
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 When properly presented before the meeting a motion may be withdrawn by its mover and seconder only with the assent of the meeting as a whole.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: --
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To object to a procedure:

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

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

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

- 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.

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

congregations on its territory that are recognized by the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada and certified to it by the secretary of the church.

- Section 3. Additional congregations may be recognized by the synod acting on behalf of this church in the manner described in the constitution and bylaws of this church.
- Section 4. The synod may revoke its recognition of any congregation in the manner described in the constitution and bylaws of this Church.

ARTICLE VI - Congregations

- Section 1. **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.
- Section 2. **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.
- Section 3. **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.
- Section 4. **Relation to Synod**
The alignment of congregations in pastoral charges shall be subject to approval of Synod Council.
- Section 5. **Petitions**
Congregations shall have the right to petition this synod, according to procedures set forth in the bylaws.
- Section 6. **Solicitation of Funds**

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.

- Section 7. **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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.

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

- 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.
 - 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.

- 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.

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.

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.

Section 8. The minister shall ensure that the congregation keeps accurate records of membership, baptisms, confirmations, marriages, burials and communicants, and shall report such statistics annually to the

secretary of the Synod on the forms prescribed by the Church. These records shall be certified as being correct by the congregational secretary on the same forms. The congregational records shall be kept in a separate book which shall remain the property of the congregation.

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.