find a way to connect with those who do not attend church regularly and are not as open to common church traditions while also staying connected to those who thrive in the traditions of the church and feel that the church is central to their community and identity. Balancing these two are going to be key to helping the church move forward. We must become a flexible church that is open to new ideas and be welcoming to all of Gods children.

Southwestern Area - Rostered

Nomination for: Synod Council - Rostered
Southwestern Area

Name: Rev. Daranne Harris

Address: 410 Schooner Cove NW, Calgary, AB T3L 1Y9

Phone: (587) 777-4916

Home Congregation: Hope Lutheran, Calgary

Occupation (current or past): Pastor

Describe your participation in the church (include service in your local congregation, in the larger church, service in the community, and how you share the gifts God has given you):

For the past 2 1/2 years I have served as the Chief Mission Officer for Bethany Care Society, a role that was mindful of how the organization lived into the faith-based nature of providing care for seniors. Providing for the spiritual wellbeing of a small group of residents and overseeing the Pastoral Care Department of 11 chaplains was also central to this work.

Faith is about doing for me. I find great meaning in liturgy and social action. Local congregational involvement includes regular supply preaching and the Southwest Area Refugee Ministry initiative.

In Fall 2018 I will be pursuing full-time PhD studies exploring the experience of awe and wonder in healthcare providers and its relationship to long-term care residents' experience of compassion from their caregivers.

Why are you interested in serving in this capacity?

I am interested in the collaborative aspect of serving on Synod Council with people who share different experiences and perspectives than my own to shape a vibrant ministry in our synod.

Share your concerns and hopes for the Synod of Alberta and the Territories:

My hope for the Synod is one of enabling congregations and area expressions of ministry to take people on a journey of belonging and meaning-making that reflects God's love, mercy and creative nature. I am concerned about how we are equipping and sustaining leaders for this work. Our people, both clergy and lay persons, live complex lives in a world with many demands on their time and resources.

Southwestern Area - Rostered

Nomination for: Synod Council - Rostered
Southwestern Area

Name: Rev. Dr. Phil Holck

Address: 111 Queen Anne Way SE, Calgary, AB T2J 4R3

Phone: (403) 813-6797

Home Congregation: Lutheran Church of the Cross, Calgary

Occupation (current or past): Pastor

Describe your participation in the church (include service in your local congregation, in the larger church, service in the community, and how you share the gifts God has given you):

I have been serving as Senior Co-Pastor (along with my wife Laura) at Church of the Cross in Calgary for 5 years. Prior to that, I served as pastor of two congregations in Texas for 15 years. I bring a passion for rejuvenating the church and the ability to assess current situations and find innovative ways to move forward.

Why are you interested in serving in this capacity?

This is a critical time for the Church and a critical time for the synod. I welcome the opportunity to continue being part of the decision-making about the future of the synod at this time.

Share your concerns and hopes for the Synod of Alberta and the Territories:

Lutherans have a particularly clear message of God's grace and love that the world needs to hear. We are sometimes challenged in having that heard beyond our local congregations. Finding new and fresh ways to engage with the people in our surrounding neighborhoods and communities is key. As we rediscover the possibilities of these connections, I get very hopeful about the vitality of the church.

Southern Area - Rostered

Nomination for: Synod Council - Rostered
Southern Area

Name: Rev. Janice Whitelock

Address: 40 McKittrick Place, Brooks, AB T1R 0H4

Phone: (403) 362-1944

Home Congregation: Spirit of Grace Lutheran, Brooks

Occupation (current or past): Pastor

Describe your participation in the church (include service in your local congregation, in the larger church, service in the community, and how you share the gifts God has given you):

As a lay member at Trinity Lutheran Church in Grande Prairie I served on the Board of Education and as Council Chair; taught Sunday School; was active in planning VBS programs, and lead youth groups. During my eight years as Parish Worker, I continued to lead youth group, taught youth Bible studies and confirmation, went to National Youth Gatherings and led adult Bible Studies.

I served terms as Secretary and Council Chair on the Peace Lutheran Bible Camp Board and have attended several national and synodical conventions as both lay and rostered delegate. I am currently completing a term left vacant on Synod Council (through a synod council officer's relocation)

Why are you interested in serving in this capacity? Having participated in the last two Synod Council Retreats, I have seen firsthand the time, effort, and energy required for this role. I am aware of the breadth of work that is done at the Synod level, and the integrity of those who serve on council. Most of all I have observed the faithfulness of those serving on council. Thus, when asked to let my name stand, the obvious answer was 'Yes'.

Share your concerns and hopes for the Synod of Alberta and the Territories; The Church is called, gathered, and enlightened by the Spirit. My hope is that we, as a Synod, continue to discern together where the Spirit is calling us. I believe discernment happens best when we gather together. Thus we must continue to find creative ways to be in community with each other through out the synod. In community, I trust that we will be enlightened by the Spirit. I suspect we will be astonished and amazed to discover what Church looks in the years to come. My concern is that we will be so focused on what we perceive as lacking in the church, that we miss what God is doing...that we walk past how God is transforming us in this time and context. But then I remember, the Spirit has a way making sure we listen. ...even if we are slow.

Lutheran Theological Seminary Board of Governors - Rostered

Nomination for: Lutheran Theological Seminary
Board of Governors - Rostered
Northern Area

Name: Rev. Doug Heine

Address: 252 Woodley Dr., Hinton, AB T7V 2C5

Phone: (780) 817-1123

Home Congregation: Grace Lutheran Church, Hinton

Occupation (current or past):

Retired Pastor, Pastor of Grace Church, Hinton (10 years).
Pastor of Jasper Lutheran Church (8 Years). Pastor of Grace
Lutheran, Edson, (13 years). Pastor of Trinity Lutheran (LCC),
Pincher Creek (7 years).

Describe your participation in the church (include service
in your local congregation, in the larger church, service in
the community, and how you share the gifts God has
given you):

I have served in various boards and committees within the
Synod including

- Cluster Leader,
- CTEL (Chair),
- Board of Governors LTS (Vice Chair),
- Northern Conference Board,
- **Bishop's Congregations in Transition Counselor,**
- First Call presenter (Conflict Resolution), and
- Youth Board presenter.

I also

- co-led bicycle camps in the National Parks over a
number of years,
- served as President of and Vice President of various
Ministerial organizations during my ministry,
- served on Yellowhead Emergency Shelter board,
- Alberta Mental Health regional board,
- **Alberta Children's Services Board,**
- Tamarac Health Advisory Committee,
- Hinton Community Engagement and Advisory
Committee,
- Habitat for Humanity,
- Selection Committee, Jasper Folk Festival, and
- Hinton Forestry Regional Advisory Group.

I have, in addition to my Master of Divinity degree, a Master of
Science degree in Marriage and Family Therapy. I have
served as a pastor for almost 40 years throughout the
province of Alberta before retiring in Hinton last year.

I have also worked for Alberta Mental Health and Grande
Yellowhead Public School Division as a mental health
therapist.

Why are you interested in serving in this capacity?

Education has been a very important part of my life. Being a
part of the educational process of our future rostered leaders
is something that I feel I can be a positive voice for. This is
especially true during this transitional time in the Seminary's
life.

Share your concerns and hopes for the Synod of Alberta
and the Territories:

The Synod of Alberta and the Territories has been and
continues to be one of the strongest supporters of LTS. My
hope and goal is to retain this high level of support and have
the Synod continue to be a strong voice within the governance
of the seminary. The seminary and the educational programs
it brings forward continue to benefit not only the ELCIC on the
whole, but the Synod itself. To this end, a strong institution
that meets the educational needs of our rostered leaders is
something that will enrich the Church.

Biographical Data on Nominees - ABT Delegates to National Convention

Northern Area

Nomination for: National Convention Delegate
LAY
Northern Area

Full Name: Ryan Coultis

Address: 1712 12 Street, Cold Lake, AB, T9M 1L8

Phone: (587) 201-2242

Home Congregation: Lakeland Lutheran Church, Cold Lake

Occupation (current or past): RCAF

Service in the church/community: Facility Coordinator, Trustee / Board of Directors member for Lakeland Lutheran Church. Involves scheduling building maintenance and usage. Scheduling access for other groups that use the facility.

Chairman for bingo to support Pirouette School of Dance. Verify all ticket / money counts, organized what other volunteers are doing (selling tickets on floor or in booth). Also responsible for the final counts and paperwork at end of night. This raises funds for the Pirouette School of Dance.

Volunteered for Rally Cap BBQ (local children's baseball), I/C of food and refreshment area, organized all other volunteers involved with food prep, serving over 150 people.

Volunteered with the 4 Wing Military Family Resource Centre Society fundraiser. Selling 50/50 tickets at Rogers Place in Edmonton, donating countless hours of time to raise over \$17,000 for the 4 Wing MFRCS

Why you are interested in being a delegate:

I'm always interested in new experiences, and meeting and learning from new and interesting people. I think this would be a great opportunity to learn and share experiences and knowledge.

What does our Synod bring to the work of the national church?

Our Synod shares the views of Albertans, and people of the north with the National Church.

Your concerns and hopes for the ELCIC:

I am concerned with our ageing congregation, that although there are still youth coming into the church and expressing their faith, the numbers entering aren't necessarily higher than what is lost. I hope that we can remain vigilant and adapt to whatever changes need to take place. Together we shall overcome any obstacle, and learn new strategies to bring our faith to our communities

Nomination for: National Convention Delegate
LAY
Northern Area

Name: Linda Klinger

Address: 4301 - 40 Street, Bonnyville, AB T9N 1W2

Phone: (780) 826-8507

Home Congregation: Lakeland Lutheran Church, Cold Lake

Occupation (current or past): Office Clerical
Work/Bookkeeper

Service in the church/community:

As a lifelong Lutheran, I have been involved in my church. My first recollection of service was playing piano for the Junior Lutherans program and the Children's Choir while I was in grade school. At present I am a church musician, choir accompanist, chanter, Worship Committee Secretary, & I also help organize an annual Ladies Event. Over the years I have also been: Sunday School teacher, Youth Leader, VBS Coordinator, Confirmation teacher, bible study leader, a paid church secretary in my former parish, a volunteer church secretary for 14 years, financial secretary, ladies circle member, Building Committee Secretary, and helper at many Fundraising projects. In my community I play piano for the Seniors choir and play piano & sing for the Gospel Singers (inter-church group) as we share God's love with the residents of the Lodge, Extendicare, and Long Term Care. I play clarinet in the Bonnyville Community Band and we play at the Remembrance Day services and also occasionally for the 3 Senior facilities. I have in the past helped in my children's schools, Co-Chaired the Bonnyville Teen Pregnancy Committee, was a School Council member, and did volunteer work with my children's sports teams. I work for Covenant Health and strive to give patients compassionate care without judgement.

Why you are interested in being a delegate: I have been to a Synod Convention (2014) which was very enlightening. The worship services and the music was inspiring. Now I would like to see the National church at work.

What does our Synod bring to the work of the national church? Our Alberta & Territories Synod brings ideas, financial resources, prayer support, and leadership to the work of the national church.

Your concerns and hopes for the ELCIC: I think if we are honest we all have concerns for the future of the organized church. I went to Germany last Fall for a Reformation Tour and my prayer is that we may all stand up for the church and for our faith like Martin Luther and trust that God's plans will not fail.

Nomination for: National Convention Delegate
LAY
Northern Area

Name: Brenda Petriw

Address: 45 Logan Road, Whitehorse, YT Y1A 5T3

Phone: (867) 334 1668

Home Congregation: Trinity Evangelical Lutheran, Whitehorse

Occupation (current or past): Remedial Tutor

Service in the church/community:

Current council member, worship committee member, altar guild coordinator, property care member, fellowship coordinator, lay-preacher, & presider for members of Trinity Evangelical Lutheran church (Whitehorse);

- 27 years living in Yukon and worshipping within my community of many Christian & non-Christian denominations.

- my gifts include leadership, organization skills, compassion, cooking and teaching skills that help me contribute in many ways to my church and community

- swim club administrator for past 10+ years

- community volunteer for food drives,

World day of prayer coordinator, Braeburn church camp, a participant in ecumenical services between Anglican and United Church congregations, landscape & yard work, food caterer for weddings & gatherings, manager of family musical (fiddle) group

- past involvement in ELW local group, and delegate to AB synod conventions

- 30 years of working in education field within my community; 12+ years working with high-risk youth at our Teen Parent Centre (Whitehorse))

-worked at Lutheran Collegiate Bible Institute(LCBI) high school in Outlook, SK for 3 years ('88-'91).

Why you are interested in being a delegate:

- support the changing nature of ministry in the 21st century and the need for Christian leadership and training

- support medical assistance in dying

- share information about the unique challenges faced by smaller ministries in the north

- interested in hearing about & celebrating challenging experimentation & nontraditional ministries by our faithful membership

What does our Synod bring to the work of the national church?

- mentored, and supported a candidate (member of our congregation) to study at seminary (Saskatoon) and complete practicum in Alberta, and then worked in home congregation (Whitehorse) to be ready for a full-time call to a congregation (Sask)

- supportive and creative worship & music liturgy and ideas for small congregations

- support mission work in El Salvador and Columbia with planned visits

Your concerns and hopes for the ELCIC:

- how to continue to financially support our seminaries and church schools for future generations to access and grow in leadership

- formation of spiritual practices that uphold the gospel

- strengthen partnerships with other ecumenical groups

- creative approaches(ways) to worship

- more human resource work with policies put into practice for our employed staff and clergy regarding salary, benefits, and disability with protections for the congregations (employer)

- continue work on upgrading congregational constitutions

- continue to embrace and learn about the recommendations and calls to action of the TRC report.

Additional comments you wish to share:

- my northern placement of work and worship gives me a perspective on poverty concerns, basic income and education needs of our youth and indigenous people

- support a smaller sized national convention to reduce costs but still move forward with the work of the national church.

Nomination for: National Convention Delegate
LAY
Northern Area

Name: Keith Scheidt

Address: 513 Lakeshore Drive, Cold Lake, AB T9M 1A2

Phone: (780) 573 4531

Home Congregation: Lakeland Lutheran Church, Cold Lake

Occupation (current or past): Engineer

Service in the church/community: I am the chair of the council, a member of the stewardship committee and a general volunteer at Lakeland Lutheran. I am a member of the Northern Leadership Team for the synod. I am a regular volunteer at the local food bank.

Why you are interested in being a delegate: I am interested in contributing to the wellbeing and governance of the ELCIC. I participated as a delegate in the 2017 national convention and shared the outcomes of that convention with the ELCIC churches in our area.

What does our Synod bring to the work of the national church? The ABT synod represents a large portion of northern Canada and provides the people of the north a voice in the ELCIC

Your concerns and hopes for the ELCIC: I hope the ELCIC will grow and continue to support the people of Canada.

Nomination for: National Convention Delegate
LAY
Northern Area

Name: Ron Schlegelmilch

Address: 10917 - 81 Avenue NW, Edmonton, AB T6G 0S1

Phone: (780) 717-8162

Home Congregation: Holy Spirit Lutheran Church,
Edmonton

Occupation (current or past): Consultant

Service in the church/community: Served on church council for two terms and served as member of a number of volunteer projects.

Why you are interested in being a delegate: **I'm very** interested in the future growth and development of the church especially in the area of lay ministry. This includes **expanding the understanding of "ministry" as an active part** of our expression of faith.

What does our Synod bring to the work of the national church? In the role of a synod representative it is important to represent the perspective of Synod in national matters so there is a balance between synod and national needs.

Your concerns and hopes for the ELCIC: The perspectives of members, related to congregations, and who and how congregations are maintained and at the same time adapt to the changes, is emerging differently in the mid- and younger generations. From my perspective that means a **more active role of "ministry" for lay members, and a change** in the role of ministers, to participate in the growth and development of a congregation, and the church at large.

Nomination for: National Convention Delegate
LAY
Northern Area

Name: Gretta Smith

Address: 9 - 53130 Range Road 13, Parkland County,
AB T7Y 2T2

Phone: (780) 963 6526

Home Congregation: **St. Matthew's Lutheran Church**,
Spruce Grove

Occupation (current or past): Retired Registered Nurse

Service in the church/community: Church council, responsible for property and liaison with Worship & Music committee. Help with worship services, communion, ushering, greeting, counting, etc

Why you are interested in being a delegate: If we don't reach out to the whole church, we become isolated and an island unto ourselves, which does not provide for a positive growing congregation.

What does our Synod bring to the work of the national church? Open communication, concerns, issues at local levels, support for congregations and pastors, in-service education.

Your concerns and hopes for the ELCIC: Many congregations are losing members and not growing. We hope the ELCIC will be able to encourage and pray for all concerns and work with the churches to reach out into the communities.

Nomination for: National Convention Delegate
LAY
Northern Area

Name: Sharon Specht

Address: 259 Alsek Road, Whitehorse, YT Y1A 4T1

Phone: (867) 393-7574

Home Congregation: Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church,
Whitehorse

Occupation (current or past): Nurse Administrator

Service in the church/community: Currently, I participate in the life of my local congregation supporting Sunday services as usher, musician, organizing Sunday School youth activities with visiting pastors, and taking turns providing worship gathering music at local long-term care facility when it's our congregation's turn. In our local community, I have been the congregation contact for organizing annual Food bank drives and when we hosted the Canadian Lutheran Youth Gathering "travel light" I organized, with another nurse, the First Aide support for the week. Outside of the congregation I volunteer on Selkirk Elementary school council and with the Yukon Registered Nurses Association. In past, I volunteered on board of local disabilities service organization, with the Victoria Faulkner Women's centre, and for multiple terms on the executive of the Canadian Hospice Palliative Care Nurses group.

Why you are interested in being a delegate: I believe in the local and global work of the church. I welcome the opportunity to be exposed to Lutheran work that is happening across Canada. Sharing common purpose, discussing challenges, issues and opportunities for us across the country is an interest for me

What does our Synod bring to the work of the national church? Our synod brings a lot of diversity to the work of the national church. New congregations, well-established congregations, and remote congregations (such as ours from Yukon) help bring context to national discussions.

Your concerns and hopes for the ELCIC: Shared spirituality, purpose, love of broader community expressed through living our lives as Christ asks us.

Additional comments you wish to share:
I am grateful to have been asked by my congregation to attend as a national convention delegate and will do my best to represent our congregation, participate fully in the convention, and bring back renewed energy and commitment as a steward of this work.

Nomination for: National Convention Delegate
LAY
Northern Area

Full Name: David Unsworth

Address: 13103-63 Avenue NW, Edmonton, AB T6H 1R9

Phone: (587) 436 6967

Home Congregation: Holy Spirit Lutheran Church,
Edmonton

Occupation (current or past): Mulhurst Camp CEO

Service in the church/community:
Within my local Church I have been both Council member and have sat as Council president. I now sit on a committee that does work for the Council itself.

I work as CEO of a Lutheran outdoor Camp. I show gods work to the many participants of the camp.

I also sit on a Canadian Christian non-profit board that supports and works within the homeless of Edmont

Why are you interested in being a delegate?
I believe that the ELCIC church is coming to a crossroads and I desire to have some input in that time.

What does our Synod bring to the work of the national church?

The Synod represents the interests of our members at the National convention. After the Convention the delegates then take what the Convention decides and implements those decisions into the works of the Synod

Your concerns and hopes for the ELCIC:
Lowered membership in the local church as well as an increasing irrelevance of the national church within the decision making of Canadians. What we have been doing has not worked, as our churches close, so I believe that we need to investigate new ways to solve those issues and hold an open conversation on it.

Nomination for: National Convention Delegate
LAY
Northern Area

Name: Andrea Wilhelm

Address: 10178 - 92 St NW, Edmonton, AB T5H 1S9

Phone: (780) 428-1310

Home Congregation: Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church, Edmonton

Occupation (current or past): adjunct professor

Service in the church/community: I have been involved as a regular worshipper and volunteer in ELCIC congregations since I came to Canada in 1990 and have done pretty much everything from youth leader to church council member. Since 2015 I have also been the chair of Lutheran Campus Ministry-Edmonton. My particular passion is to connect a congregation to the surrounding community, whether that be through community gardening, public art projects, or settler-Indigenous reconciliation. In my entire life I strive for the love and justice of the kingdom of God. Two things I am doing in the local community right now are refugee sponsorship, and president of my community league.

Why you are interested in being a delegate: I very much enjoyed being a delegate at the 2016 convention of the ABT synod. It made me appreciate that there are things we can do at a synodical and national level that we cannot do as individual congregations. I am looking forward to learning, and help shape, what the national church is doing. At the 2019 convention, I would be representing one of the larger Edmonton congregations and Edmonton's campus ministry.

What does our Synod bring to the work of the national church? I know the ABT Synod better than the national church, and am speaking from that angle. I believe the ABT Synod can contribute strength in terms of people and dollars, as well as a hope-filled creative spirit. The ABT Synod is also unique in that it includes the "territories" (NWT & Nunavut) - a special responsibility and opportunity.

Your concerns and hopes for the ELCIC: My hope for the ELCIC as a whole is that it will continue to discern and do God's will in this world, using the specific gifts it has been given. I hope that at the National Convention 2019, we will listen and learn what "In Mission for Others" looks like in the next few years.

Nomination for: National Convention Delegate
LAY
Northern Area

Name: AnnE Zimmerman

Address: 125-16 Street, Cold Lake, AB T9M 1A7

Phone: (780) 901 8761

Home Congregation: Lakeland Lutheran Church, Cold Lake

Occupation (current or past): Licensed Lay Leader; former Executive Director, On Eagles Wings.

Service in the church/community: I have been privileged to be part of the church community for a long time. My service includes youth, outdoor ministry, First Nations-Metis-Inuit accompaniment ecumenical ministry, education including Lutheran/Catholic Dialogue and Islamic/Christian partnership, Refugee Sponsorship, officially endorsed interim pastor, pastoral care and hospital chaplaincy. In the larger community - Food bank, youth and women prison ministry, ecumenical ministerial including walking together with interfaith friends, LGBTQ relationship building as well as the Cold Lake Canadian Legion chaplaincy. The opportunities to learn and walk with others have been gifts from God. Humbling grace inspired experience always.

Why you are interested in being a delegate: I have gone to two National Conventions as a delegate. One was for the acceptance and celebration of the Anglican/Lutheran willingness to share in Eucharistic practice. The other was the election of Bishop Telmor Sartison. These experiences **cemented to me what convention can be where God's** Lutheran Christians discern where we are meant to serve and be as the ELCIC. How can I not be interested?

What does our Synod bring to the work of the national church? As a unique Synod that includes prairie and Western concerns, our Synod also includes the true northern territorial experience. Our Synod, through ecumenical, social justice, open communication and education, has given those in the parish great opportunities to discover how individuals can be more connected as church homes. I think this is worthy on the national level to share.

Your concerns and hopes for the ELCIC: I personally have hope that our church maintains our Lutheran expression as we work together with other denomination churches. Our faith history has much to offer. I also have concerns of smaller resources serving such large geographical regions. I look forward to convention continuing to struggle with these very large concerns.

Additional comments you wish to share: Our people in the pews have much to offer - more ways to engage these gifts of ministry need to be considered in larger ways and further education explored. (Especially at the lay level).

Nomination for: National Convention Delegate
ROSTERED
Northern Area

Name: Rev. Lindsey Jorgensen - Skakum

Address: 11223 51 Ave NW, Edmonton, AB T6H 0L5

Phone: ((587) 220 8052

Home Congregation: Holy Spirit Lutheran, Edmonton

Occupation (current or past): Pastor

Service in the church/community: Lindsey grew up in Southern Alberta attending the Lutheran congregation their grandparents had helped to found - steeping them in a life of discipleship and faith that would one day lead to a call to ordained ministry. Lindsey attended LTS, interned within the ABT Synod, and was ordained in 2016 when they answered a call to serve Holy Spirit Lutheran Church in Edmonton.

Lindsey has actively served the church as a member of the NCC's Inclusive Language Review Committee, as a Synodical delegate / youth delegate, CLAY Home Team Leader, CLAY Story Weaver, as an ABT Study Conference Chaplain, and as a member of Proclaim / RIC congregation. Lindsey cares deeply for the stewardship of creation, creating space to hear and respond to those who are oppressed, and advocating for LGBTQ2S+ people of faith. Lindsey has partnered with local community groups like Mom's Stop The Harm, the Pride Centre of Edmonton, and Rethinking welcome to bring important educational events to congregations creating a safe space for dialog and learning.

Lindsey believes God has given them the gifts of faithful listening and discerning, compassion and encouragement, diligence and dedication, as well as a heart to walk with God's people as they hears God's call within the world.

Why you are interested in being a delegate:

To serve the wider church in the mission we share with one another as children of God. To share in the important work of listening for both God's call to our church and to the needs and experiences of our congregations. To learn how we as a national church will continue to be in mission with and for others, and to dream, envision, and care for the future life of the church.

What does our Synod bring to the work of the national church?

A strength within the ABT Synod over the last several years has been to bridge the gaps of our differing experiences as people of God to answer the call to be in mission with and for others.

This has been lived out through many congregations engaging in missional network projects and experiments, through our continued support of new ministry opportunities via synodical grants, and through valuable educational opportunities like mental health first aid training, congregational life events, and by being encouraged to share in ecumenical and interfaith ministries.

This ability for our Synod to bridge across our differences to continue to carry our valuable ministry is important to the work of the wider church because we are healthier when all of our gifts and insights are welcomed into the full vision of God for our church.

Your concerns and hopes for the ELCIC:

My hopes for the ELCIC would be that we would continue to grow with God to be peoples of Christ within an ever-changing world. That we would dare to dream, envision, and partner with others to carry out the mission we share, and that we would not be afraid to respond to the needs of the world.

My concerns for the ELCIC is that we would continue to hear and center the voices who have long been at the margins of our society and church - children and youth, women, Indigenous peoples, People of Colour, those with differing abilities, and members of the LGBTQ2S+ community.

Nomination for: National Convention Delegate
ROSTERED
Northern Area

Name: Deacon Faith Nostbakken

Address: #304 4403 23 St NW, Edmonton, AB T6T 0E4

Phone: (780) 435-6262

Home Congregation: Glory Lutheran, Sherwood Park

Occupation (current or past): Spiritual Director

Service in the church/community: Congregational: worship planning, music, worship leadership, prayer ministry, pulpit supply, adult education

Synod: northern ecumenical officer, retreat facilitator, spiritual director;

Community: Leadership team member for spiritual direction training program, Providence Renewal Centre, Edmonton; planning committee member for Ecumenical Mission of Strathcona County, a unique annual 4-day event now in its 28th year; faculty advisor and member of Doctor of Ministry Program Committee, St. Stephen's Theological College, U of A; pulpit supply across various denominations: Lutheran, Mennonite, Moravian, Anglican

Past experience in planning ELCIC National Convention, ELCIC-ACC National Worship Conference, Synod Reformation 500 Hymn Festival, Common Prayer Services and Lenten Lutheran-Catholic dialogue series

Why you are interested in being a delegate:

I have been a delegate to national conventions in the past, both as a lay delegate and later as a rostered delegate. I appreciate the gift and responsibility of being engaged in the broader church, its witness and engagement in the world, and look forward to bringing that vision back to the local church and region where it is easy to forget we are part of a larger vision of gospel identity and proclamation.

What does our Synod bring to the work of the national church?

ABT Synod bears witness to the importance of missional engagement of church in the community, lifts up an ecumenical vision of cooperation across denominational lines both in shared congregational ministry and in the appointment of two ecumenical officers for the synod, supports collaborative ministry with ministry partners in the global south, and makes a commitment to cultivate ministry at all levels through intentional support of seminary students, campus ministry, youth gatherings, congregational life workshops, annual gatherings of diaconal ministers and retired rostered leaders, and inclusive annual study

conferences.

Your concerns and hopes for the ELCIC:

My hope is that the ELCIC continues to partner with other national and international church organizations to seek justice, love mercy and walk humbly with our God. My hope is that we continue to explore and raise up the gifts within our own membership to share the gospel in creative ways from making CLWR quilts to articulating our own faith among strangers and friends.

My concern is that we let an attitude of scarcity and smallness diminish our capacity to act and to live out meaningful lives nurtured by the Word and liberated by God's lavish grace. Encouraging personal faith through story, study, and prayer is vital for our ongoing health and witness as the body of Christ.

Nomination for: National Convention Delegate
ROSTERED
Northern Area

Name: Rev. Aaron Schnell

Address: 105 Meridian Loop, Stony Plain, AB T7Z 0B9

Phone: (780) 988-4327

Home Congregation: **St. Matthew's Lutheran Church**,
Spruce Grove

Occupation (current or past): Pastor

Service in the church/community:

Serve as pastor of St. Matthew's Lutheran Spruce Grove, Convener of South Edmonton Lutheran Ministerial, member of Northern Area Leadership Team, Coach & coordinator for Muir Lake kids ball. I believe God calls me to serve where my skills, passions and abilities intersect with the needs of the world.

Why you are interested in being a delegate:

I wish to participate in the life of the wider church that I see myself serving for decades to come. Having served in area leadership and ministerial leadership for the past 4 years, I hope for opportunities to share concerns and point to hopeful signs of God's work among us.

What does our Synod bring to the work of the national church?

experiences of God's work in local contexts, signs of inclusion and progress amidst realities of decline. Hope filled ministry

Your concerns and hopes for the ELCIC:

Concerned about reduced size of national gatherings. I am disappointed that people and congregations are being turned away from participating in convention due to size limits. My hope is that passion and interest for the work of ELCIC and our relationships continues.

Additional comments you wish to share: Thank you for the opportunity to serve.

Nomination for: National Convention Delegate
ROSTERED
Northern Area

Name: Rev. Heidi Wachowiak

Address: 5213 Crabapple Link SW, Edmonton, AB T6X 2H6

Phone: (780) 224-3956

Home Congregation: **St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran**
Church Ellerslie, Edmonton

Occupation (current or past): clergy

Service in the church/community:

I have participated in church all of my life including involvement in the wider church since my youth. I have served the church as a youth and education worker for many years and now as the senior pastor at St Paul's Ellerslie. I have also served as national staff, volunteered on synodical and national committees, and planned youth gatherings on all levels. In addition, I now serve on synod council. Currently in my community I attend End Poverty Edmonton meetings - both in the larger city and in my local community.

Why you are interested in being a delegate:

I have been interested in the way the church functions on a larger level since my youth. I have been involved in a number of synods and in numerous roles in the church. I believe that my varied experience helps my understanding and provides valuable insight.

What does our Synod bring to the work of the national church?

Our synod brings a wide variety of gifts and perspectives. Our size and varied geography helps us understand a range of ideas and ways of operating. In many parts of our synod and in various ways, we have engaged being intentionally missional - joining in where God is already at work. I strongly believe that this is the way forward during this exciting and difficult time to be the church.

Your concerns and hopes for the ELCIC:

My hope for the ELCIC is that we continue to be creative and think and work outside of the box of what always has been and really listen for where God is calling us into the wider world. I also hope that although there are a smaller number of people attending our national conventions that we don't lose sight of the interests and needs of the whole ELCIC.

Additional comments you wish to share:

As a former national staff person for Youth Ministry I have come to love our national church and would be blessed to serve as a national delegate.

West Central Area

Nomination for: National Convention Delegate
ROSTERED
West Central Area

Name: Rev. Kathy Calkins

Address: 5627-55 Avenue Crescent, Innisfail, AB T4G 1X6

Phone: (780) 877-1399

Home Congregation: Peace Lutheran Church, Innisfail

Occupation (current or past): Pastor

Service in the church/community: I have been serving Innisfail as pastor for the past 7.5 years and in September 2017 entered into a shared ministry agreement as pastor of Grace Lutheran, Bentley. I have served as Dean of the West Central Area for the past 3.5 years and am presently serving on the Synod Worship Planning Committee. In the past I have also served on a committee for the National Lutheran/Anglican Worship Conference and as chair of the 2014 Synod Convention Planning Committee. I presently serve as the Treasurer for our local Ecumenical Ministerial and as an organizing member of a local community Refugee Sponsorship group..

Why you are interested in being a delegate: I find the work of the larger church interesting and engaging and love to learn more about how we are God's people together in the ELCIC. It is uplifting and Spirit-filling to gather with the larger church in worship and to find out more about how the church is living out God's call to mission and ministry in the world. There are so many things that happen at convention that we could never be exposed to at the local level.

What does our Synod bring to the work of the national church? In the past several years our Synod has been a strong leader in the direction of our church towards a missional focus, providing training, education opportunities and funding grants for congregations, pastors, lay leaders and members to be engaged in an experimental church that seeks to be in relationship with our communities, and to discover God at work outside our buildings. The Synod is also active in communication of national church initiatives and goals, encouraging participation and unity within and throughout the larger church. Bishop Susan is invited to regularly attend Area Gatherings, Synod Convention and Study Conferences and is a strong and positive presence in our Synod as a result. Bishop Larry and Asst. to the Bishop Julianne's involvement in larger church both nationally and internationally bring a broader perspective of what it means to be church in Canada and in a changing world.

Your concerns and hopes for the ELCIC: My hopes for the ELCIC are that we would continue to be an outward-looking, mission-based church that seeks God's will and God's vision not only for the church but for our communities of which we are an integral part. I hope that we would actively pray for one another and the church as a whole and that through Word and Sacrament we would be strengthened to follow Christ deeper into relationship with God, one another and our world.

My concerns for the church: staying connected and how to engage congregations on the local level to be in greater partnership with one another.

Additional comments you wish to share: I appreciate the opportunity to be able to attend National Convention, an opportunity I have had for the past several conventions. If there is someone who has never been able to attend, I would encourage consideration of new names and people, so that the opportunity to learn and participate in the larger church would be a gift that is shared and given to all.

Nomination for: National Convention Delegate
ROSTERED
West Central Area

Name: Rev. Erik Sorenson

Address: RR2, Millet, AB T0C 1Z0

Phone: (780) 996-1189

Home Congregation: **St. Peter's** Lutheran Church, Millet

Occupation (current or past): Pastor

Service in the church/community: I am currently the pastor at St. Peter's Lutheran Church, Millet and therefore a lot of my participation in the church is consistent with my letter of call. I have also been involved in camping ministries within Alberta, specifically Hastings Lake where I just completed my term as chair of the board. I was also a part of the team that planned the 2016 synod youth gathering, and am currently a member of the West Central Area Leadership Team. One of the themes that run through my participation is let's live into the faith that God has gifted us with, and if possible let us have fun in the process.

Why you are interested in being a delegate: I am from the school of thought that roster leaders should have both the opportunity and responsibility to periodically attend our national convention. Have never attended before I thought I would take this opportunity to express my willingness.

What does our Synod bring to the work of the national church? I appreciate the image of the Synod being an organ of the national church. The organ needs a body, and in most cases the body needs the organ. For the national church to be a national church it needs to both hear from and be formed, to some degree, by the context of the Alberta and the Territories.

Your concerns and hopes for the ELCIC: I have been impressed by the ELCIC, in our ability to have honest and sometimes difficult dialogue. Examples of this dialogue would include Medical Assistance in Death, and the impact of mental health and mental illness has on both individuals and communities. My hope for the ELCIC that it continues to be a place where matters of faith and life can continue to be discussed openly and with respect.

East Central Area

Nomination for: National Convention Delegate
ROSTERED
East Central Area

Name: Rev. Paul McCormick

Address: PO Box 1630, Provost, AB T0B 3S0

Phone: (780) 753-2622

Home Congregation: Central Lutheran Church, Provost

Occupation (current or past): Pastor

Service in the church/community:

- served Central - Provost for 12 years as pastor
- served on Synod Council for 8 years ending in 2016
- rostered delegate to National Conventions in 2007, 2011, 2015
- volunteer with Provost Ministerial including Food Bank
- volunteer board member of Provost & District Golf Club
- tutor for high school chemistry, physics, and calculus

Why are you interested in being/ willing to be a delegate?
I would like to bring the perspective of a rural community with a conservative outlook to our national discussion, as a representative of the diversity of thought within our synod.

What does our Synod bring to the work of our national church?

This question is upside down! Each level of organization needs to justify its existence based on the value it delivers to the level below it, and ultimately, to the individual congregation member. I believe our Synod brings to the congregation level a valuable oversight and support function. I am interested to discuss ideas brought forward at convention for the national church to bring more value to the synods.

Share your concerns and hopes for the ELCIC:

My concern is that the ELCIC is pursuing the approval of society under the guise of being "relevant," by championing causes that are peripheral to spreading the gospel of Christ.

My hope is that the ELCIC will become the most successful mainline church in communicating the gospel of Christ for itself and for the communities it serves.

Southern Area

Nomination for: National Convention Delegate
LAY
Southern Area

Name: Cheryl Berg

Address: 1013 Scenic Dr S, Lethbridge, AB T1K 1L7

Phone: (403) 331-3644

Home Congregation: Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd, Lethbridge

Occupation (current or past): Canada Post Learning and Development Officer

Service in the church/community:
Deacon 3 yrs on Council

Currently vice-chair on Council

Choir member

Sound tech and co-ordinator

Worship leader and co-ordinator for lay led services

Bass player for some services

Why are you interested in being/ willing to be a delegate?

I have been interested in going to a national convention as a delegate but was unable to while working as I traveled with my job. We have a number of people who have held positions on Synod and National committees. I have a growing interest in further understanding and learning the inside working of the ELCIC.

What does our Synod bring to the work of our national church?

We have explored areas of Mission, Word and Sacraments, same sex blessings, the dilemma of congregations without pastors, vibrancy of congregations, communication, and relevance of Church today

Share your concerns and hopes for the ELCIC:

That we move forward, stay positive and grow the gospel of Christ.

Nomination for: National Convention Delegate
LAY
Southern Area

Name: Robin Niebergall

Address: 407 4 Street West, Brooks, AB T1R 0B2

Phone: (403) 362-7656

Home Congregation: Spirit of Grace Lutheran Church, Brooks

Occupation (current or past): Chartered Professional Accountant

Service in the church/community:
I currently serve as the council chair of Spirit of Grace, Brooks, and have served as such for 5 of the last 6 years. I was also chair of the organization committee for Spirit of Grace. Prior to this I was treasurer for Trinity Lutheran Church in Brooks for 5 years.

In the larger Church I was treasurer of Southern Alberta Conference for five years. I have attended two synod conventions on behalf of Spirit of Grace.

Within the community of Brooks I have been a member of several boards including Newell Housing Association (6 years), Brooks Curling Club (5 years) and First Brooks Scouts (5 years). I have also been a volunteer coach for soccer, baseball and football, and continue to coach hockey and curling. I also support several non-profit organizations and schools in the Brooks area, by volunteering when needed.

Being an accountant, I'm often asked to be treasurer and I find it hard to say no; therefore, I volunteer. I also enjoy sharing my love of sports with young people by teaching them the basics of the sports, as well as the values of commitment, responsibility and respect.

Why are you interested in being/ willing to be a delegate?

I have always been interested in the workings of the larger church, the decisions and discussions that happen at our Synod conventions, and the people that I meet at the conventions. Attending a national convention seems like the next step for me to learn about and become involved in the larger church.

What does our Synod bring to the work of our national church?

Our Synod has a number of extremely talented and knowledgeable people. Every time I have been at our Synod convention, I have been impressed by the work that is

accomplished, the decisions that are made, and the open and respectful manner in which different opinions can be shared. Also, I enjoy the experience of worshipping together with delegates from across the Synod. I hope that the delegates of our Synod model these traits at the National Convention.

Share your concerns and hopes for the ELCIC:

My concern is for the "grassroots" congregations in small communities that are struggling to survive. How can we, as a larger church, support them?

My hope is that we can calm our collective mind in a chaotic world, and listen to where God is calling us to be.

Nomination for: National Convention Delegate
ROSTERED
Southern Area

Name: Rev. Jeff Decelle

Address: 86 Ross Glen Cres SE, Medicine Hat, AB T1B 1P7

Phone: (403) 502-1940

Home Congregation: Unity Lutheran Church, Medicine Hat

Occupation (current or past): Pastor

Service in the church/community:

- Dean, Southern Area Leadership Team
- Chair, Medicine Hat Area Refugee Team
- Member, Synod Missional Formation Team/Canadian Missions Committee

Why are you interested in being/ willing to be a delegate?

I enjoy participating in the life of our National Church. The decisions we are making today will shape the church of the next years.

What does our Synod bring to the work of our national church?

Hope, youth, a sense of the Spirit at work in our midst.

Share your concerns and hopes for the ELCIC:

My hope is that we continue to build on partnerships that have already been forged, and that we are creating a structure that is more easily adaptable to the challenges that are getting more and more difficult to predict. My concern is that too often we speak of a lack of financial resources rather than a sense of mission and God being at work in our church.

Southwestern Area

Nomination for: National Convention Delegate
LAY
Southwestern Area

Name: Anne Harding

Address: 7 Hawkbury Close NW, Calgary, AB T3G 3N1

Phone: (403) 869-8164

Home Congregation: Hope Lutheran Church, Calgary

Occupation (current or past): Senior Advisor, Stakeholder
& Indigenous Relations

Service in the church/community:

I have been an active member of Hope Lutheran Church for the 34 years in which I've been a member. I've been an organist in the church for the last 20 years, having attended regional and international conferences with the Association of Lutheran Church Musicians and served as a member of the church's Worship & Music committee for the last 20 years as well. I have also served on a number of other ministry groups, including Council and Personnel Committee.

As a professional community engagement practitioner, I volunteered my time and talents to lead my congregation through a four-month discernment process to develop a short and long term vision for our faith community. Now that my young son is also an active member of our church I have also been part of the Children's Ministry leadership team for the last few years.

Most recently I have offered my relationships and knowledge in working with Indigenous Peoples to my church and am working with our Pastor to develop a series of events and reflections on Abiding in Right Relations to help our congregation learn more about the history and experiences of Indigenous Peoples in Canada and the role we as Christians are called to play in reconciliation.

Why are you interested in being/ willing to be a delegate?

Having attended a few Synod Conventions as a younger person (in my early twenties), I value the connections and experiences made with other Lutherans from different regions and backgrounds. I see tremendous value in bringing the assets and questions of my home church to national convention and bringing the spirit and lessons from the convention back home.

What does our Synod bring to the work of our national church?

We are stronger together. By prayerfully and respectfully raising up diverse views and experiences we can better hear God's call to us as Lutherans and Christians in Canada.

Share your concerns and hopes for the ELCIC:

As a millennial who has grown up in the church and remained an active leader in my church my whole life I am interested in exploring what the ELCIC is doing to engage and enrich young families.

As mentioned, I am also extremely passionate about the Synod's commitment to Abiding in Right Relations and I hope that more can be done to share opportunities and challenges related to reconciliation within our Synod.

Nomination for: National Convention Delegate
LAY
Southwestern Area

Name: Garth Hein

Address: 1788 Harrison St, Box 363, Crossfield, AB T0M 0S0

Phone: (780) 305-1015

Home Congregation: Lutheran Church of the Master,
Airdrie

Occupation (current or past): Territory Sales Manager

Service in the church/community:

Council President for the past 5 years.

active in Lay ministry and leadership.

I travel the entire province of Alberta for work and see my faith sharing within a very large community mostly rural.

God's gift to me is to share openly my beliefs with anyone.

Why are you interested in being/ willing to be a delegate?

My interest is in understanding the issues and challenges of our national church and helping find Gods true path for us as a people.

What does our Synod bring to the work of our national church?

This should be a message of listening and reaching out and also show responsibility and respect while we do.

Share your concerns and hopes for the ELCIC:

My hope is that we can be a healing listening church that cares about people and helps guide with the word of God

Additional comments you wish to share:

I have never been very involved at a synod or national level of our church. I am quite active locally and find the best way to learn more is to engage myself at a national level.

Nomination for: National Convention Delegate
LAY
Southwestern Area

Name: Cheryl Ann Holtz

Address: 2714 9 Ave SE, Calgary, AB T2A 0B7

Phone: (403) 605-4309

Home Congregation: Emmanuel Lutheran Community Church

Occupation (current or past): hospital ministry

Service in the church/community:

Faith and witness director, community involvement, sharing Gods word and leading people to the church for healing and sometimes baptism.

Why are you interested in being/ willing to be a delegate?

I like to stay ahead of developments in our church going forth with new ideas, and learning. Enabling others to follow with acknowledgement with our church in their hearts leaving Jesus to lead us and trusting in God.

What does our Synod bring to the work of our national church?

The Synod keeps updated developments in all corners of the world. Working together to bring hope, peace, and love to many areas around the globe they keep updated news in all the ways to help nationwide therefore, we follow with the new ideas and developments we keep the ideas bringing us education and awareness which keep us the church a whole.

Share your concerns and hopes for the ELCIC:

My prayer would be to grow our church body within the ELCIC. My concern would be that we are faced with a drop in numbers to our church body and how could be stay aboard and reaching others during these times.

Additional comments you wish to share:

If chosen to attend it would give me a deeper insight of knowledge and with prayerful consideration taking the information and knowledge I obtained from the meeting back to the congregation and the community. With hopes to grow our church body.

Nomination for: National Convention Delegate
LAY
Southwestern Area

Name: Michell Plested

Address: 869 Citadel Drive NW, Calgary, AB T3G 4B8

Phone: (403) 241-6330

Home Congregation: Advent Lutheran Church, Calgary

Occupation (current or past): Business Analyst

Service in the church/community:
Chair of the Worship Committee (on Church Council),
Assisting Minister, Lector, Usher, Greeter, Communion
Assistant

Scout Section Leader (13 years), Group Administrator for
Hawkwood/Citadel 214 Scouts

TELUS Wise Internet Safety Ambassador,

Youth Writing Mentor/Workshop leader

Why are you interested in being/ willing to be a
delegate?

I am an active member of the local church and would like to
better understand the workings of the national church. I see
this as an opportunity to grow my faith family and better
serve God in whatever capacity he sees fit.

What does our Synod bring to the work of our national
church?

Every region of the country has its own strengths and needs.
In order to build a strong faith community within Canada and
the national church, we must all reach out to better
understand each other. That will allow our Synod to ply its
own unique gifts to the betterment of the national church.

As the national church continues to grow and evolve, our
participation will also grow and evolve. It is our duty to
understand how we may best serve. That can only be
accomplished through thoughtful prayer, intelligent discourse
with our fellows in other Synods and by understanding the
needs of the national church.

Share your concerns and hopes for the ELCIC:
The ELCIC is not and should not simply be about the number
of seats in pews. We need to deliver God's message in a
manner that resonates with our changing society. How we do
that is the question that still needs answering.

If I were to have any concerns about the ELCIC it is simply

that we should never be afraid to ask the hard questions
about ourselves and our journey with God.

In regards to my hopes? I hope that we remain a beacon of
God's light. We must continue to work to spread God's
message through our own good work in our communities and
around the world.

Additional comments you wish to share:

I welcome this opportunity to hear what all Synods have to
say and meet other delegates to discuss the issues. I am
eager to learn more and share my own gifts as God
determines.

Nomination for: National Convention Delegate
LAY
Southwestern Area

Name: Helga Weissenberger

Address: 7 Hunter Street NW, Calgary, AB T2K 2B8

Phone: (403) 502-1940

Home Congregation: Unity Lutheran Church, Medicine Hat

Occupation (current or past): Retired

Service in the church/community:

I have served as an elder, trustee, financial secretary, and lay delegate for my home congregation Highwood quite a few times in the past 15 years. I am a long-standing choir member and supporter of the ladies guild. I am a core member of Highwood Lutheran.

Why are you interested in being/ willing to be a delegate?

I feel it is an important and necessary role in the church to be involved in the broader administration and direction provided by organized convention. Change, or not, can only happen by God's will, but God continues to work through people. It is a solemn responsibility.

What does our Synod bring to the work of our national church?

Synodical representation is essential to the working of the national church, and the church at large. Our synod has experienced major change in recent years - membership and financial impacts. Our experience can be shared.

Share your concerns and hopes for the ELCIC:

I am concerned that the ELCIC is losing its connection to Lutherans locally and worldwide by over-embracing theological diversity. The ELCIC is on a path to neutrality and religious humanism, wherein all religions and beliefs are acceptable. My hope is that it will not forget its roots, nor its divine purpose.

Nomination for: National Convention Delegate
ROSTERED
Southwestern Area

Name: Rev. Kristian Wold

Address: 6 Glenhill Court, Cochrane, AB T4C 1G9

Phone: (587) 581-4154

Home Congregation: Hope Lutheran Church, Calgary

Occupation (current or past): Pastor

Service in the church/community:

In 15 years of service (Bethel, Camrose and Hope, Calgary) I have been involved in various church and community ministries. In the congregation as a pastor my ministry has been focused on deepening people's faith lives through worship and education. Synod involvements have included serving as Dean of the SW Conference (Area) and being part of the organizing team for diverse workshops (Music that Makes Community, Congregational Life event, Retreat of Our Own).

In the National Church I was a worship coordinator for the National Worship Conference (2014), and a delegate to numerous national conventions.

Community service organizations I have been part of include the Camrose Family Violence Action Society with a special focus of addressing issues of violence against women and seniors, the Calgary Council of Christians and Jews, and the Nonviolent Communication society of Alberta.

Why are you interested in being/ willing to be a delegate?

From the beginning of my ministry I have been interested in working collaboratively and ecumenically. I enjoy forming partnerships - whether between pastors, congregations, synodical ministries or community organizations. It is always interesting to discover what synergies can form when people work together. The National Church, through its convention, is a place where partnerships can be formed and ministry can be accomplished in new and exciting ways.

What does our Synod bring to the work of our national church?

I'm interested to discover what perspectives and resources the ABT Synod can bring to the ELCIC as a whole. As an individual I hope my experience in working collaboratively in congregations, community, and synod will be a resource to the national church.

Share your concerns and hopes for the ELCIC;
It's an interesting and exciting time to be in mission and ministry in the ELCIC. As the church dwindles in numbers and social influence, anxiety for the future rises. At the same time unimagined new opportunities open up in our ways of being church. So many things are in flux that nothing can ever be done "because we've always done it that way." We get to listen with new openness to where God is guiding and leading us. I'm curious to discover what shape the church will take in the coming decades.

Synod of Alberta and the Territories Constitution

Amended June, 2016

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.
- Section 2. The synod shall be incorporated under the laws of Alberta.
- 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.**

ARTICLE II - Territory

The Territory of this synod shall be the province of Alberta plus the Yukon Territory, the Northwest Territories, and Nunavut.

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.
- 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.
- 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.**
- 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

- the Apostles', the Nicene, and the Athanasian Creeds** as the chief confessions of the Christian faith;
- the Unaltered Augsburg Confession as its basic formulation of Christian doctrine;
- Luther's Small Catechism** as a clear summary of Christian doctrine;
- 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.

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, and by engaging in other forms of ministry **which proclaim God's Word 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.**

ARTICLE V - Membership

- 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.**
- Section 2. The synod shall recognize those

	<p>congregations on its territory that are recognized by the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada and certified to it by the secretary of the church.</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>
Section 3.	<p>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.</p>	Section 7.	<p>Provision of Pastors When a pastor resigns, the congregational council shall receive the resignation, report it to the congregation and notify the bishop of the synod.</p>
Section 4.	<p>The synod may revoke its recognition of any congregation in the manner described in the constitution and bylaws of this Church.</p>	Section 8.	<p>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>
<hr/> ARTICLE VI - Congregations			
Section 1.	<p>Constitutions 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>	Section 9.	<p>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>
Section 2.	<p>Representation to ELCIC Conventions 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>	Section 10.	<p>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.</p> <p>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>
Section 3.	<p>Representation to the Synod and Conference Conventions 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>	Section 11.	<p>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</p>
Section 4.	<p>Relation to Synod The alignment of congregations in pastoral charges shall be subject to approval of Synod Council.</p>		
Section 5.	<p>Petitions Congregations shall have the right to petition this synod, according to procedures set forth in the bylaws.</p>		
Section 6.	<p>Solicitation of Funds</p>		

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.

ARTICLE VII - Ordained Ministers

- Section 1. The synod shall have a roster of ordained ministers.
- Section 2. The standards of acceptance and continuance on the roster of ordained ministers shall be defined in the bylaws of the synod.
- 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.

ARTICLE VIII - Diaconal Ministers

- Section 1. The synod shall have a roster of diaconal ministers.
- Section 2. The standards of acceptance and continuance on the roster of diaconal ministers shall be defined in the bylaws of this synod.

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.

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.
- Section 2. The role of the conferences shall be defined in the bylaws of the synod.

ARTICLE XI - Conventions

- Section 1. The convention of the synod shall be its highest legislative authority.
- Section 2. Conventions of this synod shall be held according to times, policies, and procedures as described in the bylaws of the synod.

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.
- 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 3. The terms of the elected members shall begin the first day of the third month following election.
- Section 4. The bishop shall be an ex officio member of Synod Council.

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.
- Section 2. The duties of the officers shall be defined in the bylaws of the synod.
- 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.

Section 4. Synod Council may appoint a replacement officer to fill a vacancy between conventions.

Section 5. The terms of officers shall begin no later than the first day of the third full month following election.

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.

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.

ARTICLE XIV - The Office of the Bishop

Section 1. The bishop shall be a pastor and counsellor 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.

Section 2. The bishop shall be the chief executive officer of the synod, and an ex- officio member of all committees of the synod.

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.

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.

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.

ARTICLE XV - Committees

Section 1. Synod Council shall have authority to establish such committees deemed necessary for the mission of the synod.

ARTICLE XVI - Theological Institutions

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.

Section 2. 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.

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).

c. The term of office for each member of the board shall be four years except in the following cases:

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.

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.

d. Members of the board shall be eligible to serve for not more than two consecutive terms.

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.

f. The board shall make an annual report to the regular convention of the synod.

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.

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.

Section 2. Bylaws relating to convention procedure may be suspended by a two-thirds vote of the delegates present and voting.

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.

Section 2. Amendments to this constitution shall be in writing and may be proposed by either a.

the National Church Council

b. the Synod Council,

c. a congregation of the synod, or

d. ten delegates

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.

Synod of Alberta and the Territories Bylaws

Amended June, 2016

Part I Headquarters

(Constitution, Article II)

- Section 1. The headquarters of this synod shall be located in Edmonton.
- Section 2. All executive offices shall be located at the headquarters of the synod unless otherwise approved by the synod council.

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.
- b. Congregations may petition the synod according to the procedures set forth in these bylaws, Part V, Section 8.

Section 2. Conferences

(Constitution, Article IX)

The synod shall be divided into five conferences as follows: East Central, Northern, Southern, Southwestern and West Central.

- 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.
- b. **The bishop of the synod or the bishop's appointee** shall attend the conference meetings.
- c. The purpose of the conferences shall be to:
- 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.

d. A conference may adopt for itself any rules and regulations not in conflict with the constitution and bylaws of the synod.

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.

f. Each conference shall have the right to petition the synod according to procedures set forth in these bylaws, Part V, Section 8.

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.

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.
- 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.
- 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.

Section 3. 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.

Section 4. Theological Institutions (Constitution, Article XV)

- 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.
- 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.

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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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:
 - a. The resignation of the minister
 - b. The disqualification of the minister as a result of discipline

- | | |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 the moral and spiritual character of the minister. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. 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. 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. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. v. The foregoing procedure shall not be invoked when questions of doctrine or morality are involved. Such cases shall be treated as disciplinary matters. <p>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 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>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 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</p> |
|--|--|

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.

Section 9. When members move, the minister shall commend them to the ministerial care of the parish in which their new home is located.

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.

Part IV Diaconal Ministers

(Constitution, Article VIII) (As defined by this Church)

Part V Conventions

(Constitution, Article X)

Section 1. The regular conventions of the synod shall be held biennially between national conventions.

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 days before each regular convention.

Section 3. The voting membership of conventions shall consist of:

- 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.
- 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.

Section 4. At least sixty days prior to the opening day of the convention,

- a. Each congregation shall submit the name(s) and address(es) of its lay delegates to the synod secretary, and
- b. Each ordained and diaconal minister, active, non-parish, and retired, shall submit his/her name and address to the synod secretary.

Section 5. One-third of the voting members shall constitute a quorum.

Section 6. Seat and voice at conventions shall be granted to:

- 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.

Section 7. All arrangements for worship services or public meetings shall be made in consultation with the bishop.

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.

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.

Section 10. Special Conventions

- 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:
 - 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.
- 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.
- c. The voting members at a special convention shall consist of:
 - 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.
 - ii. Ordained ministers on the roster of the synod at the time of the special convention; and
 - iii. Diaconal ministers on the roster of the synod at the time of the special convention.

Section 11. Nominations and Elections (Constitution, Articles XI-XIV)

- a. The convention shall elect synod council members, officers of the synod, and the bishop in the following manner:

- i. The committee on nominations shall nominate at least two persons for each synod council position.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- v. All elections shall be by secret ballot.
- vi. In all elections, except for the offices of the bishop and chairperson, a majority of the votes cast shall elect.
- vii. The election of the bishop and the chairperson shall be held on alternate convention years.
- 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.
- ix. The election of the bishop and the chairperson shall be by secret ballot without oral nomination, and shall proceed in the following manner:
 1. On the first ballot, three-fourths of the votes cast shall elect. If the first ballot does not result in an election, it shall be considered a nominating ballot. Thereafter, voting shall be limited to those persons named on the first ballot.
 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.

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.
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.
5. On the fifth ballot, a majority of the votes cast shall elect.
- x. The result of each ballot in every election shall be announced to the convention.
- b. Election of synodical representatives to the Lutheran Theological Seminary shall proceed as follows:
 1. The synod council, in consultation with the seminary, shall nominate one or more persons for each position for which election is required.
 2. Nominations may be made from the floor with the consent of those nominated.
 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**.
 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.
 - 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.

Section 12. The convention procedures shall be published in a convention manual approved by the synod council.

Part VI Nominations and Elections of Delegates to the National Church Convention (Constitution, Article VI, Sec. 2)

Section 1. Nominations for Delegates

- a. Six months in advance of a synod convention at which delegates to a national convention will be elected, the synod secretary 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 will take place. There will be no nominations from the floor for delegates to national convention during the convention.
- 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.
- c. Eligible nominees shall be:
 - i. rostered members who are members in good standing of a congregation within the existing conference boundary;
 - ii. lay members in good standing of a congregation;
 - iii. youth members in good standing of a congregation of the Synod who will be between the ages of 16 and 25 inclusive on the first full day of the next national convention.
- 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 who will serve as delegate.

- e. Nominations for lay and youth delegates will be accepted within existing conference boundaries provided:

- i. the nomination form is signed by 10 members in good standing of ABT synod congregations; or
- ii. the nominee is endorsed by either a congregational council or a general congregational meeting of a member congregation.

- f. Nominations for active rostered delegates will be accepted within existing conference boundaries provided:

- i. the nomination form is signed by 10 members of good standing in ABT synod congregations; or
- ii. the nominee is endorsed by either a congregational council or a general congregational meeting of a member congregation; or

- g. A list of all nominees and their biographies shall be published in the convention docket.

Section 2. Allocation of Lay, Rostered and Youth Delegates

- a. During Synod convention, delegates will elect two lay and one rostered national convention **delegates from each of the synod's** conferences. Two youth delegates shall be **elected on an "at-large" basis without reference** to a particular conference. 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.
- 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 a balance of gender, geographical and diaconal/ordained minister representation.

- c. Elected lay, rostered and youth delegates are eligible to attend two, but not three, consecutive national conventions.

Section 3 Order of Election

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.

Section 4. Replacement of Delegates

In cases where elected delegates are unable to attend 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.

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.

Section 2. The synod council shall:

- 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;
- 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;
- e. Fill vacancies until the next convention except as otherwise provided;
- 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;
- g. Approve candidates for call, ordination and admission to the rosters of ordained and diaconal ministers;
- h. Appoint all committees for which there is no other provision;
- i. Carry out duties in good faith with a reasonable degree of diligence, care, and skill;
- j. Expect the same standard of conduct from lay and rostered members;
- k. Make and enforce its own policies, including the discipline of its members; and
- l. Perform such additional duties as prescribed in the constitution, the bylaws, or by resolutions of the synod in convention.

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.

Section 4. The synod council shall hold at least two meetings annually.

Section 5. Special meetings of the synod council may be called by the bishop or chairperson of the synod when circumstances warrant.

Section 6. A majority of the members of the synod council shall constitute a quorum.

Part VIII Synod Officers (Constitution, Article XII)

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

Section 2. The chairperson of the synod shall:

- a. Convene and preside over conventions of the synod and meetings of the synod council, and
- b. Perform additional duties as prescribed in the synod council governance and policy manuals.

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.

Section 4. The treasurer shall:

- a. Oversee all financial affairs and accounts of the synod, including deeds, mortgages, contracts, trust funds, investments, etc.,
- b. Be bonded under the fidelity coverage provided by the synod, and
- c. Perform additional duties as prescribed in the synod council governance and policy manuals.

Part IX Duties of the Bishop (Constitution, Article XIII)

Section 1. The bishop shall:

- 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.

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.

- 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.

Section 2. The Committee for Theological Education and Leadership (Candidacy) shall be a standing committee of the synod council.

- 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 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- d. This committee shall receive applications for financial aid from ministry candidates and authorize the disbursement of synod funds designated for this purpose.

Section 3. The Congregation Constitutional Review Committee shall be a standing committee of the synod council.

- 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.
- 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.

c. The purpose of the Committee shall be to:

i. **review congregations' constitutions** and proposed amendments to ensure:

- They do not conflict with the ELCIC or Alberta Synod Constitution or Bylaws;
- 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.

ii. be available to confer and/or meet with **a congregation or its representatives** to discuss proposed amendments and assist in helping the congregation make the amendments acceptable to Council examination.

iii. make recommendations to Synod Council regarding the Model Constitution for Congregations, its procedures and other related matters.

d. The following principles will guide the work of the Committee:

- 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.

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.

Section 4. Synod council may appoint other ad hoc committees for a specific purpose and duration as deemed necessary.

Part XI Ministry Committees (Constitution, Article XIV)

Section 1. Synod Council may appoint ministry committees to help the synod meet its stated priorities.

Section 2. Committee terms of reference and membership shall be determined by the Synod Council, with due attention given to clergy/lay, male/female, and regional representation. No person shall be a member of more than one committee, or a member of a committee and the Synod Council, at the same time.

Section 3. Committees shall be accountable to the Synod Council through the office of bishop.

Section C – The Bishop's Office

The Bishop, as chief executive officer, has responsibility for the ministry and mission of this synod through the authority assigned to him/her in the Constitution (Article XIII); the Bylaws (Part IX) and the Synod Council governance policies.

Bishop's Report

2018 Synod Convention – Report of the Bishop
Prepared April 19, 2018

Welcome to Convention. Welcome to the Seventeenth Biennial Convention of the Synod of Alberta and the Territories: ***"Faith, Hope Love...the greatest of these is love"*** (I Corinthians 13:13).

Synod Conventions offer delegates, guests and visitors a larger view of what it is to be church together. Along with the business sessions that necessarily require our attention we will gather in worship, we will explore the Scriptures together, we will explore our convention theme through three keynote addresses and table conversations, and there will be many opportunities to meet and engage in conversation with others from across our Synod.

I am thankful for the work of Convention Manager, Wendy Christensen-Grosfield, the worship planning team and our Convention Chaplain, The Rev. Jeff Decelle (Unity, Medicine Hat), and I am looking forward to introducing you to The Rev. Dr. Anna Madsen (<http://omgcenter.com/about/>) and to hear and learn from her engaging keynote addresses. Plans are **underway to video, with Anna's gracious permission, her three keynote presentations** which will be made available following Convention.

We will welcome and hear from our National Bishop Susan Johnson; also four guests from The Evangelical Lutheran Church of Colombia (IELCO); The Rev. Dr. Brian Rude, *En Misión con El Salvador: In Mission with El Salvador*; Lutheran Theological Seminary President, The Rev. Dr. Bill Harrison; LCBI; and CLWR Executive Director, Karin Achtelstetter.

In addition to our celebratory Opening Eucharist, other highlights include a Thursday evening *Jazz Vespers including Healing Rite and Remembrance of Those Who Have Died*, Friday and Saturday morning Eucharist with *Dwelling in the Word* facilitated by our Convention Chaplain and Keynote speaker, and a Saturday afternoon *Sending* service which will include the Installation of Council members and Seminary Representative and Blessing of the Synod Bishop.

We will gather Friday evening for a celebratory banquet honouring those with ordination anniversaries, as well as the Synod of Alberta and the Territories

first recipient of the "Synod of Alberta and the Territories Stephen D. Wildfang Leadership Award."

Video presentations highlighting our four mission priorities through story will be shared throughout the Convention and each delegate/congregation will receive a DVD of the same and discussion guide for use in their own context. Elections will include the election of Synod Bishop, Council Secretary, Council members, Lutheran Theological Seminary Board of Governors member, and delegates to the 2019 ELCIC National Convention in Regina. Delegates, guests and visitors will have ample time to view the Display Tables of many Synod Ministry Teams (including a refreshment break featuring gelato prepared and served by the Synod Campus Ministry Team), National Church and CLWR, just to name a few, as well as plenty of opportunities for food and fellowship.

New this year: Registrants to the Convention are invited to **register for Friday and Saturday "Lunch and Learn" events**. Up to 25 registrants will meet in identified rooms for lunch and further conversation with: National Bishop Susan Johnson on ELCIC Global Mission, President Bill Harrison from Lutheran Theological Seminary, The Rev. Dr. Brian Rude, our guests from Colombia, CLWR, and Jeff Pym with ELFEC (Evangelical Lutheran Foundation of Eastern Canada). All other registrants will have their lunch in the cafeteria.

Also new for this Convention was an invitation for submissions of artwork to be displayed in the assembly hall, reflecting the theme of the convention. Thanks to each contributor. I am looking forward to walking through the art gallery.

Throughout the Convention as you worship, listen, pray, discern and share stories I invite you to write your thoughts to the following two statements on sticky notes and to post them to the large print **paper in the convention hall**: ***"I am hearing God say to us..."***, and, ***"I sense that one of the places the Spirit is inviting our Synod to join with God in God's work is..."*** These will be gathered and reviewed for action at the September 2018 retreat of Synod Council.

As we gather from across our Synod it is my prayer that **together we will be open to the Spirit's work among us...shaping...transforming...reworking...guiding...and that we** will know the reality of the words of Paul to the church in Rome (15:13): ***"The God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit."***

The Synod of Alberta and the Territories. We are a very different Synod than when I was elected Synod Bishop in October 2012 and ordained in January 2013. Yes, we continue to be challenged with several realities not unique to our Synod nor to our denomination: a growing reality that there are too few candidates for congregational ministry, congregations struggling to provide financially for full or part-time ministries, shrinking worship participation, shrinking budgets, a need for faith formation and discipleship. I know that you share these realities, and others, with me. However, decline in participation or financial support does not mean **God's purpose/mission for the church has changed.**

My experience these past years is that the people and ministries across our Synod are rising to the challenge, **seeking to join God in God's mission, which involves much intentional listening and shared discernment and experimentation and risk-taking.** Across our Synod we have intentionally focused on missional formation, not as a program, but as a way of living.

As you know I was privileged to serve as one of four ELCIC delegates to the 12th Assembly of the Lutheran World Federation in Windhoek, Namibia. Together with delegates, staff, visitors, and ecumenical guests we numbered over 800 from 98 countries of the world representing 45-member churches and 74 million Lutherans.

While at the Assembly, we learned of the Namibian **government's introduction of a development plan called the Harambee Prosperity Plan.** The Kiswahili word Harambee means, **"pull together in the same direction" and the development plan, therefore, is a "call for unity" encouraging Namibians to work towards a common purpose.**

This understanding of Harambee...of pulling together in the same direction...gave me a new language and a renewed perspective on what we are seeing in our Synod...a pulling together in the same direction as we participate in God's mission. "A coming together" which is, interestingly, the meaning of the word, "synod".

This excites me; **this "coming together" ...this "pulling together in the same direction" ...reaching out beyond the church walls, and asking where is God at work? And, how we might join God in God's mission?**

So where are we headed? With change as a constant for the church and for society, what might our Synod look like in the future?

What if we took seriously the equipping and empowering of all – youth, child, adult – lay and rostered? Where gifts are identified and nurtured? And where leadership opportunities

on Synod Council or in Area Leadership Teams are created and offered to youth and young adults?

Imagine creating cohorts of learning – of intentional faith formation, discipleship building, service, discernment, and **partnership with one's neighbor**, including preparation for rostered leadership.

What would it look like for more youth and adults to participate in a pilgrimage of learning with our partner synod in Colombia, or El Salvador, or with first nations communities?

Imagine in our Synod an openness to collaborative ministries – with a neighboring Lutheran or Anglican congregation – where resources and gifts are shared for the common good. Where a team of lay and rostered leaders are trained and equipped to serve with and among several communities.

Imagine our Synod with every college and university campus from Whitehorse to Lac La Biche to Red Deer served by a Lutheran or ecumenical chaplain.

With the world at our doorstep, literally, what is the role of the **church, where today's immigrants and refugees are seeking** community, education and a home? Imagine creating specialized ministries with and among this growing ethnic diversity, and the grace-filled welcome to existing faith communities.

What if we lived our call as stewards of creation by resourcing our buildings both in greening the building and in offering space for community gatherings, forums, events – public space safe for dialogue, debate, and inquiry?

Together, we are the Church – sign, symbol and foretaste of the Kingdom of God. Synod: **"Coming together."** Harambee: **"pulling together in the same direction."**

Together, we live in vibrant witness to God's work in the world, offering our hands and feet in the service of God's mission.

Synod Staff – With Gratitude. It is a privilege to work with **and among gifted and committed staff. A mere, "thank you," hardly expresses my deep gratitude, but, "thank you."**

The Rev. Dr. Julianne Barlow was called to serve as Assistant to the Bishop for Mission and began August 1, 2013.

Julianne's primary focus, and passion, is missional formation. She continues to facilitate and model for us all a culture of discernment, experimentation, discovery, wondering and reflecting.

Darla Wildfang, Executive Assistant, is the voice you hear when you contact the Synod Office. Her administrative abilities

and a passion for discovering and experimenting has led to significant contributions in use of technology; for example, jot forms for registration purposes for various events and workshops, and the preparation of our weekly e-newsletter **Wednesday's Word**.

Sheryl Burry, Synod Bookkeeper, began her service to the Synod on April 1, 2016 and her time at the Synod Office was increased in 2017 to provide some additional administrative support. She is now often the voice you hear when you contact the Synod Office. Sheryl has stepped into her position and its increased responsibilities with enthusiasm.

As you know there has been significant grief just within the Synod Staff. I thank you for your continued prayers. Sheryl has experienced the death of her father-in-law. **Julianne's** father died last year, and she is currently on a gradual return to work from a medical leave which began in February 2018. With Darla Wildfang and her family, we continue to grieve the death of Stephen. Darla currently continues a Compassionate Care Leave.

I am thankful for your patience and understanding as staff capacity has been greatly reduced these past months and will continue to be reduced for several months. Thank you to Anna Kochendorfer for providing part-time administrative support March and April, and to Cathy Kochendorfer who will be providing part-time administrative support in the month of **May. Colleen McGinnis has, since Darla's leave, updated and published our Synod's e-newsletter Wednesday's Word.** And as much as possible I have sought to reduce time away from the Synod in order to be present and available to all.

Wendy Christensen-Grosfield, in addition to serving as **Convention Manager, serves as our Synod's Canada Lutheran editor. I appreciate Wendy's wonderful gift of** connecting with people and ministries across our Synod and of word crafting.

The Rev. Dr. Brian Rude serves as program staff through our **Synod's En Misión con El Salvador: In Mission with El Salvador**, sharing gifts of hospitality, community and grace. I am pleased that Brian will be with us for the 2018 Synod Convention and available following the Convention through to July 1 for speaking engagements throughout the Synod. If you or your congregation would like to arrange for Pastor Brian to be with you, please contact the Synod Office via email at: darla@albertasynod.ca.

I am thankful for the ministry that Bishop Don Sjoberg (ret.) continues to provide *gratis* with regard to congregational dissolution and properties. He assists the Synod Office and congregations as Consultant Related to Church Property and Dissolution of Congregations.

The Synod office continues to be challenged by requests, questions, documentation and management surrounding the ownership and care of cemeteries, particularly where congregations are defunct. Carl Sorensen has served as a consultant to the Synod office regarding cemeteries updating synod materials, gathering the materials into files and identifying where follow-up is needed. I appreciate his willingness to freely give of his time and energy and he has now completed this task (56 files with notes).

The Rev. Gary Nickel continues to serve as Synod Necrologist and Archivist and I appreciate his gifts of attention to detail and conscientiousness. Gary is available as a resource to your congregation regarding any matters related to archival materials and documents.

While at the 2018 Annual Study Conference I met with our **Synod's Ecumenical Officers: The Rev. Daranne Harris (south)** and Diaconal Minister Dr. Faith Nostbakken (north). They have completed their three-years terms and I am pleased to share that each has agreed to serve a 2nd three-year position.

Together we reviewed and added to our Synod's Ecumenical Officer Terms of Reference. We also began a listing of all appointees which I have made to various ministries/networks. These are current as of March 2018; my apologies if I have missed someone. For your information these are:

Ecumenical Officer North - Diaconal Minister Dr. Faith Nostbakken, LARC Dialog (Lutheran Anglican Roman Catholic Dialog) Edmonton - Marcus Busch, Diaconal Minister Dr. Faith Nostbakken and The Rev. Barbara Groote, Ronning Centre – Augustana Campuse, UofA, Camrose - The Rev. Markus Wilhelm, EDCC (Edmonton and District Council of Churches) Edmonton - The Rev. Ingrid Doerschel, Greater Edmonton Alliance - The Rev. Phil Penrod, Capital Region Interfaith Housing Initiative - The Rev. Kathie Schmitke, Edmonton "Our Common Ground" Committee - Dr. Andrea Wilhelm, Ecumenical Officer South - The Rev. Daranne Harris, Metro Alliance for the Common Good Calgary - The Rev. Dr. Phil Holck, Calgary Interfaith Council - The Rev. Dr. Kayko Driedger Hesslein, and Anglican Diocese of Calgary, Diocesan Council - The Rev. Dr. Christine Nojonen.

Synod Council.

Synod Council retreats. Synod Council continues to meet twice per year in a retreat-like setting, gathering Thursday evening for worship and community building, and then meeting Friday through mid-afternoon on Saturday. We have appreciated the facilities at Mulhurst Lutheran Camp, Pigeon Lake and Camp Kuriakos, Sylvan Lake and the cooking of Cathy Kochendorfer for our retreats.

Synod Officers meetings. Between the Synod Council retreats the Synod Officers meet on a regular basis. We have

regularly met at the Synod Office in Edmonton occasionally skyping Synod Officers and Synod Staff in to the meeting.

Welcome to New Councillors and Officers. Following the 2016 Synod Convention we welcomed new councillors to Synod Council: Shae Belanger (East Central), The Rev. Dr. Deborah Ann Taylor (East Central), The Rev. John Lentz (West Central), Wendy Kalkan (Southern) and The Ven. Alan Perry (Anglican Diocese of Edmonton). We also welcomed a new Chair, Wayne Street, and together we facilitated an orientation for new councillors in September 2016.

In September 2017 we welcomed two new councillors: The Rev. Heidi Wachowiak (North) who was appointed to replace The Rev. Dr. Ann Salmon who had taken a position at the Lutheran Theological Seminary, Saskatoon; and, The Rev. Janice Whitelock (Southern) who was appointed to replace The Rev. Reg Berg who had taken a call to Prince of Faith, Calgary.

In March 2018 Synod Council appointed Paul Ellison, Synod Treasurer, to complete the term of Stephen Wildfang. I look forward to working with Paul in his role as Treasurer and to welcoming him and introducing him to you at Synod Convention.

Guests to the Synod Council retreats. It has been our regular practice to invite the Deans and the National Church Council Synod representatives to Synod Council meetings and to provide agenda time for a brief report from the National Church Council. The National Church Council Reps (through to the 2017 ELCIC National Convention) were Judy Wry (Holy Spirit, Edmonton); The Rev. Dr. Marc Jerry (Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd, Red Deer); and Les Pearson (Unity, Medicine Hat). Beginning with the adjustment of National Church Council members at the 2017 ELCIC National Convention, we now have two Synod Reps on National Church Council: The Rev. Dr. James Hendricksen, (Hosanna, Edmonton) and Les Pearson (Unity, Medicine Hat).

At the September 2016 retreat we welcomed The Rev. Dr. Alan Roxburgh of *The Missional Network*. In March 2017 and 2018 we welcomed National Bishop Susan Johnson who at the March 2017 retreat, in addition to reporting from National Church Council, facilitated a learning event around **The Lutheran World Federation's, Gender Justice Policy.**

At the March Synod Council retreats, beginning in 2016 **following the work of the Truth & Reconciliation Commission's** work, learning around Abiding in Right Relations has been shared. At the March 2017 retreat we welcomed Fiona Brownlee, Rural Indigenous Communities Liaison for the Anglican Diocese of Edmonton who shared of her ministry,

and in March 2018 Councillors and guests viewed and discussed the video *Reserve 107*, the story of how the Young Chippewyan First Nations Band initiated a gathering with the Lutheran and Mennonite settlers who had unknowingly settled on their reserve land. The video is available through the Synod office.

At the September 2017 retreat we welcomed Jeff Pym, an ELCIC member and director of ELFEC (Evangelical Lutheran Foundation of Eastern Canada), a Lutheran Foundation with a three-fold mission: to help congregations manage and grow investments, to help individuals leave gifts to the church, and to grant money to Lutheran charities and other church-related projects. You can find more about ELFEC here: <https://elfec.ca/about-us>. Jeff will be with us for the 2018 Synod Convention.

MISSION PRIORITIES

1. Spirit-Led Leadership:

Forming Missional Shaped Ministries. Our Synod continues its intentional work of exploring, developing and supporting **skills and capacities for moving into God's planned future** following the leading of the Holy Spirit. Congregations and ministries are invited **to join in God's work in their local** contexts. On this journey of listening, discerning, experimenting, reflecting and learning, rostered and lay leaders are gaining new skills and beginning to cultivate a learning community culture within their congregations and ministries.

A brief summary: Throughout the Synod, congregational leaders, both lay and rostered, participated in the first iteration of ***The Missional Network's* (TMN)** process, under the direction of The Rev. Dr. Alan Roxburgh and his team. A second iteration began in the fall of 2015 in the Southern Area gathering regularly in Brooks. Eight pastors and six congregations participated. This iteration was facilitated by The Assistant to the Bishop for Mission, The Rev. Dr. Julianne Barlow, who shadowed TMN staff during the first iteration. Conversation began regarding a third iteration with a gathering of lay and rostered leaders at Scandia Lutheran, Ardena. As a result, a third iteration began in the fall of 2016 in the Camrose-Wetaskiwin area.

Across the Synod awareness of missional formation practices continues to grow. There are thirteen congregations and twenty-four rostered leaders actively participating in the Missional Network action learning process. As well, current Creative Initiative experiments involve seven ministries and ten **additional leaders. Other congregations are seeing God's work** in their local contexts and are actively seeking to join God in **God's work (a total of twenty ministries and thirty-four leaders).**

We are supporting congregations and ministries in becoming learning communities where listening, discerning, experimenting, reflecting and learning are the norm for decision making and planning.

Modelling this rhythm, the Synod Council's 2015 and 2016 "Participating in Hope" events in sixteen area gatherings across the Synod focused on listening to the stories of God at work in and through the congregations as a first step of discerning next steps for the Synod. This was followed by **Council's** intentional listening at the 2016 Synod Convention, reflection together as a Synod Council on a presentation by The Assistant to the Bishop for Mission, *A Listening and Discerning Process – ABT Synod Council*, discernment together with The Rev. Dr. Alan Roxburgh at the September 2016 Synod Council Retreat, and further sharing and feedback from the fall 2016 area gatherings

As a Synod Council we continue to imagine and to grow into **our Synod's mission priorities: Spirit-Led Leadership, Hope-Filled Discipleship, Innovative Tradition and Collaborative Partnerships**. We are seeking to build relationships, to listen and to seek common areas for working together, and to discern our role and structure.

We continue to hear across our Synod the following four summary opportunities first articulated at the September 2016 Synod Council retreat, that:

- You are desiring connection and relationship to experience God's love among us all.
- You are eager to risk and test new ways but are concerned about how to do this and want to ensure we keep our essentials.
- You want practical help in discerning what God is up to because you sense God is at work and present in so many ways.
- This sense of God's acting presence is creating renewed desire to be communities of God's hope-filled people.

Area Leadership Teams (ALTs). In September of 2017, following nearly two years of listening, exploring, and discernment, Area Leadership Teams were appointed by Synod Council to a three-year term with input from the then conference councils in five geographical areas. Each Area Leadership Team is composed of five members: two rostered leaders (one of whom would be appointed Dean), two lay members and one youth. A treasurer may or may not be a member of the Area Leadership Team.

These leaders are gifted listeners, encouragers, natural leaders, and organizers. They are prayerful, flexible, thoughtful, collaborative and have a sense of humour. Twice a year, these teams will gather together with Greg Lingelbach

(First, Calgary), and The Assistant to the Bishop for Mission, The Rev. Dr. Julianne Barlow to explore, develop and support **skills and capacities to move into God's planned future in their Area**, following the leading of the Holy Spirit. Over the next three years, these newly formed Area Leadership Teams (ALTs) will begin to cultivate a learning community culture and continue building relationships, to listen and to seek common situations for working together in their local Area.

The goals of Area Leadership Teams (ALTs) are to: develop a discerning, learning community within the area who seek to follow where God leads; strive to be an expression and catalyst **of this synod's mission priorities in the area; encourage and equip congregations and ministries within the area to collaborate and implement the mission priorities of this synod; annually arrange, together with synod staff, for continuing education opportunities for rostered and lay leaders to support and encourage learning and collaborative area ministries; encourage networking and mutual support among rostered and lay leaders; provide pastoral support to area rostered ministers as required; maintain contact with the bishop of this synod; serve as the bishop's representative, as requested, at installations, assisting with the call process, and conducting exit interviews; and, provide recommendations to the bishop of this synod and synod council regarding the appointment of area leadership team members.**

LWF Missional Consultation. In November 2016 The Rev. Dr. Julianne Barlow, Assistant to the Bishop for Mission, was one of two ELCIC delegates to the LWF Missional Consultation in Geneva. Her presentation on the North American context included learnings and wonderings:

- We are noticing that we (the church) are unclear about our distinct Lutheran identity and we wonder how to **live into being "Lutheran" in our local contexts.**
- We are noticing how, despite our best intentions, we are mired in a colonialist mindset and we wonder how to shift into an attitude of accompaniment.
- **We have noticed our missiology of "doing for" keeps us in "control and power" and stymies authentic mission engagement. We wonder how to shift into doing "with" and being transformed by our neighbours.**

2017 Annual Study Conference. Our keynote presenter at the 2017 annual study conference was The Rev. Dr. Dirk Lange, Associate Dean of Graduate Theological Education, Fredrik A. Schiotz Chair of Mission and Professor of Worship at Luther Seminary, St. Paul MN: *Entering the Next 500 Years! The Reformation Today and Tomorrow*. From Winnipeg, Dr. **Lange's ministerial** experience has covered a wide spectrum of activities, but all under one umbrella: liturgy in the lives of people. He has written extensively on topics in ecumenism and liturgical theology, including *Trauma Recalled*. Dirk Lange was Project Officer for the global Joint Commemoration of the

Reformation prepared by the Lutheran World Federation and Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity (Rome). He is also a member of the International Joint Lutheran-Catholic Dialogue Commission.

Our 2017 guest Bishop was The Rev. Dr. Sid Haugen from the SASK Synod, and the final morning included our recent practice of having those rostered leaders who have completed advanced degrees share their thesis in an ABT Synod TED (Theology Education Discipleship) Talk format. In 2017 we heard from The Rev. Dr. Kayko Driedger Hesslein, The Rev. Dr. James Hendricksen and The Rev. Dr. Marc Jerry. Chaplains were The Rev. Kathy Calkins and The Rev. Jeff Decelle.

2018 Annual Study Conference. Our keynote presenter at the 2018 annual study conference was The Rev. Dr. Allen Jorgenson, Professor of Systematic Theology and Assistant Dean, Waterloo Lutheran Seminary: *Exploring our Neighbor's Faith*. Allen is originally from Ponoka, AB. The theme of the conference intentionally grew out of the evolving multi-faith contexts for ministry acknowledged in "Encountering People of Other Faiths: Interfaith Guidelines" (ELCIC: 2017).

Our Conference guest was The Rev. Dr. William Harrison, President of Lutheran Theological Seminary, which provided opportunity for the new President to share formally and informally with those gathered.

The 2018 TED Talk presenters were The Rev. Dr. Tim Wray, Part-time Parish Pastor and Farmer; and The Rev. Mick Macintyre, Chaplain with the Canadian Forces. Chaplains were The Rev. Lindsey Jorgensen-Skakum and The Rev. Kirk Tastad.

Conference participants very much **appreciated this year's** ELCICGSI Lunch and Learn sessions with Lisa Thiessen and John Wolff, and the opportunity for free consultations with a registered dietician and/or a chair massage.

The Executive Officers approved funds from the Synod's Reserve Fund to significantly reduce the cost of the 2018 annual study conference for retired rostered leaders and their spouses. Evaluations indicate that this was appreciated by those who were retired and present. In 2017, only one retired rostered leader participated in the entire study conference. In comparison, ten retired rostered leaders and one spouse participated in the entire study conference in 2018.

Internship Placements. We give thanks for congregations and rostered leaders who have provided excellent internship supervision opportunities for

- Erik Sorenson, supervised by The Rev. John Lentz, St. Paul, Olds,
- Lindsey Jorgensen-Skakum, supervised by The Rev. Trish Schmermund, Holy Spirit, Edmonton,

- Colin Millang, supervised by The Rev. John Lentz, St. Paul, Olds completing an M.Div. while licensed to serve in a pastoral capacity at Redeemer, Hanna,
- Jailyn Corbin, supervised by The Rev. Matt Lyseng, Peace, Leduc,
- Sarah Mowat, supervised by The Rev. Dr. Ann Salmon, **Grace Lutheran and St. Catherine's Anglican, Edson,**
- Mike Harmon, supervised by The Rev. Charlotte Strecker-Baseler, Armena Parish,
- Kate Zaiser, supervised by The Rev. Dr. Phil Holck, Lutheran Church of the Cross, Calgary,
- Seth Perry, a BC Synod candidate for ordained ministry, supervised by The Rev. Markus Wilhelm, Glory, Sherwood Park.

In addition, The Rev. Dr. Tim Wray and the congregation of Lutheran Church of the Master, Airdrie continue to provide pastoral support to Denis Sindano and his family, whose internship concluded prior to completion.

Synod Council approved partial funding of the internships in Olds, Leduc, Edson, Armena Parish and Airdrie from the Synod Reserve Fund.

Ordination Celebrations. Celebrative Services of Ordination were held for

- Erik Sorenson, August 6, 2016 at Mt. Olivet, Sherwood **Park who began a First Call at St. Peter's, Millet,**
- Lindsey Jorgensen-Skakum, August 7, 2016 at Holy Spirit, Edmonton (Ordination and Installation) who began a First Call at Holy Spirit, Edmonton,
- Colin Millang, July 15, 2017 at Messiah, Camrose who began a First Call at Redeemer, Hanna,
- Diaconal Minister Bev Swanson, August 26, 2017 at Messiah, Camrose (Ordination and Installation) who began a First Call at Messiah, Camrose,
- Jailyn Corbin, September 2, 2017 at Lord of Glory, Lac La Biche (Ordination and Installation) who began a First Call at Lord of Glory, Lac La Biche,
- Sarah Mowat, October 26, 2017 at Trinity, Whitehorse who began a First Call at Redeemer (shared ministry), Biggar, SASK.

Together with the whole Church we welcome Erik, Lindsey, Colin, Bev, Jailyn and Sarah to the Office of Word and Sacrament.

First Call Program. The First Call Program is one of the highlights of the year for the four western bishops. All newly rostered ministers (ordained or diaconal) are required to **participate for the first three years of their first call.** In addition to working with a mentor on a regular basis as well as attending to some reading requirements, the primary event is a four-day gathering each October. The venue rotates from

synod to synod each year, except that the BC Synod has been asked to host every third year in order that the participants and the other bishops might be able to enjoy an October in Victoria!! The learning sessions and case studies are deep and enriching, and the conversations throughout the week are life-giving.

Conference of Deans. Meetings occur three times per year prior to the Synod Council retreats and preceding the Annual Study Conference. The Deans, together with the Assistant to the Bishop for Mission and I, review plans for fall gatherings, engage in continuing conversation related to the transition to Area Leadership Teams within existing geographical conference areas, reviewed matters while I was on Sabbatical, share concerns related to rostered leaders and/or congregations, and much more.

Thank you to those who have served as Deans, to their families and congregations: The Rev. Eleanor Ness, The Rev. Reg Berg, The Rev. Kristian Wold; and those currently serving: The Rev. Trish Schmermund, The Rev. Jeff Decelle, The Rev. Kevin Powell, The Rev. Kathy Calkins and The Rev. Julianna Wehrfritz-Hanson.

Diaconal Ministers Gathering. An annual gathering of Diaconal Ministers from across our Synod takes place in the spring of each year, hosted at the Synod Office. Our time together includes worship, prayer, reflection, and education. In 2017 our time together included a presentation by Dr. Julien Hammond, Ecumenical and Inter-Religious Officer, Roman Catholic Diocese of Edmonton, *Reformation 500 from a Roman Catholic Perspective*. A 2018 gathering did not take place due to reduced staffing capacity.

Synod Campus Ministry. The Synod Campus Ministry Team continues to provide resources via Canada Post and **the Synod's website annually for the Drive for Five** fundraising event. The event has been renamed (since we are now on more than five campuses in Alberta) the SMART (Synod Missional Academic Response Team) Sunday. Thank you for your support for Campus Ministry through this annual initiative. After many years of review and consideration the **Synod's Campus Ministry Team's Terms of Reference/Manual** were presented to and approved by Synod Council in September 2016.

Candidacy Committee. **The Synod's Candidacy** Committee (formerly CTCL) meets three times each year. At the fall retreat, in addition to worship, to Developmental Interviews for candidates for ministry, and candidates one on one conversation with me, our learning component in 2016 **focused on the ELCIC' Faith, Order and Doctrine's Study, "To Love Our Neighbors as Ourselves: A Study of Orders of Ministry in the ELCIC,"** which was facilitated by The Rev. Dr. Marc Jerry.

In 2017 our learning component focused on the ELCIC Study Guide on Medical Assistance in Dying facilitated by Diaconal Minister Karen Wedman and The Rev. Dale Olson from the Good Samaritan Society.

We continue to give thanks for significant Financial Aid **provided to our Synod's candidates** for ministry from the **Synod's Support our Students Fund and The Stephen P. Kristenson Endowment**.

In September 2016 \$17,000 was granted; in February 2017 \$7400 was granted; in September 2017 \$10,000 was granted; and in February 2018 \$8000 was granted.

In addition, funds from the Synod's Support our Students Fund have been made available for counseling services for ministry candidates.

Western Synods - Development of Lay Academy. The four western Synods and the Lutheran Theological Seminary, Saskatoon, are working together toward the development of a Lay Academy. Ron Schlegelmich (Holy Spirit, Edmonton) continues to represent our Synod. In the fall of 2017 the four western Synod Bishops participated in the Lay Academy by reflecting together on the lectionary texts for Advent 2017. I enjoyed this opportunity very much, as well as the November 18, 2017 live conversation around the texts for Advent 1 and 2, together with Bishop Elaine Sauer.

I believe that the development of the Lay Academy is vitally important as the church undergoes a shift in its human resources over the coming decades. Congregations are becoming smaller, which means that fewer of them will be able to financially support a full-time pastor. As a result, more and more rostered leaders will likely be serving multi-point parishes. The means that there will be a shift in the role of rostered leaders and the way in which congregations relate to one another. As a result, there needs to be an increased emphasis on lay education and training, so that these lay leaders may work in consort with the rostered leader. Such a shift also provides us with another opportunity to imagine, frame, and implement another way of being church. Some funds received by our Synod through the National Creative Mission Initiatives have been designated for two years for the Lay Academy.

Annual Synod Retired Rostered Leaders and Spouses Gathering. An Annual gathering for retired rostered leaders and spouses, widows, and widowers, takes place at Camp Kuriakos, Sylvan Lake. I have an opportunity to share with those gathered highlights and events within our Synod, and to respond to questions and concerns. Our time together has usually included a time of learning and reflection. In 2017, The Rev. Dr. Kayko Dreidger Hesslein shared on the theme of *Reformation 500*. By the time of the 2018 Synod Convention **the Synod will have hosted six gatherings with this year's event**

held at Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd, Red Deer. This is a wonderful day of conversation, food prepared by Cathy Kochendorfer, and worship.

Annual Open House. Cathy and I are pleased to welcome rostered leaders and their families to our home for an annual open house. The gathering is always rich in conversation, laughter and community building. And we love having guests **in our home...so do our two dogs.**

The Synod of Alberta and the Territories *Stephen D. Wildfang Leadership Award*. In recognition of the 500th Commemoration of the Reformation, and paralleling a similar national award within the ELCIC, Synod Council approved an Award recognizing an individual within the Synod committed to advancing the mission, mission priorities, and ministries of our Synod. Synod Officers are tasked with reviewing all nominations, creating a shortlist to bring to the spring meeting of Synod Council prior to a Synod Convention and to bring a recommendation to the Synod Council. Several submissions were received, and Synod Council approved the Executive **Officers' recommendation of the first recipient. At the March 2018 meeting of Synod Council, a motion to rename the Award was also unanimously approved. At this year's Synod Convention banquet, Allyn Langager, a lay leader at Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd, Lethbridge, will be honoured as the first recipient of The Synod of Alberta and the Territories *Stephen D. Wildfang Leadership Award*.**

2. Hope-Filled Discipleship:

Synod Youth Gathering – *Freely Given*. In collaboration with our Lutheran Bible Camps a Synod Youth Gathering was held May 5-7, 2017 at Camp Kuriakos, Sylvan Lake with forty-seven youth participating (sixty-four participated which included home team leaders, staff and planning team). The gathering theme reflected the 500th Commemoration of the Reformation. The keynote presentations by The Rev. Richard Reimer, drama and Sunday preacher Jacob Rempel, workshops, and the ministry of the gathering band affirmed the theme. Thank you to those who planned the Gathering, **particularly the Synod's Youth Ministry Team chair, Tammy Kirkwood, and planning team: The Rev. Erik Sorenson, Krystle Plant, Wayne Hoff, Kyra VanVeen and from Camp Kuriakos: Kendra Freeland and Paul Kopjar.** A 2019 Synod Youth Gathering is being planned to be held, May 3-5, 2019 at Hastings Lake Bible Camp.

CLAY 2016 – *Not for Sale*. An ABT Synod pre-gathering bus trip involved worship, site-seeing, community building and a whole lot of fun! Cathy and I were privileged to participate in the bus trip and then to participate at the CLAY gathering in Charlottetown, PEI. We are looking forward to

the ABT Synod pre-gathering bus trip to CLAY 2018 "Threads" in Thunder Bay, Ontario.

Camp Ministry. The Assistant to the Bishop for Mission, The Rev. Dr. Julianne Barlow, participated in the 2016 joint annual training for staff from Hastings Lake Bible Camp, Mulhurst Lutheran Camp and Camp Kuriakos. I continue to be amazed and thankful to God for the ministry of our Lutheran camps and appreciate the opportunity to rent their facilities for various Synod gatherings and meetings.

In September 2017, I invited the Camp Directors and Board Chairs to meet with me to review a Memorandum of Understanding which outlines the valuable partnership between the Camps and the Synod. Each camp: Hastings Lake Bible Camp, Mulhurst Lutheran Camp and Camp Kuriakos was invited to discuss at a Board level the Memorandum of Understanding and to consider signing the document. Thus far, one Camp has signed the Memorandum.

Monthly Synod Messages for Congregations and Lay and Rostered Leaders. Each month I seek to prepare a brief **article distributed through the ABT Synod's weekly e-newsletter, *Wednesday's Word* and available on the Synod's webpage.** My intent is that these writings be shared through congregational newsletters and/or posted on a bulletin board or by other communication means within a congregation. Often, they may be appropriate for use as people gather for church council, adult study, youth group, coffee group, or choir rehearsal.

2016 Area Gatherings. In the fall of 2016 we gathered again in three area gatherings under the theme: *One Bread, One Body* (EvLW #496): *There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus.* Galatians 3:28.

Thank you to the rostered and lay leaders of the following congregations for hosting us: Trinity Lutheran, Westlock;

Messiah Lutheran, Camrose; and Nazareth Lutheran, Standard. **In addition to the Bishop's time...a game of *Synodical Jeopardy*...we welcomed three guest presenters:** Dr. Julien Hammond, Ecumenical and Inter-Religious Officer, Roman Catholic Diocese of Edmonton, sharing about *Reformation 500: A Roman Catholic Perspective*; Wayne Street, Synod Council Chair, member of Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd, Lethbridge, sharing about *Area Leadership Teams*;

(at two of the Area gatherings) The Rev. Dr. Marc Jerry, Chair of Faith, Order and Doctrine Committee of the National Church Council and Pastor of Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd, Red Deer, shared *To Love Our Neighbours as Ourselves; A Study of Orders of Ministry in the ELCIC*. Each presentation was informative and very well received.

2017 Area Gatherings. In the fall of 2017 we gathered in three area gatherings under the theme: *Celebrate the Promise, Celebrate the Hope* based on the text of a hymn introduced at the 12th Assembly of The Lutheran World Federation.

Thank you to the rostered and lay leaders of the following congregations for hosting us: Ascension, Edmonton; Peace, Innisfail and All Saints, Calgary. In addition to the Bishop's time a National Church Convention Delegates report was shared together with time for Q&A, information and conversation related to Areas and Area Leadership Teams, and a report from the 12th Assembly of the Lutheran World Federation.

2017 Congregational Life Workshop. The Leadership Development Ministry Team diligently prepared for the March 25, 2017 Congregational Life Workshop at Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd, Red Deer: **WORSHIP: WHEN RUINS REJOICE "Break forth together into singing, you ruins of Jerusalem."** - Isaiah 52:9.

The keynote presenter was Paul Vasile, Executive Director of **"Music That Makes Community"**. Workshops included:

- Proclamation with Power - The Rev. Dr. Laura Holck,
- Words for Worship – The Rev. Daranne Harris,
- This is the Night! - Robyn Simpson-Mohr and The Rev. Kristian Wold,
- Letter of Call Documents - Lisa Thiessen, Executive Director, ELCIC Group Services (for Treasurers and Congregational Chairpersons),
- plus, a worship resources display table.

2018 Congregational Life Workshop. The ABT Synod CARE (Congregational Action and Response for Mental Health) Ministry Team diligently prepared for the April 14, 2018 Congregational Life Workshop at Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd, Red Deer: **"No One Is Immune: Taking Action for Mental Health in Congregations."**

The keynote presenter was The Rev. John Dowds, Lead Chaplain/Senior Mental Health Consultant – City of Edmonton.

Workshops included:

- The Power of Hope to Deal with Mental Health Issues – Dr. Cheryl Nikolaichuk and Dr. Bill Chimich,
- Handling Anxiety Across the Life Cycle – Gail Mukaida,
- Understanding Mental Health for Older Persons – Diaconal Minister Sarah Rudd,
- Incorporating Mental Health Activities in the Regular Service – The Rev. Marty Tuer,
- Ministering to the Needs of Youth at our Synod Camps – Marg Daly,
- Preparing the Church Secretary/Administrator to Handle Mental Health Issues – Kathie Goetz Thompson,
- plus a resources display table.

3. Innovative Tradition:

Synod Communications. A weekly ABT Synod e-newsletter **Wednesday's Word**, began in January 2016, and continues to be refined. Currently there are over 350 subscribers. Each edition is archived on the Synod website. Please see the synod website to subscribe to **Wednesday's Word**.

All Ministry Team Gathering. An Annual All Ministry Team gathering took place May 6, 2017 at Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd, Red Deer. Together, we shared in worship, reflected on Scripture, prayed, listened, dialogued, and collaborated with other ministry teams active in our Synod, as well as worked as individual ministry teams. A 2018 All Ministry Team gathering was cancelled due to illness and winter conditions in the southern parts of our Synod.

National Convention Delegates Pre-Convention Gathering. Synod Delegates to the ELCIC National Convention gathered June 10, 2017 at Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd, Red Deer for a time of convention agenda review, orientation for first time delegates, and conversation. Twenty-three of the twenty-seven delegates were able to participate. Prior to the gathering Judy Wry and I prepared a survey which was distributed to each delegate. The results became the agenda items for the gathering. National Church Synod representatives: Judy Wry, Les Pearson, The Rev. Dr. Marc Jerry and I facilitated the gathering. Delegates expressed enthusiastic appreciation for this time together. Delegates also met twice during the National Convention with me. Three delegates: The Rev. Barbara Groote, Diaconal Minister Dr. Faith Nostbakken, and Wayne Street were tasked with preparing a report of the Convention with input from other delegates. This was shared at each of the fall 2017 area gatherings and then made available through the Synod office for use in congregations.

"Ponder Anew – Dinner with Bishop Larry" – Planned Giving Events. Five planned giving events, *Ponder Anew*, took place in the spring of 2017. PR materials were made available through **Wednesday's Word** and the Synod website. Partial funding for these events was provided through a grant from the Lutheran Triune Foundation and through the Synod's Reserve Fund. Synod staff worked with Joe Stolee and Pamela Giles (Faithful Servant Consulting) to prepare for the events. I was very pleased with each event. Costs were well within the proposed budget; offerings of \$7,021 were received. We had hoped for 300 participants and 390 people actually participated!

Joe and Pamela included the following in their lengthy report to me: *Brooks, May 28 – 65 participants; Red Deer, June 9 – 35 participants; Edmonton, June 10 – 110 participants; Calgary, June 24 – 70 participants; and, Camrose, June 25 – 110*

participants. The mood at all the events was very upbeat, and we received much positive feedback during the events and after. Many people marvelled that they had been unaware of aspects of the Synod work, of the number of candidates registered with the CTEL, and of the work that had been made possible as a result of generous gifts that had been made in the past ten years through donor bequests and through the closure of the Augustana and St. John congregations. Many others commented that they had not really thought about making a gift to the church in their will or even made a will, and now they were thinking about it.

Work is being done to create a Planned Giving/Endowment Ministry Team within our Synod. Terms of Reference are being developed as well as consideration as to who might serve on the Ministry Team.

4. Collaborative Partnerships:

40th Anniversary of the Ordination of Women. As a result of initial conversation between Bishop Sauer and myself, a gathering was planned, May 29-31, 2017 in Calgary for women in rostered leadership to commemorate the 40th Anniversary of the Ordination of Women. Forty-four participated in the event representing every Synod of the ELCIC as well as ecumenical representation. The Rev. Dr. Karoline Lewis, Marbury E. Anderson Chair in Biblical Preaching, Luther Seminary shared **"SHE: Five Keys to Unlock the Power of Women in Ministry."** Much thanks to the Synod staff: The Rev. Dr. Julianne Barlow, Darla Wildfang and Sheryl Burry for their incredible work of planning and providing support during the event.

Trinity Lutheran, Whitehorse. In conversation with the church council arrangements were made for four rostered leaders to fly to Whitehorse (one rostered leader for several days each month) beginning September 2016 providing worship and Eucharistic ministry, visitation, Bible Study, confirmation class, youth ministry, and so on. Thank you to the following Pastors and Congregations for their partnership in this ministry experiment: The Rev. Dr. Julianne Barlow (Synod Staff), The Rev. Ingrid Doerschel (Trinity, Edmonton), The Rev. Barbara Groote (Ascension, Edmonton) and The Rev. Phil Holck (Lutheran Church of the Cross, Calgary). In the spring of 2017 this shared ministry model was reviewed by the church council and rostered leaders and a second year began using the same model with The Rev. Les Skonnard (Lethbridge and serving with the Good Samaritan Society) replacing The Rev. Dr. Julianne Barlow. This experiment has been a wonderful experience for Trinity Lutheran and for the rostered leaders involved. While in Whitehorse in 2017 I had several congregants say to me, **"we are so excited! We now have four pastors and most congregations only have one."**

Reformation 500. Synod Commemorations of the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation included a gathering together with Roman Catholics on October 31, 2016 to view together (via livestream) in at least Edmonton and Calgary, the **"Common Prayer" worship from Lund, Sweden led by Lutheran World Federation leadership and Pope Francis.**

Our Synod hosted two Hymnfests (prepared for the 2016 Synod Convention) in 2017: March 17 at Hope Lutheran, Calgary and March 17 at Hosanna Lutheran, Edmonton. Lutherans, Roman Catholics and Anglicans participated in all these events.

"Common Prayer" worship was led by Roman Catholic Bishop William McGratton and me in Calgary, October 29, 2017 at Hope Lutheran; Roman Catholic Archbishop Richard Smith and me in Edmonton, October 30, 2017 at All Saints Anglican Cathedral; and Roman Catholic Bishop Hector Vila and me in Whitehorse, Yukon, November 16, 2017 at Sacred Heart Cathedral. In each "Common Prayer" service the Anglican Bishop also participated: Archbishop Greg Kerr-Wilson, Bishop Jane Alexander and Bishop Larry Robertson. A tri-lateral covenant was signed at the Edmonton "Common Prayer" service committing to on-going dialogue and learning. This LARC (Lutheran, Anglican, Roman Catholic) group met for the first time in January 2018 and I anticipate further opportunities for shared learning, service and worship. I am thankful for our Synod's Ecumenical Officers, Diaconal Minister Dr. Faith Nostbakken and The Rev. Daranne Harris, who have been working with their Roman Catholic counterparts to organize, plan and facilitate. Significant support and planning for the event in Whitehorse was provided by The Rev. Barbara Groote.

Several academic institutions in Calgary jointly focused on a series of presentations and conversation in the fall of 2017 reflecting Reformation 500. Together, Roman Catholic Bishop William McGratton, Archbishop Greg Kerr-Wilson and I, **participated in a presentation at St. Mary's University, Calgary.** It was a fascinating evening as we each presented on the theme from our denominational perspective, commented on **each other's presentation and responded to questions.**

Together with Dr. Julien Hammond, Ecumenical and Interfaith Officer of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Edmonton, and Diaconal Minister Dr. Faith Nostbakken, I shared in presenting around the theme of *Reformation* at the Ronning Centre: UofA – Augustana Campus fall 2016. I was also pleased to share, **November 18, 2017 at Our Saviours, Hay Lakes, in "Lift It Up: A Reformation Celebration Through Music."**

Many congregations and Roman Catholic parishes gathered together during the season of Lent 2017 to study the joint resource, *Together in Christ – Lutheran and Catholics*

Commemorating the Reformation, and many other congregational and ecumenical events were held across our Synod.

En Misión Con El Salvador: In Mission with El Salvador. Thank you for your on-going prayerful support and directed gifts, as congregations and individuals, for our Synod's mission, *En Misión con El Salvador: In Mission with El Salvador*, with The Rev. Dr. Brian Rude serving as program staff. Directed gifts may be sent to the Synod, clearly marked for "In Mission with El Salvador." In March 2017 and 2018 letters of thanks, a report from Pastor Brian and a financial update were prepared and distributed. These materials were also made available through the Synod's weekly e-newsletter, *Wednesday's Word*, and the Synod website.

Companion Synod – The Evangelical Lutheran Church of Colombia (IELCO). Conversation continues with the two ELCA Synods, national ELCA staff, and our Synod regarding updates from IELCO. In consultation with our Synod's Global Missions Ministry Team chair, The Rev. Scott Brown, I invited The Rev. Dr. James Hendricksen (Hosanna, Edmonton), the ABT Synod representative on the National Church Council's Global Mission Task Force, to represent me at the International Consultation for Companion Synods and Companion Churches in Latin America and the Caribbean on November 9- 13, 2016 in Lima, Peru. In addition to ELCA Global Mission staff and companion church leaders, participants at this consultation were representatives of those ELCA and ELCIC synods that are in a relationship with a church or synod in Latin America and the Caribbean.

IELCO Delegation to our Synod. I am looking forward to welcoming our Colombian guests and ELCA staff to our Synod Convention. Our Synod is working in partnership with Bethel, Camrose to bring our guests to the Synod. Thank you to the Lutheran Triune Foundation for partial financial support and to the planning team for coordinating this visit with me: Mark Rintoul, Donna Heine, The Rev. Barbara Groote, and Alan and Val Fielding.

Our guests will be: Bishop Atahualpa Hernández Miranda and his wife, Rev. Angélica Bernate Rojas; along with Rev. Diana Carolina Londoño Espinosa and her husband, Óscar Ricardo Niño Durán; and ELCA Global Mission Staff, Manager for Relationships, Latin America and the Caribbean, Paulina Dasse, who will be present with us for the Synod Convention.

Their journey, June 12-25, 2018, will include participation at the Synod Convention and then they will be touring and sharing throughout our Synod. Watch for an opportunity to welcome and to hear our guests!

IELCO and Companion Synod Consultation. Our Synod will host an IELCO and Companion Synod Consultation, June 18-19, 2018 in Edmonton. Participants will include members of IELCO, two ELCA Synods, ELCA staff and our Synod. I look forward to this time of shared consultation and planning together. I have asked The Rev. Dr. James Hendricksen, chair of our Synod's Global Missions Ministry Team to join me for the consultation.

Synod Delegation to Colombia. Tricia Hoepfner (Ascension, Edmonton) and I will be facilitating our Synod's Delegation to Colombia July 26-August 6, 2018, a partnership between our Synod and Ascension Lutheran. The 12 participants (including one from the SASK Synod) have already met for the first of two pre-orientation sessions which include pre-journey learning, sharing, group-building, worship, and so on. Your prayers as we prepare for our journey are appreciated.

Camp Effectiveness Survey. The Executive Officers, in the fall of 2017, approved funds from the Synod Reserve Fund to assist with a Camp Effectiveness Survey. I look forward to receiving and reviewing the data gathered. My correspondence to congregational leaders: rostered, council chairs, youth leaders said in part:

Across our Synod there are many opportunities to be in collaborative partnerships. One of these is with the outdoor ministries which relate to our Synod: Hastings Lake Lutheran Bible Camp, Mulhurst Lutheran Church Camp, Peace Lutheran Bible Camp, and Sylvan Lake Lutheran Bible Camp (Kuriakos).

These outdoor ministries, in cooperation with our Synod, are participating in an Effective Camp Research Project, examining the impact of the Christian summer camp experience on campers, families, and church communities. This summer, youth participating in camp programs will complete surveys concerning the long-term impact of camps, beyond the so called "camp high".

The information gathered will assist our outdoor ministries in providing strong programs for Christian faith development, growth and leadership.

As outdoor ministries are strong partners with our Synod, I encourage you to participate in the initiative and complete the survey by clicking on the link, below. The information gathered will help shape the future of our camp and retreat centers, and their partnership with the Synod, its congregations and ministries.

Full Communion Partners. I continue to appreciate the shared ministry partnerships and conversations with the Anglican Dioceses and their Bishops on the same

geographical area of our Synod. This is a collaborative partnership of growing possibility and opportunity.

Abiding in Right Relations Ministry Team (AIRR). With the co-chairs of AIRR, The Rev. Dr. Ann Salmon and Carl Rausch, having recently moved to Saskatoon, the AIRR Ministry Team is in a time of re-organizing. We now have a four-member team in place, representing different geographical areas of the Synod. I was honored to participate in a time of listening and learning together with AIRR Ministry Team members and Anglican leadership at Siksika First Nations October 21, 2016. Bishop Jessica Crist (ELCA Montana Synod) and I worked toward a second cross-border, cross-denomination AIRR event in Montana – October 16-17, 2018, at Wolf Point, Montana. However, due to a low number of registrations the event was cancelled. Thank you to The Rev. Faith Brace who represented me and AIRR on the planning team.

I have appointed Dr. Andrea Wilhelm to represent me on the Edmonton-based "Our Common Ground" committee, which consists of Anglicans, Lutherans, United Church, and Roman Catholic participants. The two staffers are Rick Chapman, chaplain from Inter-City Pastoral Ministry (ICPM), and Michelle Nieviadomy, who is with the Native Healing Centre (Reformed Church) as well as ICPM. The committee began its work in 2017, and with grant funding from the Anglican Foundation, held 4 "Our Common Ground" events which explored the common ground we have as people of faith, e.g.: common ground around prayer from the different Christian and Indigenous traditions. April 2018 - February 2019, the committee's main project is a 9-week small group discussion-based curriculum for up to 20 people, which will deepen and expand the learning from the previous year.

CARE (Congregational Action and Response for Mental Health) Ministry Team. CARE is a Synod-wide initiative focusing on the following priorities: raising awareness of the reality of mental health issues in congregations; educating and training lay people and rostered leaders about mental illness, and helpful responses; identifying resources available for congregations; and encouraging the development of local resource for congregations. Funding *per congregation / ministry* in our Synod is available to train with Mental Health First Aid Canada. Additionally, the Southwestern Area and **the Synod's CARE Ministry Team** jointly sponsored a Mental Health First Aid Canada at Lutheran Church of the Cross, November 2017 with the costs of the event covered by the **Synod's CARE Ministry Team. To date**, approximately 80 individuals from across our Synod have participated in this training.

In collaboration with the Synod's Worship and the Arts Ministry Team a worship service was prepared for

congregational use February 2017 with a theme of mental **health. This material is available on the Synod's website and is easily adaptable.**

Refugee Sponsorships. A number of ABT Synod congregations and ministries have become refugee sponsors or have explored becoming one. Some congregations have committed to sponsoring one or more families; some are still deciding. Many congregations are working collaboratively with other Lutheran congregations or church denominations. It is wonderful to hear so many stories of interest and commitment.

Compassionate Justice Initiative – Synod Antipoverty Grants. Reports have been received at the Synod office for applications approved for each of the past two years and a year-end report was sent to our National Office.

Healthy Boundaries. **A first 'Healthy Boundaries'** workshop took place March 7, 2018 at Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd, Red Deer facilitated by National Bishop Susan Johnson. All rostered leaders were invited, and I am currently in the process of identifying three individuals to be trained to continue to offer this learning event once each year.

Ft. McMurray Fire. Response to the fire in Ft. McMurray in May 2016 was generous and overwhelming by our Synod, across Canada, and indeed, around the world. Rostered Leaders in or near Edmonton provided chaplaincy support, Lutheran Campus Ministry provided care and ministry on the UofA campus, donations to CLWR were incredible, congregations in or near Ft. McMurray provided accommodations, meals, personal items, and so on. Conversation via teleconference continued following the devastation for nearly two years on a regular basis with CLWR representatives, the LC-C and myself, with updates provided, planning, and fund distribution being much of our conversation. An application for funds was mutually created and made available through the LC-C and our Synod offices.

The week following the devastation our Synod hosted an evening service of Prayer and Lament at Trinity, Edmonton. Several from the Christ the King, Ft. McMurray congregation attended as well as many from Lutheran congregations in and around Edmonton.

On May 28, 2016 Cathy and I gathered with The Rev. Susan and Cliff Horton and current and former Christ the King, Ft. McMurray congregants for worship on an acreage south of Athabasca, which included a baptism and Eucharist. Some months previously, Pastor Susan had announced her retirement, so all were experiencing several layers of grief as we gathered together. Susan and Cliff have now settled in Stony Plain.

Conversation via teleconference also regularly took place between denominational judicatory leadership including the Anglican Church of Canada, United Church of Canada, Presbyterian, LC-C and myself. We shared updated information, planning and how we might work together to provide support and care now and, in the months, to come.

Together with representatives of CLWR and LC-C, The Rev. Susan Horton and I visited Ft. McMurray to view for ourselves the devastation and to meet with members of the Lutheran community. A second journey to Ft. McMurray with representatives of CLWF and LC-C and myself took place August 2017 for the purpose of learning how the funds received through CLWR were being used, to meet with various representatives and to explore further support. The various ministries provided were very meaningful and deeply appreciated.

Foodgrains – CLWR, LC-C and ABT Synod. In the summer of 2017 Foodgrains, CLWR, LC-C, myself and congregational representation from Mt. Olivet, Sherwood Park and St. Johns, Ardrossan met to learn more about the work of the Foodgrains bank. A harvest gathering took place August 27, 2017 hosted by Glory Lutheran, Sherwood Park which I also attended.

OTHER MINISTRY

Joint Anglican Lutheran Commission. I welcome the opportunity to continue serving as an ELCIC appointed member of the Joint Anglican Lutheran Commission (JALC). The work of this commission is energizing, informative and reflects well our own mission priority of Collaborative Partnerships.

House of Bishops and Conference of Bishops. Yearly the Anglican and Lutheran Bishops gather for learning, encouragement, relationship building and worship. Together with Bishop Greg Mohr I am part of a small group of Bishops planning for our gatherings.

Faith, Order and Doctrine. I continue to serve as National Church Council appointment on the Faith, Order and Doctrine (FOD) committee. Recent work has been focused on the Orders of Ministry study and paper. A very interesting, informative and meaningful part of the process of developing the study was a meeting of FOD together with the Diaconal Ministers and candidates providing opportunity for members of FOD to hear from and to learn from these rostered leaders and candidates.

Advisory group – Authorized Lay Ministries. Fall 2016 I was appointed by National Church Council to a four-member advisory group to develop guidelines for Authorized Lay

Ministries. Appointments included National Staff, one member each from the Program Committee for Leadership Ministry and the Program Committee for Worship, and myself. The guidelines were reviewed and approved by National Church Council in September 2017.

Delegate to LWF Assembly. I was honored (and excited!) to be one of the delegates journeying with National Bishop Susan Johnson, Rev. Katherine Altenburg (Eastern Synod), and Dan LeBlanc (SASK Synod) **to the Lutheran World Federation's 12th** Assembly which took place May 2017 in Namibia, with a pre-assembly gathering in Suriname, South America, in August 2016.

During the elections at the 12th Assembly I was elected to serve on The LWF Council as one of six members from the North American Region. I am aware of the richness, and the fullness, of my role as Synod Bishop, including the many time commitments and responsibilities. As a member of The LWF Council I will be participating in meetings of the Council once per year, serving as a member of the Mission and Development Committee, usually in May or June for one week, and alternating between Geneva and a member Church somewhere in the world. Though this responsibility certainly adds to my workload I do not anticipate it requiring significant time and I look forward to sharing the richness of this global experience and opportunity with our Synod, Church and Region.

I was asked to be the North American Region representative on a small committee tasked with reviewing the 12th Assembly and presenting **a report to the Council's meeting in July 2018.**

GENERAL INFORMATION

Dissolutions of Incorporated Congregations and Church Property. We continue to work with our Synod lawyer toward the dissolution of incorporated congregations which have closed or are defunct. This work is necessary, and a cost to the Synod. We have also been working with our Synod lawyer to work toward the proper ownership of the land upon which one of the congregations of our Synod sits. This is work that is also necessary, and should have been done decades ago, prior to several mergers.

An **Officer's Consultation** (national and synodical) was held December 2017 in Winnipeg, MB. Present from the ABT Synod were Chair Wayne Street, Secretary Marilyn Murray and myself. In a conference call of ABT Synod Officers following the Consultation, appreciation was expressed for the opportunity to gather in this way and to meet leadership from the other synods and our national church. One outcome from the meeting was that Synod Council meeting minutes will be distributed to the national and synodical secretaries for

distribution to council members and that synod council meetings will include on their agenda a time for “what are we learning from other synods and the national”. Following learning and conversation, it was agreed to focus on three areas: financial, motion 95-11 and the role of national and synod, and communications. These three working groups are continuing to meet and to work.

ELCIC National Convention. The 2019 National Convention will take place at the University of Regina, Regina, July 11-13, 2019. The ABT Synod will have an additional rostered delegate with apportionment based on the December 31, 2016 parochial reports: 15 Lay, 2 Youth and 11 Rostered for a total of 28 delegates.

PERSONAL MINISTRY

Sabbatical – November 2016-January 2017.

Reflections on the Sabbatical Leave – Reflections about Larry.

Walter Brueggemann makes the wonderful statement that, “Sabbath is an invitation to image our life differently” (*Finally Comes the Poet: Daring Speech for Imagination*). Much of my time in journal writing, reflecting and praying centered around this imaging.

As I began the Sabbatical I realized immediately just how tired I really was. While re-reading Brueggemann’s book I came across the following words which affirmed not only my exhaustion but the life-giving gift that the Sabbatical was for me. “A startling theological claim is made for the Sabbath as God’s day of rest in Exodus 31:17: ‘...The Lord made heaven and earth, and on the seventh day he rested and was refreshed.’ The text uses the verb *nap hash* in the reflexive, suggesting that Yahweh was exhausted, diminished, and the Sabbath made it possible for God to receive life back.”

Henri Nouwen’s words spoke into this weariness and this gift of Sabbatical too: “While realizing that ten years ago I didn’t have the faintest idea that I would end up where I now am, I still like to keep up the illusion that I am in control of my own life. I like to decide what I most need, what I will do next, what I want to accomplish, and how others will think of me. While being so busy running my own life, I become oblivious to the gentle movements of the Spirit of God within me, pointing me in directions quite different from my own.

It requires a lot of inner solitude and silence to become aware of these divine movements. God does not shout, scream, or push. The Spirit of God is soft and gentle like a small voice or light breeze. It is the spirit of love.” (*Here and Now: Living in the Spirit*)

Imagine. The Spirit of God pointing. Growing awareness of these divine movements.

Imagining my life differently means in part that I have reconnected with my most deep friendships, I have re-engaged in exploring the gift of music, and I have intentionally carved out time for days off and holiday.

Reflections on the Sabbatical Leave – Reflections about Family.

One of the greatest joys in the Sabbatical gift has been quantity and quality time with my family. Cathy and I spent much time together...talking, walking, laughing, remembering...simply being. Time with our children, too, was a gift. They are caring, inquisitive, loving, supporting, encouraging, teasing, gifted young adults. And I am so proud of each of them! On behalf of Cathy, Paul and Kim, Matthew, Anna, and Jordan, I thank you for this Sabbatical gift.

The Sabbatical also gifted me with quantity time with my extended family: parents, twin, and two sisters. All offered me, without reservation, the gift of presence, silence, tears and laughter. And I am so thankful.

Reflections on the Sabbatical Leave – Reflections about Our Synod.

Thank-you to each of you who shared your God given gifts with us all during these past three months! I express particular thanks to The Rev. Dr. Julianne Barlow, Assistant to the Bishop for Mission, who served capably as Commissary; Darla Wildfang, Executive Assistant; Synod Executive – Wayne Street, Marilyn Murray and Stephen Wildfang; and the Deans: The Revs. Trish Schmermund, Eleanor Ness, Kathy Calkins, Kristian Wold and Reg Berg. Thank-you.

Conclusion.

Celebrating the gift of a Sabbatical leave means a deep, deep sense of gratitude and thanksgiving for me: to God for sustaining and upholding me during this time, for insights gained, imagination rekindled. Sabbatical time in order to receive life back. For deeper listening and deeper discerning of my calling as your Bishop.

Bishop Self-Care and Spiritual Renewal. As per Synod Council policy, Bishop Self-Care and Spiritual Renewal, I strive to take a one-day personal retreat each month and twice a year take a two-day personal retreat. In 2017 I did not follow this pattern; however, I have resumed this pattern in 2018. I have continued to see a Spiritual Director, meeting almost every month. I am thankful for this care and support from the Synod. I continue to meet on a regular basis with a committee of, currently, three retired rostered and one lay leaders.

Continuing Education. In 2016 I attended the National Worship Conference at Wilfred Laurier University, Kitchener-Waterloo: *Formation & Reformation: Worship, Justice and God's Mission*. I also participated in the *Music That Makes Community* three-day learning event in Calgary 2017.

I continue to seek to minister with the Core Values of affirmation, involvement and servant-leadership. My personal mission is to engage, empower and equip for ministry.

WITH GRATITUDE

In conclusion, I wish to offer my thanks to God for so many people:

- + for my wife, Cathy, and our children, for their support and encouragement;
- + again, for Synod staff who have served over the past biennium and who form a wonderful synod staff team without whom I simply would not be able to function;
- + for the synod officers, Chairperson Wayne Street, who has given of himself generously in service to the Synod; Treasurer Stephen Wildfang who served above the call of duty in his service to the Synod – **for this was his 'duty and delight'**; and Secretary Marilyn Murray who so capably serves;
- + for the members of the Synod Council for their dedication and service;
- + for members of the Standing Committees of Synod Council – the Examining Committee, the Candidacy Committee, and the Constitutional Review Committee;
- + for all the ministry team members who work on your behalf in support of the ministries of the synod;
- + for my Bishop colleagues who provide an unparalleled support group for ministry;
- + for the Area Deans currently serving and those who completed this calling during the biennium, their families and congregations who give of their time and energy beyond their full-time ministries to serve the needs of the Areas;
- + for the Area Leadership Teams;
- + for all lay and rostered leaders with whom I have enjoyed a wonderful working relationship;
- + and to all the members of our congregations and specialized ministries who work and pray and support the work of the Synod in so many ways.

These past years as your Bishop have been richly rewarding, regularly challenging, at times overwhelming, and personally fulfilling.

Together, we are the Church – sign, symbol and foretaste of the Kingdom of God. **Synod: "Coming together."** Harambee: **"pulling together in the same direction."**

Together, we live in vibrant witness to God's work in the world, offering our hands and feet in the service of God's mission.

As we journey forward together the **following verse from Paul's** letter to the church in Rome (15:13) continues to sustain me in profound and meaningful ways: *"The God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit."*

In Christ Jesus –
Shalom,
+Larry Kochendorfer

Abiding in Right Relations (AiRR) Ministry Team

As a result of Co-chairs Rev. Ann Salmon and Carl Rausch moving to take a call in another province, this ministry team has been mainly inactive in the past six months, since the summer of 2017. New members have been appointed to the committee: Harold (Buzz) Robinson, Edmonton; and Dale Woitt, Wetaskiwin. The committee now consists of Rev. Faith Brace, Cochrane; Rev. Ron Flamand, Rolly View; and the two new members.

The Cross-Border Event with the ELCA Montana Synod, to be held at Wolf Point, Fort Peck Reservation in eastern Montana in October 2017, was cancelled because of insufficient registration, a great disappointment to the four people from Alberta who planned to attend. There is no information at present as to whether the event will be planned for another time.

Meanwhile, many cultural and educational and spiritual events related to the 94 Calls to Action take place among Alberta churches and community organizations, giving opportunity to Lutherans throughout the Synod to experience the surge of interest in reconciliation between Indigenous people and other Canadians. I have personally been part of a group from All Saints Anglican Parish in Cochrane who conduct a grief and loss circle among young adults at Stoney Nakoda First Nation in Morley, AB. It is led by an Anglican deacon who is qualified in transition ministry, and it includes a hot lunch prepared by members of the parish. Every week there is opportunity to serve the people who come, to listen to them, hear of their individual experiences and begin to understand their struggle with community breakdown, personal loss and pain. I hope that many Lutherans across the Synod will find such opportunities in their local areas.

Rev. Faith Brace

Congregational Action and Response for Mental Health (CARE) Ministry Team

CARE is a Synod initiative to promote mental wellness and health in our congregations and in our communities. Mental wellness and health issues are a serious concern in our society and our congregations. The people of the Church and in our congregations have a unique role to play in supporting all persons to achieve mental health. In addition, our Lutheran theology speaks to mental well-being.

There are two fundamental goals of this ministry team:

- to assist congregations to become more informed of mental health issues in society and the church; and
- to share resources and ideas within the Synod.

Work to Date:

- Created a page on the ABT Synod website which focuses on CARE information and provides resources which congregations are encouraged to be aware of and use.
- Researched the most supportive and effective ways to make use of existing mental health resources. The Team especially found that the Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) program of the Mental Health Commission of Canada is a very useful, straightforward and easily accessible resource for congregations and people wanting to take part in the priorities of the ministry. MHFA is easily accessed through the internet.
- Workshops and presentations since the last Synod convention:
 - o Grace Lutheran Church, Hinton, organized and held a series of workshops with presenter resources from within the Synod.
 - o CARE encouraged and promoted local groupings of congregations and church leaders in their own organizing of Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) workshops; it provided the financial resources and assistance in organizing these.
 - o The Ministry Team and Synod leaders, and members of congregations, have participated in two separate, two-day MHFA workshops organized by CARE.
 - o A MHFA workshop was held in Calgary in November 2017. It was fully subscribed, with the possibility of further workshop opportunities.
 - o **The Synod's 2018 Congregational Life Event** was titled '**No One is Immune: Taking Action for Mental Health in Congregations**, which included workshops on mental health and wellness, with a MHFA keynote presenter.
- CARE continues to provide financial support to **congregations through \$100.00 "scholarships" in support of members enrolling in MHFA workshops – up to three per congregation. MHFA's own workshops are provided by trained facilitators in many places across the Synod and have varying focuses.**
- A congregational worship resource was developed in partnership **with the Synod's Worship Ministry Team.**
- CARE allocated funds to the Bishop in support of the **Synod's clergy**-assistance and support program.

Going Forward:

- Team members continue to be available to meet with local groups to provide information, encouragement and support for workshops and scholarships. Contact the Synod office for more information.
- Financial support for locally-organized MHFA workshops continues.
- CARE has agreed to support one workshop a year for each of the next two years, with the 2018 Congregational Life Event being the first of these.
- CARE is endeavoring to set up and fund a MHFA workshop in the Red Deer area.
- The individual MHFA-related “scholarship” program continues, and congregations and individuals are encouraged to take advantage of this.
- The Team is coming to realize that a mental health **ministry intersects with the Synod’s other ministries** addressing many other issues for people and congregations – and that there are opportunities for intersectional ministry.

Submitted by Carl Sorensen, Coordinator

CARE Ministry Team:

Rev. Dyanna Couture, Standard

Dr. Dianne Kieren, Edmonton

Bishop Larry Kochendorfer

Rev. Kathie Schmitke, Edmonton

Barb Stolee, Calgary

Rev. Marty Tuer, Red Deer

Rev. Richard Reimer, Edmonton

Rev. Mike Lynch (representative from the Anglican Church),
Edmonton

Global Mission Ministry Team

"Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ." 1 Corinthians 1:3

You will notice several changes that have happened in the past two years with the ministry and our report. First, we have changed our name. This brings us into an easier understanding for our colleagues in this work as many use the title, "Global Mission". Recently, the Rev. Dr. James Hendricksen was appointed to the Global Mission Ministry Team.

Some ministry areas that we are working on at present are the following:

1. Colombia. We welcome Bishop Atahualpa Hernandez as the new Bishop of IELCO. Plans have been underway since January, for him and a group from Colombia to visit us at the Synod

convention in 2018. A working group has been established to prepare for the visit of our Colombian guests. As well, a new covenant between IELCO and our Synod will be signed during the Synod Convention.

2. Synod Delegation to Colombia. The next journey to Colombia is set for July 26-August 6, 2018. Bishop Larry will be facilitating this trip along with Tricia Hoepfner (Ascension Lutheran, Edmonton). The twelve participants will be meeting twice for pre-education prior to the journey. Pictures and a report of the trip will be shared with the Synod via **Wednesday's Word after their return.**
3. *En Misión Con El Salvador: In Mission with El Salvador.* Pr. Brian Rude continues his work and presence in El Salvador. We are pleased that he will be joining us for Synod Convention and sharing of this ministry throughout the Synod following the Convention.

Some other matters that I would bring to your attention as well:

- A. National Church Global Missions. You will all have received a brochure in your congregational mailings about the on-going nature of global missions. I commend it to you.
- B. Consultation. We continue to work to build relationships with our sister synods in the ELCA that are partnered with us in Colombia. Immediately after the Synod Convention representatives from our synod, the two synods in the ELCA, ELCA staff and the members from Colombia will meet in Edmonton to review our mission work.

I would ask the delegates to continue to pray for all refugees around the world, and especially those in two different situations. The Middle Eastern situation continues to be quite fluid at the moment. Syrian refugees are struggling to survive, adapt to new countries and find the necessities of life in refugee camps. Further, the situation with the Rohingya refugees is still not resolved.

I have now served some eight years on this committee/ministry. Since God is leading me into new areas and adventures in ministry, I have submitted my resignation from the Global Missions Ministry Team to the Bishop. It has been a pleasure to serve this dynamic and on-going ministry.

Respectfully submitted,
Rev. L. Scott Brown, chairperson

on behalf of:
Dr. Helen Bowden
The Rev. Dr. James Hendricksen
Mark Rintoul

Leadership Development Ministry Team

The Leadership Development Ministry Team is responsible to plan and provide opportunities to enhance skills in leadership for laypeople and rostered personnel in the Synod of Alberta and the Territories. Accountable to the **Bishop's Office**, it helps to fulfill the Synod Mission Priorities of *Spirit-led Leadership*, (equipping and empowering to practice the disciplines of Biblical engagement, prayer and spiritual direction), and *Hope-filled Discipleship* (encouraging, equipping, supporting, and inspiring ministries within the Synod).

The focus of the Leadership Development Committee's work in the past two years has been on organizing the annual Congregational Life Event, a one-day workshop—usually held in March or April—on a theme of contemporary relevance in the church. These events offer the opportunity for ABT Synod members to explore issues of interest in their church and spiritual lives, and a chance to showcase the incredible work that is being done in many fields by pastors and laypeople around the synod.

The theme of the 2017 Congregational Life Event was **“Worship: When Ruins Rejoice.”** Paul Vasile, executive director of Music that Makes Community—**“a non-profit organization working with ecumenical communities and leaders to empower and liberate communities' spiritual life through singing”**—was the keynote speaker who offered reflections on what it means to gather for worship in the 21st century, and led the assembly in song. ABT Synod members Rev. Dr. Laura Holck, Rev. Daranne Harris, Robyn Simpson-Mohr, and Rev. Kristian Wold offered breakout sessions that built on the workshop theme. This event was generously supported financially by the SW Area Group. Members of the Synod Worship and the Arts Committee collaborated as organizers.

In 2018 responsibility for the organization of the **Congregational Life Event moved to the Synod's CARE Committee**, in followup to the very successful and important 2016 Event on mental health issues and the church.

Since the Leadership Development Committee was formed the landscape for continuing education has changed, and opportunities for Christian growth have proliferated. Within the Synod groups like the Retreat of Our Own, Synod Study Conference, and CARE are active in providing education and training; and at the seminary in Saskatoon the Lay

Leadership Academy is equipping church members for leadership. In light of the current context the Leadership Development Committee is currently taking a hiatus from its activities and spending some time reassessing its future role in the church.

Respectfully Submitted on behalf of the Leadership Development Committee,
Rev. Kristian Wold

Missional Formation Ministry Team

The Canadian Missions committee transitioned into the Missional Formation team and is responsible for CECF Church Extension Capital Fund (CECF) interest distribution recommendations and Creative Initiative grants. Sincere thanks to all who served through this time of change.

Canadian Missions CECF interest distribution: The amount available is based on the interest earned in the CECF which has historically been used to buy land and assist congregations with building mortgages. Funding criteria for *CECF interest distribution* includes congregational redevelopment, ethnic specific ministries, supporting pastors in mission congregations and providing funds for the training and equipping rostered ministers and laity for mission. Since the 2016 Synod convention \$ 91,130 of the *CECF interest distribution* has been granted to congregations and ministries.

Creative Initiatives: The CECF Committee began wondering how they could best steward the fund since it is generally no longer feasible to buy land and build new buildings. Creative Initiatives Synodical monies from amounts over the CECF cap, began in June 2015. Congregations and ministries continue to be invited to apply for Creative Initiatives grants which must be used before June 2020.

Since the 2016 Synod convention \$106,200 has been granted to congregations and ministries.

Learnings from Creative Initiatives experiments include the following:

Across the Synod (2016-2018):

- **We are eager to find new ways of “being church,”** and new ways of joining God in our community.
- The pace of change in attitudes, imagination, perspectives and practices is slow and requires patience.
- Modelling spiritual practices and experiential learning is important. In this approach, as we risk, there are no failures, only opportunities to learn. Developing

learning communities requires an adaptive leadership approach and skills.

- There are many benefits from gathering in a place to collaborate and discern with others. Cohorts became safe spaces for leaders who voiced hopes and anxieties.
- It is important to explore the impact of policies, organizational structures and expectations.

Across the ELCIC: (Jan 31, 2018)

- **There has been an “awakening” a shift in awareness** that things have changed, and we want to participate **in God’s mission.**
- It is important to pay attention to the movement of the Holy Spirit, and our movement in joining the Spirit. We need engage in practices to listen to what the Spirit of God is saying.
- Encounter those in the community, especially those not like us, for the sake of reciprocal relationships (meeting neighbours, not just meeting needs).
- Stories expand the capacity for imagination.
- Tensions exist between the movement and institution, building new and upholding the existing and we need to embrace the disruption and conflict.
- We have theological riches in our Lutheran tradition that can move us from fear to freedom.

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. Dr. Julianne Barlow, Assistant to the Bishop for Mission

Study Conference Planning Ministry Team

This past 2018 Study Conference February 5-8 in Canmore was a success! Numbers were up, as was the positive energy in among participants. The keynote speaker was Dr. Allen Jorgenson from Waterloo Seminary, who will spoke on interfaith relations.

Next year’s conference will run February 4-7, with keynote speaker Dr. Karoline Lewis from Luther Seminary, who will speak on preaching the lectionary.

Thank you to Pastor Lindsey Jorgensen-Skakum and Pastor Kirk Tastad for their worship leadership.

Thank you to Cathy Kochendorfer, Pastor Tim Wray, and Bishop Larry for helping make this event such as valuable time for rest, reflection, and study.

Submitted in **Jesus’ Name**,

Rev. Kevin Powell, chair

Study Conference Planning Committee

Synod Campus Ministry Team

The Synod Campus Ministry Team (SCMT) provides assistance to chaplains and local campus ministry councils to provide a Lutheran and Christian witness at post-secondary institutions in five communities across Alberta and is partially funded from Synod benevolence.

The Synod Campus Ministry Team continues to provide **resources via Canada Post and the Synod’s website for the Drive for Five** fundraising event. The event has been renamed (since we are now on more than five campuses in Alberta) the SMART (Synod Missional Academic Response Team) Sunday. Thank you for your support for Campus Ministry through this annual initiative.

After several years of review and consideration the Synod Campus Ministry Team Manual was presented to and approved by Synod Council in September 2016. One of the significant changes was the desire for participation by those most closely connected to the ministry: chaplains and local councils. Meetings now include the chaplains, a representative (usually the chair) of each local campus council, and the Bishop.

A retreat for young adults continues at Camp Kuriakos, Sylvan Lake each January with chaplains and students participating from several campuses, including Regina and Saskatoon. January 2017 the speaker was Laureen Wray and the theme, **“Calling,” with her presentation entitled, “please wait while your call is being connected,” and in January 2018 the speakers** were The Right Rev. Sidney Black, Suffragan Bishop of Treaty 7 Territory and his granddaughter, Danielle, and the theme, **“Abiding in Right Relations.”**

We give thanks to those who serve on Local Campus Ministries and to our Chaplains:

The Rev. Richard Reimer - LCM U of A Chaplain

The Rev. Jason Anderson – NAIT Chaplain

The Rev. Margaret Propp - LCM U of C Chaplain and Mount Royal University

The Rev. Canon Erin Phillips - ECM Lethbridge

The Rev. Kristy Reimers-Loader - ECM Medicine Hat College

The Rev. Craig Wentland - Augustana Chaplaincy Chaplain

Sarah Smith – Augustana, Assistant for Chaplaincy

The Rev. Ron Flamand – Interim Augustana Chaplaincy Chaplain – January 19-April 16, 2018

The chaplains from each local Campus Ministry have provided the following brief reports:

Ecumenical Campus Ministry, Lethbridge – The Rev. Canon Erin Phillips
ECM Lethbridge rejoices in another year of campus ministry. Our chaplain, Erin Phillips, continues to forge connections **and strengthen networks at Lethbridge's two post-secondary institutions**, the Lethbridge College and the University of Lethbridge. This year we have connected students and faculty to new ideas through the Theology Reading Group; brought established congregations, willing volunteers and students in need together through end of term suppers and Campus Care Parcel projects; provided new knowledge to all through the annual Cade lecture series; experienced new **relationships and watched many "Canadian firsts" with our fourth jointly sponsored refugee family from Syria**; and identified the extent of student need on the University campus through a poverty study. The purposeful work continues!

Lutheran Campus Ministry – UofC, Mount Royal University, Calgary – The Rev. Margaret Propp
With the generous gift of the Triune Foundation, LCM-Calgary expanded their 40%-time ministry to 60% by including Mount Royal University. The current model of running the Drum/Dine/Discuss outreach once a week at the UofC now operates at MRU. Currently we have anywhere from 30-50 students taking part in the Drum/Dine/Discuss every week between the two institutions. The leadership training program called the Peer Partnership Programme also had 12 students from several institutions throughout Calgary (U of C, MRU, Ambrose, SAIT, and MaKami Collage). LCM-Calgary serves a very diverse demographic. The magnitude of outreach has only been possible through a collegial collaboration with the United/Presbyterian campus ministry. We are currently looking into research and models of Campus Ministry to be more financially self-sustaining. We see the vital and life-giving work of Campus Ministry as essential to the formation of young people in their education. **As numerous students have expressed "What you do here..... this has been the most significant and life-giving part of my week and time at University!" (former MRU Students Union Rep)**

Medicine Hat Ecumenical Campus Ministry – The Rev. Kristy Reimers-Loader

The work of raising awareness of the chaplaincy over the past year has proven very fruitful. As I move around the College from day to day, I experience a growing recognition amongst the people I meet; more and more people are aware of who **their Chaplain is, what she's doing, and how she might be helpful for situations which may arise. Hence, I've experienced** an increase in the number of people requesting appointments as well as those who will stop me in the hallways and talk. This is extremely gratifying, to say the least. The work of pastoral care remains the most meaningful form of ministry I practice at the College. Without breaching the confidence of any of the people with whom I have spoken, I have dealt with a number of students, staff, and faculty in varying states of distress, grief, confusion, stress, and sadness. In all cases, I have endeavored to be fully present in the encounter, and to meet the people where they were, emotionally and spiritually. I have prayed with, and for these people, and I have prayed for many others by explicit request. Programming has included: soup lunches, daily silent meditation, Wednesday coffee hour, and weekly prayer for the community within and around the College, and for the world. The Board engaged the services of a local videographer, with a view to producing a short promotional film that would detail the work of the chaplaincy at the College. This has been completed and has been hailed as a successful project.

This ministry represents the spirit of Christ working in the world; that through a principally Christian-funded and sustained ministry, people of all faith traditions—and those holding no particular faith—**may enjoy the benefit of our Creator's love expressed through the provision of a safe, inclusive space and where, prior to any other consideration, each individual's humanity is honoured, and they are granted the dignity and respect owed to all Creation.**

Augustana Chaplaincy, Camrose – Sara Smith (Assistant for Chaplaincy)

This year's theme has been Feast, Pray, Serve. We adopted this theme in order to intentionally transform our activities towards the model given for the early church in the Book of Acts. A new academic calendar challenged us to change our set worship times from Monday, Wednesday, and Fridays to Tuesday and Thursdays. We took this opportunity to create a new form of worship on Wednesday nights where we join together in Holy Communion, a chili supper, and an activity

that varies from week to week. This could be in the form of a guest speaker, a demonstration of a different worship practice such as centering prayer or a fun community building time. This is often an intimate meal with 12-15 students that allows us to get to know one another on a different level compared to the dinners we continue to host on Tuesday nights that feed 90-120 people.

Recently, we supported six student chaplains who engage in peer ministry and small group activities through the campus. They regularly host knitting nights with a group of community ladies and students, worship nights on Sunday evenings as well as the larger events such as SCORE! that continue to be a staple within the campus. They provide a face to chaplaincy that extends beyond worship to activities such as compliments and encouragements posted to every door in residence just before exams and bring a personal touch of joy and compassion to campus during some of the most stressful times.

This current winter semester has provided Pastor Craig Wentland, Campus Chaplain, with an opportunity to take a short sabbatical after his 12 years of service. We have been privileged to have Rev. Ron Flamand (retired) join us as a **part-time interim chaplain in Craig's absence.**

We recently hosted a fundraising event entitled Feast, Pray, Serve: Chaplaincy and All That Jazz. The evening was arranged similar to a jazz vespers service and Interim Chaplain Ron Flamand was the guest speaker. This was a very successful event and is **on-par with previous year's** fundraising dinners. As many people are aware, the University of Alberta as a whole is experiencing cutbacks over the next years. Augustana Chaplaincy is in part funded through a partnership with the University and thus we are experiencing part of this decrease in funding. While the amount is quite substantial university wide, the specific impact on Chaplaincy will not change the quality of programming that we provide to the students. We are dedicated to accompanying the Augustana community on a pilgrimage of educating the whole person – mind, body, and spirit.

Lutheran Campus Ministry-Edmonton – The Rev. Richard Reimer

In 2016, Lutheran Campus Ministry-Edmonton received notice of a generous bequest from the estate of long-time friend, Beverley Boren. With the first installment of that gift, LCM-Edmonton has established a permanent endowment with the Edmonton Community Foundation in her honour.

Known as the "Bev Boren Lutheran Campus Ministry Fund," interest will be disbursed annually to reflect Bev's desire to support campus ministry personnel and programming carried

out by Lutheran Campus Ministry, University of Alberta, Edmonton. God bless you, Bev! God bless your memory!

Last year, at the invitation of the Forum for Theological Exploration (FTE), Atlanta, Georgia, I attended a North American Consultation on Intentional Christian Communities. This concluded with the invitation to write a grant proposal for up to \$10,000. My proposal was to grow student community **that practices discerning and responding to Christ's call to** ministry through retreats, book study, and spiritual direction.

The Rev. Dr. Julianne Barlow, Assistant to the Bishop for Mission, and I designed two day long-retreats bringing together the intentional Christian communities of Martin Luther House **and St. Aidan's House (Anglican) at Mulhurst Lutheran Camp.**

We began with the practice of "Dwelling in the Word," reflecting on where God's mission is unfolding in the world, and where we may join it. Dr. Faith Nostbakken, Diaconal Minister, joined us to introduce spiritual direction and led us in drawing our prayers through a mandala. Chef Dana Rayment cooked marvelous meals! The grant also funded the annual student winter retreat at Camp Kuriakos, Sylvan Lake. At the weekly supper and meeting facilitated by Chaplains Richard Reimer, **at Martin Luther House, and Sarah Holmstrom, at St. Aidan's House,** residents have been given and are reading together, *Called to Community: The Life Jesus Wants for His People*. With gratitude we acknowledge the FTE grant that has made the growth we have experienced possible!

This past year the Lutheran Student Movement's (LSM) theme has been "Serving in the Spirit", focusing on a different fruit of the Spirit each month, including love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control (Gal. 5:22). Special highlights of this past year include LSM's annual hotdog sale through which six hundred dollars was raised for the Red Cross to assist flood victims in Asia. Other **activities included participation in Lutheran Campus Ministry's** Skate-A-Thon and the Prayerworks inner city meal program.

We are especially grateful to local congregations including Holy Spirit, Mount Zion, Ascension, and Hosanna, who have nourished LSM in both body and spirit by providing meals and cookies throughout the year. In the midst of the turbulent environment of academia, LSM ministers to the campus community by welcoming students from all walks of life to be part of a Christian community.

Martin Luther House provides a “home away from home” and intentional Christian community to five students. Residents reach out to the wider student community by opening their doors for Tuesday suppers hosted by the Lutheran Student Movement. On Sunday evenings residents join the Anglican **student community for “The Worship Room” at St. George’s** Anglican Church located right by the campus. To find out more about Martin Luther House, and to apply, visit: lcm Edmonton.ca

NAIT Campus Ministry – The Rev. Jason Anderson
Things are always great at NAIT... mostly because that rhymes, but so does commiserate, and we probably all sympathize with plentiful vineyards but too few laborers. I continue serving Lutheran Campus Ministry 4hrs a week as one of many ecumenical chaplains. Together, we ensure NAIT has full time chaplaincy services. In good Lutheran prudence, I am now able to provide worship (prayer, word, sacrament) to our students. With this, in addition to everything else going on: community-building events, faith mentoring, spiritual care/counseling, and premarital counseling, students are able to find spiritual security and well-being as they journey through their education with various joys and **challenges. What’s most special to me is** being an extension of our church, creating a space for young people to encounter Christ incarnate: in their lives, in their communities, among their peers, where they are at emotionally and physically, in the context of their intense learning and professional formation. Thanks to NAIT and the department of Student Counseling for being champions of campus ministry, to our Synod, all its members, to Lutheran Triune Educational and Benevolent Society, for the support that makes this all happen.

The Synod Campus Ministry Team welcomes your partnership in the gospel. Thanks for your ongoing support via Synod Benevolence, Directed Giving and especially **through your support for Campus Ministry’s “SMART”** Sunday, held each September.

On behalf of the Synod Campus Ministry Team,
+Bishop Larry Kochendorfer

Synod Youth Ministry Team

The Synod of Alberta and the Territories continues to encourage youth ministry in various ways. One way we support this important ministry is through a biennial synod gathering. All

youth from across the synod are invited and, in addition to fun, fellowship and learning, it is a good time to network with other leaders.

Mark Kuntz served with me on the Youth Ministry Team from 2015-2017 and together we achieved **two of the Ministry Team’s** previous goals: to increase the size of the Youth Ministry Team and to create a working list of youth leaders across the Synod. In 2017 when Mark stepped down Wayne Huff, Krystle Plant, Rev. Erik Sorenson and Kyra Van Veen joined me on the team. The entire Team wishes to thank Mark for all his contributions.

Synod Youth Gathering

The Synod youth gathering, *Freely Given*, took place May 5-7, 2017 at Camp Kuriakos, Sylvan Lake, with 47 youth participating (64 participated in total, which included home team leaders, staff, and planning team representing 10 congregations). The gathering was a joint event (as it was in 2015) between the Synod and Kuriakos, Mulhurst and Hastings Lake Lutheran Bible Camps.

The gathering theme reflected the 500th commemoration of the Reformation. The keynote presentations were by Rev. Richard Reimer; drama and Sunday preacher Jacob Rempel; workshop leaders; and gathering band, featuring Andrew Chell, Anna Kochendorfer, Mark Kuntz, Ethan McGhan, lead by Ingrid Parker.

All worked well together in proclaiming the reality of the theme. We were pleased that Bishop Larry was able to join us and to lead a workshop.

Thank you to those who planned the gathering: Krystle Plant, Rev. Erik Sorenson, Wayne Hoff, Kyra VanVeen and, from Camp Kuriakos, Kendra Freeland and Paul Kopjar.

National ELCIC Convention 2017

There were two youth delegates to the ELCIC National Convention last summer in Winnipeg. Chad Garson from Grace Lutheran, Edson, and Nyajuok Kulang from Lutheran Church of the Cross, Calgary attended along with 25 other delegates from the Synod.

National Youth Gathering

The Canadian Lutheran Anglican Youth Gathering (CLAY) is a biennial national event for youth aged 14–19 years old, organized by the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada (ELCIC) and the Anglican Church of Canada (ACC). Each gathering is held over five days and includes large group worship, speakers and workshops, excursions, activities and education. It is held in a different location across Canada every other year.

CLAY 2016 Youth Gathering and Pre-Gathering Trip - Rev. Anna Thede, Hosanna Lutheran Edmonton and myself from St. Paul's Lutheran, Ellerslie, Edmonton worked together to coordinate the ABT Synod Pre-Gathering Trip, August 13- 17, 2016 through Nova Scotia prior to the CLAY Gathering in Charlottetown. Much fun was had - highlights of which included a trip to Peggy's Cove, Lunenburg, Tidal Bore rafting, Cow's Ice Cream, a lobster dinner at the Shore club and much more. Approximately 60 youth and leaders attended the ABT Synod Pre-Gathering Trip. Youth and adults were very pleased that Bishop Larry and Cathy were able to join us on the Pre-Gathering trip and CLAY Gathering

2018 CLAY Gathering (Canadian Lutheran Anglican Youth) is being held August 15-19 in Thunder Bay, ON, with the theme of "Threads". The ABT Synod Pre-Gathering Bus Trip there and back is being planned by Krystle Plant of Hosanna Lutheran, Edmonton, along with myself for August 11-21, from Edmonton to Thunder Bay and back. The trip will be through the prairies with various stops along the way

ABT Synod Youth Gathering 2019. We are planning the next gathering to be held at Hastings Lake Lutheran Bible Camp May 3-5, 2019.

Synod Youth Ministry Team goals for the future;

- Connect our Youth Leaders with training opportunities, in and around the Synod
- Continue to connect with all ABT Synod Churches to keep Youth Leader in contact with each other
- Use youth relevant Social Media; Facebook, Instagram, Snapchapp to get information to the youth about events that affect them in and around the ABT Synod.

Respectfully submitted,
Tammy Kirkwood
Chair

Worship and the Arts Ministry Team

"Many and great, O God, are your works . . . with you are found the true gifts that last." ELW 837

Our synod's Worship and the Arts Committee, which usually meets twice a year, currently has three members: Bishop Larry Kochendorfer (Synod office); Colleen McGinnis (Wetaskiwin) – secretary; editor of the *Adoramus* newsletter; Carolyn Ethier (Lethbridge) – chair and ABT representative on the ELCIC National Program Committee for Worship.

The year following our 2016 Synod Convention has been one

of collaboration with other ministry teams.

- We partnered with C.A.RE to create worship resources, including liturgy, music and sermon, for use by congregations observing Mental Health Sunday in 2017.
- We assisted Leadership Development in designing the March Congregational Life Event, which included workshops with some of the people who helped shape our last convention worship:
 - Proclamation with Power: Proclaiming the word of scripture with intentionality and authenticity – Rev. Dr. Laura Holck;
 - Words for Worship – Rev. Daranne Harris;
 - This is the Night! [Easter vigil] – Robyn Simpson-Mohr and Rev. Kristian Wold;
 - plus, a worship resource table – Carolyn Ethier)

We celebrate, too, the many worship events planned by others beyond our group. As part of Reformation 500 commemorations, ecumenical expressions of the *Liberated by God's Grace* hymn festival have been hosted around the synod. Lutherans and others also came together for the excellent *Music that Makes Community* workshop that took place in Calgary in the summer of 2017.

On the synod website, a new *Adoramus* newsletter was published in fall 2017, as was the current *weekly diary of prayers and intercessions* for congregations and ministries of the Church; congregations are invited to include these public intercessions in their weekly worship. Most recently, we have enjoyed coordinating worship planning for the 2018 Synod Convention.

We want to highlight four key worship-related supports from the national church:

- Through the work of the ELCIC's Program Committee for Worship, a sermon-sharing program developed by the BC Synod has been expanded for use by congregations without a full-time minister. Information is available through the synod office.
- The Program Committee for Worship also commissioned *Where Two or Three Are Gathered: Worship for Small Assemblies*, a series of worship plans using *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* as the primary resource. The worship outlines include options for Holy Communion and Service of the Word

each week. They have been posted on <http://www.worship.ca/> by season: Advent resources (Michèle Barr, MNO), Epiphany (Kathryn Smith, Eastern Synod), Lent (Carolyn Ethier, ABT), and Easter (Lorraine Reinhardt, BC).

- To assist congregations in preparing Sunday worship bulletins, the ELCIC now produces our church bulletin series, available through <http://churchbulletins.ca/>. Last fall, people were invited to contribute images of doors and windows that look out and see in, evoking the mission we all share. These images have been featured as bulletin covers for the 2017-2018 liturgical year.
- The National Anglican/Lutheran Worship Conference, **“Sing, Pray, Presence, in response to disasters,”** acknowledges the experience of communities large and small to storms, fires, earthquakes, and violence. How can worship be a community resource and response? The event happens July 16-19, 2018 in Victoria, BC. The National Worship Conference website has details: <http://www.nationalworshipconference.org/>

You are always invited to share through our website the worship resources created in your own communities.

Respectfully submitted,
Carolyn Ethier

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

As I prepared to write this report, three things came to mind. The first is the wonderful stories that members of Synod Council invariably share during 'check in' time at the beginning of each retreat; you really do hear how God is working in our lives. The second is the feeling I get when we use *Holden Evening Prayer* for our evening worship. **There's something about singing that liturgy, in the evening,** at a camp setting, that just ignites my spirit. Lastly, at the end of the first retreat I chaired, The Venerable Alan T. Perry, Executive Archdeacon of the Diocese of Edmonton, was asked to give some concluding remarks as our Anglican Observer. He used the phrases - Welcome, Worship, and Work to capture what he had observed over the course of our time together.

It is with those words that I would like to welcome you to this convention and to my report as Chair of Synod Council. I know that the planning team has planned faith-filled worship throughout the convention, and, since members in convention is the highest authoritative body of our Synod, we will report to you on the work we have done over the last two years.

My report focuses on four areas: Synod Council, retreat work, business work and leadership.

As Synod Council we conduct most of our business at our retreats. Retreats are a combination of worship, work, and getting to know each other through our social times. We use our Bible camps as our meeting sites and Cathy Kochendorfer is our 'chef de extraordinaire' going above and beyond with her culinary expertise. We meet over three days and usually have a large agenda to get through. Through our camp chaplain we participate in Dwelling in the Word each day and have Holden Evening Prayer and eucharist each evening. Your Synod Councillors are very dedicated and faith-filled and help us immensely to do our work. I will not mention them by name in my report; you will find them listed in other parts of the convention docket. But I

do want to thank them for their work. They are wonderful to work with! I do however want to particularly thank Marilyn Murray who has been our Synod secretary for many years. She has completed her terms and is not eligible for re-election. Thank you, Marilyn, for your meticulous note taking for us; it has been a pleasure working with you.

I also want to welcome Paul Ellison as our Synod Treasurer and thank him for volunteering under very sad circumstances.

I continue to challenge myself and Synod Councillors to improve communication to the congregations and members in our Areas. We still have a communication gap between the important work we do compared to what the local congregation knows and hears about. We constantly need to address the question; "What does the Synod do for us?"

Another important part of our Synod work involves those involved at Synod Council Retreats. National Bishop Susan participates regularly and not only brings news from the national level of our church but also presents sessions when asked such as the Gender Justice Policy. Our two National Church Council members, Rev. Dr. James Hendricksen and Les Pearson are also regularly involved and serve as communication links to the National Church. We have had Jeff Pym, Director of ELFEC (Evangelical Lutheran Foundation of Eastern Canada) present to us as a follow up to our Ponder Anew activity. We have also kept our focus on the TRC outcomes by having Fiona Brownlee report on the work she is doing. Fiona is the Rural Indigenous Communities Liaison for the Anglican Diocese of Edmonton. We also viewed and discussed the film *Treaty 107* which documents the story of how Lutherans and Mennonites in Laird, Saskatchewan came together with the young Chippewayan First Nations Band to address the wrongs committed over land claims. In addition to speakers and presentations we receive information from Bishop Larry on the progress made by our various ministry teams and groups.

The business work of the Synod consumes much of our time, but it is important and vital to the work of the Synod. I want to focus on four current areas. A new focus has been the focus on the new idea of Areas and on the Area Leadership Teams appointed to oversee them. The concept of areas has much potential for good work, but it is still early in the transition **from the conference 'thinking' to areas. I know that the ALT's are meeting and planning activities,** establishing communication and contact links and figuring out who they are and what their needs are. I pray that things go well for them and firmly believe in the adage of TEAM – Together Everyone Achieves More.

One area of our ongoing work is the work on Missional Formation. Assistant to the Bishop for Mission, Rev. Dr. Julianne Barlow continues to lead congregations into this process as well as guide those congregations who are in various stages of the process of becoming more missional. There have been some success stories of this work as you will see through the video series that has been developed for this convention. Some congregations are doing exciting things when they stop to determine where God is leading them into their neighbourhoods. Much of this work has been a continuation of the ideas you shared through the post it notes at the last convention when you shared your ideas on two questions: *I am hearing God say to us..... and, I sense that one of the places the Spirit is inviting our Synod to join with God in God's work is?* **Some very good work has** been initiated through the ideas you have shared.

An important piece of Council's work is the area of governance and operating as a governance board for the Synod. In that role we carry out two important practices at each retreat. One is that we review some of our policies to **ensure that we are 'in compliance' with the spirit of the** policy. The other aspect of this is that we review some policies to determine if the policy still guides our actions in the current realities or if it needs to be changed or updated. As part of this last function, we are bringing to you a revised set of missional priorities that will guide us for the next three years. Our four main themes to the priorities have not changed but some changes have been made to wording of existing priorities and some new priorities have been added to better reflect the needs of our Synod. Please take the time to read, study and pray about them as we will be asking for your approval of them.

The last area I would like to comment on involves the leadership of our Synod. At our last retreat, Synod Council **received the findings from the Bishop's Review Committee.** Responses were received from a wide variety of respondents and were overwhelmingly positive concerning the work and leadership of our Bishop! Thank you, Bishop Larry, for your leadership and the caring you show for each one of us, whether rostered, diaconal or lay. We are your flock and we will follow your leading. Bishop Larry has a wonderful supporting cast in the Synod Office, and so to Assistant to the Bishop for Mission, the Rev. Dr. Julianne Barlow; to Darla Wildfang, Executive Assistant; to Sheryl Burry, Bookkeeper; to Wendy Grosfield, ABT Editor of Canada Lutheran and our Convention Manager; to Rev. Gary Nickel our Necrologist and Archivist; to Bishop Don Sjøberg, retired, Consultant Related to Church Property and Dissolution of Congregations; to Diaconal Minister Faith Nostbakken, Ecumenical Officer – North and to Rev. Daranne Harris, Ecumenical Officer – South; the five Area Deans: Rev. Trish Schmermund, Rev. Julianna Wehrfritz-Hanson, Rev. Kathy Calkins, Rev. Jeff Decelle, and Rev. Kevin Powell, along with the many who serve on Synod Committees, thank you all for the faithful work you do for the Synod of Alberta and the Territories. It is much appreciated.

In His Service
Wayne Street, Synod Council Chair.

Mission Priorities and Outcomes 2018-2021

Reflecting our mission statement, our vision and the Evangelical Declaration, the proposed mission priorities and outcomes for the triennium 2018-2021 are:

1. SPIRIT-LED LEADERSHIP is characterized by discerning where God might be leading us and **by trust in the Holy Spirit who "calls us through the Gospel, enlightens us with gifts, sanctifies and keeps us in true faith."**
 - a. Listening and discernment are modelled by enabling leaders to cultivate a vision for mission and use the gifts entrusted to them by the Holy Spirit.
 - b. Lay and rostered leaders are equipped and empowered to practice the disciplines of

- Biblical study, prayer, spiritual direction, and Dwelling in the Word.
- c. Faithful, accountable and wise disciples mentor, encourage, and mutually equip the body of Christ.
 - d. Innovative organizational structures, governance models, and approaches to conflict resolution will reflect the incarnational presence of Jesus.
 - e. Candidates for rostered ministry, who hear the call to serve God in the church, are identified, mentored and provided with support and information.
 - f. Lay and rostered leaders are encouraged to **practice a humble openness to God's** activities in the world around them.
2. HOPE-FILLED DISCIPLESHIP is expressed through Synod ministries which embrace the diversity of all participants and the unity of the body of Christ working together for the glory of God.
- a. Together in Christ we live with discernment and spiritual practices modeled and taught for faith formation.
 - b. All people, with the uniqueness of their gifts, are welcomed as valued partners in ministry with clear expectations of service.
 - c. Ministries are encouraged to equip, support, and inspire one another.
 - d. Stewardship that strengthens the body of Christ is practiced.
3. INNOVATIVE TRADITION is embraced and uplifted as an expression of God at work in and through the Synod.
- a. Formation worship that proclaims the Gospel shapes the living of our baptismal vocation and prepares the way for openness to change.
 - b. Creative approaches to ministry are supported with respect and interest.
 - c. Experimentation and risk is encouraged, allowing for flexibility, opportunities for learning, and exciting possibilities.

4. COLLABORATIVE PARTNERSHIPS reflect the communion of saints and the interconnected nature of the Triune God as witness to the restoration, redemption and reconciliation of the world.
- a. **Listening to the Spirit's leadership we are** intentional in developing deeper relationships, sharing of resources, and partnership ministries within Areas of the Synod.
 - b. Seeking justice and mercy, ministries collaborate in ventures of service with other groups and agencies to express **God's grace and love.**
 - c. Serving with the Anglican Church of Canada whenever possible, and strengthening connections to ecumenical and interfaith partnerships, witnessing mutual respect and good stewardship.
 - d. We express and develop a culture of caring conversations, encouragement, hopeful opportunity, and accountability.
 - e. Creative and co-operative experiments are initiated and supported throughout the Synod.
 - f. We work with congregations and ministries of the Synod, other Synods, the ELCIC, and through the ELCIC with International partners.
 - g. We will focus on abiding in right relations with Indigenous Peoples.
 - h. We walk with and learn from our Companion Synod, The Evangelical Lutheran Church of Colombia (IELCO).

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 16, 2016
 June 18, 2016
 August 12, 2016 (electronic)
 September 16-18, 2016
 October 27, 2016 (electronic)
 December 15, 2016 (electronic)
 March 9-11, 2017
 April 18, 2017 (electronic)
 September 1, 2017 (electronic)
 September 21-23, 2017
 March 8-10, 2018
 March 20, 2018 (electronic)
 May 7, 2018 (electronic)

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

August 23, 2016
October 18, 2016
December 8, 2016
January 24, 2017
February 23, 2017
May 4, 2017
June 9, 2017
August 29, 2017
October 10, 2017
November 21, 2017
December 8, 2017 (Conference call)
January 16, 2018
February 13, 2018
March 27, 2018
May 9, 2018

B. Appointments

MSC SC16-34 That the Ven. Alan T. Perry, Executive Archdeacon, Diocese of Edmonton be appointed as Full Communion representative on Synod Council.

MSC SC16-37 That Shae Belanger be appointed East Central Conference - Lay representative to the Synod Council for a two-year term.

MSC SC16-41 That the appointees as ABT Synod Delegates to National Convention be approved as presented.

MSC SC16-44 That Mark Ree be appointed to the Constitutional Review Committee.

MSC SC16-45 That Rev. Reg Berg, Rev. Dr. Deborah Ann Taylor, Terrie Coombs and Wayne Street be appointed as **representatives on the Bishop's Performance Review** Committee.

MSC SC16-47 That Walter Alksne, Redeemer Lutheran, Hanna, be appointed as replacement ABT delegate to the National Convention (lay) from the Southern Conference.

MSC SC16-48 That Rev. Kathy Calkins, Peace, Innisfail, be appointed by Synod Council as replacement ABT Delegate to National Convention (rostered).

MSC SC18-17 That Paul Ellison be appointed Synod Treasurer to complete the term of Stephen Wildfang.

C. Roster Status

MSC SC16-36: That Diaconal Minister Sarah Rudd be issued a Call to Special Service - Chaplain with The Good Samaritan Society

MSC SC16-49 That Rev. Susan Horton be granted retired status effective January 18, 2017.

MSC SC16-50 That Rev. Lester Skonnord be issued a Call to Special Service – Chaplain, Part-time with the Good Samaritan Society as of November 14, 2016.

MSC SC17-17 That the following changes listed to the Roster Status be accepted as recommended:

- The Rev. Judy Jarvis to retired.
- The Rev. Jim Appleby – Removed from the Roster
- The Rev. Ryan Andersen – OLC 3
- The Rev. John Boyd – OLC 2
- Diaconal Minister Lorraine Schrader – OLC 2
- Diaconal Minister Wendy Coughlan – OLC 1

MSC SC17-23 That Rev. Thomas Peterson be granted retired status as of July 1, 2017.

MSC SC17-24 That Colin Millang be approved for ordination pending completion of studies, and receipt and acceptance of a call.

MSC SC17-25 That Sarah Mowat be approved for ordination pending completion of studies, and receipt and acceptance of a call.

MSC SC17-26 That Jailyne Corbin be approved for ordination pending completion of studies, and receipt and acceptance of a call.

MSC SC17-27 That Bev Swanson be approved for ordination pending completion of studies, and receipt and acceptance of a call.

MSC SC17-38 That Rev. Ryan Andersen be granted a Call to Special Service – Metro Alliance for the Common Good, Calgary

MSC SC18-10 That the following changes listed to the Roster Status be accepted as recommended:

- The Rev. John Boyd – OLC 3
- Diaconal Minister Lorraine Schrader – OLC 3
- Diaconal Minister Wendy Coughlan – OLC 2
- Diaconal Minister Melissa May – OLC 1
- Rev. Hilde Lorenz – OLC 1
- Rev. Dr. Marc Jerry – OLC 1

MSC SC18-11 That Rev. Sigmar Reichel be granted retired status effective March 1, 2018.

D. Administrative Decisions

MSC SC17-16 **That Synod Council accept the Bishop's Performance Review report and the recommendations regarding remuneration included therein.**

MSC SC17-18 That the updated Convention Manual be accepted as presented.

MSC SC17-19 That the Synod Council establish a Synodical Leadership Award.

MSC SC17-20 That the ABT Synod Campus Ministry Team Manual be accepted as presented.

MSC SC17-21 That a maximum of \$30,000 be allocated from the Ratz Fund for the five 2017 Planned Giving events to be held throughout the Synod.

MSC SC18-03 That Rev. Anna Thede be nominated to Convention for election as Synod Council Secretary.

MSC SC18-04 That Rev. Doug Heine be nominated to convention to continue as Rostered representative on the Board of Governors of the Lutheran Theological Seminary, Saskatoon.

MSC SC18-05 That Allyn Langager be the recipient of The Synod of Alberta and the Territories Leadership Award at Convention.

MSC SC18-08 That in lieu of an increase in salary for 2018, Bishop Larry be allowed to take up to 10 extra days off at his discretion.

MSC SC18-09 **That the Bishop's Performance Review Committee be given thanks for their work.**

MSC SC18-12 That The Synod of Alberta and the **Territories Leadership Award be renamed "The Synod of Alberta and the Territories *Stephen D. Wildfang Leadership Award.*"**

MSC SC18-14 That the Synod Convention – Opening Eucharist offering be divided between LWF Endowment **Fund and Bishop's Discretionary Fund.**

MSC SC18-15 That \$20,000 of the Boren Estate for **Ministry in the North be forwarded to On Eagles' Wings.**

MSC SC18-16 That the Executive Officers explore with ELFEC (Evangelical Lutheran Foundation of Eastern Canada) and the Edmonton Community Foundation the creation of a Fund for Ministry in the North with the remaining funds

from the Boren Estate. A percentage of the investment income is to be received for Trinity Lutheran, Whitehorse; Holy Family Lutheran, Yellowknife; and for the Synod for future ministry opportunities in the North.

MSC SC18-18 That the Synod Constitution be presented for 2nd reading at the Synod Convention.

MSC SC18-19 That the Synod Bylaws be presented at the Synod Convention for consideration and approval.

Treasurer's Report

Financial highlights

Dear Friends in Christ.

As many of you are aware, much has happened in the last few months at the Synod. Specifically related to the Treasurer position, we have all been saddened and deeply affected by the passing of Stephen Wildfang in March of 2018. Stephen devoted over 27 years of service as Treasurer of the Synod and had a deep-rooted knowledge of everything pertaining to the position. As a result of the timing of his passing there are some items which have not been completed in time for this written report.

In the past, Stephen put many hours into preparing the drafted financial statements together for the auditors to report on. This year, the auditors have had the additional task of preparing the financial statements before preparing an audited report. As such, at the time I am writing this, the 2017 audited financial statements have not been completed in their entirety. Synod Council has approved the 2016 audited financial statements however, the 2017 audited financials will need to be approved by Synod Council prior to the convention. They will then be posted on the Synod website with the already posted Bulletin of Reports. At convention I will be able to provide details of the 2017 audited reports.

There are however, some items that I wish to bring to your attention:

- Due to the decreased Benevolence in 2017 as compared to 2016, salaries for Synod Staff were frozen at 2017 levels for the 2018 calendar year.
- Due to limited information and the given circumstances, Council Executive have agreed not to prepare a 2019 operating budget until all relevant information is available. The 2019 operating budget will be approved by Synod **Council in the fall of 2018 at the Synod Council's** regular meeting. It is expected that the budget will remain similar to prior years taking into account the decrease in Benevolence receipts expected. It should be noted that there is no requirement that an operating budget be presented for the convention
- Registration fees for the 2019 ELCIC National Convention are expected to be \$30,100 which is only a \$900 increase from 2017. Additionally, our Synod will elect one more rostered leader to the 2019 ELCIC National Convention (15 Lay, 2 Youth, 11 Rostered Ministers)

- Synod Council wishes to extend a Thank You to the five Areas within the Synod for continuing to gather and forward funds to the Synod to offset the cost for the National Conventions. Following the 2018 synod convention, and the 2019 national convention, we will enter a three-year cycle for conventions (2021 synod convention and 2022 national convention) which will mean an additional year to gather funds for the national convention.

As the new Treasurer I would ask that you keep me in your prayers during this time of time of transition.

Your servant in Christ,

Paul Ellison, CPA, CGA

Synod of Alberta and the Territories - DRAFT Constitution

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Article I NAME and INCORPORATION
Article II TERRITORY
Article III CONFESSION of FAITH
Article IV MISSION
Article V MEMBERSHIP
Article VI CONGREGATIONS
Article VII SYNODICALLY RECOGNIZED MINISTRIES
Article VIII VIII ROSTERED MINISTERS – ORDAINED
Article IX IX ROSTERED MINISTERS – DIACONAL
Article X X FULL COMMUNION PROVISIONS
Article XI XI AREAS
Article XII XII CONVENTIONS
Article XIII XIII SYNOD COUNCIL
Article XIV XIV SYNOD OFFICERS
Article XV XV THE OFFICE of the BISHOP
Article XVI XVI COMMITTEES
Article XVII XVII THEOLOGICAL INSTITUTIONS
Article XVIII AUXILIARIES
Article XVIII BYLAWS
Article XIX AMENDMENTS

Existing ABT Constitution - 2016	Proposal
<p>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.</p>	<p>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 <u>(hereafter referred to as this synod).</u></p>
<p>Section 2. The synod shall be incorporated under the laws of Alberta.</p>	<p>Section 2. <u>This</u> synod shall be incorporated under the laws of Alberta.</p>
<p>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.</p>	<p>Section 3. The seal of <u>this</u> 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.</p>

Existing ABT Constitution - 2016	Proposal
<p>ARTICLE II</p> <p>Territory</p> <p>The Territory of this synod shall be the province of Alberta plus the Yukon Territory, the Northwest Territories and Nunavut.</p>	No change
<p>ARTICLE III</p> <p>Confession of Faith</p> <p>Section 1.</p> <p>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>	No change possible
<p>Section 2.</p> <p>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>	No change possible
<p>Section 3.</p> <p>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>	No change possible
<p>Section 4.</p> <p>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. 	No change possible

Existing ABT Constitution - 2016	Proposal
<p>ARTICLE IV Mission Section 1.</p> <p>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, and by engaging in other forms of ministry which proclaim God's Word and serve to bring reconciliation to the world.</p>	<p>ARTICLE IV Mission Section 1.</p> <p>As the regional expression of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada (<u>hereafter referred to as <i>this church</i></u>), 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 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.</p>
<p>Section 2.</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>Section 2.</p> <p>The mission of this church, as an expression of the universal <u>Church</u> 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.</p>
<p>ARTICLE V Membership Section 1.</p> <p>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 Section 1.</p> <p>The membership of <u>this</u> 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.</p> <p>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>
<p>Section 2.</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>Section 2.</p> <p><u>This</u> 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 <u>this church</u>.</p>
<p>Section 3.</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>Section 3.</p> <p>Additional congregations may be recognized by <u>this</u> synod acting on behalf of this church in the manner described in the constitution and bylaws of this church.</p>

Existing ABT Constitution - 2016	Proposal
<p>Section 4.</p> <p>The synod may revoke its recognition of any congregation in the manner described in the constitution and bylaws of this Church.</p>	<p>Section 4.</p> <p>This synod may revoke its recognition of any congregation or synodically recognized ministry in the manner described in the constitution and bylaws of this <u>church</u>.</p>
<p>ARTICLE VI</p> <p>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</p> <p>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 <u>church</u> and of <u>this</u> synod.</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>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 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 <u>church</u> 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 <u>church</u>.</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 <u>rostered minister</u> resigns, the congregational council shall receive the resignation, report it to the congregation and notify the bishop of <u>this</u> synod.</p>

Existing ABT Constitution - 2016	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 <u>this</u> 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 their congregation may appeal to <u>this</u> 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>Section 10. Procedures for Withdrawing A congregation desiring to withdraw from this church shall notify the <u>bishop of this synod</u>. Decision to withdraw must be approved by a two- thirds majority vote at a <u>properly</u> called and conducted meeting and immediately reported to the <u>bishop of this synod</u>. 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 <u>properly</u> called and conducted meeting <u>shall be</u> held not less than 90 days and not more than <u>150</u> 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 <u>this</u> synod of which it was a part to be defunct. <u>This</u> 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>ARTICLE VII Synodically Recognized Ministries Section 1. This synod shall maintain a roster of synodically recognized ministries.</p>

Existing ABT Constitution - 2016	Proposal
	Section 2. Synodically recognized ministries shall be entitled to representation at conventions of this synod with seat and voice.
	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.
	Section 4. A lay member of any synodically recognized ministry who is under discipline by their synodically recognized ministry may appeal to this synod in the manner described in the bylaws of this synod.
ARTICLE VII Ordained Ministers Section 1. The synod shall have a roster of ordained ministers.	ARTICLE VIII Ordained Ministers Rostered Ministers – Ordained Section 1. The synod shall <u>maintain</u> a roster of ordained ministers.
Section 2. The standards of acceptance and continuance on the roster of ordained ministers shall be defined in the bylaws of the synod.	Section 2. The standards of acceptance admission and continuance on the roster of ordained ministers shall be defined in the bylaws of <u>this</u> synod.
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.	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. An ordained minister shall conduct themselves in accordance with the constitution, bylaws and policies of this synod and of this church.

Existing ABT Constitution - 2016	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 <u>maintain</u> 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.</p>
	<p>Section 3. A diaconal minister shall conduct themselves 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 <u>church</u>.</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. <u>This</u> 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 <u>this</u> 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 <u>this</u> 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>Section 2. Conventions of this synod shall be held according to times, policies, and procedures as described in the bylaws of <u>this</u> synod.</p>

Existing ABT Constitution - 2016	Proposal
<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 <u>this</u> synod and shall carry out all normal functions and responsibilities on behalf of <u>this</u> synod in accordance with the constitution, the bylaws and resolutions of <u>this</u> synod in convention.</p>
<p>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.</p>	<p>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. The council of this synod shall consist of officers and members, all whom shall be members in good standing of congregations or synodically recognized ministries. They shall be elected or appointed according to procedures defined in the bylaws of <u>this</u> synod. Synod Council may appoint a replacement member to fill a vacancy between conventions.</p>
<p>Section 3. The terms of the elected members shall begin the first day of the third month following election.</p>	<p>No change</p>
<p>Section 4. The bishop shall be an ex officio member of Synod Council.</p>	<p>Section 4. The bishop <u>of this synod</u> shall be an ex officio member of Synod Council.</p>
<p>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.</p>	<p>ARTICLE XIV Officers Section 1. The officers of <u>this</u> synod shall be the chairperson, the secretary and the treasurer. Two of the three officers shall be lay members of <u>this</u> synod.</p>
<p>Section 2. The duties of the officers shall be defined in the bylaws of the synod.</p>	<p>Section 2. The duties of the officers shall be defined in the bylaws of <u>this</u> synod.</p>
<p>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.</p>	<p>Section 3. The officers shall be elected by the synod convention according to procedures defined in the bylaws of <u>this</u> synod. All officers shall serve until their successors assume office.</p>
<p>Section 4. Synod Council may appoint a replacement officer to fill a vacancy between conventions.</p>	<p>No change</p>

Existing ABT Constitution - 2016	Proposal
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.	Section 6. The recall or dismissal of an officer of <u>this</u> synod shall follow the procedure set out in the constitution and bylaws of this church.
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.	Section 7. Synod Council may extend a call to an assistant to an officer to serve as an assistant in accordance with procedures defined in the bylaws of <u>this</u> synod. Such persons shall be ineligible for membership on Synod Council.
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 <u>of this synod</u> shall be a pastor and counselor to all pastors rostered ministers and lay members of <u>this</u> 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, synodically recognized ministries, specialized ministries, pastors rostered ministers and institutions of <u>this</u> synod.
Section 2. The bishop shall be the chief executive officer of the synod, and an ex officio member of all committees of the synod.	Section 2. The bishop <u>of this synod</u> shall be the chief executive officer of <u>this</u> synod, and an ex officio member of all ministry teams and committees of <u>this</u> synod.
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.	Section 3. The bishop <u>of this synod</u> as the chief executive officer of <u>this</u> 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.
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.	Section 4. The authority to elect and call a bishop shall rest with <u>this</u> 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.

Existing ABT Constitution - 2016	Proposal
<p>Section 5.</p> <p>All synod staff and staff committees shall be accountable to the bishop. The bishop may delegate responsibility to other staff as deemed appropriate.</p>	<p>Section 5.</p> <p>All synod staff and staff committees shall be accountable to the bishop <u>of this synod</u>. The bishop <u>of this synod</u> may delegate responsibility to other staff as deemed appropriate.</p>
<p>ARTICLE XV</p> <p>Committees</p> <p>Section 1.</p> <p>Synod Council shall have authority to establish such committees deemed necessary for the mission of the synod.</p>	<p>ARTICLE XVI</p> <p>Committees</p> <p>Section 1.</p> <p>Synod Council shall have authority to establish such committees deemed necessary for the mission of <u>this</u> synod.</p>
	<p>Section 2.</p> <p>Terms of reference for, and membership on, any committee shall be defined in the bylaws of <u>this</u> synod or in the Policies of the Governance Manual of Synod Council.</p>
<p>ARTICLE XVI</p> <p>Theological Institutions</p> <p>Section 1.</p> <p>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</p> <p>Theological Institutions</p> <p>Section 1.</p> <p>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>	<p>No change</p>
<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>b. The board may, in consultation with <u>this</u> 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>c. the term of office for each member of the board shall be four years except in the following cases:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. 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 	<p>c. The term of office for each member of the board shall be four three years except in the following cases:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. 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

Existing ABT Constitution - 2016	Proposal
or four years, so spaced that one-half of the membership of the board shall be elected each biennium.	three or six years, so spaced that one-half of the membership of the board shall be elected each biennium triennium.
d. Members of the board shall be eligible to serve for not more than two consecutive terms.	No change
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.	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.
f. The board shall make an annual report to the regular convention of the synod.	f. The board shall make an annual report to the regular convention of this synod.
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.	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.
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.	No change
Section 2. Bylaws relating to convention procedure may be suspended by a two-thirds vote of the delegates present and voting.	No change
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.	No change

Existing ABT Constitution - 2016	Proposal
<p>Section 2. Amendments to this constitution shall be in writing and may be proposed by either</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> the National Church Council the Synod Council, a congregation of the synod, or ten delegates 	<p>Section 2. Amendments to this constitution shall be in writing and may be proposed by: either</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> the National Church Council; the Synod Council; a congregation of <u>this</u> synod if such proposal was first approved at a <u>properly</u> called and conducted congregational meeting; or ten convention delegates.
<p>Section 3.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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 <u>this</u> synod at least one month prior to the second reading.</p> <p>Further amendment at the second reading shall require unanimous consent. Such amendments shall be effective upon ratification by the <u>National Church Council of the</u> Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada. in convention or by its National Church Council.</p>

Synod of Alberta and the Territories - DRAFT Bylaws

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Part I ~~Headquarters~~ Offices

Part II Organizational Relationships

Part III ~~Ordained Minister/Congregation Relationship~~ Rostered Minister - Ordained

Part IV ~~Diaconal Ministers~~ Rostered Minister - Diaconal

Part V Conventions

Part VI Nominations and Elections of Delegates to the National Church Convention Part VII

Synod Council

Part VIII Synod Officers

Part IX ~~Duties of the Bishop~~ The Synod Bishop

Part X Synod Council Standing Committees

Existing ABT Synod Bylaws - 2016	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 council of this synod council.</p>
<p>Part II Organizational Relationships Section 1. Congregation (Constitution, Article VI) 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) In relating to congregations within its territory, the this 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>b. Congregations may petition the this synod according to the procedures set forth in these bylaws, Part V, Section 8.</p>

Existing ABT Synod Bylaws - 2016	Proposed Bylaws
	<p>A lay member of a congregation who wishes to appeal discipline imposed by the congregation on that member shall appeal in writing to the bishop of this synod within thirty (30) days after the disciplinary action has been taken. The appellant shall send copies of the appeal to the rostered minister and to the secretary of the congregation. The bishop of this synod shall appoint a special committee to investigate the appeal. The decision of the committee shall be reported to the appellant, the rostered minister and secretary of the congregation, and to the bishop of this synod. The decision of the committee shall be final.</p>
	<p>Section 2. Synodically Recognized Ministries Synodically recognized ministries are groups and organizations other than congregations who promote and implement the mission of this church.</p>
	<p>This synod may organize, recognize, receive, release and exclude synodically recognized ministries within its geographical boundaries.</p>
	<p>A lay member of a synodically recognized ministry who wishes to appeal discipline imposed by the synodically recognized ministry on that member shall appeal in writing to the bishop of this synod 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 of this synod 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 of this synod. The decision of the committee shall be final.</p>
<p>Section 2. Conferences (Constitution, Article IX) The synod shall be divided into five conferences as follows: East Central, Northern, Southern, Southwestern and West Central. 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) The synod shall be divided into five conferences as follows: East Central, Northern, Southern, Southwestern and West Central. 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 and Area Leadership Teams Areas are groups of congregations, synodically recognized ministries and specialized ministries that work together in mission led by an area leadership team.</p>

Existing ABT Synod Bylaws - 2016	Proposed Bylaws
	The council of this synod, in consultation with the bishop of this synod, shall determine the number of areas and their geographical boundaries.
. The bishop of the synod or the bishop's appointee shall attend the conference meetings.	The bishop of the synod or the bishop's appointee shall attend the conference meetings.
	The council of this synod, in consultation with the bishop of this synod, shall appoint an area leadership team for each area based on gifts for leadership. Area leadership teams shall consist of one youth (up to thirty years of age), two lay and two rostered leaders (one of whom shall be appointed dean) and a treasurer who may or may not be a member of the area leadership team.
<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>e. The role of the area leadership team is to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Develop a discerning, learning community within the area who seek to follow where God leads; ii. Strive to be an expression and catalyst of this synod's mission priorities in the area; iii. Encourage and equip congregations and ministries within the area to collaborate and implement the mission priorities of this synod; iv. Annually arrange, together with synod staff, for continuing education opportunities for rostered and lay leaders to support and encourage learning and collaborative area ministries; v. Encourage networking and mutual support among rostered and lay leaders; vi. Provide pastoral support to area rostered ministers as required. vii. Maintain contact with the bishop of this synod; viii. Serve as the bishop's representative, as requested, at installations, assisting with the call process, and conducting exit interviews;

Existing ABT Synod Bylaws - 2016	Proposed Bylaws
	<p>ix. Provide recommendations to the bishop of this synod and synod council regarding the appointment of area leadership team members.</p>
<p>d. A conference may adopt for itself any rules and regulations not in conflict with the constitution and bylaws of the synod.</p>	<p>d. A conference may adopt for itself any rules and regulations not in conflict with the constitution and bylaws of the synod.</p> <p>f. Area leadership teams shall report to the bishop of this synod annually or as requested by the bishop.</p>
<p>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.</p>	<p>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.</p> <p>g. 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 of this synod may appoint a replacement to complete the term.</p>
<p>f. Each conference shall have the right to petition the synod according to procedures set forth in these bylaws, Part V, Section 8.</p>	<p>f. Each conference shall have the right to petition the synod according to procedures set forth in these bylaws, Part V, Section 8.</p>
<p>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.</p>	<p>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.</p>
<p>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.</p>	<p>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.</p>
<p>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.</p>	<p>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.</p>

Existing ABT Synod Bylaws - 2016	Proposed Bylaws
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.
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.	h. The deans of the conferences area leadership team deans and the bishop of this synod 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.
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.	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.
Section 3. Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada (Constitution, Article V) In relating to the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada, the synod shall: 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.	Section 3.4. Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada (Constitution, Article V) In relating to the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada, the synod shall: 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.
Section 4. Theological Institutions (Constitution, Article XV) 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.	Section 4. 5. Theological Institutions (Constitution, Article XV) 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 rostered representative from each of those synods, and one clergy rostered and two lay representatives appointed by this Church church. Advisory members are the president of the Lutheran Theological Seminary and the national staff person assigned to relate to theological institutions.
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.	In relating to Lutheran Theological Seminary, Saskatoon, the this synod in convention shall elect two members one rostered minister and one lay person to the Lutheran Theological Seminary Board of Governors, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan according to the terms determined by the seminary.
Part III Ordained Minister/Congregation Relationship (Constitution, Article VII) Section 1.	Part III Ordained Minister/Congregation Relationship Rostered Minister – Ordained (Constitution, Articles VII) Section 1.

Existing ABT Synod Bylaws - 2016	Proposed Bylaws
Ordination of approved candidates shall take place at a time and place designated by the bishop.	Ordination of approved candidates shall take place at a time and place designated by the bishop of this synod.
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.	Section 2. The This 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 of this synod due to unusual circumstances.
	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, this synod or this church itself. Before issuing the call, the calling agency shall consult with the bishop of this synod.
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.	Section 3 4. A minister shall inform the congregational council and the bishop of this synod immediately upon receipt of a call to another ministry and shall inform the calling agency and the bishop of this synod same 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.
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.	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 of this synod 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 of this synod shall be advised for follow up action.
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: 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	Section 5 6. When no term is specified, A regular call accepted by an ordained A regular call accepted by an ordained minister to a congregation shall constitute a relationship which may be terminated only for the following causes: a. The Resignation of the minister; b. The Disqualification of the minister as a result of discipline; c. The Division, dissolution or realignment of the

Existing ABT Synod Bylaws - 2016	Proposed Bylaws
<p>e. The continued neglect of ministry by the minister</p> <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>pastoral charge;</p> <p>d. The physical or mental incapacity of the minister Incapacity of the minister, either physical or mental;</p> <p>e. The Continued neglect of ministry by the minister; or</p> <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>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.</p>	<p>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.</p> <p>g. Where the conditions set out in Section 6 d, e, f, are alleged the bishop of this synod 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 of this synod shall appoint an advisory committee to investigate.</p>
<p>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.</p>	<p>h. The bishop of this synod may, with the concurrence of the congregational council, suspend the minister from ministerial duties pending the outcome of the formal proceedings when circumstances warrant.</p>
<p>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.</p>	<p>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 of this synod 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 of this synod shall take steps to enable the minister to resume ministry in the congregation last served or in another ministry.</p>
<p>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</p>	<p>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 of this synod, 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</p>

Existing ABT Synod Bylaws - 2016	Proposed Bylaws
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.	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 and conducted 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.
<p>Section 6.</p> <p>Between called ministers an interim minister shall be appointed by the bishop in consultation with the congregational council in accordance with procedures set 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>Section 6. 7.</p> <p>Between called ministers an interim minister shall be appointed by the bishop of this synod in consultation with the congregational council in accordance with procedures set 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 they are is serving as interim unless provision for a call is stated within the interim contract. Interim ministers or ministers providing occasional pulpit supply during an interim shall refrain from exerting influence in the call process.</p>
	<p>Section 6. 8.</p> <p>A minister shall preach the Word, administer the Sacraments of Holy Communion and Holy Baptism, and conduct public worship in harmony with the faith and practices of the church; equip, train, and mentor all God's people for ministry, in all areas of spiritual renewal and faith formation; confirm and marry in accordance with the teaching of this church and with the laws of the province or territory, visit the sick and distressed and bury the dead; strive for righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance, and gentleness; install members of the congregational council and, with the council, administer discipline; seek out and encourage qualified persons to prepare for rostered ministry; encourage the members to be generous in support of the ministry of the congregation, this synod and this church; commend members who move to the pastoral care of the parish in which their new home is located; and, participate, if applicable, in the synodical First Call Program for newly ordained ministers in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada.</p>
<p>Section 7.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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>

Existing ABT Synod Bylaws - 2016	Proposed Bylaws
<p>Section 8.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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 this 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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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. 11.</p> <p>All rostered ministers serving under call are expected to attend all conventions of the this synod and the meetings of the conferences areas to which they belong.</p>
<p>Part IV</p> <p>Diaconal Ministers (Constitution, Article VIII)</p> <p>(As defined by this Church)</p>	<p>Part IV</p> <p>Diaconal Ministers Rostered Minister - Diaconal (Constitution, Article VIII)</p> <p>(As defined by this Church)</p> <p>Section 1.</p> <p>Consecration of approved candidates shall take place at a time and place designated by the bishop of this synod.</p>
	<p>Section 2.</p> <p>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 of this synod due to unusual circumstances.</p>
	<p>Section 3.</p> <p>Each diaconal 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, this synod or this church itself. Before issuing the call, the calling agency shall consult with the bishop of this synod.</p>
	<p>Section 4.</p> <p>A diaconal minister under call shall inform the congregational council or calling agency and the bishop of this synod immediately upon receipt of a call to another ministry and shall inform the same of any decision made within thirty days unless an extension is granted by</p>

Existing ABT Synod Bylaws - 2016	Proposed Bylaws
	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>Section 5.</p> <p>If a conflict arises within a congregation that cannot be resolved internally, the minister or the council chairperson shall notify the bishop of this synod 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 diaconal minister(s), the congregational council, or one quarter of the members in good standing of the congregation.</p> <p>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 of this synod shall be advised for follow up action.</p>
	<p>Section 6.</p> <p>A regular call accepted by a diaconal minister to a congregation shall constitute a relationship which may be terminated only for the following causes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Resignation of the diaconal minister; b. Disqualification of the diaconal minister as a result of discipline; c. Division of the pastoral charge; d. Incapacity of the diaconal minister, either physical or mental; e. Continued neglect of ministry by the diaconal minister; or f. 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 diaconal minister. g. Where the conditions set out in Section 6 d, e, f, are alleged the bishop of this synod 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 of this synod shall appoint an advisory committee to investigate. h. The bishop of this synod may, with the concurrence of the congregational council, suspend the diaconal minister from ministerial duties pending the outcome of the formal proceedings. i. The advisory committee shall secure medical testimony to confirm or refute an allegation of

Existing ABT Synod Bylaws - 2016	Proposed Bylaws
	<p>physical or mental disability. If incapacity is confirmed, the bishop of this synod may, on the advice of the committee and with the concurrence of the congregational council, declare the position vacant. Should the diaconal minister be restored to health, the bishop shall take steps to enable the diaconal minister to resume ministry in the congregation last served or in another ministry.</p> <p>j. The advisory committee shall provide an opportunity for all concerned parties to be heard. At the conclusion of the investigation, the bishop of this synod, in company with the committee, shall bring recommendations to the diaconal 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 diaconal 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.</p> <p>A diaconal minister shall exemplify the life of Christ-like service in a manner informed by the Word of God in a public ministry of witness to the Gospel; demonstrate competence and expertise in their particular discipline, making connections between the church and the world, extending the witness of the church into the larger community; in cooperation with other leaders, lay and rostered, lead and equip the baptized for ministry, discerning, encouraging and supporting in others their own gifts; give particular attention to ministries at the boundaries between church and world, speaking for the needs of God's world to the church as well as applying God's saving gospel to the needs of the world through the actions of God's people both individually and collectively; be grounded in community with other diaconal ministers committed to a common calling which serves as a reminder and model for building community in all ministry settings; and, participate, if applicable, in the synodical First Call Program for newly consecrated ministers in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada.</p>
	<p>Section 8.</p> <p>All diaconal ministers serving under call are expected to attend all conventions of this synod and the meetings of the areas to which they belong.</p>

Existing ABT Synod Bylaws - 2016	Proposed Bylaws
<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>Section 2. The secretary of this synod shall publish the time and place of each regular convention at least six months in advance. The secretary of this synod shall send out a bulletin of reports to all voting members at least thirty (30) days before each regular convention.</p>
<p>Section 3. The voting membership of conventions shall consist of:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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. Ordained ministers on the roster of the synod; Diaconal ministers on the roster of the synod; and All lay members of synod council. 	<p>Section 3. The voting membership of conventions shall consist of:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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; Ordained ministers on the roster of the this synod; Diaconal ministers on the roster of the this synod; and All lay members of synod council.
<p>Section 4. At least sixty days prior to the opening day of the convention,</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Each congregation shall submit the name(s) and address(es) of its lay delegates to the synod secretary, and Each ordained and diaconal minister, active, non-parish, and retired, shall submit their name and address to the synod secretary. 	<p>Section 4. At least sixty days prior to the opening day of the convention,</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Each congregation shall submit the name(s) and address(es) of its lay delegates to the synod secretary; and Each ordained and diaconal rostered minister, active, non-parish, and retired, shall submit their name and address to the synod secretary of this synod.
<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> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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, Chairpersons of synodical committees in connection with their reports, Representatives of institutions and agencies related to or officially recognized by the synod, and the presidents of the synodical units of the official auxiliaries of this Church. 	<p>Section 6. Seat and voice at conventions shall be granted to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> The bishop Bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada and such other official representatives of this Church church as may be designated by the national church council; Chairpersons of synodical committees and of ministry teams in connection with their reports; Representatives of institutions and agencies related to or officially recognized by the synod, and Representatives chosen by synodically recognized ministries of this synod; and The presidents of the synodical units of the official auxiliaries of this Church.

Existing ABT Synod Bylaws - 2016	Proposed Bylaws
	d. Official guests, upon invitation of the council of this synod.
Section 7. All arrangements for worship services or public meetings shall be made in consultation with the bishop.	No change.
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.	Section 8. Congregations and conferences may petition the this synod in convention by submitting the petition in writing to the secretary of the this 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 Reference and Counsel Committee for presentation to the convention.
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.	Section 9. The council of this synod council shall approve the convention budget which will include the participation of all delegates – lay, ordained and diaconal and rostered. Convention costs shall be shared among the congregations by dividing the total convention costs by the total number of confirmed members in the this synod times the number of confirmed members last reported by each congregation.
Section 10. Special Conventions 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: 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.	Section 10. Special Conventions a. Special conventions for specified purposes shall be called by the chairperson of the this synod within ninety days of receiving in writing a request for such a convention from: i. The council of this synod council by at least a two-thirds majority vote; or ii. One-fifth of the congregations of the this synod and one-fifth of the ordained rostered ministers under call on its roster.
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.	b. The secretary of this synod shall give written notice of a special convention to each congregation, each synodically recognized ministry and 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.
c. The voting members at a special convention shall consist of: 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	c. The voting members at a special convention shall consist of: 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 properly called and

Existing ABT Synod Bylaws - 2016	Proposed Bylaws
<p>meeting. Vacancies thus filled shall be reported to the secretary of the synod not less than five days before the special convention.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ii. Ordained ministers on the roster of the synod at the time of the special convention; and iii. Diaconal ministers on the roster of the synod at the time of the special convention. 	<p>conducted congregational meeting. Vacancies thus filled shall be reported to the secretary of the this synod not less than five days before the special convention;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ii. Lay council members of this synod; and, ii. iii. Ordained Rostered ministers on the roster of the this synod at the time of the special convention.; and iii. iv. Diaconal ministers on the roster of the synod at the time of the special convention.
<p>Section 11. Nominations and Elections (Constitution, Articles XI-XIV)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. The convention shall elect synod council members, officers of the synod, and the bishop in the following manner: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. The committee on nominations shall nominate at least two persons for each synod council position. 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>Section 11. Nominations and Elections (Constitution, Articles XI-XIV)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. The convention shall elect synod council members, officers of the this synod, and the bishop of this synod in the following manner: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. The committee on nominations shall nominate at least two persons for each synod council position. 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.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> iii. b. The council of this synod Synod council shall nominate the secretary and the treasurer. Nominations for chairperson of this synod shall be made by secret ballot without oral nomination. Nominations for two of the three synod officer positions shall be limited to lay persons.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> iv. c. Nomination for bishop of this synod 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 church.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> v. All elections shall be by secret ballot. vi. In all elections, except for the offices of the bishop and chairperson, a majority of the votes cast shall elect. vii. The election of the bishop and the chairperson shall be held on alternate convention years. 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. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> v. d. All elections shall be by secret ballot. vi. e. In all elections, except for the offices of the bishop of this synod and chairperson of this synod, a majority of the votes cast shall elect. vii. f. The election of the bishop of this synod and the chairperson of this synod shall be held on alternate convention years. viii. g. If an election does not occur on a first ballot for any position except that of the bishop of this synod and the chairperson of this synod, voting on a second ballot shall be limited to the two persons receiving the highest number of votes cast on the first ballot.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ix. The election of the bishop and the chairperson shall be by secret ballot without oral nomination, and shall proceed in the following manner: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. On the first ballot, three-fourths of the votes cast shall elect. If the first ballot does not result in an election, it shall be considered a 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ix. h. The election of the bishop of this synod and the chairperson of this synod shall be by secret ballot without oral nomination, and shall proceed in the following manner: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. i. On the first ballot, three-fourths of the votes cast shall elect. If the first ballot does not result in an election, it

Existing ABT Synod Bylaws - 2016	Proposed Bylaws
<p>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>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. i. 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>b. j. Election of synodical representatives to the Lutheran Theological Seminary shall proceed as follows:</p> <p>1. i. The council of this 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. Normally, nominations will be presented in such a way that representation reflects gender balance.</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>3. iii. Normally, nominations will be presented in such a way that representation reflects gender balance. will reflect the diversity of this church.</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>e. k. 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 this synod, members of synodically recognized ministries of this 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>

Existing ABT Synod Bylaws - 2016	Proposed Bylaws
<p>Section 12.</p> <p>The convention procedures shall be published in a convention manual approved by the synod council.</p>	<p>No change</p>
<p>Part VI</p> <p>Nominations and Elections of Delegates to the National Church Convention</p> <p>Section 1. Nominations for Delegates</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Six months in advance of a synod convention at which delegates to a national convention will be elected, the secretary of the 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 will take place. There will be no nominations from the floor for delegates to national convention during the synod convention. 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. c. Eligible nominees shall be: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. rostered members who are members in good standing of a congregation within the existing conference boundary; ii. lay members in good standing in a congregation within the existing conference boundary; iii. youth members in good standing of a congregation of this synod who will be between the ages of 16 and 25 inclusive on the first full day of the next national convention. 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 the 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 who will serve as delegate. 	<p>Part VI</p> <p>Nominations and Elections of Delegates to the National Church Convention</p> <p>Section 1. Nominations for Delegates</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Six months in advance of a synod convention at which delegates to a national convention will be elected, the secretary of the 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 will take place. There will be no nominations from the floor for delegates to national convention during the synod convention. b. Complete information including nomination process, conference, congregational membership and biographical details must be received at the office of this synod office 30 days prior to the opening of the convention for the nomination to be accepted. Nomination forms will be available through the office of this synod office. c. Eligible nominees shall be: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. rostered members who are members in good standing of a congregation within the existing conference area boundary; ii. lay members in good standing in of a congregation within the existing conference area boundary; and iii. youth members in good standing of a congregation of this synod who will be between the ages of 16 and 25 inclusive on the first full day of the next national convention. 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 the election of more than one delegate from a congregation, with the exception of youth delegates, the elected delegates' congregation's church congregational council will be advised of the election following the synod convention by the secretary of this synod council. In consultation with the executive committee and/or the synod bishop of this synod and the elected delegates, the congregational-congregation's church council will determine who will serve as delegate.

Existing ABT Synod Bylaws - 2016	Proposed Bylaws
<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 in 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 rostered delegates will be accepted within existing conference boundaries provided:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> iii. the nomination form is signed by 10 members in good standing of ABT congregations; or iv. the nominee is endorsed by either a congregational council or a congregational annual meeting of a member congregation; or <p>g. A list of all nominees and their biographies shall be published in the convention docket.</p>	<p>e. Nominations for lay and youth delegates will be accepted within existing conference area boundaries provided:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. the nomination form is signed by 10 members in good standing of ABT synod congregations of this synod; or ii. the nominee is endorsed by either a congregational council or a congregational annual meeting of a member congregation. <p>f. Nominations for rostered delegates will be accepted within existing conference area boundaries provided:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. the nomination form is signed by 10 members in good standing of ABT congregations of this synod; or ii. the nominee is endorsed by either a congregational council or a congregational annual meeting of a member congregation. or iii. A list of all nominees and their biographies shall be published in the convention docket.
<p>Section 2. Allocation of Lay, Rostered and Youth Delegates</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. During synod convention delegates will elect two lay and one rostered national convention delegates from each of the synod's conferences (as defined in the synod bylaws). Two youth delegates shall be elected on an "at-large" basis without reference to a particular conference. 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. 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. c. Elected lay, rostered and youth delegates are eligible to attend two, but not three, consecutive national conventions. 	<p>Section 2. Allocation of Lay, Rostered and Youth Delegates</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. During synod convention delegates This synod in convention will elect two lay delegates and one rostered delegate to the national convention-delegates from each of the synod's conferences areas (as defined in the synod bylaws). Two youth delegates shall be elected on an "at-large" basis without reference to a particular conference area. If the allotted number of seventeen delegates are not elected during synod convention for any reason, the council of this synod council shall appoint the necessary number lay, rostered or youth delegate(s) at its next regularly scheduled meeting. b. Synod The council of this synod 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 human diversity, geographical and diaconal/ordained minister representation. c. Elected lay, rostered and youth delegates are eligible to attend two, but not three, consecutive national conventions.
<p>Section 3. Order of Election</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 	<p>Section 3. Order of Election</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Nominees (rostered, lay and youth) receiving the greatest number of votes on the first ballot from each conference area shall be declared elected. Where multiple positions are being filled for any one delegate category, nominees shall be declared

Existing ABT Synod Bylaws - 2016	Proposed Bylaws
highest number of votes received on the first ballot. If necessary, second ballots shall be held to break ties.	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>Section 4.</p> <p>Replacement of Delegates</p> <p>a. In cases where elected delegates are unable to attend 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>Section 4.</p> <p>Replacement of Delegates</p> <p>a. In cases where elected delegates are unable to attend the executive committee and synod bishop of this synod 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 of this synod.</p>
<p>Part VII</p> <p>Synod Council</p> <p>(Constitution, Article XI)</p> <p>Section 1.</p> <p>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</p> <p>Synod Council</p> <p>(Constitution, Article XI)</p> <p>Section 1.</p> <p>The elected membership of Synod Council the council of this synod shall consist of one ordained rostered and one lay representative from each conference area in the this Synod synod. Appointed membership shall consist of one representative of a full communion partner who is actively serving in that partner Church 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"> 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; Be the directors of the corporation and trustees for the synod; Elect executive staff if and when such positions are created by the synod in convention; 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; Fill vacancies until the next convention except as otherwise provided; Determine the fact of the incapacity of an officer of the synod according to the procedures in the constitution and bylaws of this Church; Approve candidates for call, ordination and admission to the rosters of ordained and diaconal ministers; Appoint all committees for which there is no other provision; Carry out duties in good faith with a reasonable degree of diligence, care, and skill; 	<p>Section 2. The council of this synod council shall:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Plan, coordinate, supervise and evaluate the activities of the this synod in carrying out its mission and ministry, including development of appropriate policies for the council of this synod council; Be the directors of the corporation and trustees for the this synod; Elect Hire executive staff if and when such positions are created by the this synod in convention; Issue letters of call to rostered ministers who are full-time officers or staff officials of the this synod, or who are called to special service; Fill vacancies until the next convention of this synod except as otherwise provided; Determine the fact of the incapacity of an officer of the this synod according to the procedures in the constitution and bylaws of this Church church; Approve candidates for call, ordination or consecration, and admission to the rosters of ordained and diaconal ministers; this synod's roster of ministers. Appoint all committees for which there is no other provision; Carry out duties in good faith with a reasonable degree of diligence, care, and skill;

Existing ABT Synod Bylaws - 2016	Proposed Bylaws
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> j. Expect the same standard of conduct from lay and rostered members; k. Make and enforce its own policies, including the discipline of its members; and l. Perform such additional duties as prescribed in the constitution, the bylaws, or by resolutions of the synod in convention. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> j. Expect the same standard of conduct from lay and rostered all members; k. Make and enforce its own policies, including the discipline of its members; and l. Perform such additional duties as prescribed in the constitution, the bylaws, or by resolutions of the this synod in convention.
<p>Section 3.</p> <p>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>Section 3.</p> <p>The council of this synod council shall appoint an ordained minister to assume the duties and responsibilities of the bishop of this synod in the event of the resignation, incapacity, or death of the bishop, pending the election of a new bishop of this synod at the next regular or specially called convention of this synod convention.</p>
<p>Section 4.</p> <p>The synod council shall hold at least two meetings annually.</p>	<p>Section 4.</p> <p>The council of this synod council shall hold at least two meetings annually.</p>
<p>Section 5.</p> <p>Special meetings of the synod council may be called by the bishop or chairperson of the synod when circumstances warrant.</p>	<p>Section 5.</p> <p>Special meetings of the council of this synod council may be called by the bishop of this synod or chairperson of the this synod when circumstances warrant.</p>
<p>Section 6.</p> <p>A majority of the members of the synod council shall constitute a quorum.</p>	<p>Section 6.</p> <p>A majority of the members of the council of this synod council shall constitute a quorum.</p>
<p>Part VIII Synod Officers (Constitution, Article XII)</p> <p>Section 1.</p> <p>Officers of the Synod shall serve for a term of four years, without limitation.</p>	<p>Part VIII Synod Officers (Constitution, Article XII)</p> <p>Section 1.</p> <p>Officers of the Synod this synod shall serve for a term of four six years, without limitation.</p>
<p>Section 2.</p> <p>The chairperson of the synod shall:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Convene and preside over conventions of the synod and meetings of the synod council, and b. Perform additional duties as prescribed in the synod council governance and policy manuals. 	<p>Section 2.</p> <p>The chairperson of the this synod shall:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Convene and preside over conventions of the this synod and meetings of the council of this synod council, and b. Perform additional duties as prescribed in the synod council governance and policy manuals described in the policies of the Governance Manual of the council of this synod.
<p>Section 3.</p> <p>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>Section 3.</p> <p>The secretary of this synod shall oversee all secretarial and record keeping duties on behalf of the this synod as prescribed in these bylaws and in the synod council governance and policy manuals. as described in the policies of the Governance Manual of the council of this synod.</p>

Existing ABT Synod Bylaws - 2016	Proposed Bylaws
<p>Section 4. The treasurer shall:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Oversee all financial affairs and accounts of the synod, including deeds, mortgages, contracts, trust funds, investments, etc., Be bonded under the fidelity coverage provided by the synod, and Perform additional duties as prescribed in the synod council governance and policy manuals. 	<p>Section 4. The treasurer of this synod shall:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Oversee all financial affairs and accounts of the this synod, including deeds, mortgages, contracts, trust funds, investments, etc., Be bonded under the fidelity coverage provided by the this synod, and Perform additional duties as prescribed in the synod council governance and policy manuals. described in the policies of the Governance Manual of the council of this synod.
<p>Part IX Duties of the Bishop (Constitution, Article XIII)</p> <p>Section 1. The bishop shall:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Provide spiritual leadership and counsel to the synod, its conventions, and conferences; Ordain or consecrate approved candidates for rostered ministry; Oversee the call process as outlined in the call process manual; Attest to all official documents of the synod as may be required; Appoint the synod archivist/necrologist to maintain historical records on behalf of the synod; Discipline staff and program committee members in keeping with Biblical principles; Report to the synod council and the synod convention all significant matters affecting the mission and ministry of the synod; and 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 The Synod Bishop (Constitution, Article XIII)</p> <p>Section 1. The bishop of this synod shall be elected by synod convention for a term of six years, without limitation.</p> <p>Section 1. 2. The bishop of this synod shall:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Provide spiritual leadership and counsel to the this synod, its conventions, and conferences areas; Ordain or consecrate approved candidates for rostered ministry; Oversee the call process as outlined in the call process manual; Attest to all official documents of the this synod as may be required; Appoint the synod archivist/necrologist to maintain historical records on behalf of the this synod; Discipline staff and program committee members in keeping with Biblical principles; g. Report to the council of this synod council and the synod convention all significant matters affecting the mission and ministry of the this synod; and h. Perform other duties as prescribed in the constitutions and bylaws of this church and the this synod, and the synod council governance and policy manuals as described in the policies of the Governance Manual of the council of this synod.
<p>Part X Synod Council Committees (Constitution, Article XIV)</p> <p>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>	<p>Part X Synod Council Standing Committees (Constitution, Article XIV)</p> <p>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"> The Western Synods' Examining Committee, in which this synod shall participate, shall interview all candidates for rostered ministry and all persons applying for admission to the roster and

Existing ABT Synod Bylaws - 2016	Proposed Bylaws
<p>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.</p> <p>b. The President of Lutheran Theological Seminary shall annually appoint two faculty members.</p> <p>c. The synod bishops shall serve ex officio on the Examining Committee.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>f. Further terms of reference for, and procedures of, the Examining Committee shall be defined in the Candidacy Manual of this Church.</p>	<p>shall ensure their acceptance of and adherence to the Confession of Faith of this church; fulfillment of academic requirements; and qualifications for carrying out the functions of rostered ministry.</p> <p>b. Terms of reference for the Examining Committee shall be articulated in the Governance Manual of the council of this synod.</p> <p>a. The Synod Council of each synod shall appoint two lay persons and two rostered persons to potentially serve on the Examining Committee. Of the eight rostered persons appointed from the four western synods, 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.</p> <p>b. The President of Lutheran Theological Seminary shall annually appoint two faculty members.</p> <p>c. The synod bishops shall serve ex officio on the Examining Committee.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>f.c. Further terms of reference for, and procedures of, the Examining Committee shall be defined in the Candidacy Manual of this Church church.</p>
<p>Section 2. The Committee for Theological Education and Leadership (Candidacy) shall be a standing committee of the synod council.</p> <p>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 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</p>	<p>Section 2.- The Committee for Theological Education and Leadership (Candidacy) shall be a standing committee of the synod council. Candidacy Committee.</p> <p>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 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>

Existing ABT Synod Bylaws - 2016	Proposed Bylaws
<p>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>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 The Candidacy Committee shall select and endorse candidates for the ordained and diaconal rostered ministry; review applications to the ministries of the this synod by persons seeking readmission to the rosters of the this 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 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>b. Terms of reference for the Candidacy Committee shall be articulated in the Governance Manual of the council of this synod.</p> <p>c. Further terms of reference for, and procedures of, the Examining Committee shall be defined in the Candidacy Manual of this church.</p>
<p>Section 3.</p> <p>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> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - They do not conflict with the ELCIC or Alberta Synod Constitution or Bylaws; - 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 	<p>Section 3.</p> <p>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> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - They do not conflict with the ELCIC or Alberta Synod Constitution or Bylaws; - 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

Existing ABT Synod Bylaws - 2016	Proposed Bylaws
<p>certain circumstances provided they do not conflict with the national and synodical governing documents.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. iii. make recommendations to Synod Council regarding the Model Constitution for Congregations, its procedures and other related matters. <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. <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>in certain circumstances provided they do not conflict with the national and synodical governing documents;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ii. be available to confer and/or meet with a congregation or it's representatives to discuss proposed amendments and assist congregations in helping the congregation to make the amendments acceptable to Council examination the council of this synod; and, iii. make recommendations to the council of this synod Synod Council regarding the Model Constitution for Congregations of this church, its procedures and other related matters. <p>b. Amendments to congregational constitutions shall be effective upon ratification of the council of this synod.</p> <p>c. Terms of reference for the Congregation Constitutional Review Committee shall be articulated in the Governance Manual of the council of this synod.</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. <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.</p> <p>Synod council may appoint other ad hoc committees for a specific purpose and duration as deemed necessary.</p>	<p>Section 4.-</p> <p>Synod The council of this synod may appoint other ad hoc committees for a specific purpose and duration as deemed necessary.</p>

Synod Council approved, September 2017, Part XI Transition of the ABT Bylaws for the purpose of presenting it to the 2018 Synod Convention for adoption.

PART XI TRANSITION

- Section 1. Where the provisions of Part XI conflict with provisions contained elsewhere in the Bylaws of the Synod of Alberta and the Territories, the provision of Part XI shall prevail.
- Section 2. The terms of all officers, synod council members, and Lutheran Theological Seminary representatives elected at convention in 2016 shall be five years.
- Section 3. The convention of this synod following 2016 shall be in 2018.
- Section 4. The terms of all officers, synod council members, and Lutheran Theological Seminary representatives elected at convention in 2018 shall be three years.
- Section 5. The convention of this synod following 2018 shall be in 2021.
- Section 6. The term of the bishop of this synod elected in 2018 shall be six years.

Report of Archivist

Our Archives begin when the Responsible Person in the parish records information and continues when one takes care of those records, Minutes, photos, or saved old documents locally. Questions to consider are:

- Are all of your most important Archives stored in a safe and fireproof manner?
- Are you interested in down-sizing some of these **materials? Consider “archiving” some of the most un-needed of what you have.** Several congregations have done so recently.

Church Councils share the management responsibility for keeping the records and history of their church together with the Pastor. Also, remember that lay designated people with the right abilities can be authorized to do the actual recording and bookkeeping. When is the last time that a review was made at your congregation to see if everything is as it should be? How about that suggestion for fireproof storage that has been floating around off and on over the years – for those most valuable records? The church building can burn down and be replaced, but how about your Master Records?

Computer records were once planned to be the easiest and most permanent format for archival materials such as Master Records of members of parishes. Today, computers are increasingly being used for managing most parish activities and programs and do save time. It is important, however, to keep backups of all pertinent data on an external backup drive (to be stored in a secure and fire-proof location), or a cloud account located in Canada. It is also your responsibility to keep software up to date in case of computer failure, so information can be transferred to a new machine, as computers can be compromised, or hardware drives no longer be available to function to retrieve recorded information, etc. As a result, paper and pen continue to also be an approved and acceptable standard to record essential membership and related information, preferably in the traditional bound books, as long as they are kept in a secure location that is fire-proof. Whatever the method your congregation employs, it is **important to be mindful of people’s personal information, and to maintain confidentiality.** Records should be able to be easily accessed only by those with authority to do so.

There also comes a time when some congregations close or when committees or church groups disband. Then it may be a good time to send their stuff to a secure, safe depository. If a congregation closes, consider making a copy of Master Records about members and deposit them with a nearby parish for those individuals in the future who may be looking for personal information.

The Synod Archivist can help with all of this. Most of our kept materials go to the Provincial Archives in Edmonton [780/427-1750 or 310-0000, or contact them via their website].

As Archivist, I continue to receive archival materials from several congregations including some which have closed or are in the process of closing, as well as 2-3 inquiries or requests for personal religious records or information each month. I continue to be a member of the religious-based Alberta archivists group.

As Archivist, I also occasionally receive books, manuals, and materials from pastors or parishes that are downsizing or from **“estates”, and a few years ago established the present form of book table arrangement at our Synod Convention for such stuff that is still current and useful.** Items placed there are available for free on the table to those who can use them, and the remainder goes to the Seminary Library for their consideration, and that remainder goes on to seminarians who would like to have them.

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

Report of Necrologist

If you learn of someone who has died and has served this synod, or its predecessors, 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. Thank you to those who have contributed additional information over the years.

Rostered, Previously-Rostered, and Retired-Rostered personnel and spouses are encouraged to check and maintain their biographical information with Synod Office.

Pastor Gary Nickel, ABT Synod Necrologist

+

Keeping in mind the comforts from the message of Christ and Easter, we remember since the lead-up to the 2016 Synod Convention, these Servants, and keep their loved ones in our thoughts and prayers:

Pr. ALLEN JOHAN SEVERSON, 88, died 16 July 2016 in Camrose AB. Born on the home farm north of Sedgwick AB and baptized and confirmed in Bethania/Sedgwick, Allen attended local schools including graduation from Camrose

Lutheran College in 1946. His studies continued at Canadian Lutheran Bible Institute in Camrose, and Lutheran Theological Seminary (LTS), Saskatoon in 1947. He graduated from University of Saskatoon in 1951 and Lutheran Theological Seminary in Saskatoon in 1952. Ordained in 1952, he moved to Birch Hills/Birch Hills SK 1952-56, then was Dean of the Bible Department of Lutheran Collegiate Bible Institute/Outlook SK 1956-58, where he married Mary nee Sundby in 1957. They moved to Dunbar/Vancouver BC 1958-63, St. Olaf/Kindersly SK 1963-67, Edberg/Edberg and Bethesda/New Norway and Sharon/Donalda and Bethany/rural Donalda AB 1967-73, then to Chaplain/Bethany Homes and Hospital/Camrose AB 1973-89, when he took early retirement due to heart attacks. Allen was able to continue enjoying preaching part time after retirement in the central region of AB for many years.

Pr. HAROLD ERIKSSON, died 19 September 2016 in Red Deer AB. **Born in Hughenden AB and “schooled in Alberta”,** his studies continued at the University and the Lutheran Theological Seminary in Saskatoon. Harold shared being **among the first Augustana pastors to “have all our education and be ordained in Canada” [1952]. He married “Peggy” nee Lee in 1949 in Saskatoon, and they were together until she died in 1994. They moved to parishes of: Salem/Scandia and Faith/Rolling Hills AB 1952-56, Immanuel/New Westminster BC 1956-60, Theodore/Buchanan SK 1960-64, Faith/Atikokan ON 1964-69, St. John/Shellbrook and Zion/Canwood and Leask SK 1969-76, First United/Flin Flon [and St. John/Snow Lake for several of these years] MB 1976-86, Grace/Bentley AB 1986-88, and retirement, which was followed by Bethany/Dickson AB 1989, Valley/Eastend SK 1990, and Christ/Sexsmith AB 1991. Harold continued active ministry with Interim Ministry and Pastoral Supply opportunities for many years, serving at various times: Our Saviour’s/Regina SK, Shepherd of the Hills/Calgary AB, and several vacant parishes including an LC-C congregation where he provided Holy Communion. Harold was also a Naval Reserve Chaplain who served summers in either the West or East Coast for many years, and was one of 5 Lutheran pastors in Manitoba with current pilots licenses in the 1980s [the “Luther-Waffe”]. He regularly “flew from Flin Flon to Snow Lake for a 9am worship service and then back to Flin Flon for the 11am service” in his own plane.**

Pr. LEWIS MARTIN BOOTH, 90, died 13 October 2016 in Moose Jaw SK. Born at the family farm near Southey SK., at age 17 he enlisted in the RCAF, training as a pilot and was honorably discharged as Sergeant in 1945. He worked for **Eaton’s, as a carpenter, in electronics, and for the CP Railroad.** Lew had his own electronics business and in 1981 closed his business so that he and his wife Dorothea [married in 1953] could move to Saskatoon to attend the Lutheran Theological Seminary and he became a Licensed Lay Minister in 1982. He then served Emmaus/Edmonton AB 1982, Norman Wells Mission/Norman Wells NWT 1983-84,

and Prince of Faith/Calgary AB 1984-85, Emmanuel/Calgary AB 1985-86, Bethany/Lomond and Hope/Milo AB 1986-93. Lew semi-retired in 1993 and moved back to his house in Moose Jaw SK where he continued to serve as pulpit supply **and did the radio broadcast “Back to God Hour” for Central Lutheran. He was ordained at age 70 and then “moved with Dorothy by his side” to St. Paul’s/Herbert and Peace/Rush Lake SK 2000-03; he also served Gravelbourg Federated Lutheran Parish: St. Paul/Gravelbourg and Trinity/Mossbank SK 2001-02. He semi-retired again in 2003 around the time of Dorothy’s death, but continued to provide pulpit supply to Peace/Rush Lake until 2012.**

TAMARA GAERTNER, 95, died 6 November 2016 in Kelowna BC. Her travels in life took her to many locations where **“she enjoyed expressing her faith and sharing it with others”.** Her husband Fred pastored for over 50 years, serving in St. John/Oliver BC, and over 10 parishes in the prairie provinces”, including St. John/Wetaskiwin AB 1948-52, and organized Grace/Ponoka AB on 27 May 1952.

Pr. MILTON RUDE, 90, died 15 January 2017 in Camrose AB. He was born in an ambulance in Minnesota and his family moved to Armena, AB in 1940. He graduated from Camrose Lutheran College in 1945 and went to Luther Theological Seminary in Saskatoon from 1947-51. His first parish was First Saskatchewan, Langham, SK 1951-54, where he married Gladys (nee Wig) in 1954. They moved in 1954, to serve at Trinity, Grande Prairie, then to Trinity, Calgary; and on to Peace, Vernon, BC, leaving in 1978; then to Victory, Medicine Hat from 1978-90, and Bethel, Ryley and Holden, Holden from 1990-93, when he retired. For many years they were active in **Messiah’s Mission Committee** in Camrose, as well as with ABT Synod world missions concerns. Milton was talented in carpentry and related skills and loved being a part of three parishes which had major building projects.

Pr. CARL E. JOHNSON, 95, died 29 March 2017 in New Westminster BC, having celebrated his 65th Anniversary of Ordination a few months earlier. After graduating in 1951 from Lutheran Theological Seminary in Saskatoon, ordination followed the same year. He was married to Renata and they moved to parishes in: St. John/Strasbourg [Lunner and Norrona missions] and St. Olaf/Govan SK 1951-54, Grace/Dawson Creek and Peace/Fort St. John and Doe Creek/North Rolla and Montney/Montney BC 1954-57. Carl then taught at Canadian Lutheran Bible Institute/Camrose AB 1958-60. Parish work continued in: Camrose [now Messiah]/Camrose AB 1960-66; Trinity/Burns Lake BC, and Fraser Lake & Houston & Smithers BC which became Faith/Fraser Lake and Mt. Zion/Smithers BC 1966-68, Peace/Fort St. John and Montney/Montney BC 1968-73, Mt. Zion/New Westminster BC 1973-82, Salem/Scandia and Ibbestad/Enchant AB 1982-84, and Sunshine Coast Missions BC 1984-86, with retirement in BC.

Pr. DONALD L. MILLER, 88, died 7 August 2017 in Selkirk MB. Before he entered pastoral ministry, his sister Mary Lou and he performed as **"The Curtis Twins"**, dancing at nightclubs throughout Pennsylvania and New York City, with Gene Kelly one of their teachers. Don studied at Augustana College in Rock Island IL and continued at the Lutheran Seminary there, graduating in 1958. He served a parish first in Oregon, but fell in love with Canada and was subsequently called to Emmanuel/Meeting Creek and Saron/Clive AB 1962-66, then to Bethel/Camrose and Wilhelmina/Hay Lakes AB 1966-72, with his wife Phyllis. He moved to St. Mark's/Winnipeg MB in 1972. He married Theresa nee Hammarstrand in 1977, and **"with his beloved help-mate Terry, Don served many Winnipeg and rural Manitoba congregations over their 37-year marriage". Cottage life followed retirement.**

Pr. JOHN EDWARD FULLMER, 94, died 12 August 2017 in Kenora ON. Born in Indiana, he joined the army in WW2, was **captured during the "Battle of the Bulge" and interned in prison camp (Stalag IVB) near Dresden, Germany from Dec. 21, 1944 - May 13, 1945.** After his release, John began his post-secondary education, receiving Bachelor degrees from Carthage College in Illinois and Marion College in Indiana, and a Bachelor of Divinity from Pacific Lutheran Seminary in Berkeley, California. John married Azalee on April 11, 1954 and began over 63 years of marriage and over 60 years of ministry starting in Washington State. In November 1956, the family immigrated to Canada to Gimli area congregations/Gimli MB 1956-60; he was the first pastor of Lutheran Church of the Cross/Calgary AB 1960-63; then on to Evansburg Mission/**Evansburg and St. Paul's/Rosevear AB 1964-66;** and finally to Bethesda/Kenora and Trinity/Bergland ON. John spent most of his Ontario ministry as a mission pastor with First Nations peoples in the Treaty 3 Kenora area, **working out of Bethesda/Kenora. He "was passionate about his time spent with First Nations people and started the Amik Association which funded employment projects for the local Treaty Three Communities. He and others were involved in helping in the revival of the POW WOW movement in Kenora and surrounding area in the early 1970's, and was instrumental in working behind the scenes to bring about a peaceful resolution to the Anishinawbe Park Occupation in 1974." "He did not care about the colour of one's skin or the amount of money they had and knew when it was time to talk and respected times not to talk. He had magic and sometimes the magic worked and sometimes it didn't [his favourite saying, from Chief Dan George in the movie "Little Big Man."]."**

Pr. HERMAN TIEN CHIU LIU, 87, died 16 September 2017 in Edmonton AB. Born in Hubei Province, China in 1929, his defining story from childhood was a fire in 1935 that destroyed **his parents' house and business. Five-year-old Herman, left behind in the fire, was rescued when he was swept up in a**

pile of blankets by a neighbour who had run into the fire to see **what he could rescue. "He later believed that this was the hand of God sparing him for some greater purpose in life. Life was difficult after the fire: his family's business was destroyed, his father died in poverty a year later, and his mother could not afford to send him to elementary school for more than eight months." By the late 1940s, his mother and a beloved sister had died, his other siblings had departed for work or family, and "he was drawn to church to console his spirit, where it was warmed by song and by the message of God's love and was baptized in 1949 in a Chinese Lutheran Church in mainland China." In 1950, fearing the Communist regime, Herman fled for Hong Kong. "A Lutheran missionary took Herman under his wing and he began Bible studies in earnest under the missionary's guidance. One day he witnessed a fatal accident and remembered the words he had just read that morning: "For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his soul? Or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?" (Mark 8:36-37). From that moment the Holy Spirit opened the meaning of those verses to Herman and he decided to offer his life for His Gospel." He graduated from Hong Kong Lutheran Theological Seminary in 1956, Chung Chi College/Chinese University of Hong Kong in 1964, and Haw Kiu College in 1972, serving in several churches in Hong Kong and preaching at Lutheran Church of Hong Kong, as evangelist in charge of the Leprosy Mission at the Lord's Willing Church, and Chaplain & Welfare Assistant of Fanling Hospital. A dedicated theological scholar, in 1972 he came to Canada to study at the Lutheran Theological Seminary in Saskatoon and received a Master of Divinity in 1974. During his studies, he also had the vision to start a Chinese Lutheran ministry in Canada, later moving to start New Life Chinese Lutheran Church/Vancouver BC 1974-84, as well as being the first Chinese pastor to be ordained into the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada. Moving with his wife Eunice to Edmonton, he started New Life Chinese Lutheran Church/Edmonton AB 1984-92. **"The name "New Life" was chosen for his congregations as a reminder that "through Christ we are born again and can serve him in gladness"."****

Pr. PETER ANTHONY GRUNDLER, 57, died 14 October 2017. Born in Vancouver, BC, he attended the University of Alberta where he received a Bachelor of Arts degree in 1984, and graduated from Lutheran Theological Seminary, Saskatoon SK, with ordination in 1988. He and wife, Sandra, moved to Zion/Athabasca and Golgotha/Ellscoff AB 1988-1995, and then Lord of Life/Edmonton AB 1995-2014, before he became Chaplain at Glenrose Rehabilitation Hospital in Edmonton AB. His good sense of humor included the Sunday the acolyte set his robe on fire while leaning over to light the pascal candle: **"I grabbed him on the sleeve that was burning and put out the fire, but have a permanent keepsake of the event on the palm of my hand. I give thanks to God for the many and various ways God works through the simple words and actions we offer in ministry."**

Dr. DORIS NELSON, 91, died 4 November 2017 in Edmonton AB. She felt the Call and was Commissioned as a World **Missions Missionary to the Lutheran Church's work overseas.** With her medical studies and experience, Doris moved to Africa, and served in Lutheran medical missions work in Zululand, South Africa 1954-79. Her work began with training nurses and concluded as matron in Charge of the hospital at Ntunjambili, Natal, South Africa. Later she returned to Canada and at age 50, graduated and began practicing as a Medical Doctor.

GRETCHEN WOOLERY, 69, died 4 December 2017 in Calgary AB. Gretch, wife of Pr. Lee Woolery, **"loved her family, her number one priority in everything she did. Not just those born into it, but also those many friends she met along the way; whether at the church, Hastings Lake Bible Camp, Samaritan's Purse, Bible Study or the neighbours next door."** She and Lee moved to a congregation in North Dakota and then Bawlf/Skudesness and Zion/Bawlf AB 1979-84, Lakeland Parish/Bonnyville & Grand Centre & Cold Lake AB 1984-1986, Trinity/Westlock AB 1986-90, Lutheran Collegiate Bible Institute/Outlook SK 1990-95, Mount Olivet/Sherwood Park AB 1995-2000, Resurrection/Saskatoon SK 2000-04, and Lutheran Church of Our Saviour/Calgary AB from 2004. **"Through her entire life serving her Lord she was shaped into the loving, compassionate and beautiful person she was."**

Pr. JOHANN (JOHN) KUNKEL, 91, died 16 December 2017 in Winnipeg MB. Together with his wife Elisabeth, they moved to parishes in Duncan BC, Good Shepherd/Meadow Lake SK, Zion/Golden Spike AB, and St. John/Rosenfeld MB. He and his wife were Commissioned World Missions Missionaries to Bong Mine, Liberia, West Africa, 1963-72, where the ministry grew from work with expatriates and a nearby community of faith to include 21 congregations among the peoples of the area and ministering together with several Evangelists, Catechists, and Lay Worship Leaders. They **returned to Canada to St. Stephen's/Winnipeg MB 1972-81, and then St. John's/Winnipeg MB 1981-91. "His life was dedicated to inclusive public and parish service, centred on fairness and equality."**

RUTH OINE HAGEN, 96, died 25 February 2018 in Camrose AB. Born in rural Saskatchewan, she became very proficient at sewing and gardening, skills which she carried throughout her life. She attended SLBI [the future CLBI] in Outlook, and after graduation and further secretarial training in Saskatoon, returned to SLBI and became the school secretary, with full **responsibility for running the "Sunday School by Mail" program.** While at Outlook, she met the love of her life, Arnold Hagen. They were married August 21, 1946 and moved to Saskatoon where Arnold attended seminary. Upon **Arnold's graduation, they moved to Prince Albert SK, and then to Vancouver to pastor at First Lutheran/Vancouver BC 1952-62. After Arnold's call to CLBI in 1962, the family moved to**

Camrose where they have resided up to the present. "The skills acquired while she lived on the farm proved useful while managing the family, an outside job, and participating at CLBI." Upon Arnold's retirement, they traveled to many countries and destinations, often in the line of ministry until Arnold died in 2014. "Ruth was a devoted Christian wife, mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother but the most important part of her life was her relationship with Jesus. She is remembered for being a prayer warrior." Ruth's last years were at Bethany Meadows Care Home.

CAROLYN MARIE JACOBSON, 73, died 22 March 2018 in central Alberta. Born and raised in Montana, Carolyn nee Wall attended college in Billings MT, and later the University of Alberta in Edmonton, and married Rev. Joseph Robert Jacobson in 1965. Alberta was home to Carolyn and Joseph for their 52 years of marriage. From 1965 to 1985 they were at Lutheran parishes in Westlock, Calgary, Camrose, and Donalda. From 1985 to 1994 they resided in Edmonton while Joseph served as Bishop of the Alberta and Territories Synod of the ELCIC. In 1994 they retired for the first time to their little farm east of Bashaw. They were received into full communion with the Roman Catholic Church in 2000, and Joseph was ordained a Catholic Deacon and Priest in 2007, for service in the Archdiocese of Grouard-McLennan. They moved to McLennan where Carolyn served as organist at the Cathedral of St. John the Baptist while Joseph served as Chancellor of the Archdiocese and Parochial Vicar of the Cathedral Parish. In 2014 they retired for the second time back to the farm.

"Carolyn's love of people and her deep commitment to working for their well-being were inspired in her by God's love for her and for all of His children revealed in Jesus Christ. The various situations in which she found herself throughout her married life as spouse, partner in ministry, mother, grandmother, teacher, musician, watercolor artist, refugee sponsor, and home-maker offered her many opportunities to express that love".

Pr. LARRY SOVERAN, 80, died 2 April 2018 in Camrose AB. Born in Assiniboia SK., he joined the Royal Canadian Air Force and worked as a radar technician in Europe, returning to attend the University of Saskatchewan and later the Lutheran Theological Seminary in Saskatoon. Larry and Marilylle (nee Pattison) were married and they moved to the parish of Weldon/Weldon SK 1966-71, then to Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd/Selkirk MB 1971-77, Peace/Innisfail AB 1977-86, and Bashaw/Bashaw AB 1986-2002 with retirement following by Little Beaver Lake.

Pr. DYANNA MARIE COUTURE, 34, died 7 April 2018 in Standard AB. Born in Camrose AB, Dyanna (nee Noble) met Richard, the love of her life, in 2009 and they married on 1 **January 2014. "She ventured on her path in life with the study of law but after a brief period, got a higher calling because she knew for certain she was meant to be a Minister." Dyanna was ordained in 2014, and she and Richard moved first to**

Trinity/Warburg and then Nazareth/Standard AB 2014-18. **She especially liked to “guide through her work with the young hearts in Sunday School and through the sermon.” “When she was not helping others, she enjoyed crocheting and challenging herself to see what crocheting project she could accomplish.” Dyanna particularly liked Micah 6:8, “O people, the Lord has told you what is good, and this is what he requires of you: to do what is right, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God”.**

+

Congregation Constitutional Review Committee

The Congregational Constitutional Review Committee is a standing committee of the Synod Council and consists of a member appointed from Synod Council, plus two appointed/volunteer members at large, as well as Assistant to the Bishop for Mission, Rev. Dr. Juliane Barlow, who serves as the Synod Liaison. Its function is to receive, review, make recommendations, and/or approve requests from congregations for changes to their constitutions.

Since last convention we have dealt with approximately fifteen ongoing or new requests for constitutional changes.

Changes to their constitutions in 2017 were approved for:

- Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Cross, Calgary - Dec. 2016
- Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Cross, Calgary - May 2017
- **St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church** Ellerslie, Edmonton - July 2017

These requests were reviewed, approved and forwarded to the Synod Council for vote.

As of the end of 2017 all congregations are required to use the new ELCIC Model Constitution for Congregations if making changes to their existing constitutions. When requests for change are submitted we also need to have a copy of the current congregational constitution and bylaws for reference.

We would like congregations to review such items as: quorum for AGMs or congregational meetings, number of members on council, age of voting privilege, and other items which would bring your constitution into compliance with the current legislation and policy.

If your congregation is needing to update your constitution we encourage you to contact Synod office early in the process to expedite and make the procedure as smooth as possible. The committee meets as often as required to review requests

submitted, usually three to four times per year.

Thank you to the committee members for their time and commitment.

Submitted on behalf of the committee,

Mark Ree - Chairperson

Rev. Dr. Juliane Barlow- Assistant to the Bishop for Mission and Synod Liaison

Dan Ethier

Rev. Calvin Skriver

Synod Examining Committee

The Synod Examining 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, Re. Dr. Gordon Jensen.

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 Lutheran Theological Seminary, Saskatoon from March 31-April 1, 2017 to examine Colin Milang, Sarah Mowat, Jaily Corbin and Bev Swanson, Pastoral Candidates from The Synod of Alberta and the Territories; Aneeta Sarrop Pastoral Candidate from the BC Synod; and Emmanuel Aristide Pastoral Candidate from the Saskatchewan Synod.

The Committee presented recommendations to the respective Synod Councils that each candidate be approved for ordination 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 respective Synods.

Submitted by Diaconal Minister Karen Wedman

Candidacy Committee (formerly CTCL)

The Synod of Alberta and the Territories Candidacy Committee (formerly *Committee for Theological Education and Leadership*) works on behalf 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 are currently relating to two interns, six seminary students, and two other individuals at various points in the registration process. Each committee member maintains contact with one or more students walking with them in the candidacy process. Face-to-face contact with students and interns occurs at least once a year at a fall retreat, now held at Mulhurst Lutheran Camp. Last September the fall retreat was blessed with the presence of Diaconal Minister Karen Wedman and The Rev. Dale Olsen engaging in a discussion on MAID – Medical Assistance in Dying.

The Committee continues to administer the distribution of funds from the Synod's "Support Our Students" fund and from the interest on the Bishop Stephen P. 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.

The candidacy committee has been in continued dialogue and discussion on the proposed changes to the candidacy manual. With the Candidacy Manual being approved by the National Church Council, we are currently in the process of making changes on how we function accordingly to reflect it. With so many students "staying home" to take on-line and intensive classes from Lutheran Theological Seminary, the congregation can have a much more regular interaction with them and provide important opportunities that support course work.

Committee Members are:

- Rev. Prema Samuel, Chair (At Large)
- Darcy Calkins, Vice Chair (West Central)
- Myrna Husdahl, Secretary (Southern)
- Greg Lingelbach (South West) also serves as Chair of National Church's Program Committee for Leadership and Ministry (PCLM)
- Lori Skriver (East Central)
- Rev. Anna Thede (Northern)
- Rev. Rick Chappell (Northern)
- Rev Dr. Gordon Jensen (Seminary Liaison)
- Bishop Larry Kochendorfer

Your prayers and support for ministry of candidates and for the members of ABT-CC are an important part of our work together. We are grateful for the support.

In Christ,

The Rev. Prema Samuel

Area Dean Reports

Northern Area

If we in our own strength confide, our striving turns to losing; the righteous one fights by our side, the one of God's own choosing. You ask who this may be: Christ Jesus, it is he, the Lord of hosts by name. No other God we claim! None else can win the battle.

"A Mighty Fortress is Our God," ELW 505 v. 2

These are old and familiar words reminding us that God is our hope and renewal. In a time of gross transition for the church in North America, our own strength, technology, or tactics will not suffice. **We are called to solidarity with God's mission in the neighbourhood and all creation.** While these old words ring true, we cannot remain in the past, but ought to step boldly into a new day.

Being the church is challenging work, especially today. Standing up for justice, speaking out for those who are overlooked, giving of our schedules and earnings, sharing what we know about a loving God has always been a high calling, but this is true even more so in our current context. All around us we see the church **we love shrinking and struggling. We're working very hard to keep it together and sometimes in frustration wonder why our great efforts don't realize more results.**

God is up to something new and we are learning the steps to this new dance. God is calling us to move (as we have heard before) from maintenance to ministry, to return to faithful service where ever it is that good news is needed, to every place that God is.

We want people's lives to be changed. We hope for people to know this life-changing God. And we believe we have a role to play in growing relationships between God, ourselves and the world. **We're learning to think missionally, which takes us to** where people already are and to where God is already at work, instead of remaining contained in buildings waiting for people to find us. In every new encounter we learn from one another about the God we love and who loves us. We are weaving together the wisdom of our past and excitement for the future. We give thanks for all who are on the journey together, some of whom we have yet to meet.

During the 2017 fall Area Gathering we said farewell to the Northern Conference Council. Some of these members had served generously for many years. The council primarily worked to organize the fall conference and provided a connecting point between the synod, dean and congregations. To all those who

have previously served on the Northern Conference Council – thank you!

With deep gratitude, we thank our outgoing members: Ms. Cindy Schriener, Mr. Dan Bablitz, Mr. Michael Harmon, Ms. Marilyn Goebel, Pr. Dave Melax, DM Sarah Rudd, Pr. Aaron Schnell, Pr. Phil Penrod, and Pr. Doug Heine.

The new Northern Area Leadership Team is somewhat smaller. More than just a different size, there is also a different focus. While the council primarily planned the fall conference, the new Area Leadership Team will:

- Arrange for continuing education opportunities for rostered and lay leaders to support and encourage area ministry strategies, annually in the fall area gathering.
- Work with congregational leaders to create area ministry strategies and collaborative opportunities.
- Encourage networking and mutual support among rostered and lay leaders.
- Discern the local, unique ways God is already working.

Into the Area Leadership Team we welcome Ms. Brittany Mason, Mr. Keith Scheiht, Pr. Phil Penrod, and Pr. Aaron Schnell. The first leadership training event was held October 28, 2017 and another is coming April 2018.

Other activity in our Area included:

- 2016 Fall Conference held in Trinity Lutheran, Westlock.
- 2017 Fall Area Gathering held at Ascension Lutheran, Edmonton.
- Following the 2017 Annual Study Conference, feedback on the new employment agreements was collected in our area and submitted to ABT National Church Council members.
- Farewell to Pr. Ann Salmon who left Grace Lutheran, Edson to undertake a new position at the Lutheran Theological Seminary, Saskatoon in July, 2017
- **Installation of Pr. Kirk Tastad “2.0” (Pr. Kirk previously served at Holy Family and the**
- **congregation lovingly joked this time around was “2.0”) was held September 16, 2017.**
- A Commemoration of the Reformation was held in our Area October 30 at All Saints Anglican Cathedral where a 3-way ecumenical agreement was signed.
- Several events were planned by individual

congregations through October to commemorate the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation.

- **Grace, Edson and St. Catherine’s Anglican, Edson are** currently working on a ministry sharing venture that will **become “Holy Trinity.”**
- Medical Assistance in Dying learning event was held Feb 3 and 10, 2018. Thank you to DM Sarah Rudd, our facilitator.

Thank you for the privilege of serving as Dean. Blessings to all!

Peace,
Rev. Trish Schmermund
Dean, Northern Area

West Central Area

“We will recount to generations to come the praiseworthy deeds and the power of the Lord, and the wonderful works God has done. The Lord gave a decree in Jacob and established a law in Israel, commanding our ancestors to teach it to their children; that the generations to come might know, and the children yet unborn; that they in their turn might tell it to their children; so that they might put their trust in God, and not forget the deeds of God, but keep God’s commandments.” Psalm 78:4-7

Recounting. Counting over. Counting again. And again, and again. Like the Count from Sesame Street who always **introduced himself the same way, “I am the Count, because I love to count. Wahahahaha!”** And so, for the Count, the act of counting, of numbering over, of counting again and again and again, seemed to serve no other purpose than the sheer joy of it - the love of counting. And already we get a sense of why the **Psalmist begins here: “We will recount...”**

We will count over, we will count again and again and again, we will tell from one generation to the next the praiseworthy deeds, the power of the Lord, the wonderful works God has done. Recount, says the Psalmist, just because we can, just for the sheer joy of hearing over and over again the wonderful works of God! Wahahahaha!

And perhaps that, in itself seems enough. But as we read on, we find that recounting, retelling, again and again and again, has a powerful effect, not only to bring us into joy, but to form and shape and reshape generation after generation. That in the recounting there is power to change us into a people who **trust God, who remember God, who keep God’s** commandments of hope and life—and not only for ourselves, but for generations to come. Like a circle with no beginning or end, to recount is to recall. To recall is to remember. To remember is to know. To know is to tell. To tell is to share the joy. To share the joy is to form future generations and those

around us into a hopeful, trusting, remembering people. And to remember is to recount once more—the wonderful deeds of God in our midst!

Recounting. Listening to each other's stories. It is what the Synod has been encouraging us to do and what we have undertaken as an Area Leadership Team over the past few months. You may have seen Vivian Holtby joining you for worship and conversation on a Sunday morning. Or maybe it was Glen Kneller, or Rev. Erik Sorensen or Aly Bowd joining **you for coffee and conversation. If you haven't seen us yet, don't worry. We are on our way.** What are these conversations about? Hearing from you what inspires you about life in your community, about the ministry of your congregation. Listening and discerning together about the wonderful deeds of God at work in your communities and churches.

And you, too, are invited to have conversations of your own. In your neighbourhoods, with people at the grocery store, people in your hockey arenas and soccer fields, in your hospitals and care homes, with other congregations 10 minutes or 3 hours down the road. Who are they? Where do they come from? What do they talk about over the dinner table? What is important and how does faith fit in?

"Such stories," writes Alan Roxborough, "Such stories are the proof. The Spirit is moving like an underground stream, stirring relationship and inviting us to discover ways of being **God's people that hardly fit the ways we've imagined being** church in the past. The Spirit is disrupting and calling our churches into a new imagination about what it means to follow **the way of Jesus.**"¹

And so, I give thanks to your Area Leadership Team, for their faithful and passionate service, for their gifts, for their willingness to risk and try something new:

- Vivian Holtby, Grace, Wetaskiwin;
- Glen Kneller, Good Shepherd, Red Deer;
- **Rev. Erik Sorenson, St. Peter's, Millet;**
- Alysse Bowd, Peace, Innisfail;
- and our treasurer Pearl Fee, Peace, Innisfail.

Since 2016, together we have had many opportunities for gathering, studying, supporting and participating in the life of the church and one another. Here are just a few:

- **Gathering:** Your West Central Area council planned and hosted two Reformation 500 Area Gatherings on May 20th at Mulhurst Camp and May 27th at Camp Kuriakos. There was laughter and conversation, there

was a campfire and hotdogs and sweets, there was worship and tree planting. Attendance was small, but for those who came it was an opportunity to get to know one another, join in good food and conversation, and participate in the hopeful act of planting a tree.

- **Studying:** Two gatherings were hosted in our area to facilitate discussion on the FOD Study on Medical Assistance in Dying, on September 30 at Good Shepherd in Red Deer, and On October 28th at Peace in Leduc. Thanks to *Rev. Marty Tuer* who led us through a thoughtful, engaging afternoon. Watch for information coming soon on a Mental Health First Aid course presented by CARE.
- **Supporting:** The Reformation Challenge (and **spending some money...):** Under the direction of Area delegates, you instructed us to creatively employ some of the money that had been building in our bank account for a number of years. In 2016 someone we know and love had a BIG birthday and we joined the Synod Challenge to raise money for ELCJHL Scholarships by forwarding \$1400 to the Bishop Larry Birthday Scholarship Fund. (How old is he?????)
- **Participating:** Area Leadership Training: In the fall of 2017 and the spring of 2018 members of your Area Leadership Team have joined in Synod wide training. Some of the goals of the Area Leadership Teams are:
 - To support, promote and express Synod Mission Priorities in Spirit-Led Leadership, Hope-Filled Discipleship, Innovative Tradition and Collaborative Partnerships
 - To encourage and equip congregations and ministries within the area to collaborate and implement the mission of this church
 - Develop a discerning, learning community who follow where God leads
 - Work with congregational leaders to create area ministry strategies and collaborative opportunities.
 - Encourage networking and mutual support among rostered and lay leaders
 - Discern the local, unique ways God is already working
 - Arrange for continuing education opportunities for rostered and lay leaders

Sounds easy enough, right? Thankfully, there is more training ahead. And thankfully, it is work we do together. So, what are your ideas? Your hopes? Your stories? Talk to each other. Tell us. Recount!

¹ Alan J. Roxborough. *Joining God, Remaking Church, Changing the World: The New Shape of Church in our Time*, (New York, NY: Morehouse Publishing, 2015), p. viii.

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. Marty Tuer, Interim* 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: **“No One is Immune: Taking Action for Mental Health in Congregations.”** hosted by *Good Shepherd, Red Deer* and the CARE Committee. The Congregational Life Event 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 your calendars for April 2019. It is a day well spent!
- For collaborative partnerships with *Lutheran Theological Seminary* in the training of interns (now ordained): *Rev. Jailyn Corbin* and completion of her internship under the guidance of *Rev. Matt Lyseng* and *Peace, Leduc*. For *Rev. Colin Milang* and completion of his internship under the guidance of *Rev. John Lentz*.
- For all the ways each and every one of you faithfully lives out the Gospel in your community and context. For Fall Suppers and Blanket Exercises. For Car Shows and Fashion Shows. In hospitals and hockey rinks. In community centres and schools. In building playgrounds and building lives. In ecumenical partnerships, in churches and cemeteries. These are the stories, the underground streams of the Spirit! We will recount!

As we give thanks for our leadership, we mark changes in ministry and ministry leaders in the following congregations since 2016:

- For *Grace, Gnadenthal*, and the welcome ministry of *Rev. Marvin Krebs*.

- For **St. Paul's, Rolly View**, and the welcome ministry of *Rev. Dennis Aicken*.
- For **St. Peter's, Millet**, and the welcome ministry of *Rev. Erik Sorenson*
- For *Grace, Bentley and Peace, Innisfail* in a new shared ministry agreement.

For ministries and leaders in transition; we pray for the **Spirit's leading, peace and discernment:**

- For *Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd, Red Deer* and interim pastor *Rev. Marty Tuer*
- For *Rev. Dr. Marc Jerry*, temporarily without call and in discernment.

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.

We give thanks for our *area chaplains* and their good work in compassion and care for **those whose journey is nearing life's end**; for those who struggle with issues of health, memory loss, and loneliness. A word of hope, a hand held, a tear wiped away, a smile given, a smile returned, *the presence of Christ, the Good News of the Gospel!*

As I close this report, we cannot forget the work of our Synod leadership, staff and volunteers. In Bishop Larry, Asst. 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!

In all this, we have so much to tell, to recount, recall, repeat, remember. And so, we *will*. We will recount; from one generation to the next. We will recount, for the sheer and simple joy! We will recount because we can. We will recount the praiseworthy deeds of the Lord! Why? Because we are a people *recounted and remembered* by God. And we are a people who love to count. Wahahahaha!

*I love to tell the story: how pleasant to repeat
What seems, each time I tell it, more wonderfully sweet
I love to tell the story, for some have never heard
The message of salvation from God's own holy word
I love to tell the story; 'twill be my theme in glory
To tell the old, old story of Jesus and his love.*

(From Evangelical Lutheran Worship, Hymn #661, *I Love to Tell the Story*)

Rev. Kathy Calkins *Dean, West Central Area*

East Central Area

God continues to be at work around us. As people who really believe that grace and love are at the root of the gospel we can continue to look for God to be at work in the hearts and lives of those around us, both inside and outside of the **church. Some may need a “Paul” to connect with them, build relationship, listen and serve, sharing the gospel as the opportunity presents itself. As Paul was moved by the guidance of the Spirit so may we also go where we are sent, to engage those around us in love, service, and conversation.**

In the East Central Area we thank Pastor Eleanor Ness for her years of service as the Dean. We also thank Horst Schreiber and Linda Aker-Paulgaard for their participation on the Conference Council.

On October 14th, 2017 Diaconal Minister Signi Bruner, Kathy Nelson, Mark Wight, and Pastor Julianna Wehrfritz-Hanson **were installed as the “Area Leadership Team”, thank you to these members for their continued participation and service.**

At the Area Retreat on October 28th, 2017, at Zion Lutheran Church in Bawlf, those who gathered felt they had spent that Saturday well. We were inspired, encouraged and informed about the topic, Holy Places, Holy Spaces for Hol(e)y People. The speaker, Dr. Faith Nostbakken, spoke about how we encounter the holy in the midst of daily life.

By the time of the Synod Convention the Rostered leaders of the Area will have gathered for a Rostered Leaders retreat on April 23-24, 2018.

Over the past year we celebrated and supported a couple of candidates as they were ordained. The Rev. Colin Millang was ordained on July 15, 2017 at Messiah Lutheran Church, Camrose. The Rev. Bev Swanson was ordained and installed at Messiah Lutheran Church, Camrose on August 26, 2017.

We also remember and give thanks for the lives and ministries of those pastors who have died including

- The Rev. Allen Severson on July 16, 2016
- The Rev. Milton Rude on January 15, 2017; and
- The Rev. Larry Soveran on April 2, 2018

During this past summer two congregation celebrated **milestone anniversaries. St. Peter's** Lutheran Church, Bashaw rejoiced for 120 years as a congregation, and Hope Lutheran Church, Forestburg gave thanks for their 100th Anniversary. Both congregations appreciated the presence of Bishop Larry Kochendorfer at their celebrations.

In the midst of all the various things that are happening in the lives of our members, our Pastors and Diaconal Ministers, and our congregations, our Area and Synod, we thank God for the life, the community and the work of our churches in

cities, towns, villages and the open country. May divine grace continue to flow to us and to those around us calling disciples into ever deeper relationship with the One who gave his very life for us, the heavenly Parent, and the Blessed Spirit.

Submitted by Pastor Julianna Wehrfritz-Hanson
Dean of East Central Area

Southwestern Area

We've given thanks to St. John's Calgary for the many years of faithful service to the community, as well as for the kind gifts they've left the Conference churches and other ministries as they closed their doors and sold their building. Their legacy will live on as the gifts they've given will help ensure that God's work is being done with and among us.

We've seen pastoral transitions and congregational celebrations. We've learned to work together in common mission in various ways among our churches. Specifically, the Southwest Conference Refugee Mission has grown as we support four families (and growing as I write this). Refugee sponsorship has been a bright light in the SW Conference, and I am proud of the hard work that the committee has done, and by the generosity of our churches and ministries in supporting and sustaining this vital ministry.

Lutheran Campus Ministry Calgary (LCMC), under the leadership of Pr. Margaret Propp, has grown from the University of Calgary to Mount Royal University. This ministry has been a model of ecumenical and interfaith partnership and LCMC as Pr. Margaret has collaborated with colleagues from a variety of faiths, as well as with the university itself, to create a strong spiritual presence on those two campuses.

While we've seen much success with our Southwest Conference Refugee Mission, and this ministry continues to grow, we're also looking towards the future that the Spirit is leading us into.

As the new Area Leadership Team begins to meet, so does the process of listening and discernment. We have a strong team as I am privileged to work with Wayne Hoff, Nyajuok Kulang, Pr. Tim Wray, and Heidi Schlotter to lead the listening and discernment process. Over time, more voices will be heard as we listen to what the Spirit is saying to us in our time and place, **and our eyes will be open to God's activity in our community.** Then, with listening hears and discerning eyes, together, as a community of the Southwest Area, we will join in what we see **God doing with and among us. The future is open to the Spirit's** leading. And I am excited about the possibilities for partnership and community building that will unfold as we grab hold of the future that God has given us.

Submitted in Jesus' Name,

Rev. Kevin Powell
Dean, Southwestern Area

Southern Area

Grace and peace to you from God our Father and our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

This is an exciting time to be newly appointed as dean, as part of the transition from the conference structure to the new Area Leadership Team (**we're** calling ourselves SALT - Southern Area Leadership Team).

One of the main challenges we face is one of distance — our congregations are quite far removed from each other. However, the work that has been done through the Missional Formation process which involved most Southern Area pastors and many of the Southern Area congregations (and wrapped up in June 2017) has begun conversations about mission, ministry and leadership that can be built upon.

We are also very grateful to Spirit of Grace in Brooks for being a central point for the Area, as their office hosts our monthly pastor cluster meetings as well as Area Leadership Team meetings. We are thankful to have this central space to gather. Serving with me on SALT are Rev. Colin Millang (Redeemer, Hanna), Michelle Pulsifer (Good Shepherd, Lethbridge), and Leah Steiner (Unity, Medicine Hat). Our treasurer is Crystal Sherwick (Unity, Medicine Hat).

Part of the transition from conferences to areas is moving from a business structure to a missional one, where we seek to be collaborative in ministry together. Our team is looking at ways at facilitating conversations between our distant congregations and sharing stories of ministry with one another.

We give thanks to Rev. Reg Berg for his years of service as dean. He installed all of the current active pastors in the Area (myself included) and we are grateful for his leadership.

Transitions in the Southern Area since the 2016 Synod Convention:

- St. **Paul's**, Burstall, SK was welcomed to the ABT Synod at the 2016 Convention from the Saskatchewan Synod because of its proximity to Medicine Hat. Beginning in September 2016, Rev. Shane Hein (St. Peter, Medicine Hat) and myself have taken turns leading a monthly service of Holy Communion.
- Rev. Tom Peterson retired from Good Shepherd, Lethbridge. Rev. Andrew Horne (Anglican) is serving Good Shepherd in a part-time interim capacity.
- Rev. Colin Millang was ordained and installed as pastor at Redeemer, Hanna. Pastor Colin had previously been serving Redeemer as an intern.
- Rev. Reg Berg resigned his call to Bethany, Tilley and Faith, Rolling Hills to serve Prince of Peace, Calgary.
- Bethany, Tilley has contracted with Pastor Les Skonnard for pulpit supply. Pastor Les also serves as part-time chaplain for Good Samaritan Society homes in Raymond and Cardston.
- Rev. Emil Krause has retired after many years of service to Bethlehem, Hilda. An arrangement for pulpit supply similar to the one at St. **Paul's**, Burstall is a possibility for the future.

Our Area team is excited by the possibilities of flexibility in the new area structures and especially for a renewed focus on mission together. We are looking forward to engaging our area congregations in new conversations and experiments in working together for the sake of the gospel.

Yours in Christ Jesus —

Rev. Jeff Decelle, Southern Area Dean

Synod of Alberta and the Territories Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada Roster of Synod Council

Rev. Dr. Larry Kochendorfer	Bishop	2018
Wayne Street	Chairperson	2021
Paul Ellison	Treasurer	2018
Marilyn Murray	Secretary	2018
Terrie Coombs	Southwestern Area	2021
Rev. Dr. Phil Holck	Southwestern Area	2018
Rev. Dr. Deborah Ann Taylor	East Central Area	2021
Shae Belanger	East Central Area	2018
Mark Ree	West Central Area	2021
Rev. John Lentz	West Central Area	2021
Michael Harmon	Northern Area	2021
Rev. Heidi Wachowiak	Northern Area	2018
Wendy Kalkan	Southern Area	2021
Rev. Janice Whitelock	Southern Area	2018
The Ven. Alan T. Perry	Full Communion Partner Representative	2018

Section E– Partner Reports

Report of the National Bishop

Liberated by God's Grace

Grace and peace to you in the name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ!

As I think back on the past two years since your last Synod Convention, the first thing that comes to mind is the commemoration of the 500th anniversary of the Lutheran Reformation and the lasting impact it will have on the ELCIC. The commemoration of the Reformation may be officially over but the way it has strengthened our Lutheran identity, the way it brought us together in common witness and service through the Reformation Challenge, and its core message of being *Liberated by God's Grace* will continue to shape our life together as a church in Canada.

In September of 2017, our National Church Council began working on a new five-year strategic plan. The National Office uses this strategic plan to help shape and focus our work. We are energized by the new four areas of focus in our strategic plan: Reconciled Relationships, One Body Working Together, Courageous Innovation, and Empowered Disciples. I would invite you to look at these four areas and consider how you, your congregation and your community might be engaged in one or more of these priorities.

The following is a small glimpse at the work of the National Office reported around these four new strategic areas, and how we carry out our call to be a church *In Mission for Others*.

Reconciled Relationships

In 2011, the ELCIC made a commitment to promote right and renewed relationships between non-indigenous and Indigenous Peoples within Canada. In July 2015, the ELCIC renewed this commitment to truth, reconciliation and equity by repudiating the Doctrine of Discovery. At this year's National Convention delegates welcomed Kaila Johnston, research coordinator for the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation (NCTR). The NCTR opened in the summer of 2015 and was created to preserve the memory of **Canada's** Residential School system and legacy. It is the permanent home for all statements, documents, and other materials gathered by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada (TRC). In her presentation to delegates, Johnston

shared that she is frequently asked what people can do be involved in reconciliation. She listed several actions of reconciliation, including: **"Learn the history** of Indigenous and non- indigenous peoples, understand the history and legacy of Residential schools, explore the unique intersections between treaty, constitutional Indigenous and human rights, recognize the rich contributions Indigenous peoples have had to this country, take action to address historical injustices and present-day wrongs, as well as teach **others.**" I encourage you to consider how you and your congregation can learn more about the **TRC's 94 Calls to Action** and how you can be involved in the important work of reconciliation.

The 2017 ELCIC National Convention affirmed *A Statement to Muslims in Canada by the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada* (<http://elcic.ca/ecumenical/documents/StatementtoMuslimsinCanada> by the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada.pdf) and a new resource titled *Encountering People of Other Faiths—Interfaith Guidelines* (<http://elcic.ca/ecumenical/documents/EncounteringPeopleOfOtherFaiths-InterfaithGuidelines.pdf>).

These are important documents for our church given the fact that hate crimes are rising within Canada. Following the January 2017 fatal attack at le Centre Culturel Islamique de Québec, I called on the members of our church to reach out in a genuine expression of love for our neighbour (<http://www.elcic.ca/news.cfm?article=459>). I continue to urge you to speak out against all forms of racism and violence against Muslims and to work to build relationships with your interfaith neighbours.

The 500th anniversary of the Reformation provided the opportunity to strengthen relationships with Roman Catholics in Canada and around the world. There were services of Common Prayer co-sponsored by Lutherans and Roman Catholics all across the country, from Whitehorse to Vancouver, Sault Ste. Marie to Halifax. Other events that took place as part of the commemoration of the Reformation gave us the opportunity to strengthen relationships with many of our ecumenical partners. This was evidenced at the 2017 National Convention, where partners from the Canadian Council of Churches, Presbyterian Church in Canada, United Church of Canada, Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops, Anglican Church of Canada, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, and Mennonite Church Canada participated in an ecumenical panel on the convention floor and then participated in our National Service of Commemoration of the 500th anniversary of the Reformation.

At the 2015 National Convention we adopted an “ELCIC Resolution on Climate **Justice**.” This action expanded the commitments we made in 2007’s resolution on the Stewardship of Creation.

Our continued commitment to working for reconciliation with all of creation is done at the congregational level through efforts like the tree-planting component of the Reformation Challenge, and nationally and internationally through work with partners.

One Body Working Together

To be a fully functioning church we need to have effective working relationships between congregations, synods, national church, and national and international partners. The body of Christ is bigger than any one of its component parts.

The Synodical and National Officers met at the beginning of December 2017 to look at ways we can work more closely together. At a time of challenge and opportunities, with fewer resources, we need to work together to set focused priorities that will enhance our ability to fulfill the mission to which God is calling us.

Shared vision and mutual trust is not only important within the church, but also among our church and our various partners. We are currently working towards a new *Memorandum of Understanding* with our partner Canada Lutheran World Relief (CLWR). We give thanks for the wonderful leadership Robert Granke has provided to the organization and offer our prayers on his retirement. At the same time, we welcome Rev. Karin Achtelstetter and look forward to our ongoing partnership in the ministry of CLWR.

In May of 2017, I had the privilege of participating in the global life of our church through The Lutheran World Federation Assembly in Windhoek, Namibia. As we gathered from many churches and countries and spoke and sang in many languages, I was reminded again of how much we gain when we are one body working together.

I was honoured to preside at communion at our Sunday worship service, a global celebration of the reformation anniversary. To look out over the crowd of 10,000 and see Lutherans gathered from around the world, worshipping God, commemorating our shared history, joining with ecumenical partners and celebrating the steps towards reconciliation we have shared, lifting up our shared mission and ministry—it was a spiritual highlight for me!

I had a similar spiritual highlight when I presided at our national commemoration service in July. Seeing our church gathered from across the country along with her ecumenical partners

reminded me of my Windhoek experience. What a joy to feel the Spirit alive and in our midst whether carrying out ministry in our local communities or gathered together at a convention.

Courageous Innovation

We recognize that we are in a time of change and that we are going to need to be flexible and patient with one another as we discover together how God is calling us to be the Lutheran church in Canada at this time.

The ELCIC’s Church Extension and Capital Fund (CECF) is in the middle of a five-year initiative where they are doing experimentation to figure out new ways of doing ministry given that the old model of congregational development has proven to be too expensive and/or no longer effective. CECF has provided a total of \$300,000 to each synod for Synod Mission initiatives. Funds will be used for activities that are experimental in spirit and genuinely seek to explore what it means to participate in God’s mission in the world today.

We are excited about walking with synods in this process. Each of the synods are allocating their funds in different and creative ways. In your synod, two examples are support for unique Drum, Dine and Discuss event through Campus Ministry at the University of Calgary, and various opportunities for coaching and mentoring lay leadership as we seek to strengthen our habits for empowered discipleship.

Being courageous innovators involves balance—on the one hand we need to remember the boundaries we live in as expressed in the constitution and bylaws of this church and on the other hand allow for the freedom of colouring outside the lines. We need to hold these together in a healthy and creative tension as we continue to discern possibilities and try out new ministries across the church.

By naming Courageous Innovation as one of our strategic priorities, National Church Council is recognizing that God may indeed be calling us to new things and new ways and we may have to try things and fail and learn from our failures as part of our faithful discipleship.

Empowered Disciples

Now as in all times of the church there is a need to create and nurture faithful participation in **God’s mission** in the world. In an effort to inspire a church that is prophetic, missional, and diaconal, the ELCIC’s Faith, Order and Doctrine committee has published *Public Ministry in the ELCIC: A preliminary draft* for review, reflection and response by September 30, 2018.

At the same time, we are looking at new ways of calling and equipping Rostered leaders in our church for specific ministries.

We believe the new *Congregational Employment Agreements* and updated *Letters of Call* will enhance the quality of your vocational relationships and deepen the bonds of mutual care and accountability.

And, in this year of synod conventions, we also look forward to two national gatherings—the Canadian Lutheran Anglican Youth (CLAY) gathering (www.claygathering.ca) and the National Worship Conference (www.nationalworshipconference.org). Both of these Lutheran/Anglican events serve to strengthen faith and empower people in witness and service.

Thank you for your participation in the ELCIC Reformation Challenge. I was overwhelmed and proud by the contributions, large and small, that individuals, congregations and synods make to help us meet our goals. We may not have met all of our challenge goals but together we raised the equivalent of about four million dollars for ministry in Canada and around the world. How amazing is that!

In his 2018 New Year's message to the Lutheran World Federation, General Secretary Martin Junge declared that despite the many challenges we face, there is no better time than now to be the church. By acknowledging these challenges, it reminds us to stay focused on what has been given to us without cost, and share it with the thirsty in the world—offering a life-giving witness. “It is a good year to be the church. We have our hands filled with gifts to **share**,” says Martin! And I agree.

Friends, **it's** a good year to be the church. We too have our hands filled with gifts to share. Yours in Christ,

+ 

Canadian Lutheran World Relief

We want to thank you. You are creating hope in the world.

Your generosity each year means that more children learn in safe and healthy environments, providing them with a strong foundation for the future. You make it possible for refugees—many of whom have had to leave everything behind—to have a new home and the basic supplies they need to care for themselves. Along with volunteers all across Canada, you create beautiful quilts that are sent overseas, providing thousands of people with warmth and comfort. Many others receive the We Care kits you packed, filled with essential supplies.

Thanks to you, Fort McMurray residents are receiving support as they adjust to life after wildfires swept through the region in 2016. More than 270 refugees began new lives in Canada in 2017 because Canadian Lutherans like you responded.

For all these reasons and many more, we say thank you. And **we're not the only ones.**

Around the world, people are thanking you. At the time of writing, you are creating life-changing hope in Canada, Cuba, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, Jordan, Myanmar, Nepal, Nicaragua and Palestine and more.

Thank you!

I wish to express gratitude to Robert Granke, our Executive Director, who retired at the end of March 2018. He has held this title since 2006 and has a more than 40-year history with CLWR. We deeply appreciate his strong and wise leadership, **his commitment to CLWR's mission and his vision for nurturing future humanitarians.**

Robert Granke's legacy of life-changing leadership will be continued through the Intern Support Fund, which will be established in his name. You are invited to nurture future leaders of CLWR by considering a contribution to the Fund. Your gift will support interns as they prepare for a future of humanitarian service. Donations to the Fund may be made online anytime at: <http://bit.ly/clwr-isf>

CLWR's Board of Directors is pleased to announce that Rev. Dr. Karin Achtelstetter has been appointed CLWR's incoming Executive Director Designate. Previously the General Secretary of the World Association for Christian Communication, Rev. Dr. Achtelstetter has extensive experience working with CLWR partners including The Lutheran World Federation, ACT Alliance and the World Council of Churches. As an ordained Lutheran pastor and

through her years of executive leadership experience, she has firsthand experience working with churches, grassroots communities and project partners around the world.

Beginning April 1, 2018, she will assume the position of Executive Director. Please join us in welcoming her to CLWR.

I am pleased to share about several other staff transitions in our Community Relations department. Fikre Tsehai, formerly our Development Manager—Refugee Resettlement, has transitioned to the position of Refugee & Migration Policy Advisor. He will remain based in our western office in New Westminster, BC.

Senait Biadgilign, also working out of our western office, has begun the position of Refugee Resettlement Officer. If you are interested in refugee sponsorship and are in the British Columbia Synod or Synod of Alberta and The Territories, please contact Senait Biadgilign at 1 (888) 588-6686.

Jennifer Ardon, based out of our office in Waterloo, ON, is our new Refugee Resettlement Manager. If you are interested in refugee sponsorship, and are in Saskatchewan, Manitoba and the Eastern Synods, please contact Jennifer Ardon at 1 (888) 255-0150. Additionally, we are pleased to welcome Hoda Al-Obaidi to the position of Refugee Program Assistant in the eastern office.

These changes are designed to provide increasing support for the refugee sponsorships made possible by Canadian Lutherans like you each year. Along with the transitions, these staff will now focus specifically on refugee sponsorship. If you would like to arrange for someone to speak with your congregation or group, please contact me at 1 (800) 661-2597 and I would be happy to make arrangements with you.

We are so thankful for your desire to create a world where people live in justice, peace and dignity. Visit our website at www.clwr.org and join the conversation with us on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and LinkedIn to find out how you are making a difference in the lives of people around the world.

I would like to hear from you about what CLWR means to you. **We would love to feature your congregation's stories.** I can be reached at carla@clwr.org.

God bless,

Rev Carla Blakley

Rev. Carla Blakley
Community Relations Director
On behalf of
Robert Granke and Karin Achselstetter

Lutheran Collegiate Bible Institute

*And now these three remain: faith, hope and love.
But the greatest of these is love.
—1 Cor. 13:13*

Love, illustrated by this verse from 1 Corinthians, is the first of **LCBI's Seven Core Values. This value is woven through** everything LCBI does. As graduates from the 1940s through to the 2010s visited with old friends and made new ones at our **"Catch Up" events this winter, current students and alumni** confirmed the truth of this message. Those in attendance described the incredible transformation they had experienced during their LCBI years.

Our choral program has grown significantly over the last couple years under the direction of Graham Codling. The choir hosts the largest membership in years and will soon require us to establish two choirs as in previous years. Our Leadership program continues grow servant and team-based leaders for our churches and communities. This program helps all our students to understanding that leadership is a personal skill and to work in faith.

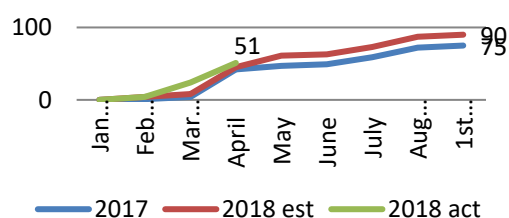
Twenty-two students from the Class of 2018 are preparing to graduate Grade 12. They are excited about postsecondary education, gap-year travel, entering the workforce, and other adventures. These students will leave LCBI knowing that the education, leadership skills, and faith they have acquired during their time here have equipped them to succeed. They are grateful for the generosity of the donors who made this education possible.

Staff planning for September, are pleased to have already received more student applications than we had at this time last year. Our Recruitment Officer is working with many families to make 2018 the year their children begin studies at LCBI. We want these new students to have a chance to feel accepted, appreciated, and confident in their abilities. We want these future Bisons to be able to be educated as whole people – as athletes, singers, actors, mentors, academics – with strong Christian values and a sense of discipleship and mission. We want these Sons and Daughters of LCBI to know they are loved children of God, children loved also by each other and by their teachers and staff.

While we remain in a critical cash flow situation, our student numbers rise each year and programs grow each year. Below are two charts; one of our student registrations over the past few years and one of our anticipation for more students in the fall of 2018.



Recruitment for Fall 2018



Now, as our 2017–18 academic year swings into its final weeks, we invite you to help us provide opportunities for next year's students. Please make a generous gift and support our vital and life-changing mission. By making this donation, and by praying for our community, you will be empowering a generation of future leaders to know that they are loved.

We would see Jesus!

In Christ,

Respectfully Submitted by: Wayne Hove,

LCBI President

PO Box 459

Outlook, SK S0L 2N0

(306) 867-8971 ext 400

www.lcbi.sk.ca

Lutheran Theological Seminary, Saskatoon

Be Challenged:

Lutheran Theological Seminary, Saskatoon is in an exciting time, as we envision a new future. We are building around the invitation to “Be Challenged,” encouraging potential ELCIC leaders to “Challenge Yourself. Challenge Others. Challenge the World.”

New President:

We have called a new President, the Rev. Dr. William (Bill) Harrison. Dr. Harrison is an Anglican, coming most recently from the Diocese of Huron (Southwestern Ontario), where he served as Director for Mission and Ministry. In that role, he led the Diocese in strategic planning, facilitating church transformations (different formations, closures, new formations), and teaching about evangelism.

Previously, he served as Director for Mission and Ministry, and as parish clergy in the Diocese of Kootenay (BC). From 2000 until 2005, he was Professor of Theology, in addition to filling the roles of Registrar and Vice-Principal, at the College of Emmanuel & St. Chad in Saskatoon; there, he co-taught with LTS faculty in a shared effort to combine Lutheran and Anglican formation, when possible.

Breadth of Ministry:

Today's complex world, in which the church has shrinking resources, demands that we take seriously the multiplicity of ministries and the need to work in teams. LTS continues its strong commitment to preparing ordained clergy for parish leadership (Master of Divinity) and continuing education for ordained leaders (Doctor of Ministry). At the same time, we are developing programmes to strengthen the work of people in other church leadership roles. The Lay Academy is becoming a **significant part of the Seminary's work, offering** programmes of interest to laypeople and developing training for Authorized Lay Ministers. LTS offers the Certificate in Diaconal Ministry and has recently provided the only course available in Canada on Diaconal Theology and Practice (required for Diaconal Ministry). In the Fall of 2018, we will enroll the first cohort in our Master in Health Care and Parish Nursing degree, an advanced degree meant to increase Christian theological reflection on the health care system and to strengthen the parish nursing system by responding to major issues in the field. We strive to prepare people for the **whole breadth of ministry in today's ELCIC.**

Flexible Delivery Curriculum:

Today's LTS looks very different from the seminary of days gone by. Nearly all of our students live at a distance from the Seminary. Our courses are offered in intensive formats (usually two weeks on campus, one week for courses during internship) and on-line. Students are formed in their home parishes and in internship parishes. They can continue with their families and existing support systems. The learning community is strong. It develops in new ways, especially through use of electronic media; community is sustained partly by its development in the ordinary walk of life and family, so that ties continue after time at LTS.

Challenge Scholarships:

We are very pleased to announce a new scholarship programme at LTS. For each of the next three years (2018-19, 2019-20, 2020-21), we will offer up to a total of 5 scholarships per year for new students. A Master of Divinity degree student receiving a scholarship will be given a total of \$50,000 (\$20,000 for each of the first two years, while in classes, and \$5,000 for each of the internship years). A Master of Theological Studies degree student receiving a scholarship will be given a total of \$40,000 (\$20,000 for each of the two years of classes). Priority will be given to spreading the scholarships across the 4 Western Synods of the ELCIC. Share the news! Invite people to apply!

Recruitment:

Recruitment has become a significant issue in church life, as we all work together to encourage people to consider new **roles in church leadership. The Seminary's strategy is multi-pronged: the Challenge Scholarship programme improves funding, while we reach out to people in parishes, schools, and elsewhere, using the language of "Challenge" as our theme of invitation. The Seminary invites people to "Be Challenged" with us, asking that potential leaders recognize that a call to church leadership of any kind will involve three aspects: "Challenge Yourself" (using and increasing all of your skills, and adding new ones), "Challenge Others" (as you help to lead a transforming church), and "Challenge the World" (in a church that is now counter-cultural, participating in God's work of changing society). We believe that today's people are up for a challenge, and are most excited by a life committed to growth and transformation.**

We are reaching out with these themes to all parishes, post-secondary institutions, and secondary schools that are prepared to welcome us. We are striving to build (in some

cases, re-build) ties to institutions that have prepared students for ELCIC leadership in the past, such as camp ministries and traditionally Lutheran colleges and high schools. We welcome invitations to parishes and church events where we can share the joy of life in church leadership and in the kind of formation that LTS offers.

Attendance:

For the 2017-18 academic year, we have 19 full-time students and 10 part-time students registered. We have 12 candidates for ordained ministry and 2 candidates for the diaconate. Six people are currently enrolled in the Doctor of Ministry programme, which is playing an expanded role in the **Seminary's** life. Rising interest in the D.Min. is very encouraging; it shows that parish clergy have a thirst for **developing their skills at a challenging time in the church's** life.

Finances and the Future:

The Seminary faces significant financial issues. After years of austerity measures that cannot be sustained over the longer term, we continue to have a structural deficit of over \$100,000 annually. The Board is considering a variety of options for moving forward in a way that will serve the synods and will **best cater to the Seminary's revised needs in a world where** our course delivery is in an intensive format or online, and where our numbers are relatively small.

Submitted by:

The Rev. Dr. William Harrison, President