
SECTION D– REPORTS OF THE OFFICERS AND COUNCIL COMMITTEES

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

Chairperson's Report

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

In His Service
Wayne Street, Synod Council Chair.

Mission Priorities and Outcomes 2018-2021

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

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

Biblical study, prayer, spiritual direction, and Dwelling in the Word.

- c. Faithful, accountable and wise disciples mentor, encourage, and mutually equip the body of Christ.
- d. Innovative organizational structures, governance models, and approaches to conflict resolution will reflect the incarnational presence of Jesus.
- e. Candidates for rostered ministry, who hear the call to serve God in the church, are identified, mentored and provided with support and information.
- f. Lay and rostered leaders are encouraged to practice a humble openness to God's activities in the world around them.

2. HOPE-FILLED DISCIPLESHIP is expressed through Synod ministries which embrace the diversity of all participants and the unity of the body of Christ working together for the glory of God.

- a. Together in Christ we live with discernment and spiritual practices modeled and taught for faith formation.
- b. All people, with the uniqueness of their gifts, are welcomed as valued partners in ministry with clear expectations of service.
- c. Ministries are encouraged to equip, support, and inspire one another.
- d. Stewardship that strengthens the body of Christ is practiced.

3. INNOVATIVE TRADITION is embraced and uplifted as an expression of God at work in and through the Synod.

- a. Formation worship that proclaims the Gospel shapes the living of our baptismal vocation and prepares the way for openness to change.
- b. Creative approaches to ministry are supported with respect and interest.
- c. Experimentation and risk is encouraged, allowing for flexibility, opportunities for learning, and exciting possibilities.

4. COLLABORATIVE PARTNERSHIPS reflect the communion of saints and the interconnected nature of the Triune God as witness to the restoration, redemption and reconciliation of the world.

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

Secretary's Report

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

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

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

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

B. Appointments

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

C. Roster Status

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

D. Administrative Decisions

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

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

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

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

MSC SC17-21 That a maximum of \$30,000 be allocated from the Ratz Fund for the five 2017 Planned Giving events to be held throughout the Synod.

MSC SC18-03 That Rev. Anna Thede be nominated to Convention for election as Synod Council Secretary.

MSC SC18-04 That Rev. Doug Heine be nominated to convention to continue as Rostered representative on the Board of Governors of the Lutheran Theological Seminary, Saskatoon.

MSC SC18-05 That Allyn Langager be the recipient of The Synod of Alberta and the Territories Leadership Award at Convention.

MSC SC18-08 That in lieu of an increase in salary for 2018, Bishop Larry be allowed to take up to 10 extra days off at his discretion.

MSC SC18-09 That the Bishop's Performance Review Committee be given thanks for their work.

MSC SC18-12 That The Synod of Alberta and the Territories Leadership Award be renamed "The Synod of Alberta and the Territories *Stephen D. Wildfang Leadership Award*."

MSC SC18-14 That the Synod Convention – Opening Eucharist offering be divided between LWF Endowment Fund and Bishop's Discretionary Fund.

MSC SC18-15 That \$20,000 of the Boren Estate for Ministry in the North be forwarded to On Eagles' Wings.

MSC SC18-16 That the Executive Officers explore with ELFEC (Evangelical Lutheran Foundation of Eastern Canada) and the Edmonton Community Foundation the creation of a Fund for Ministry in the North with the remaining funds

from the Boren Estate. A percentage of the investment income is to be received for Trinity Lutheran, Whitehorse; Holy Family Lutheran, Yellowknife; and for the Synod for future ministry opportunities in the North.

MSC SC18-18 That the Synod Constitution be presented for 2nd reading at the Synod Convention.

MSC SC18-19 That the Synod Bylaws be presented at the Synod Convention for consideration and approval.

Treasurer's Report

Financial highlights

Dear Friends in Christ.

As many of you are aware, much has happened in the last few months at the Synod. Specifically related to the Treasurer position, we have all been saddened and deeply affected by the passing of Stephen Wildfang in March of 2018. Stephen devoted over 27 years of service as Treasurer of the Synod and had a deep-rooted knowledge of everything pertaining to the position. As a result of the timing of his passing there are some items which have not been completed in time for this written report.

In the past, Stephen put many hours into preparing the drafted financial statements together for the auditors to report on. This year, the auditors have had the additional task of preparing the financial statements before preparing an audited report. As such, at the time I am writing this, the 2017 audited financial statements have not been completed in their entirety. Synod Council has approved the 2016 audited financial statements however, the 2017 audited financials will need to be approved by Synod Council prior to the convention. They will then be posted on the Synod website with the already posted Bulletin of Reports. At convention I will be able to provide details of the 2017 audited reports.

There are however, some items that I wish to bring to your attention:

- Due to the decreased Benevolence in 2017 as compared to 2016, salaries for Synod Staff were frozen at 2017 levels for the 2018 calendar year.
- Due to limited information and the given circumstances, Council Executive have agreed not to prepare a 2019 operating budget until all relevant information is available. The 2019 operating budget will be approved by Synod Council in the fall of 2018 at the Synod Council's regular meeting. It is expected that the budget will remain similar to prior years taking into account the decrease in Benevolence receipts expected. It should be noted that there is no requirement that an operating budget be presented for the convention
- Registration fees for the 2019 ELCIC National Convention are expected to be \$30,100 which is only a \$900 increase from 2017. Additionally, our Synod will elect one more rostered leader to the 2019 ELCIC National Convention (15 Lay, 2 Youth, 11 Rostered Ministers)

- Synod Council wishes to extend a Thank You to the five Areas within the Synod for continuing to gather and forward funds to the Synod to offset the cost for the National Conventions. Following the 2018 synod convention, and the 2019 national convention, we will enter a three-year cycle for conventions (2021 synod convention and 2022 national convention) which will mean an additional year to gather funds for the national convention.

As the new Treasurer I would ask that you keep me in your prayers during this time of time of transition.

Your servant in Christ,

Paul Ellison, CPA, CGA

Synod of Alberta and the Territories - DRAFT Constitution

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Article I NAME and INCORPORATION
 Article II TERRITORY
 Article III CONFESSION of FAITH
 Article IV MISSION
 Article V MEMBERSHIP
 Article VI CONGREGATIONS
Article VII SYNODICALLY RECOGNIZED MINISTRIES
~~Article VIII~~ **VIII ROSTERED MINISTERS – ORDAINED**
~~Article VIII~~ **IX ROSTERED MINISTERS – DIACONAL**
~~Article IX~~ **X FULL COMMUNION PROVISIONS**
~~Article X~~ **XI AREAS**
~~Article XI~~ **XII CONVENTIONS**
~~Article XII~~ **XIII SYNOD COUNCIL**
~~Article XIII~~ **XIV SYNOD OFFICERS**
~~Article XIV~~ **XV THE OFFICE of the BISHOP**
~~Article XV~~ **XVI COMMITTEES**
~~Article XVI~~ **XVII THEOLOGICAL INSTITUTIONS**
~~Article XVIII~~ **AUXILIARIES**
 Article XVIII BYLAWS
 Article XIX AMENDMENTS

Existing ABT Constitution - 2016	Proposal
ARTICLE I Name and Incorporation Section 1. The name of the synod functioning under this constitution shall be The Alberta Synod whose operating name shall be The Synod of Alberta and the Territories of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada.	ARTICLE I Name and Incorporation Section 1. The name of the synod functioning under this constitution shall be The Alberta Synod whose operating name shall be The Synod of Alberta and the Territories of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada <u>(hereafter referred to as this synod).</u>
Section 2. The synod shall be incorporated under the laws of Alberta.	Section 2. <u>This</u> 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.	Section 3. The seal of <u>this</u> synod shall consist of a cross encircled by the words "The Alberta Synod - Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada." The bishop shall have custody of the seal.

Existing ABT Constitution - 2016	Proposal
<p>ARTICLE II Territory The Territory of this synod shall be the province of Alberta plus the Yukon Territory, the Northwest Territories and Nunavut.</p>	No change
<p>ARTICLE III Confession of Faith Section 1. This synod confesses the Triune God - Father, Son and Holy Spirit - as the one true God. It proclaims the Father as Creator and Preserver; His Son, Jesus Christ, as Redeemer and Lord; and the Holy Spirit as Regenerator and Sanctifier.</p>	No change possible
<p>Section 2. This synod confesses that the Gospel is the revelation of God's saving will and grace in Jesus Christ, which He imparts through Word and Sacrament. Through these means of grace the Holy Spirit creates believers and unites them with their Lord and with one another in the fellowship of the Holy Christian Church.</p>	No change possible
<p>Section 3. This synod confesses the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments as the inspired Word of God, through which God still speaks, and as the only source of the Church's doctrine and the authoritative standard for the faith and life of the Church.</p>	No change possible
<p>Section 4. This synod confesses the following symbols, comprising the Book of Concord of 1580, which it subscribes specifically as witnesses to the way in which the Holy Scriptures have been correctly understood and explained and confessed for the sake of the Gospel, namely</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. the Apostles', the Nicene, and the Athanasian Creeds as the chief confessions of the Christian faith; b. the Unaltered Augsburg Confession as its basic formulation of Christian doctrine; c. Luther's Small Catechism as a clear summary of Christian doctrine; d. the Apology of the Augsburg Confession, Luther's Large Catechism, the Smalcald Articles with the Treatise, and the Formula of Concord as further witnesses to the Unaltered Augsburg Confession. 	No change possible

Existing ABT Constitution - 2016	Proposal
<p>ARTICLE IV Mission Section 1. As the regional expression of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada, in faithfulness to the Lord of the Church, this synod shall facilitate and advance the mission of this church within its territory. Guided and empowered by the Holy Spirit, it shall carry out this mission by shepherding its congregations and ordained ministers, and by engaging in other forms of ministry which proclaim God's Word and serve to bring reconciliation to the world.</p>	<p>ARTICLE IV Mission Section 1. As the regional expression of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada (<u>hereafter referred to as this church</u>), in faithfulness to the Lord of the Church, this synod shall facilitate and advance the mission of this church within its territory. Guided and empowered by the Holy Spirit, it shall carry out this mission by shepherding and engaging its congregations, synodically recognized ministries, specialized ministries, and ordained rostered ministers, and by engaging in other forms of ministry which who proclaim God's Word, build community and serve to bring reconciliation to the world.</p>
<p>Section 2. The mission of this church, as an expression of the universal church and as an instrument of the Holy Spirit, is to bring the Gospel of Jesus Christ to people in Canada and around the world through the proclamation of the Word and the administration of the Sacraments and through service in Christ's name.</p>	<p>Section 2. The mission of this church, as an expression of the universal Church and as an instrument of the Holy Spirit, is to bring the Gospel of Jesus Christ to people in Canada and around the world through the proclamation of the Word and the administration of the Sacraments and through service in Christ's name.</p>
<p>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.</p>	<p>ARTICLE V Membership Section 1. The membership of <u>this</u> synod consists of member congregations and synodically recognized ministries that are recognized by this synod in the manner described in the bylaws of this church. Baptized individuals who are members of a congregation or synodically recognized ministry ("baptized members") shall exercise their privileges and responsibilities through participation in the congregation or synodically recognized ministry in which they are members.</p>
<p>Section 2. The synod shall recognize those congregations on its territory that are recognized by the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada and certified to it by the secretary of the church.</p>	<p>Section 2. <u>This</u> synod shall recognize those congregations on its territory that are recognized by the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada and certified to it by the secretary of <u>this church</u>.</p>
<p>Section 3. Additional congregations may be recognized by the synod acting on behalf of this church in the manner described in the constitution and bylaws of this church.</p>	<p>Section 3. Additional congregations may be recognized by <u>this</u> synod acting on behalf of this church in the manner described in the constitution and bylaws of this church.</p>

Existing ABT Constitution - 2016	Proposal
<p>Section 4. The synod may revoke its recognition of any congregation in the manner described in the constitution and bylaws of this Church.</p>	<p>Section 4. This synod may revoke its recognition of any congregation or synodically recognized ministry in the manner described in the constitution and bylaws of this <u>church</u>.</p>
<p>ARTICLE VI 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.</p>	<p>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 <u>church</u> and of <u>this</u> synod.</p>
<p>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.</p>	<p>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. Representation of this synod to ELCIC Conventions will follow the process outlined in the bylaws of this synod.</p>
<p>Section 3. Representation to the Synod and Conference Conventions Every congregation of the synod shall choose a delegate or delegates to represent it at conventions of the synod and at meetings of the conference to which the congregation is assigned in accordance with procedures as defined in the bylaws of the synod. An alternate or alternates may act in the stead of the delegate or delegates in the event of their absence.</p>	<p>Section 3. Representation to Synod Conventions and Conference Conventions Every congregation of this synod shall choose a delegate or delegates to represent it at conventions of this synod and at meetings of the conference to which the congregation is assigned in accordance with procedures as defined in the bylaws of this synod. An alternate or alternates may act in the stead of the delegate or delegates in the event of their absence.</p>
<p>Section 4. Relation to Synod The alignment of congregations in pastoral charges shall be subject to approval of Synod Council.</p>	<p>Section 4. Relation to Synod The alignment of congregations in pastoral charges shall be subject to approval of Synod Council.</p>
<p>Section 5. Petitions Congregations shall have the right to petition this synod, according to procedures set forth in the bylaws.</p>	<p>Section 5. Petitions Congregations shall have the right to petition this synod, according to procedures set forth in the bylaws.</p>
<p>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.</p>	<p>Section 6. Solicitation of Funds The approval of this <u>church</u> or a convention of the synod or of its council shall be required for the solicitation of funds from congregations for institutions, agencies and causes of this <u>church</u>.</p>
<p>Section 7. Provision of Pastors When a pastor resigns, the congregational council shall receive the resignation, report it to the congregation and notify the bishop of the synod.</p>	<p>Section 7. Provision of Pastors When a <u>rostered minister</u> resigns, the congregational council shall receive the resignation, report it to the congregation and notify the bishop of <u>this</u> synod.</p>

Existing ABT Constitution - 2016	Proposal
<p>Section 8. Advice of the Bishop In case of strife and division in a congregation, the congregational council shall seek the advice of the bishop of the synod.</p>	<p>Section 8. Advice of the Bishop In case of strife and division in a congregation, the congregational council shall seek the advice of the bishop of <u>this</u> synod.</p>
<p>Section 9. Appeals from Discipline A lay member of any congregation, who is under discipline, may appeal to the synod. All such appeals must be in writing to the bishop within thirty (30) days after the disciplinary action has been taken. Copies of said appeal shall be transmitted by the appellant to the pastor and to the secretary of the congregation. The bishop shall appoint a special committee to investigate the appeal. The decision of the committee shall be final and reported to the appropriate parties.</p>	<p>Section 9. Appeals from Discipline A lay member of any congregation, who is under discipline, may appeal to the synod. All such appeals must be in writing to the bishop within thirty (30) days after the disciplinary action has been taken. Copies of said appeal shall be transmitted by the appellant to the pastor and to the secretary of the congregation. The bishop shall appoint a special committee to investigate the appeal. The decision of the committee shall be final and reported to the appropriate parties.</p> <p>A lay member of any congregation who is under discipline by their congregation may appeal to <u>this</u> synod in the manner described in the bylaws of this synod.</p>
<p>Section 10. Procedures for Withdrawing A congregation desiring to withdraw from this church shall notify the synod bishop. Decision to withdraw must be approved by a two-thirds majority vote at a legally called and conducted meeting and immediately reported to the synod bishop. Decision to withdraw shall not be effective until action has been ratified by a two-thirds majority vote of those who were members at the time of the first vote. This subsequently legally called and conducted meeting held not less than 90 days and not more than 180 days after the first vote to withdraw.</p>	<p>Section 10. Procedures for Withdrawing A congregation desiring to withdraw from this church shall notify the <u>bishop of this synod</u>. Decision to withdraw must be approved by a two-thirds majority vote at a <u>properly</u> called and conducted meeting and immediately reported to the <u>bishop of this synod</u>. Decision to withdraw shall not be effective until action has been ratified by a two-thirds majority vote of those who were members at the time of the first vote. This subsequently <u>properly</u> called and conducted meeting <u>shall be</u> held not less than 90 days and not more than <u>150</u> days after the first vote to withdraw.</p>
<p>Section 11. Congregation Becoming Defunct A congregation which has ceased to exist or whose membership has so diminished in numbers as to render it impossible or impractical for the congregation to function according to its constitution and bylaws shall, after consultation with any remaining members, be deemed by the synod of which it was a part to be defunct. The synod through the Synod Council shall appoint trustees, including where feasible former members of the congregation, who shall take charge and control of the property of said congregation to hold, manage and convey the same on behalf of this synod.</p>	<p>Section 11. Congregation Becoming Defunct A congregation which has ceased to exist or whose membership has so diminished in numbers as to render it impossible or impractical for the congregation to function according to its constitution and bylaws shall, after consultation with any remaining members, be deemed by <u>this</u> synod of which it was a part to be defunct. <u>This</u> synod through the Synod Council shall appoint trustees, including where feasible former members of the congregation, who shall take charge and control of the property of said congregation to hold, manage and convey the same on behalf of this synod.</p>
	<p>ARTICLE VII Synodically Recognized Ministries Section 1. This synod shall maintain a roster of synodically recognized ministries.</p>

Existing ABT Constitution - 2016	Proposal
	<p>Section 2. Synodically recognized ministries shall be entitled to representation at conventions of this synod with seat and voice.</p>
	<p>Section 3. The approval of this church or a convention of this synod or of its council shall be required for the solicitation of funds from synodically recognized ministries for institutions, agencies and causes of this church.</p>
	<p>Section 4. A lay member of any synodically recognized ministry who is under discipline by their synodically recognized ministry may appeal to this synod in the manner described in the bylaws of this synod.</p>
<p>ARTICLE VII Ordained Ministers Section 1. The synod shall have a roster of ordained ministers.</p>	<p>ARTICLE VIII Ordained Ministers Rostered Ministers – Ordained Section 1. The synod shall <i>maintain</i> a roster of ordained ministers.</p>
<p>Section 2. The standards of acceptance and continuance on the roster of ordained ministers shall be defined in the bylaws of the synod.</p>	<p>Section 2. The standards of acceptance admission and continuance on the roster of ordained ministers shall be defined in the bylaws of <i>this</i> synod.</p>
<p>Section 3. An ordained minister shall preach the Word, administer the Sacraments and conduct public worship in harmony with the faith and practices of the Church; shall baptize, confirm and marry in accordance with the teaching of the Church and with the laws of the province; shall visit the sick and distressed and bury the dead; shall inculcate piety in individual and family life and provide pastoral leadership to all schools and auxiliary organizations of the congregation; shall install members of the congregational council and, with the council, administer discipline; shall seek out and encourage qualified persons to prepare for the ministry of the Gospel and strive to extend the Kingdom of God in the community, at home and abroad; and shall encourage the members to be generous in support of the ministry of the congregation, the synod and the church.</p>	<p>Section 3. An ordained minister shall preach the Word, administer the Sacraments and conduct public worship in harmony with the faith and practices of the Church; shall baptize, confirm and marry in accordance with the teaching of the Church and with the laws of the province; shall visit the sick and distressed and bury the dead; shall inculcate piety in individual and family life and provide pastoral leadership to all schools and auxiliary organizations of the congregation; shall install members of the congregational council and, with the council, administer discipline; shall seek out and encourage qualified persons to prepare for the ministry of the Gospel and strive to extend the Kingdom of God in the community, at home and abroad; and shall encourage the members to be generous in support of the ministry of the congregation, the synod and the church. An ordained minister shall conduct themselves in accordance with the constitution, bylaws and policies of this synod and of this church.</p>

Existing ABT Constitution - 2016	Proposal
<p>ARTICLE VIII Diaconal Ministers Section 1. The synod shall have a roster of diaconal ministers.</p>	<p>ARTICLE IX Diaconal Ministers Rostered Ministers - Diaconal Section 1. The synod shall <u>maintain</u> a roster of diaconal ministers.</p>
<p>Section 2. The standards of acceptance and continuance on the roster of diaconal ministers shall be defined in the bylaws of this synod.</p>	<p>Section 2. The standards of acceptance admission and continuance on the roster of diaconal ministers shall be defined in the bylaws of this synod.</p>
	<p>Section 3. A diaconal minister shall conduct themselves in accordance with the constitution, bylaws and policies of this synod and of this church.</p>
<p>ARTICLE IX Full Communion Provisions Section 1. Ordered ministers of churches with which this church has a full communion agreement, who are serving in this church under the provisions of that full communion agreement shall have the same rights and privileges as the equivalent order of ministry in this Church.</p>	<p>ARTICLE X Full Communion Provisions Section 1. Ordered ministers of churches with which this church has a full communion agreement, who are serving in this church under the provisions of that full communion agreement shall have the same rights and privileges as the equivalent order of ministry in this <u>church</u>.</p>
<p>ARTICLE X Conferences Section 1. The synod shall be organized regionally into conferences whose members and boundaries shall be determined by the synod in convention upon the recommendation of the Synod Council.</p>	<p>ARTICLE XI Conferences Areas Section 1. <u>This</u> synod shall be organized regionally into conferences areas whose members number and boundaries shall be determined by the synod in convention upon the recommendation of the Synod Council Synod Council.</p>
<p>Section 2. The role of the conferences shall be defined in the bylaws of the synod.</p>	<p>Section 2. The role of the conferences areas shall be defined in the bylaws of <u>this</u> synod.</p>
<p>ARTICLE XI Conventions Section 1. The convention of the synod shall be its highest legislative authority.</p>	<p>ARTICLE XII Conventions Section 1. The convention of <u>this</u> synod shall be its highest legislative authority.</p>
<p>Section 2. Conventions of this synod shall be held according to times, policies, and procedures as described in the bylaws of the synod.</p>	<p>Section 2. Conventions of this synod shall be held according to times, policies, and procedures as described in the bylaws of <u>this</u> synod.</p>

Existing ABT Constitution - 2016	Proposal
<p>ARTICLE XII Synod Council Section 1. Synod Council is the governing body of the synod and shall carry out all normal functions and responsibilities on behalf of the synod in accordance with the constitution, the bylaws and resolutions of the synod in convention.</p>	<p>ARTICLE XIII Synod Council Section 1. Synod Council is the governing body of this synod and shall carry out all normal functions and responsibilities on behalf of this synod in accordance with the constitution, the bylaws and resolutions of this synod in convention.</p>
<p>Section 2. Synod Council shall consist of the officers of the synod, and members elected and appointed according to procedures defined in the bylaws of the synod. Synod Council may appoint a replacement member to fill a vacancy between conventions.</p>	<p>Section 2. Synod Council shall consist of the officers of the synod, and members elected and appointed according to procedures defined in the bylaws of the synod. The council of this synod shall consist of officers and members, all whom shall be members in good standing of congregations or synodically recognized ministries. They shall be elected or appointed according to procedures defined in the bylaws of this synod. Synod Council may appoint a replacement member to fill a vacancy between conventions.</p>
<p>Section 3. The terms of the elected members shall begin the first day of the third month following election.</p>	<p>No change</p>
<p>Section 4. The bishop shall be an ex officio member of Synod Council.</p>	<p>Section 4. The bishop of this synod shall be an ex officio member of Synod Council.</p>
<p>ARTICLE XIII Officers Section 1. The officers of the synod shall be the chairperson, the secretary and the treasurer. Two of the three officers shall be lay members of the synod.</p>	<p>ARTICLE XIV Officers Section 1. The officers of this synod shall be the chairperson, the secretary and the treasurer. Two of the three officers shall be lay members of this synod.</p>
<p>Section 2. The duties of the officers shall be defined in the bylaws of the synod.</p>	<p>Section 2. The duties of the officers shall be defined in the bylaws of this synod.</p>
<p>Section 3. The officers shall be elected by the synod convention according to procedures defined in the bylaws of the synod. All officers shall serve until their successors assume office.</p>	<p>Section 3. The officers shall be elected by the synod convention according to procedures defined in the bylaws of this synod. All officers shall serve until their successors assume office.</p>
<p>Section 4. Synod Council may appoint a replacement officer to fill a vacancy between conventions.</p>	<p>No change</p>

Existing ABT Constitution - 2016	Proposal
<p>Section 5. The terms of officers shall begin no later than the first day of the third full month following election.</p>	<p>No change</p>
<p>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.</p>	<p>Section 6. The recall or dismissal of an officer of this synod shall follow the procedure set out in the constitution and bylaws of this church.</p>
<p>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.</p>	<p>Section 7. Synod Council may extend a call to an assistant to an officer to serve as an assistant in accordance with procedures defined in the bylaws of this synod. Such persons shall be ineligible for membership on Synod Council.</p>
<p>ARTICLE XIV The Office of the Bishop Section 1. The bishop shall be a pastor and counselor to all pastors and lay members of the synod, and with the Synod Council, shall be the guardian of the procedures relating to the good standing in the faith, and the welfare of congregations, pastors and institutions of the synod.</p>	<p>ARTICLE XV The Office of the Bishop Section 1. The bishop of this synod shall be a pastor and counselor to all pastors rostered ministers and lay members of this synod, and with the Synod Council, shall be the guardian of the procedures relating to the good standing in the faith, and the welfare of congregations, synodically recognized ministries, specialized ministries, pastors rostered ministers and institutions of this synod.</p>
<p>Section 2. The bishop shall be the chief executive officer of the synod, and an ex officio member of all committees of the synod.</p>	<p>Section 2. The bishop of this synod shall be the chief executive officer of this synod, and an ex officio member of all ministry teams and committees of this synod.</p>
<p>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.</p>	<p>Section 3. The bishop of this synod as the chief executive officer of this 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.</p>
<p>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.</p>	<p>Section 4. The authority to elect and call a bishop shall rest with this 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.</p>

Existing ABT Constitution - 2016	Proposal
<p>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.</p>	<p>Section 5. All synod staff and staff committees shall be accountable to the bishop <i>of this synod</i>. The bishop <i>of this synod</i> may delegate responsibility to other staff as deemed appropriate.</p>
<p>ARTICLE XV Committees Section 1. Synod Council shall have authority to establish such committees deemed necessary for the mission of the synod.</p>	<p>ARTICLE XVI Committees Section 1. Synod Council shall have authority to establish such committees deemed necessary for the mission of <i>this</i> synod.</p>
	<p>Section 2. Terms of reference for, and membership on, any committee shall be defined in the bylaws of <i>this</i> synod or in the Policies of the Governance Manual of Synod Council.</p>
<p>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.</p>	<p>ARTICLE XVII 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.</p>
<p>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.</p>	<p>No change</p>
<p>b. The board may, in consultation with the church, propose to the synod(s) an increase in the number of its members, such increase to include an equal number of ordained ministers and lay persons. Any proposal for increase in the number of members of the board must have the approval of the synod(s).</p>	<p>b. The board may, in consultation with <i>this</i> church, propose to the synod(s) an increase in the number of its members, such increase to include an equal number of ordained ministers and lay persons. Any proposal for increase in the number of members of the board must have the approval of the synod(s).</p>
<p>c. the term of office for each member of the board shall be four years except in the following cases: i. Where a member is appointed to fill a vacancy, such appointment shall be by the Synod Council and shall be for the remainder of the term of the predecessor. ii. In the case of the first of any new elections in connection with increasing the number of the said board, the terms of office shall be for two</p>	<p>c. The term of office for each member of the board shall be four three 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</p>

Existing ABT Constitution - 2016	Proposal
or four years, so spaced that one-half of the membership of the board shall be elected each biennium.	three or six years, so spaced that one-half of the membership of the board shall be elected each biennium triennium .
d. Members of the board shall be eligible to serve for not more than two consecutive terms.	No change
e. Financial support for the seminary shall be determined by a process of consultation between the Board of Governors, this Church and the Synod Council.	e. Financial support for the seminary shall be determined by a process of consultation between the Board of Governors, this church and the Synod Council.
f. The board shall make an annual report to the regular convention of the synod.	f. The board shall make an annual report to the regular convention of this synod.
ARTICLE XVII Auxiliaries There shall be synodical units of the official auxiliaries of this church. Such units shall report to the Synod Council and conventions. The bishop, or an appointee, shall have seat and voice at synodical unit conventions and board meetings.	ARTICLE XVII Auxiliaries There shall be synodical units of the official auxiliaries of this church. Such units shall report to the Synod Council and conventions. The bishop, or an appointee, shall have seat and voice at synodical unit conventions and board meetings.
ARTICLE XVIII Bylaws Section 1. This synod may adopt such bylaws, not in conflict with this constitution, as may be necessary. Such bylaws may be amended at any convention by a two-thirds vote of the delegates present and voting. At least one day shall elapse between first presentation and convention action unless unanimous consent to amend is given.	No change
Section 2. Bylaws relating to convention procedure may be suspended by a two-thirds vote of the delegates present and voting.	No change
ARTICLE XIX Amendments Section 1. The Confession of Faith as stated in Article III shall be that of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada and is not amendable.	No change

Existing ABT Constitution - 2016	Proposal
<p>Section 2. Amendments to this constitution shall be in writing and may be proposed by either</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. the National Church Council b. the Synod Council, c. a congregation of the synod, or d. ten delegates 	<p>Section 2. Amendments to this constitution shall be in writing and may be proposed by: either</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. the National Church Council; b. the Synod Council; c. a congregation of <u>this</u> synod if such proposal was first approved at a properly called and conducted congregational meeting; or d. ten convention delegates.
<p>Section 3.</p> <p>All proposed amendments must be reported to the convention no later than the first full day of business. The Synod Council shall make a report and recommendation during that convention on all proposed amendments. Adoption of an amendment shall require passage at this and the next regular convention by a two-thirds vote of the delegates present and voting. Notice of the full text thereof shall be sent to the pastors and congregations of the synod at least one month prior to the second reading.</p> <p>Further amendment at the second reading shall require unanimous consent. Such amendments shall be effective upon ratification by the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada in convention or by its National Church Council.</p>	<p>Section 3.</p> <p>All proposed amendments must be reported to the convention no later than the first full day of business. The Synod Council shall make a report and recommendation during that convention on all proposed amendments. Adoption of an amendment shall require passage at this and the next regular convention by a two-thirds vote of the delegates present and voting. Notice of the full text thereof shall be sent to the pastors and congregations rostered ministers, congregations and synodically recognized ministries of <u>this</u> synod at least one month prior to the second reading.</p> <p>Further amendment at the second reading shall require unanimous consent. Such amendments shall be effective upon ratification by the <u>National Church Council of the</u> Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada. in convention or by its National Church Council.</p>

Synod of Alberta and the Territories - DRAFT Bylaws

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Part I ~~Headquarters~~ **Offices**

Part II Organizational Relationships

Part III ~~Ordained Minister/Congregation Relationship~~ **Rostered Minister - Ordained**

Part IV ~~Diaconal Ministers~~ **Rostered Minister - Diaconal**

Part V Conventions

Part VI **Nominations and** Elections of Delegates to the National Church Convention Part VII

Synod Council

Part VIII Synod Officers

Part IX ~~Duties of the Bishop~~ **The Synod Bishop**

Part X Synod Council **Standing** Committees

Existing ABT Synod Bylaws - 2016	Proposed Bylaws
<p>Part I Headquarters (Constitution, Article II) Section 1. The headquarters of this synod shall be located in Edmonton.</p>	<p>Part I Headquarters Offices (Constitution, Article II) Section 1. The headquarters head office of this synod shall be located in Edmonton.</p>
<p>Section 2. All executive offices shall be located at the headquarters of the synod unless otherwise approved by the synod council.</p>	<p>Section 2. All executive offices shall be located at the headquarters of the synod unless otherwise approved where designated by the council of this synod-council.</p>
<p>Part II Organizational Relationships Section 1. Congregation (Constitution, Article VI) In relating to congregations within its territory, the synod shall organize, recognize, receive, release and exclude congregations, and approve or disapprove of the relocation or the merger of congregations.</p>	<p>Part II Organizational Relationships Section 1. Congregations (Constitution, Article VI) In relating to congregations within its territory, the this synod shall organize, recognize, receive, release and exclude congregations, and approve or disapprove of the relocation or the merger of congregations.</p>
<p>b. Congregations may petition the synod according to the procedures set forth in these bylaws, Part V, Section 8.</p>	<p>b. Congregations may petition the this synod according to the procedures set forth in these bylaws, Part V, Section 8.</p>

Existing ABT Synod Bylaws - 2016	Proposed Bylaws
	<p>A lay member of a congregation who wishes to appeal discipline imposed by the congregation on that member shall appeal in writing to the bishop of this synod within thirty (30) days after the disciplinary action has been taken. The appellant shall send copies of the appeal to the rostered minister and to the secretary of the congregation. The bishop of this synod shall appoint a special committee to investigate the appeal. The decision of the committee shall be reported to the appellant, the rostered minister and secretary of the congregation, and to the bishop of this synod. The decision of the committee shall be final.</p>
	<p>Section 2. Synodically Recognized Ministries Synodically recognized ministries are groups and organizations other than congregations who promote and implement the mission of this church.</p>
	<p>This synod may organize, recognize, receive, release and exclude synodically recognized ministries within its geographical boundaries.</p>
	<p>A lay member of a synodically recognized ministry who wishes to appeal discipline imposed by the synodically recognized ministry on that member shall appeal in writing to the bishop of this synod within thirty (30) days after the disciplinary action has been taken. The appellant shall send copies of the appeal to the synodically recognized ministry. The bishop of this synod shall appoint a special committee to investigate the appeal. The decision of the committee shall be reported to the appellant, the synodically recognized ministry and to the bishop of this synod. The decision of the committee shall be final.</p>
<p>Section 2. Conferences (Constitution, Article IX) The synod shall be divided into five conferences as follows: East Central, Northern, Southern, Southwestern and West Central. All members of the congregations are encouraged to attend conference meetings. The voting membership shall be all ordained ministers and diaconal ministers residing within the territory of the conference, and three lay delegates from each congregation, the third of whom shall be a confirmed member under the age of twenty-five. Congregations having more than three hundred baptized members shall be entitled to an additional lay member for each additional two hundred baptized members or major fraction thereof.</p>	<p>Section 2. Conferences (Constitution, Article IX) The synod shall be divided into five conferences as follows: East Central, Northern, Southern, Southwestern and West Central. All members of the congregations are encouraged to attend conference meetings. The voting membership shall be all ordained ministers and diaconal ministers residing within the territory of the conference, and three lay delegates from each congregation, the third of whom shall be a confirmed member under the age of twenty-five. Congregations having more than three hundred baptized members shall be entitled to an additional lay member for each additional two hundred baptized members or major fraction thereof.</p> <p>Section 3. Areas and Area Leadership Teams Areas are groups of congregations, synodically recognized ministries and specialized ministries that work together in mission led by an area leadership team.</p>

Existing ABT Synod Bylaws - 2016	Proposed Bylaws
	<p>The council of this synod, in consultation with the bishop of this synod, shall determine the number of areas and their geographical boundaries.</p>
<p>The bishop of the synod or the bishop's appointee shall attend the conference meetings.</p>	<p>The bishop of the synod or the bishop's appointee shall attend the conference meetings.</p>
	<p>The council of this synod, in consultation with the bishop of this synod, shall appoint an area leadership team for each area based on gifts for leadership. Area leadership teams shall consist of one youth (up to thirty years of age), two lay and two rostered leaders (one of whom shall be appointed dean) and a treasurer who may or may not be a member of the area leadership team.</p>
<p>c. The purpose of the conferences shall be to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Assist its congregations and the synod in planning, promoting and implementing the mission of this Church; ii. Encourage fellowship among ordained and diaconal ministers and congregations; iii. Arrange opportunities for the study of the Bible and Lutheran confessions; iv. Respond in consultation with the synod to particular needs within its territory; v. Elect the required number of rostered ministers as delegates to the conventions of this Church; and vi. Elect representatives to synodical positions as determined in these bylaws. 	<p>c. The purpose of the conferences shall be to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Assist its congregations and the synod in planning, promoting and implementing the mission of this Church; ii. Encourage fellowship among ordained and diaconal ministers and congregations; iii. Arrange opportunities for the study of the Bible and Lutheran confessions; iv. Respond in consultation with the synod to particular needs within its territory; v. Elect the required number of rostered ministers as delegates to the conventions of this Church; and vi. Elect representatives to synodical positions as determined in these bylaws. <p>e. The role of the area leadership team is to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Develop a discerning, learning community within the area who seek to follow where God leads; ii. Strive to be an expression and catalyst of this synod's mission priorities in the area; iii. Encourage and equip congregations and ministries within the area to collaborate and implement the mission priorities of this synod; iv. Annually arrange, together with synod staff, for continuing education opportunities for rostered and lay leaders to support and encourage learning and collaborative area ministries; v. Encourage networking and mutual support among rostered and lay leaders; vi. Provide pastoral support to area rostered ministers as required. vii. Maintain contact with the bishop of this synod; viii. Serve as the bishop's representative, as requested, at installations, assisting with the call process, and conducting exit interviews;

Existing ABT Synod Bylaws - 2016	Proposed Bylaws
	<p>ix. Provide recommendations to the bishop of this synod and synod council regarding the appointment of area leadership team members.</p>
<p>d. A conference may adopt for itself any rules and regulations not in conflict with the constitution and bylaws of the synod.</p>	<p>d. A conference may adopt for itself any rules and regulations not in conflict with the constitution and bylaws of the synod.</p> <p>f. Area leadership teams shall report to the bishop of this synod annually or as requested by the bishop.</p>
<p>e. Each conference shall meet at least once a year at a time and place set by the conference. Conferences shall designate their own quorums.</p>	<p>e. Each conference shall meet at least once a year at a time and place set by the conference. Conferences shall designate their own quorums.</p> <p>g. Area leadership team members shall be appointed for three-year terms and are eligible for reappointment. In the event an area leadership team member is unable or unwilling to serve the full term, the bishop of this synod may appoint a replacement to complete the term.</p>
<p>f. Each conference shall have the right to petition the synod according to procedures set forth in these bylaws, Part V, Section 8.</p>	<p>f. Each conference shall have the right to petition the synod according to procedures set forth in these bylaws, Part V, Section 8.</p>
<p>g. Each conference shall elect from its membership a dean, a chairperson, a secretary or secretary/ treasurer, and at least one other person who shall constitute a conference council. The conference may elect a treasurer who shall be a member of the council, or the council may appoint a treasurer who shall not be a member of the council.</p>	<p>g. Each conference shall elect from its membership a dean, a chairperson, a secretary or secretary/ treasurer, and at least one other person who shall constitute a conference council. The conference may elect a treasurer who shall be a member of the council, or the council may appoint a treasurer who shall not be a member of the council.</p>
<p>h. The conference council shall appoint persons to fill all vacancies in the council membership until the next meeting of the conference. In the event of the resignation of a conference dean, an interim dean shall be appointed by the conference council in consultation with the bishop. Time of service completed in fulfilment of vacant conference council positions shall not be included for the purposes of determining eligibility for further election.</p>	<p>h. The conference council shall appoint persons to fill all vacancies in the council membership until the next meeting of the conference. In the event of the resignation of a conference dean, an interim dean shall be appointed by the conference council in consultation with the bishop. Time of service completed in fulfilment of vacant conference council positions shall not be included for the purposes of determining eligibility for further election.</p>
<p>i. The conference council shall be authorized to receive and hold funds from its member congregations for the purpose of defraying reasonable administrative or program expenses related to the work of the conference. A printed financial report shall be presented at all regular meetings of the conference.</p>	<p>i. The conference council shall be authorized to receive and hold funds from its member congregations for the purpose of defraying reasonable administrative or program expenses related to the work of the conference. A printed financial report shall be presented at all regular meetings of the conference.</p>

Existing ABT Synod Bylaws - 2016	Proposed Bylaws
j. The dean of each conference shall report to the synod through the bishop.	j. The dean of each conference shall report to the synod through the bishop.
k. The deans of the conferences and the bishop shall meet at least once a year for spiritual renewal and for general discussion of programs, plans and problems affecting conferences and the synod. Except where otherwise provided in this constitution and its bylaws, the function of such a meeting shall be consultative and advisory.	h. The deans of the conferences area leadership team deans and the bishop of this synod shall meet at least once a year for spiritual renewal and for general discussion of programs, plans and problems affecting conferences and the synod. Except where otherwise provided in this constitution and its bylaws, the function of such a meeting shall be consultative and advisory. missional discernment.
l. The bishop may call upon the deans of the conferences to assist in the duties of installations and pastoral care of the ministers and congregations in their conferences.	l. The bishop may call upon the deans of the conferences to assist in the duties of installations and pastoral care of the ministers and congregations in their conferences.
Section 3. Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada (Constitution, Article V) In relating to the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada, the synod shall: Recognize where operating within the territory of the synod, all organizations recognized by the ELCIC, as provided for in the ELCIC Constitution, Article XVII, Section 3.	Section 3.4. Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada (Constitution, Article V) In relating to the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada, the synod shall: Recognize where operating within the territory of the synod, all organizations recognized by the ELCIC, as provided for in the ELCIC Constitution, Article XVII, Section 3. This synod shall recognize all organizations recognized by the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada.
Section 4. Theological Institutions (Constitution, Article XV) The Lutheran Theological Seminary in Saskatoon is owned by the Synods of Manitoba/Northwestern Ontario, Saskatchewan, Alberta and the Territories, and British Columbia. Its Board of Governors is made up of the bishops of those synods, a lay and clergy representative from each of those synods, and one clergy and two lay representatives appointed by this Church. Advisory members are the president of the Lutheran Theological Seminary and the national staff person assigned to relate to theological institutions.	Section 4. 5. Theological Institutions (Constitution, Article XV) The Lutheran Theological Seminary in Saskatoon is owned by the Synods of Manitoba/Northwestern Ontario, Saskatchewan, Alberta and the Territories, and British Columbia. Its Board of Governors is made up of the bishops of those synods, a lay and clergy rostered representative from each of those synods, and one clergy rostered and two lay representatives appointed by this Church church . Advisory members are the president of the Lutheran Theological Seminary and the national staff person assigned to relate to theological institutions.
In relating to Lutheran Theological Seminary, Saskatoon, the synod in convention shall elect two members to the Lutheran Theological Seminary Board of Governors, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, one clergy and one lay, according to the terms determined by the seminary.	In relating to Lutheran Theological Seminary, Saskatoon, the this synod in convention shall elect two members one rostered minister and one lay person to the Lutheran Theological Seminary Board of Governors, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan according to the terms determined by the seminary.
Part III Ordained Minister/Congregation Relationship (Constitution, Article VII) Section 1.	Part III Ordained Minister/Congregation Relationship Rostered Minister – Ordained (Constitution, Article VII) Section 1.

Existing ABT Synod Bylaws - 2016	Proposed Bylaws
Ordination of approved candidates shall take place at a time and place designated by the bishop.	Ordination of approved candidates shall take place at a time and place designated by the bishop of this synod .
Section 2. The synod shall have a call process manual approved by the synod council. A congregation wishing to extend a call shall follow the general procedures set out in the call process manual unless otherwise advised by the bishop due to unusual circumstances.	Section 2. The This synod shall have a call process manual approved by the synod council. A congregation wishing to extend a call shall follow the general procedures set out in the call process manual unless otherwise advised by the bishop of this synod due to unusual circumstances.
	Section 3. Each minister, except those who are retired, disabled, on leave from call, or suspended from pastoral ministry, shall be in possession of a proper call from a congregation, this synod or this church itself. Before issuing the call, the calling agency shall consult with the bishop of this synod.
Section 3. A minister shall inform the congregational council and the bishop immediately upon receipt of a call to another ministry and shall inform the calling agency and the bishop of any decision made within thirty days unless an extension is granted by mutual consent of all the parties involved. A minister shall terminate an existing call within two months of accepting another call, unless an extension is granted by mutual consent of all the parties involved.	Section 3 4 . A minister shall inform the congregational council and the bishop of this synod immediately upon receipt of a call to another ministry and shall inform the calling agency and the bishop of this synod same of any decision made within thirty days unless an extension is granted by mutual consent of all the parties involved. A minister shall terminate an existing call within two months of accepting another call, unless an extension is granted by mutual consent of all the parties involved.
Section 4. If a conflict arises within a congregation that cannot be resolved internally, the pastor or the council chairperson shall notify the dean or the bishop in order that a mediation counsellor or other person with special expertise may be called in for the purpose of resolution and reconciliation. This process may be requested by the minister(s), the congregational council, or one quarter of the members in good standing of the congregation. Recommendations from the mediator shall be dealt with at a meeting of the congregation called for this purpose. If the conflict cannot be resolved satisfactorily by this process, the bishop shall be advised for follow up action.	Section 4 5 . If a conflict arises within a congregation that cannot be resolved internally, the pastor minister or the council chairperson shall notify the dean or the bishop of this synod in order that a mediation counsellor or other person with special expertise may be called in for the purpose of resolution and reconciliation. This process may be requested by the minister(s), the congregational council, or one quarter of the members in good standing of the congregation. Recommendations from the mediator shall be dealt with at a meeting of the congregation called for this purpose. If the conflict cannot be resolved satisfactorily by this process, the bishop of this synod shall be advised for follow up action.
Section 5. When no term is specified, a regular call accepted by an ordained minister to a congregation shall constitute a relationship which may be terminated only for the following causes: a. The resignation of the minister b. The disqualification of the minister as a result of discipline c. The division of the pastoral charge d. The physical or mental incapacity of the minister	Section 5 6 . When no term is specified, A regular call accepted by an ordained a minister to a congregation shall constitute a relationship which may be terminated only for the following causes: a. The Resignation of the minister; b. The Disqualification of the minister as a result of discipline; c. The Division, dissolution or realignment of the

Existing ABT Synod Bylaws - 2016	Proposed Bylaws
<p>e. The continued neglect of ministry by the minister</p> <p>f. The inability to conduct the ministerial office satisfactorily in a congregation in view of local conditions, without reflection on the moral and spiritual character of the minister.</p>	<p>pastoral charge;</p> <p>d. The physical or mental incapacity of the minister Incapacity of the minister, either physical or mental;</p> <p>e. The Continued neglect of ministry by the minister; or</p> <p>f. The Inability to conduct the ministerial office satisfactorily in a congregation in view of local conditions, without reflection on the moral and spiritual character of the minister.</p>
<p>i. In the last three contingencies, the bishop may, following consultation with the conference dean, appoint an advisory committee of two rostered ministers and two lay members to investigate. Upon the request of the congregational council or the rostered minister; or on receipt of a petition signed by at least one-third of the voting members of a congregation, the bishop shall appoint an advisory committee to investigate.</p>	<p>i. In the last three contingencies, the bishop may, following consultation with the conference dean, appoint an advisory committee of two rostered ministers and two lay members to investigate.</p> <p>g. Where the conditions set out in Section 6 d, e, f, are alleged the bishop of this synod may appoint an advisory committee of two rostered ministers and two lay members to investigate. Upon the request of the congregational council, or the rostered minister; or on receipt of a petition signed by at least one-third of the voting members of a congregation, the bishop of this synod shall appoint an advisory committee to investigate.</p>
<p>ii. The bishop may, with the concurrence of the congregational council, suspend the minister from ministerial duties pending the outcome of the formal proceedings when circumstances warrant.</p>	<p>ii. h. The bishop of this synod may, with the concurrence of the congregational council, suspend the minister from ministerial duties pending the outcome of the formal proceedings when circumstances warrant.</p>
<p>iii. An advisory committee appointed to investigate an allegation of physical or mental disability shall secure medical testimony to confirm or refute such allegation. If incapacity is confirmed, the bishop may, on the advice of the committee and with the concurrence of the congregational council, declare the pastorate vacant. Should the minister be restored to health, the bishop shall take steps to enable the minister to resume ministry in the congregation last served or in another ministry.</p>	<p>iii. i. An advisory committee appointed to investigate an allegation of physical or mental disability shall secure medical testimony to confirm or refute such allegation. The advisory committee shall secure medical testimony to confirm or refute an allegation of physical or mental disability. If incapacity is confirmed, the bishop of this synod may, on the advice of the committee and with the concurrence of the congregational council, declare the pastorate vacant. Should the minister be restored to health, the bishop of this synod shall take steps to enable the minister to resume ministry in the congregation last served or in another ministry.</p>
<p>iv. An advisory committee appointed to investigate an allegation of neglect of ministry or of local conditions that imperil the well-being of a congregation shall provide an opportunity for all concerned parties to be heard. At the conclusion of the investigation, the bishop, in company with the committee, shall bring recommendations to the minister and the congregation for consideration and action. Such counsel shall be offered in Christian love and is not to be regarded as a disciplinary measure. If the</p>	<p>iv. j. An The advisory committee appointed to investigate an allegation of neglect of ministry or of local conditions that imperil the well-being of a congregation shall provide an opportunity for all concerned parties to be heard. At the conclusion of the investigation, the bishop of this synod, in company with the committee, shall bring recommendations to the minister and the congregation for consideration and action. Such counsel shall be offered in Christian love and is not to</p>

Existing ABT Synod Bylaws - 2016	Proposed Bylaws
situation cannot be resolved amicably, the pastor may resign, or the congregation may terminate the call by a majority vote at a properly called congregational meeting.	be regarded as a disciplinary measure. If the situation cannot be resolved amicably, the pastor minister may resign, or the congregation may terminate the call by a majority vote at a properly called and conducted congregational meeting.
v. The foregoing procedure shall not be invoked when questions of doctrine or morality are involved. Such cases shall be treated as disciplinary matters.	✕ k. The foregoing procedure shall not be invoked when questions of doctrine or morality are involved. Such cases shall be treated as disciplinary matters.
<p>Section 6.</p> <p>Between called ministers an interim minister shall be appointed by the bishop in consultation with the congregational council in accordance with procedures set forth in the call process manual. An interim minister shall have the rights and duties of a regularly called minister. An interim minister shall not be eligible for call to the congregation he or she is serving as interim. Interim or ministers providing occasional pulpit supply during an interim shall refrain from exerting influence in the call process.</p>	<p>Section-6. 7.</p> <p>Between called ministers an interim minister shall be appointed by the bishop of this synod in consultation with the congregational council in accordance with procedures set forth in the call process manual. An interim minister shall have the rights and duties of a regularly called minister. An interim minister shall not be eligible for call to the congregation he or she they are is serving as interim unless provision for a call is stated within the interim contract. Interim ministers or ministers providing occasional pulpit supply during an interim shall refrain from exerting influence in the call process.</p>
	<p>Section-6. 8.</p> <p>A minister shall preach the Word, administer the Sacraments of Holy Communion and Holy Baptism, and conduct public worship in harmony with the faith and practices of the church; equip, train, and mentor all God's people for ministry, in all areas of spiritual renewal and faith formation; confirm and marry in accordance with the teaching of this church and with the laws of the province or territory, visit the sick and distressed and bury the dead; strive for righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance, and gentleness; install members of the congregational council and, with the council, administer discipline; seek out and encourage qualified persons to prepare for rostered ministry; encourage the members to be generous in support of the ministry of the congregation, this synod and this church; commend members who move to the pastoral care of the parish in which their new home is located; and, participate, if applicable, in the synodical First Call Program for newly ordained ministers in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada.</p>
<p>Section 7.</p> <p>A minister shall not preach or perform any ministerial act within the parish of another minister except at the latter's request or consent or visit or perform ministerial acts in a time of a ministerial vacancy, except by invitation of the interim minister or congregational council.</p>	<p>Section-7. 9.</p> <p>A minister shall not preach or perform any ministerial act within the parish of another minister except at the latter's request or consent or visit or perform ministerial acts in a time of a ministerial vacancy, except by invitation of the interim minister or congregational council.</p>

Existing ABT Synod Bylaws - 2016	Proposed Bylaws
<p>Section 8. The minister shall ensure that the congregation keeps accurate records of membership, baptisms, confirmations, marriages, burials and communicants, and shall report such statistics annually to the secretary of the Synod on the forms prescribed by the Church. These records shall be certified as being correct by the congregational secretary on the same forms. The congregational records shall be kept in a separate book which shall remain the property of the congregation.</p>	<p>Section 8. 10. The minister shall ensure that the congregation keeps accurate records of membership, baptisms, confirmations, marriages, burials and communicants, and shall report such statistics annually to the secretary of the Synod this synod on the forms prescribed by the Church this church. These records shall be certified as being correct by the congregational secretary on the same forms. The congregational records shall be kept in a separate book which shall remain the property of the congregation.</p>
<p>Section 9. When members move, the minister shall commend them to the ministerial care of the parish in which their new home is located.</p>	<p>Section 9. When members move, the minister shall commend them to the ministerial care of the parish in which their new home is located.</p>
<p>Section 10. All rostered ministers serving under call are expected to attend all conventions of the synod and the meetings of the conferences to which they belong.</p>	<p>Section 10. 11. All rostered ministers serving under call are expected to attend all conventions of the this synod and the meetings of the conferences areas to which they belong.</p>
<p>Part IV Diaconal Ministers (Constitution, Article VIII) (As defined by this Church)</p>	<p>Part IV Diaconal Ministers Rostered Minister - Diaconal (Constitution, Article VIII) (As defined by this Church) Section 1. Consecration of approved candidates shall take place at a time and place designated by the bishop of this synod.</p>
	<p>Section 2. This synod shall have a call process manual approved by synod council. A congregation wishing to extend a call shall follow the general procedures set out in the call process manual unless otherwise advised by the bishop of this synod due to unusual circumstances.</p>
	<p>Section 3. Each diaconal minister, except those who are retired, disabled, on leave from call, or suspended from pastoral ministry, shall be in possession of a proper call from a congregation, this synod or this church itself. Before issuing the call, the calling agency shall consult with the bishop of this synod.</p>
	<p>Section 4. A diaconal minister under call shall inform the congregational council or calling agency and the bishop of this synod immediately upon receipt of a call to another ministry and shall inform the same of any decision made within thirty days unless an extension is granted by</p>

Existing ABT Synod Bylaws - 2016	Proposed Bylaws
	<p>mutual consent of all the parties involved. A minister shall terminate an existing call within two months of accepting another call, unless an extension is granted by mutual consent of all the parties involved.</p>
	<p>Section 5. If a conflict arises within a congregation that cannot be resolved internally, the minister or the council chairperson shall notify the bishop of this synod in order that a mediation counsellor or other person with special expertise may be called in for the purpose of resolution and reconciliation. This process may be requested by the diaconal minister(s), the congregational council, or one quarter of the members in good standing of the congregation. Recommendations from the mediator shall be dealt with at a meeting of the congregation called for this purpose. If the conflict cannot be resolved satisfactorily by this process, the bishop of this synod shall be advised for follow up action.</p>
	<p>Section 6. A regular call accepted by a diaconal minister to a congregation shall constitute a relationship which may be terminated only for the following causes:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Resignation of the diaconal minister; b. Disqualification of the diaconal minister as a result of discipline; c. Division of the pastoral charge; d. Incapacity of the diaconal minister, either physical or mental; e. Continued neglect of ministry by the diaconal minister; or f. Inability to conduct the ministerial office satisfactorily in a congregation in view of local conditions, without reflection on the moral and spiritual character of the diaconal minister. g. Where the conditions set out in Section 6 d, e, f, are alleged the bishop of this synod may appoint an advisory committee of two rostered ministers and two lay members to investigate. Upon the request of the congregational council, or on receipt of a petition signed by at least one-third of the voting members of a congregation, the bishop of this synod shall appoint an advisory committee to investigate. h. The bishop of this synod may, with the concurrence of the congregational council, suspend the diaconal minister from ministerial duties pending the outcome of the formal proceedings. i. The advisory committee shall secure medical testimony to confirm or refute an allegation of

Existing ABT Synod Bylaws - 2016	Proposed Bylaws
	<p>physical or mental disability. If incapacity is confirmed, the bishop of this synod may, on the advice of the committee and with the concurrence of the congregational council, declare the position vacant. Should the diaconal minister be restored to health, the bishop shall take steps to enable the diaconal minister to resume ministry in the congregation last served or in another ministry.</p> <p>j. The advisory committee shall provide an opportunity for all concerned parties to be heard. At the conclusion of the investigation, the bishop of this synod, in company with the committee, shall bring recommendations to the diaconal minister and the congregation for consideration and action. Such counsel shall be offered in Christian love and is not to be regarded as a disciplinary measure. If the situation cannot be resolved amicably, the diaconal minister may resign, or the congregation may terminate the call by a majority vote at a properly called congregational meeting.</p> <p>k. The foregoing procedure shall not be invoked when questions of doctrine or morality are involved. Such cases shall be treated as disciplinary matters.</p>
	<p>Section 7.</p> <p>A diaconal minister shall exemplify the life of Christ-like service in a manner informed by the Word of God in a public ministry of witness to the Gospel; demonstrate competence and expertise in their particular discipline, making connections between the church and the world, extending the witness of the church into the larger community; in cooperation with other leaders, lay and rostered, lead and equip the baptized for ministry, discerning, encouraging and supporting in others their own gifts; give particular attention to ministries at the boundaries between church and world, speaking for the needs of God's world to the church as well as applying God's saving gospel to the needs of the world through the actions of God's people both individually and collectively; be grounded in community with other diaconal ministers committed to a common calling which serves as a reminder and model for building community in all ministry settings; and, participate, if applicable, in the synodical First Call Program for newly consecrated ministers in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada.</p>
	<p>Section 8.</p> <p>All diaconal ministers serving under call are expected to attend all conventions of this synod and the meetings of the areas to which they belong.</p>

Existing ABT Synod Bylaws - 2016	Proposed Bylaws
<p>Part V Conventions (Constitution, Article X) Section 1. The regular conventions of the synod shall be held biennially between national conventions.</p>	<p>Part V Conventions (Constitution, Article X) Section 1. The regular conventions of this synod shall be held biennially between national conventions in the year preceding regular national conventions.</p>
<p>Section 2. The secretary shall publish the time and place of each regular convention at least six months in advance. The secretary shall send out a bulletin of reports to all voting members at least thirty (30) days before each regular convention.</p>	<p>Section 2. The secretary of this synod shall publish the time and place of each regular convention at least six months in advance. The secretary of this synod shall send out a bulletin of reports to all voting members at least thirty (30) days before each regular convention.</p>
<p>Section 3. The voting membership of conventions shall consist of:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> One lay delegate from each congregation and, from congregations having more than three hundred (300) baptized members, one lay delegate for each additional two hundred (200) baptized members. A congregation is entitled to one extra voting delegate if that person is between the ages of 16 and 22 years as of December 31 of the convention year. Ordained ministers on the roster of the synod; Diaconal ministers on the roster of the synod; and All lay members of synod council. 	<p>Section 3. The voting membership of conventions shall consist of:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> One lay delegate from each congregation and, from congregations having more than three hundred (300) baptized members, one lay delegate for each additional two hundred (200) baptized members. A congregation is entitled to one extra voting delegate if that person is between the ages of 16 and 22 years as of December 31 of the convention year; Ordained ministers on the roster of the this this synod; Diaconal ministers on the roster of the this this synod; and All lay members of synod council.
<p>Section 4. At least sixty days prior to the opening day of the convention,</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Each congregation shall submit the name(s) and address(es) of its lay delegates to the synod secretary, and Each ordained and diaconal minister, active, non- parish, and retired, shall submit their name and address to the synod secretary. 	<p>Section 4. At least sixty days prior to the opening day of the convention,</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Each congregation shall submit the name(s) and address(es) of its lay delegates to the synod secretary; and Each ordained and diaconal rostered minister, active, non-parish, and retired, shall submit their name and address to the synod secretary of this synod.
<p>Section 5. One-third of the voting members shall constitute a quorum.</p>	<p>No change</p>
<p>Section 6. Seat and voice at conventions shall be granted to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> The bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada and such other official representatives of this Church as may be designated by the national church council, Chairpersons of synodical committees in connection with their reports, Representatives of institutions and agencies related to or officially recognized by the synod, and the presidents of the synodical units of the official auxiliaries of this Church. 	<p>Section 6. Seat and voice at conventions shall be granted to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> The bishop Bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada and such other official representatives of this Church church as may be designated by the national church council; Chairpersons of synodical committees and of ministry teams in connection with their reports; Representatives of institutions and agencies related to or officially recognized by the synod, and Representatives chosen by synodically recognized ministries of this synod; and The presidents of the synodical units of the official auxiliaries of this Church.

Existing ABT Synod Bylaws - 2016	Proposed Bylaws
	d. Official guests, upon invitation of the council of this synod.
<p>Section 7. All arrangements for worship services or public meetings shall be made in consultation with the bishop.</p>	No change.
<p>Section 8. Congregations and conferences may petition the synod in convention by submitting the petition in writing to the secretary of the synod for inclusion in the bulletin of reports. If the petition is too late for inclusion in the bulletin of reports, the secretary shall deliver the petition to the appropriate committee for presentation to the convention.</p>	<p>Section 8. Congregations and conferences may petition the this synod in convention by submitting the petition in writing to the secretary of the this synod for inclusion in the bulletin of reports. If the petition is too late for inclusion in the bulletin of reports, the secretary shall deliver the petition to the appropriate committee Reference and Counsel Committee for presentation to the convention.</p>
<p>Section 9. The synod council shall approve the convention budget which will include the participation of all delegates - lay, ordained and diaconal. Convention costs shall be shared among the congregations by dividing the total convention costs by the total number of confirmed members in the synod times the number of confirmed members last reported by each congregation.</p>	<p>Section 9. The council of this synod council shall approve the convention budget which will include the participation of all delegates – lay, ordained and diaconal and rostered. Convention costs shall be shared among the congregations by dividing the total convention costs by the total number of confirmed members in the this synod times the number of confirmed members last reported by each congregation.</p>
<p>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.</p>	<p>Section 10. Special Conventions a. Special conventions for specified purposes shall be called by the chairperson of the this synod within ninety days of receiving in writing a request for such a convention from: i. The council of this synod council by at least a two-thirds majority vote; or ii. One-fifth of the congregations of the this synod and one-fifth of the ordained rostered ministers under call on its roster.</p>
<p>b. The secretary shall give written notice of a special convention to each congregation, each ordained minister, and each diaconal minister, and shall publish the same at least thirty days prior to the opening date of the convention.</p>	<p>b. The secretary of this synod shall give written notice of a special convention to each congregation, each synodically recognized ministry and each ordained minister, and each diaconal rostered minister, and shall publish the same at least thirty days prior to the opening date of the convention.</p>
<p>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</p>	<p>c. The voting members at a special convention shall consist of: i. The lay delegates who were seated in the preceding regular convention provided that they have not been disqualified by termination of membership in the congregation they represented. Vacancies in the lay delegates shall be filled by the congregations affected at a regular or specially properly called and</p>

Existing ABT Synod Bylaws - 2016	Proposed Bylaws
<p>meeting. Vacancies thus filled shall be reported to the secretary of the synod not less than five days before the special convention.</p> <p>ii. Ordained ministers on the roster of the synod at the time of the special convention; and</p> <p>iii. Diaconal ministers on the roster of the synod at the time of the special convention.</p>	<p>conducted congregational meeting. Vacancies thus filled shall be reported to the secretary of the this synod not less than five days before the special convention;</p> <p>ii. Lay council members of this synod; and,</p> <p>ii. iii. Ordained Rostered ministers on the roster of the this synod at the time of the special convention.;</p> <p>and</p> <p>iii. iv. Diaconal ministers on the roster of the synod at the time of the special convention.</p>
<p>Section 11. Nominations and Elections (Constitution, Articles XI-XIV)</p> <p>a. The convention shall elect synod council members, officers of the synod, and the bishop in the following manner:</p> <p>i. The committee on nominations shall nominate at least two persons for each synod council position.</p> <p>ii. Additional nominations may be made from the floor for all positions except that of the bishop and the chairperson, with the prior consent of the person being nominated.</p>	<p>Section 11. Nominations and Elections (Constitution, Articles XI-XIV)</p> <p>a. The convention shall elect synod council members, officers of the this synod, and the bishop of this synod in the following manner:</p> <p>i. The committee on nominations shall nominate at least two persons for each synod council position.</p> <p>ii. Additional nominations may be made from the floor for all positions except that of the bishop and the chairperson, with the prior consent of the person being nominated.</p>
<p>iii. Synod council shall nominate the secretary and the treasurer. Nominations for chairperson shall be made by secret ballot without oral nomination. Nominations for two of the three synod officer positions shall be limited to lay persons.</p>	<p>iii. b. The council of this synod Synod council shall nominate the secretary and the treasurer. Nominations for chairperson of this synod shall be made by secret ballot without oral nomination. Nominations for two of the three synod officer positions shall be limited to lay persons.</p>
<p>iv. Nomination for bishop shall be made by secret ballot without oral nomination and shall be limited to those who are qualified to be on the roster of ordained ministers of this Church.</p>	<p>iv. c. Nomination for bishop of this synod shall be made by secret ballot without oral nomination and shall be limited to those who are qualified to be on the roster of ordained ministers of this Church church.</p>
<p>v. All elections shall be by secret ballot.</p> <p>vi. In all elections, except for the offices of the bishop and chairperson, a majority of the votes cast shall elect.</p> <p>vii. The election of the bishop and the chairperson shall be held on alternate convention years.</p> <p>viii. If an election does not occur on a first ballot for any position except that of the bishop and the chairperson, voting on a second ballot shall be limited to the two persons receiving the highest number of votes cast on the first ballot.</p>	<p>v. d. All elections shall be by secret ballot.</p> <p>vi. e. In all elections, except for the offices of the bishop of this synod and chairperson of this synod, a majority of the votes cast shall elect.</p> <p>vii. f. The election of the bishop of this synod and the chairperson of this synod shall be held on alternate convention years.</p> <p>viii. g. If an election does not occur on a first ballot for any position except that of the bishop of this synod and the chairperson of this synod, voting on a second ballot shall be limited to the two persons receiving the highest number of votes cast on the first ballot.</p>
<p>ix. The election of the bishop and the chairperson shall be by secret ballot without oral nomination, and shall proceed in the following manner:</p> <p>1. On the first ballot, three-fourths of the votes cast shall elect. If the first ballot does not result in an election, it shall be considered a</p>	<p>ix. h. The election of the bishop of this synod and the chairperson of this synod shall be by secret ballot without oral nomination, and shall proceed in the following manner:</p> <p>4. i. On the first ballot, three-fourths of the votes cast shall elect. If the first ballot does not result in an election, it</p>

Existing ABT Synod Bylaws - 2016	Proposed Bylaws
<p>nominating ballot. Thereafter, voting shall be limited to those persons named on the first ballot.</p> <p>2. On the second ballot, two-thirds of the votes cast shall elect. If the second ballot does not result in an election, voting shall be limited to the four persons receiving the highest number of votes cast.</p> <p>3. On the third ballot, a majority of the votes cast shall elect. If the third ballot does not result in an election, voting shall be limited to the three persons receiving the highest number of votes cast.</p> <p>4. On the fourth ballot, a majority of the votes cast shall elect. If the fourth ballot does not result in an election, voting shall be limited to the two persons receiving the highest number of votes cast.</p> <p>5. On the fifth ballot, a majority of the votes cast shall elect.</p>	<p>shall be considered a nominating ballot. Thereafter, voting shall be limited to those persons named on the first ballot.</p> <p>2. ii. On the second ballot, two-thirds of the votes cast shall elect. If the second ballot does not result in an election, voting shall be limited to the four persons receiving the highest number of votes cast.</p> <p>3. iii. On the third ballot, a majority of the votes cast shall elect. If the third ballot does not result in an election, voting shall be limited to the three persons receiving the highest number of votes cast.</p> <p>4. iv. On the fourth ballot, a majority of the votes cast shall elect. If the fourth ballot does not result in an election, voting shall be limited to the two persons receiving the highest number of votes cast.</p> <p>5. v. On the fifth ballot, a majority of the votes cast shall elect.</p>
<p>x. The result of each ballot in every election shall be announced to the convention.</p>	<p>x. i. The result of each ballot in every election shall be announced to the convention.</p>
<p>b. Election of synodical representatives to the Lutheran Theological Seminary shall proceed as follows:</p> <p>1. The synod council, in consultation with the seminary, shall nominate one or more persons for each position for which election is required.</p> <p>2. Nominations may be made from the floor with the consent of those nominated.</p>	<p>b. j. Election of synodical representatives to the Lutheran Theological Seminary shall proceed as follows:</p> <p>4. i. The council of this synod—council, in consultation with the seminary, shall nominate one or more persons for each position for which election is required.</p> <p>2. ii. Nominations may be made from the floor with the consent of those nominated.</p>
<p>3. Normally, nominations will be presented in such a way that representation reflects gender balance.</p> <p>4. A majority of the votes cast shall elect. If an election does not occur on a first ballot, voting on a second ballot shall be limited to the two persons receiving the highest number of votes cast on the first ballot.</p>	<p>3. iii. Normally, nominations will be presented in such a way that representation reflects gender balance. will reflect the diversity of this church.</p> <p>4. iv. A majority of the votes cast shall elect. If an election does not occur on a first ballot, voting on a second ballot shall be limited to the two persons receiving the highest number of votes cast on the first ballot.</p>
<p>c. Eligibility for positions as synod officers, synod council members and synod representatives to the Lutheran Theological Seminary Board of Governors shall be limited to the confirmed membership of the member congregations of the synod and of those church bodies in shared ministry within the Synod with whom the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada is in full communion.</p>	<p>e. k. Eligibility for positions as synod officers, synod council members and synod representatives to the Lutheran Theological Seminary Board of Governors shall be limited to the confirmed membership of the member congregations of the this synod, members of synodically recognized ministries of this synod, and of those church bodies in shared ministry within the Synod with whom the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada is in full communion.</p>

Existing ABT Synod Bylaws - 2016	Proposed Bylaws
<p>Section 12.</p> <p>The convention procedures shall be published in a convention manual approved by the synod council.</p>	<p>No change</p>
<p>Part VI Nominations and Elections of Delegates to the National Church Convention</p> <p>Section 1. Nominations for Delegates</p> <p>a. Six months in advance of a synod convention at which delegates to a national convention will be elected, the secretary of the synod council shall call for nominations for lay, youth and rostered delegate positions. Nominations shall close 60 days prior to the opening of the convention at which the elections will take place. There will be no nominations from the floor for delegates to national convention during the synod convention.</p> <p>b. Complete information including nomination process, conference, congregational membership and biographical details must be received at the synod office 30 days prior to the opening of the convention for the nomination to be accepted. Nomination forms will be available through the synod office.</p> <p>c. Eligible nominees shall be:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. rostered members who are members in good standing of a congregation within the existing conference boundary; ii. lay members in good standing in a congregation within the existing conference boundary; iii. youth members in good standing of a congregation of this synod who will be between the ages of 16 and 25 inclusive on the first full day of the next national convention. <p>d. There shall be no restriction on the number of nominees who hold membership in any given congregation; however, congregations may only be represented by one delegate with the exception of youth delegates. In the event of the election of more than one delegate from a congregation, with the exception of youth delegates, the congregation's church council will be advised of the election following the synod convention by the secretary of synod council. In consultation with the executive committee and/or the synod bishop and the elected delegates the congregation's church council will determine who will serve as delegate.</p>	<p>Part VI Nominations and Elections of Delegates to the National Church Convention</p> <p>Section 1. Nominations for Delegates</p> <p>a. Six months in advance of a synod convention at which delegates to a national convention will be elected, the secretary of the synod council shall call for nominations for lay, youth and rostered delegate positions. Nominations shall close 60 days prior to the opening of the convention at which the elections will take place. There will be no nominations from the floor for delegates to national convention during the synod convention.</p> <p>b. Complete information including nomination process, conference, congregational membership and biographical details must be received at the office of this synod 30 days prior to the opening of the convention for the nomination to be accepted. Nomination forms will be available through the office of this synod.</p> <p>c. Eligible nominees shall be:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. rostered members who are members in good standing of a congregation within the existing conference area boundary; ii. lay members in good standing in of a congregation within the existing conference area boundary; and iii. youth members in good standing of a congregation of this synod who will be between the ages of 16 and 25 inclusive on the first full day of the next national convention. <p>d. There shall be no restriction on the number of nominees who hold membership in any given congregation; however, congregations may only be represented by one delegate with the exception of youth delegates. In the event of the election of more than one delegate from a congregation, with the exception of youth delegates, the elected delegates' congregation's church congregational council will be advised of the election following the synod convention by the secretary of this synod council this synod. In consultation with the executive committee and/or the synod of this synod and the elected delegates, the congregation's church congregational- council will determine who will serve as delegate.</p>

Existing ABT Synod Bylaws - 2016	Proposed Bylaws
<p>e. Nominations for lay and youth delegates will be accepted within existing conference boundaries provided:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. the nomination form is signed by 10 members in good standing of ABT synod congregations; or ii. the nominee is endorsed by either a congregational council or a congregational annual meeting of a member congregation. <p>f. Nominations for rostered delegates will be accepted within existing conference boundaries provided:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> iii. the nomination form is signed by 10 members in good standing of ABT congregations; or iv. the nominee is endorsed by either a congregational council or a congregational annual meeting of a member congregation; or <p>g. A list of all nominees and their biographies shall be published in the convention docket.</p>	<p>e. Nominations for lay and youth delegates will be accepted within existing conference area boundaries provided:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. the nomination form is signed by 10 members in good standing of ABT synod congregations of this synod; or ii. the nominee is endorsed by either a congregational council or a congregational annual meeting of a member congregation. <p>f. Nominations for rostered delegates will be accepted within existing conference area boundaries provided:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. the nomination form is signed by 10 members in good standing of ABT congregations of this synod; or ii. the nominee is endorsed by either a congregational council or a congregational annual meeting of a member congregation. or iii. A list of all nominees and their biographies shall be published in the convention docket.
<p>Section 2. Allocation of Lay, Rostered and Youth Delegates</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. During synod convention delegates will elect two lay and one rostered national convention delegates from each of the synod's conferences (as defined in the synod bylaws). Two youth delegates shall be elected on an "at-large" basis without reference to a particular conference. If the allotted number of seventeen delegates are not elected during synod convention for any reason, the synod council shall appoint the necessary number lay, rostered or youth delegate(s) at its next regularly scheduled meeting. b. Synod council shall appoint any remaining lay and/or rostered delegates at its next regularly scheduled meeting to meet the total number of delegates eligible to attend national convention as allotted by the ELCIC. These appointments will seek to reflect gender balance, geographical and diaconal/ordained minister representation. c. Elected lay, rostered and youth delegates are eligible to attend two, but not three, consecutive national conventions. 	<p>Section 2. Allocation of Lay, Rostered and Youth Delegates</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. During synod convention delegates This synod in convention will elect two lay delegates and one rostered delegate to the national convention-delegates from each of the synod's conferences areas (as defined in the synod bylaws). Two youth delegates shall be elected on an "at-large" basis without reference to a particular conference area. If the allotted number of seventeen delegates are not elected during synod convention for any reason, the council of this synod council shall appoint the necessary number lay, rostered or youth delegate(s) at its next regularly scheduled meeting. b. Synod The council of this synod shall appoint any remaining lay and/or rostered delegates at its next regularly scheduled meeting to meet the total number of delegates eligible to attend national convention as allotted by the ELCIC. These appointments will seek to reflect gender balance human diversity, geographical and diaconal/ordained minister representation. c. Elected lay, rostered and youth delegates are eligible to attend two, but not three, consecutive national conventions.
<p>Section 3. Order of Election</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Nominees (rostered, lay and youth) receiving the greatest number of votes on the first ballot from each conference shall be declared elected. Where multiple positions are being filled for any one delegate category, nominees shall be declared elected on the basis of the 	<p>Section 3. Order of Election</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Nominees (rostered, lay and youth) receiving the greatest number of votes on the first ballot from each conference area shall be declared elected. Where multiple positions are being filled for any one delegate category, nominees shall be declared

Existing ABT Synod Bylaws - 2016	Proposed Bylaws
highest number of votes received on the first ballot. If necessary, second ballots shall be held to break ties.	elected on the basis of the highest number of votes received on the first ballot. If necessary, second ballots shall be held to break ties.
<p>Section 4. Replacement of Delegates</p> <p>a. In cases where elected delegates are unable to attend the executive committee and synod bishop shall appoint a replacement. Whenever possible, the replacement shall be the nominee who received the next greatest number of votes during the balloting process at the relevant synod convention.</p>	<p>Section 4. Replacement of Delegates</p> <p>a. In cases where elected delegates are unable to attend the executive committee and synod bishop of this synod shall appoint a replacement. Whenever possible, the replacement shall be the nominee who received the next greatest number of votes during the balloting process at the relevant synod of this synod.</p>
<p>Part VII Synod Council (Constitution, Article XI) Section 1.</p> <p>The elected membership of Synod Council shall consist of one ordained and one lay representative from each conference in the Synod. Appointed membership shall consist of one representative of a full communion partner who is actively serving in that partner Church. This person shall have seat, voice and vote. Members shall serve for four-year terms, with half of the terms expiring each biennium. No elected member is eligible to serve for more than two consecutive terms.</p>	<p>Part VII Synod Council (Constitution, Article XI) Section 1.</p> <p>The elected membership of Synod Council the council of this synod shall consist of one ordained rostered and one lay representative from each conference area in the this Synod area in the this Synod. Appointed membership shall consist of one representative of a full communion partner who is actively serving in that partner Church church. This person shall have seat, voice and vote. Members shall serve for four-year three-year terms, with half of the terms expiring each biennium. No elected member is eligible to serve for more than two three consecutive terms.</p>
<p>Section 2. The synod council shall:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Plan, coordinate, supervise and evaluate the activities of the synod in carrying out its mission and ministry, including development of appropriate policies for synod council; Be the directors of the corporation and trustees for the synod; Elect executive staff if and when such positions are created by the synod in convention; Issue letters of call to rostered ministers who are full-time officers or staff officials of the synod, or who are called to special service; Fill vacancies until the next convention except as otherwise provided; Determine the fact of the incapacity of an officer of the synod according to the procedures in the constitution and bylaws of this Church; Approve candidates for call, ordination and admission to the rosters of ordained and diaconal ministers; Appoint all committees for which there is no other provision; Carry out duties in good faith with a reasonable degree of diligence, care, and skill; 	<p>Section 2. The council of this synod council shall:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Plan, coordinate, supervise and evaluate the activities of the this the council of this synod in carrying out its mission and ministry, including development of appropriate policies for the council of this synod council; Be the directors of the corporation and trustees for the this synod; Elect Hire executive staff if and when such positions are created by the this this synod in convention; Issue letters of call to rostered ministers who are full-time officers or staff officials of the this this synod, or who are called to special service; Fill vacancies until the next convention of this synod except as otherwise provided; Determine the fact of the incapacity of an officer of the this this synod according to the procedures in the constitution and bylaws of this Church church; Approve candidates for call, ordination or consecration, and admission to the rosters of ordained and diaconal ministers; this synod's roster of ministers. Appoint all committees for which there is no other provision; Carry out duties in good faith with a reasonable degree of diligence, care, and skill;

Existing ABT Synod Bylaws - 2016	Proposed Bylaws
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> j. Expect the same standard of conduct from lay and rostered members; k. Make and enforce its own policies, including the discipline of its members; and l. Perform such additional duties as prescribed in the constitution, the bylaws, or by resolutions of the synod in convention. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> j. Expect the same standard of conduct from lay and rostered all members; k. Make and enforce its own policies, including the discipline of its members; and l. Perform such additional duties as prescribed in the constitution, the bylaws, or by resolutions of the this synod in convention.
<p>Section 3.</p> <p>The synod council shall appoint an ordained minister to assume the duties and responsibilities of the bishop in the event of the resignation, incapacity, or death of the bishop, pending the election of a new bishop at the next regular or specially called synod convention.</p>	<p>Section 3.</p> <p>The council of this synod council shall appoint an ordained minister to assume the duties and responsibilities of the bishop of this synod in the event of the resignation, incapacity, or death of the bishop, pending the election of a new bishop of this synod at the next regular or specially called convention of this synod convention.</p>
<p>Section 4.</p> <p>The synod council shall hold at least two meetings annually.</p>	<p>Section 4.</p> <p>The council of this synod council shall hold at least two meetings annually.</p>
<p>Section 5.</p> <p>Special meetings of the synod council may be called by the bishop or chairperson of the synod when circumstances warrant.</p>	<p>Section 5.</p> <p>Special meetings of the council of this synod council may be called by the bishop of this synod or chairperson of the this synod when circumstances warrant.</p>
<p>Section 6.</p> <p>A majority of the members of the synod council shall constitute a quorum.</p>	<p>Section 6.</p> <p>A majority of the members of the council of this synod council shall constitute a quorum.</p>
<p>Part VIII Synod Officers (Constitution, Article XII)</p> <p>Section 1.</p> <p>Officers of the Synod shall serve for a term of four years, without limitation.</p>	<p>Part VIII Synod Officers (Constitution, Article XII)</p> <p>Section 1.</p> <p>Officers of the Synod this synod shall serve for a term of four six years, without limitation.</p>
<p>Section 2.</p> <p>The chairperson of the synod shall:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Convene and preside over conventions of the synod and meetings of the synod council, and b. Perform additional duties as prescribed in the synod council governance and policy manuals. 	<p>Section 2.</p> <p>The chairperson of the this synod shall:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Convene and preside over conventions of the this synod and meetings of the council of this synod council, and b. Perform additional duties as prescribed in the synod council governance and policy manuals described in the policies of the Governance Manual of the council of this synod.
<p>Section 3.</p> <p>The secretary shall oversee all secretarial and record keeping duties on behalf of the synod as prescribed in these bylaws and in the synod council governance and policy manuals.</p>	<p>Section 3.</p> <p>The secretary of this synod shall oversee all secretarial and record keeping duties on behalf of the this synod as prescribed in these bylaws and in the synod council governance and policy manuals. as described in the policies of the Governance Manual of the council of this synod.</p>

Existing ABT Synod Bylaws - 2016	Proposed Bylaws
<p>Section 4. The treasurer shall:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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. 	<p>Section 4. The treasurer of this synod shall:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Oversee all financial affairs and accounts of the this synod, including deeds, mortgages, contracts, trust funds, investments, etc., b. Be bonded under the fidelity coverage provided by the this synod, and c. Perform additional duties as prescribed in the synod council governance and policy manuals. described in the policies of the Governance Manual of the council of this synod.
<p>Part IX Duties of the Bishop (Constitution, Article XIII)</p> <p>Section 1. The bishop shall:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Provide spiritual leadership and counsel to the synod, its conventions, and conferences; b. Ordain or consecrate approved candidates for rostered ministry; c. Oversee the call process as outlined in the call process manual; d. Attest to all official documents of the synod as may be required; e. Appoint the synod archivist/necrologist to maintain historical records on behalf of the synod; f. Discipline staff and program committee members in keeping with Biblical principles; g. Report to the synod council and the synod convention all significant matters affecting the mission and ministry of the synod; and h. Perform other duties as prescribed in the constitutions and bylaws of this Church and the synod, and the synod council governance and policy manuals. 	<p>Part IX Duties of the Bishop The Synod Bishop (Constitution, Article XIII) Section 1. The bishop of this synod shall be elected by synod convention for a term of six years, without limitation.</p> <p>Section 1. 2. The bishop of this synod shall:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Provide spiritual leadership and counsel to the this synod, its conventions, and conferences areas; b. Ordain or consecrate approved candidates for rostered ministry; c. Oversee the call process as outlined in the call process manual; d. Attest to all official documents of the this synod as may be required; e. Appoint the synod archivist/necrologist to maintain historical records on behalf of the this synod; f. Discipline staff and program committee members in keeping with Biblical principles; g. Report to the council of this synod council and the synod convention all significant matters affecting the mission and ministry of the this synod; and h. Perform other duties as prescribed in the constitutions and bylaws of this church and the this synod, and the synod council governance and policy manuals as described in the policies of the Governance Manual of the council of this synod.
<p>Part X Synod Council Committees (Constitution, Article XIV) Section 1. This synod shall participate in an Examining Committee serving the Synods of British Columbia, Alberta and the Territories, Saskatchewan, and Manitoba/Northwestern Ontario.</p>	<p>Part X Synod Council Standing Committees (Constitution, Article XIV) Section 1. Examining Committee This synod shall participate in an Examining Committee serving the Synods of British Columbia, Alberta and the Territories, Saskatchewan, and Manitoba/Northwestern Ontario.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. The Western Synods' Examining Committee, in which this synod shall participate, shall interview all candidates for rostered ministry and all persons applying for admission to the roster and

Existing ABT Synod Bylaws - 2016	Proposed Bylaws
<p>a. The Synod Council of each synod shall appoint two lay persons and two rostered persons. Of the eight rostered persons appointed, at least one rostered person shall be a diaconal minister, with that position assigned to one of the synods by agreement of the synod bishops. Members shall be appointed to serve for a term of four years, with a limit of two consecutive terms, staggered so that no more than half are replaced at any one time.</p> <p>b. The President of Lutheran Theological Seminary shall annually appoint two faculty members.</p> <p>c. The synod bishops shall serve ex officio on the Examining Committee.</p> <p>d. It shall be the duty of this Committee to examine candidates for ordained and diaconal ministry and candidates for reception from other Lutheran churches with whom mutual recognition of ministry has not been established. The committee shall report its recommendations to the Synod Council of the Synod where the candidate is registered.</p> <p>e. Each examination shall be conducted by a sub-committee of the Examining Committee comprised of one faculty, two lay persons, two rostered persons, and the bishop of the candidate's synod. When a diaconal candidate is being examined, the sub-committee shall include a diaconal minister.</p> <p>f. Further terms of reference for, and procedures of, the Examining Committee shall be defined in the Candidacy Manual of this Church.</p>	<p>shall ensure their acceptance of and adherence to the Confession of Faith of this church; fulfillment of academic requirements; and qualifications for carrying out the functions of rostered ministry.</p> <p>b. Terms of reference for the Examining Committee shall be articulated in the Governance Manual of the council of this synod.</p> <p>a. The Synod Council synod council of each this synod shall appoint two lay persons and two rostered persons to potentially serve on the Examining Committee. Of the eight rostered persons appointed from the four western synods, at least one rostered person shall be a diaconal minister, with that position assigned to one of the synods by agreement of the synod bishops. Members shall be appointed to serve for a term of four years, with a limit of two consecutive terms, staggered so that no more than half are replaced at any one time.</p> <p>b. The President of Lutheran Theological Seminary shall annually appoint two faculty members.</p> <p>c. The synod bishops shall serve ex officio on the Examining Committee.</p> <p>d. It shall be the duty of this Committee to examine candidates for ordained and diaconal ministry and candidates for reception from other Lutheran churches with whom mutual recognition of ministry has not been established. The committee shall report its recommendations to the Synod Council of the Synod where the candidate is registered.</p> <p>e. Each examination shall be conducted by a sub-committee of the Examining Committee comprised of one faculty, two lay persons, two rostered persons, and the bishop of the candidate's synod. When a diaconal candidate is being examined, the sub-committee shall include a diaconal minister.</p> <p>f.c. Further terms of reference for, and procedures of, the Examining Committee shall be defined in the Candidacy Manual of this Church church.</p>
<p>Section 2. The Committee for Theological Education and Leadership (Candidacy) shall be a standing committee of the synod council.</p> <p>a. The Committee for Theological Education and Leadership shall consist of eight members. Five of the members shall represent the conferences of the synod, and shall be appointed by the synod council upon nomination by the conference councils. The other three members will be appointed by the synod council at large. Four of the committee members shall be lay persons, four shall be rostered. The synod bishop shall be an ex officio member. The committee will name its own</p>	<p>Section 2.- The Committee for Theological Education and Leadership (Candidacy) shall be a standing committee of the synod council. Candidacy Committee.</p> <p>a. The Committee for Theological Education and Leadership shall consist of eight members. Five of the members shall represent the conferences of the synod, and shall be appointed by the synod council upon nomination by the conference councils. The other three members will be appointed by the synod council at large. Four of the committee members shall be lay persons, four shall be rostered. The synod bishop shall be an ex officio member. The committee will name its own chairperson and secretary.</p>

Existing ABT Synod Bylaws - 2016	Proposed Bylaws
<p>chairperson and secretary.</p> <p>b. The appointed members shall serve for four year terms with a two consecutive term limit, staggered so that no more than half are replaced at any one time.</p> <p>c. It shall be the duty of this committee to select and endorse candidates for the ordained and diaconal ministry; review applications to the ministries of the synod by persons seeking readmission to the rosters of the synod; receive applications from candidates who come from Lutheran churches with whom mutual recognition of ministry has not yet been established, or who come from other churches; and refer candidates to the Examining Committee for colloquy according to the policies and procedures established by this Church.</p> <p>d. This committee shall receive applications for financial aid from ministry candidates and authorize the disbursement of synod funds designated for this purpose.</p>	<p>b. The appointed members shall serve for four year terms with a two consecutive term limit, staggered so that no more than half are replaced at any one time.</p> <p>c. It shall be the duty of this committee to The Candidacy Committee shall select and endorse candidates for the ordained and diaconal rostered ministry; review applications to the ministries of the this synod by persons seeking readmission to the rosters of the this synod; receive applications from candidates who come from Lutheran churches with whom mutual recognition of ministry has not yet been established, or who come from other churches; and refer candidates to the Examining Committee for colloquy according to the policies and procedures established by this Church. church.</p> <p>d. This committee shall receive applications for financial aid from ministry candidates, and authorize the disbursement of synod funds designated for this purpose.</p> <p>b. Terms of reference for the Candidacy Committee shall be articulated in the Governance Manual of the council of this synod.</p> <p>c. Further terms of reference for, and procedures of, the Examining Committee shall be defined in the Candidacy Manual of this church.</p>
<p>Section 3.</p> <p>The Congregation Constitutional Review Committee shall be a standing committee of the synod council.</p> <p>a. The Congregation Constitutional Review Committee shall consist of not less than three members and not more than five members appointed by the Synod Council, including the administrative coordinator from the synod office and one person from Synod Council who will serve as the chair.</p> <p>b. The appointed members shall serve for two-year terms with a two consecutive term limit, staggered so that no more than one-half are replaced at any one time.</p> <p>c. The purpose of the Committee shall be to:</p> <p>i. review congregations' constitutions and proposed amendments to ensure:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - They do not conflict with the ELCIC or Alberta Synod Constitution or Bylaws; - They are based on the model constitution for congregations provided by the ELCIC for the guidance and practice of congregations within the ELCIC; - They provide consistency and clarity for congregational members in carrying out their ministerial and administrative duties and obligations including editing. - That differences in congregations and practices are recognized as acceptable in 	<p>Section 3.</p> <p>The Congregation Constitutional Review Committee shall be a standing committee of the synod council.</p> <p>a. The Congregation Constitutional Review Committee shall consist of not less than three members and not more than five members appointed by the Synod Council, including the administrative coordinator from the synod office and one person from Synod Council who will serve as the chair.</p> <p>b. The appointed members shall serve for two-year terms with a two consecutive term limit, staggered so that no more than one-half are replaced at any one time.</p> <p>c. The purpose of the Committee shall be to:</p> <p>i. review congregations' constitutions and proposed amendments; to ensure:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - They do not conflict with the ELCIC or Alberta Synod Constitution or Bylaws; - They are based on the model constitution for congregations provided by the ELCIC for the guidance and practice of congregations within the ELCIC; - They provide consistency and clarity for congregational members in carrying out their ministerial and administrative duties and obligations including editing. - That differences in congregations and practices are recognized as acceptable

Existing ABT Synod Bylaws - 2016	Proposed Bylaws
<p>certain circumstances provided they do not conflict with the national and synodical governing documents.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ii. be available to confer and/or meet with a congregation or it's representatives to discuss proposed amendments and assist in helping the congregation make the amendments acceptable to Council examination. iii. make recommendations to Synod Council regarding the Model Constitution for Congregations, its procedures and other related matters. <p>d. The following principles will guide the work of the Committee:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Most reviews may be handled by mail (e-mail) without the need for a face-to-face meeting. ii. Committee members' responses should be forwarded to the synod office to the attention of the administrative coordinator. iii. When there is a lack of consensus from the first round of Committee responses, then further communication will be solicited from the Committee. iv. If a proposed amendment from a congregation is unacceptable, and an understanding cannot be resolved by mail/phone call and negotiation, a real time meeting will be arranged that is mutually agreeable to the congregation and to most of the Committee members (this should occur infrequently). v. The Committee will then make recommendation to Synod Council through the appointed Council member, for approval or modification as deemed necessary. <p>e. Approval, amendment or rejection must be based on the review criteria as stated above. The Committee only recommends - the Synod Council approves, amends, or rejects.</p>	<p>in certain circumstances provided they do not conflict with the national and synodical governing documents;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ii. be available to confer and/or meet with a congregation or it's representatives to discuss proposed amendments and assist congregations in helping the congregation to make the amendments acceptable to Council examination the council of this synod; and, iii. make recommendations to the council of this synod Synod Council regarding the Model Constitution for Congregations of this church, its procedures and other related matters. <p>b. Amendments to congregational constitutions shall be effective upon ratification of the council of this synod.</p> <p>c. Terms of reference for the Congregation Constitutional Review Committee shall be articulated in the Governance Manual of the council of this synod.</p> <p>d. The following principles will guide the work of the Committee:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Most reviews may be handled by mail (e-mail) without the need for a face-to-face meeting. ii. Committee members' responses should be forwarded to the synod office to the attention of the administrative coordinator. iii. When there is a lack of consensus from the first round of Committee responses, then further communication will be solicited from the Committee. iv. If a proposed amendment from a congregation is unacceptable, and an understanding cannot be resolved by mail/phone call and negotiation, a real time meeting will be arranged that is mutually agreeable to the congregation and to most of the Committee members (this should occur infrequently). v. The Committee will then make recommendation to Synod Council through the appointed Council member, for approval or modification as deemed necessary. <p>e. Approval, amendment or rejection must be based on the review criteria as stated above. The Committee only recommends - the Synod Council approves, amends, or rejects.</p>
<p>Section 4. Synod council may appoint other ad hoc committees for a specific purpose and duration as deemed necessary.</p>	<p>Section 4.- Synod The council of this synod may appoint other ad hoc committees for a specific purpose and duration as deemed necessary.</p>

Synod Council approved, September 2017, Part XI Transition of the ABT Bylaws for the purpose of presenting it to the 2018 Synod Convention for adoption.

PART XI TRANSITION

- Section 1. Where the provisions of Part XI conflict with provisions contained elsewhere in the Bylaws of the Synod of Alberta and the Territories, the provision of Part XI shall prevail.
- Section 2. The terms of all officers, synod council members, and Lutheran Theological Seminary representatives elected at convention in 2016 shall be five years.
- Section 3. The convention of this synod following 2016 shall be in 2018.
- Section 4. The terms of all officers, synod council members, and Lutheran Theological Seminary representatives elected at convention in 2018 shall be three years.
- Section 5. The convention of this synod following 2018 shall be in 2021.
- Section 6. The term of the bishop of this synod elected in 2018 shall be six years.

Report of Archivist

Our Archives begin when the Responsible Person in the parish records information and continues when one takes care of those records, Minutes, photos, or saved old documents locally. Questions to consider are:

- Are all of your most important Archives stored in a safe and fireproof manner?
- Are you interested in down-sizing some of these materials? Consider “archiving” some of the most un-needed of what you have. Several congregations have done so recently.

Church Councils share the management responsibility for keeping the records and history of their church together with the Pastor. Also, remember that lay designated people with the right abilities can be authorized to do the actual recording and bookkeeping. When is the last time that a review was made at your congregation to see if everything is as it should be? How about that suggestion for fireproof storage that has been floating around off and on over the years – for those most valuable records? The church building can burn down and be replaced, but how about your Master Records?

Computer records were once planned to be the easiest and most permanent format for archival materials such as Master Records of members of parishes. Today, computers are increasingly being used for managing most parish activities and programs and do save time. It is important, however, to keep backups of all pertinent data on an external backup drive (to be stored in a secure and fire-proof location), or a cloud account located in Canada. It is also your responsibility to keep software up to date in case of computer failure, so information can be transferred to a new machine, as computers can be compromised, or hardware drives no longer be available to function to retrieve recorded information, etc. As a result, paper and pen continue to also be an approved and acceptable standard to record essential membership and related information, preferably in the traditional bound books, as long as they are kept in a secure location that is fire-proof. Whatever the method your congregation employs, it is important to be mindful of people’s personal information, and to maintain confidentiality. Records should be able to be easily accessed only by those with authority to do so.

There also comes a time when some congregations close or when committees or church groups disband. Then it may be a good time to send their stuff to a secure, safe depository. If a congregation closes, consider making a copy of Master Records about members and deposit them with a nearby parish for those individuals in the future who may be looking for personal information.

The Synod Archivist can help with all of this. Most of our kept materials go to the Provincial Archives in Edmonton [780/427-1750 or 310-0000, or contact them via their website].

As Archivist, I continue to receive archival materials from several congregations including some which have closed or are in the process of closing, as well as 2-3 inquiries or requests for personal religious records or information each month. I continue to be a member of the religious-based Alberta archivists group.

As Archivist, I also occasionally receive books, manuals, and materials from pastors or parishes that are downsizing or from “estates”, and a few years ago established the present form of book table arrangement at our Synod Convention for such stuff that is still current and useful. Items placed there are available for free on the table to those who can use them, and the remainder goes to the Seminary Library for their consideration, and that remainder goes on to seminarians who would like to have them.

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

Report of Necrologist

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

Rostered, Previously-Rostered, and Retired-Rostered personnel and spouses are encouraged to check and maintain their biographical information with Synod Office.

Pastor Gary Nickel, ABT Synod Necrologist

+

Keeping in mind the comforts from the message of Christ and Easter, we remember since the lead-up to the 2016 Synod Convention, these Servants, and keep their loved ones in our thoughts and prayers:

Pr. ALLEN JOHAN SEVERSON, 88, died 16 July 2016 in Camrose AB. Born on the home farm north of Sedgwick AB and baptized and confirmed in Bethania/Sedgwick, Allen attended local schools including graduation from Camrose

Lutheran College in 1946. His studies continued at Canadian Lutheran Bible Institute in Camrose, and Lutheran Theological Seminary (LTS), Saskatoon in 1947. He graduated from University of Saskatoon in 1951 and Lutheran Theological Seminary in Saskatoon in 1952. Ordained in 1952, he moved to Birch Hills/Birch Hills SK 1952-56, then was Dean of the Bible Department of Lutheran Collegiate Bible Institute/Outlook SK 1956-58, where he married Mary nee Sundby in 1957. They moved to Dunbar/Vancouver BC 1958-63, St. Olaf/Kindersly SK 1963-67, Edberg/Edberg and Bethesda/New Norway and Sharon/Donalda and Bethany/rural Donalda AB 1967-73, then to Chaplain/Bethany Homes and Hospital/Camrose AB 1973-89, when he took early retirement due to heart attacks. Allen was able to continue enjoying preaching part time after retirement in the central region of AB for many years.

Pr. HAROLD ERIKSSON, died 19 September 2016 in Red Deer AB. Born in Hughenden AB and “schooled in Alberta”, his studies continued at the University and the Lutheran Theological Seminary in Saskatoon. Harold shared being among the first Augustana pastors to “have all our education and be ordained in Canada” [1952]. He married “Peggy” nee Lee in 1949 in Saskatoon, and they were together until she died in 1994. They moved to parishes of: Salem/Scandia and Faith/Rolling Hills AB 1952-56, Immanuel/New Westminster BC 1956-60, Theodore/Buchanan SK 1960-64, Faith/Atikokan ON 1964-69, St. John/Shellbrook and Zion/Canwood and Leask SK 1969-76, First United/Flin Flon [and St. John/Snow Lake for several of these years] MB 1976-86, Grace/Bentley AB 1986-88, and retirement, which was followed by Bethany/Dickson AB 1989, Valley/Eastend SK 1990, and Christ/Sexsmith AB 1991. Harold continued active ministry with Interim Ministry and Pastoral Supply opportunities for many years, serving at various times: Our Saviour’s/Regina SK, Shepherd of the Hills/Calgary AB, and several vacant parishes including an LC-C congregation where he provided Holy Communion. Harold was also a Naval Reserve Chaplain who served summers in either the West or East Coast for many years, and was one of 5 Lutheran pastors in Manitoba with current pilots licenses in the 1980s [the “Luther-Waffe”]. He regularly “flew from Flin Flon to Snow Lake for a 9am worship service and then back to Flin Flon for the 11am service” in his own plane.

Pr. LEWIS MARTIN BOOTH, 90, died 13 October 2016 in Moose Jaw SK. Born at the family farm near Southey SK., at age 17 he enlisted in the RCAF, training as a pilot and was honorably discharged as Sergeant in 1945. He worked for Eaton’s, as a carpenter, in electronics, and for the CP Railroad. Lew had his own electronics business and in 1981 closed his business so that he and his wife Dorothea [married in 1953] could move to Saskatoon to attend the Lutheran Theological Seminary and he became a Licensed Lay Minister in 1982. He then served Emmaus/Edmonton AB 1982, Norman Wells Mission/Norman Wells NWT 1983-84,

and Prince of Faith/Calgary AB 1984-85, Emmanuel/Calgary AB 1985-86, Bethany/Lomond and Hope/Milo AB 1986-93. Lew semi-retired in 1993 and moved back to his house in Moose Jaw SK where he continued to serve as pulpit supply and did the radio broadcast “Back to God Hour” for Central Lutheran. He was ordained at age 70 and then “moved with Dorothy by his side” to St. Paul’s/Herbert and Peace/Rush Lake SK 2000-03; he also served Gravelbourg Federated Lutheran Parish: St. Paul/Gravelbourg and Trinity/Mossbank SK 2001-02. He semi-retired again in 2003 around the time of Dorothy’s death, but continued to provide pulpit supply to Peace/Rush Lake until 2012.

TAMARA GAERTNER, 95, died 6 November 2016 in Kelowna BC. Her travels in life took her to many locations where “she enjoyed expressing her faith and sharing it with others”. “Her husband Fred pastored for over 50 years, serving in St. John/Oliver BC, and over 10 parishes in the prairie provinces”, including St. John/Wetaskiwin AB 1948-52, and organized Grace/Ponoka AB on 27 May 1952.

Pr. MILTON RUDE, 90, died 15 January 2017 in Camrose AB. He was born in an ambulance in Minnesota and his family moved to Armenia, AB in 1940. He graduated from Camrose Lutheran College in 1945 and went to Luther Theological Seminary in Saskatoon from 1947-51. His first parish was First Saskatchewan, Langham, SK 1951-54, where he married Gladys (nee Wig) in 1954. They moved in 1954, to serve at Trinity, Grande Prairie, then to Trinity, Calgary; and on to Peace, Vernon, BC, leaving in 1978; then to Victory, Medicine Hat from 1978-90, and Bethel, Ryley and Holden, Holden from 1990-93, when he retired. For many years they were active in Messiah’s Mission Committee in Camrose, as well as with ABT Synod world missions concerns. Milton was talented in carpentry and related skills and loved being a part of three parishes which had major building projects.

Pr. CARL E. JOHNSON, 95, died 29 March 2017 in New Westminster BC, having celebrated his 65th Anniversary of Ordination a few months earlier. After graduating in 1951 from Lutheran Theological Seminary in Saskatoon, ordination followed the same year. He was married to Renata and they moved to parishes in: St. John/Strasbourg [Lunner and Norrona missions] and St. Olaf/Govan SK 1951-54, Grace/Dawson Creek and Peace/Fort St. John and Doe Creek/North Rolla and Montney/Montney BC 1954-57. Carl then taught at Canadian Lutheran Bible Institute/Camrose AB 1958-60. Parish work continued in: Camrose [now Messiah]/Camrose AB 1960-66; Trinity/Burns Lake BC, and Fraser Lake & Houston & Smithers BC which became Faith/Fraser Lake and Mt. Zion/Smithers BC 1966-68, Peace/Fort St. John and Montney/Montney BC 1968-73, Mt. Zion/New Westminster BC 1973-82, Salem/Scandia and Ibbestad/Enchant AB 1982-84, and Sunshine Coast Missions BC 1984-86, with retirement in BC.

Pr. DONALD L. MILLER, 88, died 7 August 2017 in Selkirk MB. Before he entered pastoral ministry, his sister Mary Lou and he performed as “The Curtis Twins”, dancing at nightclubs throughout Pennsylvania and New York City, with Gene Kelly one of their teachers. Don studied at Augustana College in Rock Island IL and continued at the Lutheran Seminary there, graduating in 1958. He served a parish first in Oregon, but fell in love with Canada and was subsequently called to Emmanuel/Meeting Creek and Saron/Clive AB 1962-66, then to Bethel/Camrose and Wilhelmina/Hay Lakes AB 1966-72, with his wife Phyllis. He moved to St. Mark’s/Winnipeg MB in 1972. He married Theresa nee Hammarstrand in 1977, and “with his beloved help-mate Terry, Don served many Winnipeg and rural Manitoba congregations over their 37-year marriage”. Cottage life followed retirement.

Pr. JOHN EDWARD FULLMER, 94, died 12 August 2017 in Kenora ON. Born in Indiana, he joined the army in WW2, was captured during the “Battle of the Bulge” and interned in prison camp (Stalag IVB) near Dresden, Germany from Dec. 21, 1944 - May 13, 1945. After his release, John began his post-secondary education, receiving Bachelor degrees from Carthage College in Illinois and Marion College in Indiana, and a Bachelor of Divinity from Pacific Lutheran Seminary in Berkeley, California. John married Azalee on April 11, 1954 and began over 63 years of marriage and over 60 years of ministry starting in Washington State. In November 1956, the family immigrated to Canada to Gimli area congregations/Gimli MB 1956-60; he was the first pastor of Lutheran Church of the Cross/Calgary AB 1960-63; then on to Evansburg Mission/Evansburg and St. Paul’s/Rosevear AB 1964-66; and finally to Bethesda/Kenora and Trinity/Bergland ON. John spent most of his Ontario ministry as a mission pastor with First Nations peoples in the Treaty 3 Kenora area, working out of Bethesda/Kenora. He “was passionate about his time spent with First Nations people and started the Amik Association which funded employment projects for the local Treaty Three Communities. He and others were involved in helping in the revival of the POW WOW movement in Kenora and surrounding area in the early 1970’s, and was instrumental in working behind the scenes to bring about a peaceful resolution to the Anishinawbe Park Occupation in 1974.” “He did not care about the colour of one’s skin or the amount of money they had and knew when it was time to talk and respected times not to talk. He had magic and sometimes the magic worked and sometimes it didn’t [his favourite saying, from Chief Dan George in the movie “Little Big Man.”].”

Pr. HERMAN TIEN CHIU LIU, 87, died 16 September 2017 in Edmonton AB. Born in Hubei Province, China in 1929, his defining story from childhood was a fire in 1935 that destroyed his parents’ house and business. Five-year-old Herman, left behind in the fire, was rescued when he was swept up in a

pile of blankets by a neighbour who had run into the fire to see what he could rescue. “He later believed that this was the hand of God sparing him for some greater purpose in life. Life was difficult after the fire: his family’s business was destroyed, his father died in poverty a year later, and his mother could not afford to send him to elementary school for more than eight months.” By the late 1940s, his mother and a beloved sister had died, his other siblings had departed for work or family, and “he was drawn to church to console his spirit, where it was warmed by song and by the message of God’s love and was baptized in 1949 in a Chinese Lutheran Church in mainland China.” In 1950, fearing the Communist regime, Herman fled for Hong Kong. “A Lutheran missionary took Herman under his wing and he began Bible studies in earnest under the missionary’s guidance. One day he witnessed a fatal accident and remembered the words he had just read that morning: “For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his soul? Or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?” (Mark 8:36-37). From that moment the Holy Spirit opened the meaning of those verses to Herman and he decided to offer his life for His Gospel.” He graduated from Hong Kong Lutheran Theological Seminary in 1956, Chung Chi College/Chinese University of Hong Kong in 1964, and Haw Kiu College in 1972, serving in several churches in Hong Kong and preaching at Lutheran Church of Hong Kong, as evangelist in charge of the Leprosy Mission at the Lord’s Willing Church, and Chaplain & Welfare Assistant of Fanling Hospital. A dedicated theological scholar, in 1972 he came to Canada to study at the Lutheran Theological Seminary in Saskatoon and received a Master of Divinity in 1974. During his studies, he also had the vision to start a Chinese Lutheran ministry in Canada, later moving to start New Life Chinese Lutheran Church/Vancouver BC 1974-84, as well as being the first Chinese pastor to be ordained into the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada. Moving with his wife Eunice to Edmonton, he started New Life Chinese Lutheran Church/Edmonton AB 1984-92. “The name “New Life” was chosen for his congregations as a reminder that “through Christ we are born again and can serve him in gladness”.”

Pr. PETER ANTHONY GRUNDLER, 57, died 14 October 2017. Born in Vancouver, BC, he attended the University of Alberta where he received a Bachelor of Arts degree in 1984, and graduated from Lutheran Theological Seminary, Saskatoon SK, with ordination in 1988. He and wife, Sandra, moved to Zion/Athabasca and Golgotha/Ellscoff AB 1988-1995, and then Lord of Life/Edmonton AB 1995-2014, before he became Chaplain at Glenrose Rehabilitation Hospital in Edmonton AB. His good sense of humor included the Sunday the acolyte set his robe on fire while leaning over to light the pascal candle: “I grabbed him on the sleeve that was burning and put out the fire, but have a permanent keepsake of the event on the palm of my hand. I give thanks to God for the many and various ways God works through the simple words and actions we offer in ministry.”

Dr. DORIS NELSON, 91, died 4 November 2017 in Edmonton AB. She felt the Call and was Commissioned as a World Missions Missionary to the Lutheran Church's work overseas. With her medical studies and experience, Doris moved to Africa, and served in Lutheran medical missions work in Zululand, South Africa 1954-79. Her work began with training nurses and concluded as matron in Charge of the hospital at Ntunjambili, Natal, South Africa. Later she returned to Canada and at age 50, graduated and began practicing as a Medical Doctor.

GRETCHEN WOOLERY, 69, died 4 December 2017 in Calgary AB. Gretch, wife of Pr. Lee Woolery, "loved her family, her number one priority in everything she did. Not just those born into it, but also those many friends she met along the way; whether at the church, Hastings Lake Bible Camp, Samaritan's Purse, Bible Study or the neighbours next door." She and Lee moved to a congregation in North Dakota and then Bawlf/Skudesness and Zion/Bawlf AB 1979-84, Lakeland Parish/Bonnyville & Grand Centre & Cold Lake AB 1984-1986, Trinity/Westlock AB 1986-90, Lutheran Collegiate Bible Institute/Outlook SK 1990-95, Mount Olivet/Sherwood Park AB 1995-2000, Resurrection/Saskatoon SK 2000-04, and Lutheran Church of Our Saviour/Calgary AB from 2004. "Through her entire life serving her Lord she was shaped into the loving, compassionate and beautiful person she was."

Pr. JOHANN (JOHN) KUNKEL, 91, died 16 December 2017 in Winnipeg MB. Together with his wife Elisabeth, they moved to parishes in Duncan BC, Good Shepherd/Meadow Lake SK, Zion/Golden Spike AB, and St. John/Rosenfeld MB. He and his wife were Commissioned World Missions Missionaries to Bong Mine, Liberia, West Africa, 1963-72, where the ministry grew from work with expatriates and a nearby community of faith to include 21 congregations among the peoples of the area and ministering together with several Evangelists, Catechists, and Lay Worship Leaders. They returned to Canada to St. Stephen's/Winnipeg MB 1972-81, and then St. John's/Winnipeg MB 1981-91. "His life was dedicated to inclusive public and parish service, centred on fairness and equality."

RUTH OINE HAGEN, 96, died 25 February 2018 in Camrose AB. Born in rural Saskatchewan, she became very proficient at sewing and gardening, skills which she carried throughout her life. She attended SLBI [the future LCBI] in Outlook, and after graduation and further secretarial training in Saskatoon, returned to SLBI and became the school secretary, with full responsibility for running the "Sunday School by Mail" program. While at Outlook, she met the love of her life, Arnold Hagen. They were married August 21, 1946 and moved to Saskatoon where Arnold attended seminary. Upon Arnold's graduation, they moved to Prince Albert SK, and then to Vancouver to pastor at First Lutheran/Vancouver BC 1952-62. After Arnold's call to CLBI in 1962, the family moved to

Camrose where they have resided up to the present. "The skills acquired while she lived on the farm proved useful while managing the family, an outside job, and participating at CLBI." Upon Arnold's retirement, they traveled to many countries and destinations, often in the line of ministry until Arnold died in 2014. "Ruth was a devoted Christian wife, mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother but the most important part of her life was her relationship with Jesus. She is remembered for being a prayer warrior." Ruth's last years were at Bethany Meadows Care Home.

CAROLYN MARIE JACOBSON, 73, died 22 March 2018 in central Alberta. Born and raised in Montana, Carolyn nee Wall attended college in Billings MT, and later the University of Alberta in Edmonton, and married Rev. Joseph Robert Jacobson in 1965. Alberta was home to Carolyn and Joseph for their 52 years of marriage. From 1965 to 1985 they were at Lutheran parishes in Westlock, Calgary, Camrose, and Donalda. From 1985 to 1994 they resided in Edmonton while Joseph served as Bishop of the Alberta and Territories Synod of the ELCIC. In 1994 they retired for the first time to their little farm east of Bashaw. They were received into full communion with the Roman Catholic Church in 2000, and Joseph was ordained a Catholic Deacon and Priest in 2007, for service in the Archdiocese of Grouard-McLennan. They moved to McLennan where Carolyn served as organist at the Cathedral of St. John the Baptist while Joseph served as Chancellor of the Archdiocese and Parochial Vicar of the Cathedral Parish. In 2014 they retired for the second time back to the farm. "Carolyn's love of people and her deep commitment to working for their well-being were inspired in her by God's love for her and for all of His children revealed in Jesus Christ. The various situations in which she found herself throughout her married life as spouse, partner in ministry, mother, grandmother, teacher, musician, watercolor artist, refugee sponsor, and home-maker offered her many opportunities to express that love".

Pr. LARRY SOVERAN, 80, died 2 April 2018 in Camrose AB. Born in Assiniboia SK., he joined the Royal Canadian Air Force and worked as a radar technician in Europe, returning to attend the University of Saskatchewan and later the Lutheran Theological Seminary in Saskatoon. Larry and Marilylle (nee Pattison) were married and they moved to the parish of Weldon/Weldon SK 1966-71, then to Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd/Selkirk MB 1971-77, Peace/Innisfail AB 1977-86, and Bashaw/Bashaw AB 1986-2002 with retirement following by Little Beaver Lake.

Pr. DYANNA MARIE COUTURE, 34, died 7 April 2018 in Standard AB. Born in Camrose AB, Dyanna (nee Noble) met Richard, the love of her life, in 2009 and they married on 1 January 2014. "She ventured on her path in life with the study of law but after a brief period, got a higher calling because she knew for certain she was meant to be a Minister." Dyanna was ordained in 2014, and she and Richard moved first to

Trinity/Warburg and then Nazareth/Standard AB 2014-18. She especially liked to “guide through her work with the young hearts in Sunday School and through the sermon.” “When she was not helping others, she enjoyed crocheting and challenging herself to see what crocheting project she could accomplish.” Dyanna particularly liked Micah 6:8, “O people, the Lord has told you what is good, and this is what he requires of you: to do what is right, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God”.

+

Congregation Constitutional Review Committee

The Congregational Constitutional Review Committee is a standing committee of the Synod Council and consists of a member appointed from Synod Council, plus two appointed/volunteer members at large, as well as Assistant to the Bishop for Mission, Rev. Dr. Juliane Barlow, who serves as the Synod Liaison. Its function is to receive, review, make recommendations, and/or approve requests from congregations for changes to their constitutions.

Since last convention we have dealt with approximately fifteen ongoing or new requests for constitutional changes.

Changes to their constitutions in 2017 were approved for:

- Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Cross, Calgary - Dec. 2016
- Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Cross, Calgary - May 2017
- St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church Ellerslie, Edmonton - July 2017

These requests were reviewed, approved and forwarded to the Synod Council for vote.

As of the end of 2017 all congregations are required to use the new ELCIC Model Constitution for Congregations if making changes to their existing constitutions. **When requests for change are submitted we also need to have a copy of the current congregational constitution and bylaws for reference.**

We would like congregations to review such items as: quorum for AGMs or congregational meetings, number of members on council, age of voting privilege, and other items which would bring your constitution into compliance with the current legislation and policy.

If your congregation is needing to update your constitution we encourage you to contact Synod office early in the process to expedite and make the procedure as smooth as possible. The committee meets as often as required to review requests

submitted, usually three to four times per year. Thank you to the committee members for their time and commitment.

Submitted on behalf of the committee,
Mark Ree - Chairperson
Rev. Dr. Juliane Barlow- Assistant to the Bishop for Mission and Synod Liaison
Dan Ethier
Rev. Calvin Skriver

Synod Examining Committee

The Synod Examining Committee is a standing committee of Synod Council. Our mandate is to examine candidates for ordained and diaconal ministry.

Membership in the ABT Synod Examining Committee consists of Judy Gusdal, Diaconal Minister Karen Wedman, Rev. David Larsen, Paul Chell, Bishop Larry Kochendorfer, and the representative from Lutheran Theological Seminary, Re. Dr. Gordon Jensen.

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

The Western Synods Examining Committee met at Lutheran Theological Seminary, Saskatoon from March 31-April 1, 2017 to examine Colin Milang, Sarah Mowat, Jaily Corbin and Bev Swanson, Pastoral Candidates from The Synod of Alberta and the Territories; Aneeta Sarrop Pastoral Candidate from the BC Synod; and Emmanuel Aristide Pastoral Candidate from the Saskatchewan Synod.

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

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

Submitted by Diaconal Minister Karen Wedman

Candidacy Committee (formerly CTEL)

The Synod of Alberta and the Territories Candidacy Committee (formerly *Committee for Theological Education and Leadership*) works on behalf the church to guide people in ministry choices

which may lead to Ordination as a Pastor or Consecration as a Diaconal Minister.

In the ABT Synod, we are currently relating to two interns, six seminary students, and two other individuals at various points in the registration process. Each committee member maintains contact with one or more students walking with them in the candidacy process. Face-to-face contact with students and interns occurs at least once a year at a fall retreat, now held at Mulhurst Lutheran Camp. Last September the fall retreat was blessed with the presence of Diaconal Minister Karen Wedman and The Rev. Dale Olsen engaging in a discussion on MAID – Medical Assistance in Dying.

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

The candidacy committee has been in continued dialogue and discussion on the proposed changes to the candidacy manual. With the Candidacy Manual being approved by the National Church Council, we are currently in the process of making changes on how we function accordingly to reflect it. With so many students "staying home" to take on-line and intensive classes from Lutheran Theological Seminary, the congregation can have a much more regular interaction with them and provide important opportunities that support course work.

Committee Members are:

- Rev. Prema Samuel, Chair (At Large)
- Darcy Calkins, Vice Chair (West Central)
- Myrna Husdahl, Secretary (Southern)
- Greg Lingelbach (South West) also serves as Chair of National Church's Program Committee for Leadership and Ministry (PCLM)
- Lori Skriver (East Central)
- Rev. Anna Thede (Northern)
- Rev. Rick Chappell (Northern)
- Rev Dr. Gordon Jensen (Seminary Liaison)
- Bishop Larry Kochendorfer

Your prayers and support for ministry of candidates and for the members of ABT-CC are an important part of our work together. We are grateful for the support.

In Christ,

The Rev. Prema Samuel

Area Dean Reports

Northern Area

If we in our own strength confide, our striving turns to losing; the righteous one fights by our side, the one of God's own choosing. You ask who this may be: Christ Jesus, it is he, the Lord of hosts by name. No other God we claim! None else can win the battle.

"A Mighty Fortress is Our God," ELW 505 v. 2

These are old and familiar words reminding us that God is our hope and renewal. In a time of gross transition for the church in North America, our own strength, technology, or tactics will not suffice. We are called to solidarity with God's mission in the neighbourhood and all creation. While these old words ring true, we cannot remain in the past, but ought to step boldly into a new day.

Being the church is challenging work, especially today. Standing up for justice, speaking out for those who are overlooked, giving of our schedules and earnings, sharing what we know about a loving God has always been a high calling, but this is true even more so in our current context. All around us we see the church we love shrinking and struggling. We're working very hard to keep it together and sometimes in frustration wonder why our great efforts don't realize more results.

God is up to something new and we are learning the steps to this new dance. God is calling us to move (as we have heard before) from maintenance to ministry, to return to faithful service where ever it is that good news is needed, to every place that God is.

We want people's lives to be changed. We hope for people to know this life-changing God. And we believe we have a role to play in growing relationships between God, ourselves and the world. We're learning to think missionally, which takes us to where people already are and to where God is already at work, instead of remaining contained in buildings waiting for people to find us. In every new encounter we learn from one another about the God we love and who loves us. We are weaving together the wisdom of our past and excitement for the future. We give thanks for all who are on the journey together, some of whom we have yet to meet.

During the 2017 fall Area Gathering we said farewell to the Northern Conference Council. Some of these members had served generously for many years. The council primarily worked to organize the fall conference and provided a connecting point between the synod, dean and congregations. To all those who

have previously served on the Northern Conference Council – thank you!

With deep gratitude, we thank our outgoing members: Ms. Cindy Schriener, Mr. Dan Bablitz, Mr. Michael Harmon, Ms. Marilyn Goebel, Pr. Dave Melax, DM Sarah Rudd, Pr. Aaron Schnell, Pr. Phil Penrod, and Pr. Doug Heine.

The new Northern Area Leadership Team is somewhat smaller. More than just a different size, there is also a different focus. While the council primarily planned the fall conference, the new Area Leadership Team will:

- Arrange for continuing education opportunities for rostered and lay leaders to support and encourage area ministry strategies, annually in the fall area gathering.
- Work with congregational leaders to create area ministry strategies and collaborative opportunities.
- Encourage networking and mutual support among rostered and lay leaders.
- Discern the local, unique ways God is already working.

Into the Area Leadership Team we welcome Ms. Brittany Mason, Mr. Keith Scheiht, Pr. Phil Penrod, and Pr. Aaron Schnell. The first leadership training event was held October 28, 2017 and another is coming April 2018.

Other activity in our Area included:

- 2016 Fall Conference held in Trinity Lutheran, Westlock.
- 2017 Fall Area Gathering held at Ascension Lutheran, Edmonton.
- Following the 2017 Annual Study Conference, feedback on the new employment agreements was collected in our area and submitted to ABT National Church Council members.
- Farewell to Pr. Ann Salmon who left Grace Lutheran, Edson to undertake a new position at the Lutheran Theological Seminary, Saskatoon in July, 2017
- Installation of Pr. Kirk Tastad “2.0” (Pr. Kirk previously served at Holy Family and the congregation lovingly joked this time around was “2.0”) was held September 16, 2017.
- A Commemoration of the Reformation was held in our Area October 30 at All Saints Anglican Cathedral where a 3-way ecumenical agreement was signed.
- Several events were planned by individual

congregations through October to commemorate the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation.

- Grace, Edson and St. Catherine’s Anglican, Edson are currently working on a ministry sharing venture that will become “Holy Trinity.”
- Medical Assistance in Dying learning event was held Feb 3 and 10, 2018. Thank you to DM Sarah Rudd, our facilitator.

Thank you for the privilege of serving as Dean. Blessings to all!

Peace,
Rev. Trish Schmermund
Dean, Northern Area

West Central Area

“We will recount to generations to come the praiseworthy deeds and the power of the Lord, and the wonderful works God has done. The Lord gave a decree in Jacob and established a law in Israel, commanding our ancestors to teach it to their children; that the generations to come might know, and the children yet unborn; that they in their turn might tell it to their children; so that they might put their trust in God, and not forget the deeds of God, but keep God’s commandments.” Psalm 78:4-7

Recounting. Counting over. Counting again. And again, and again. Like the Count from Sesame Street who always introduced himself the same way, “I am the Count, because I love to count. Wahahahaha!” And so, for the Count, the act of counting, of numbering over, of counting again and again and again, seemed to serve no other purpose than the sheer joy of it - the love of counting. And already we get a sense of why the Psalmist begins here: “We will recount...”

We will count over, we will count again and again and again, we will tell from one generation to the next the praiseworthy deeds, the power of the Lord, the wonderful works God has done. Recount, says the Psalmist, just because we can, just for the sheer joy of hearing over and over again the wonderful works of God! Wahahahaha!

And perhaps that, in itself seems enough. But as we read on, we find that recounting, retelling, again and again and again, has a powerful effect, not only to bring us into joy, but to form and shape and reshape generation after generation. That in the recounting there is power to change us into a people who trust God, who remember God, who keep God’s commandments of hope and life—and not only for ourselves, but for generations to come. Like a circle with no beginning or end, to recount is to recall. To recall is to remember. To remember is to know. To know is to tell. To tell is to share the joy. To share the joy is to form future generations and those

around us into a hopeful, trusting, remembering people. And to remember is to recount once more—the wonderful deeds of God in our midst!

Recounting. Listening to each other's stories. It is what the Synod has been encouraging us to do and what we have undertaken as an Area Leadership Team over the past few months. You may have seen Vivian Holtby joining you for worship and conversation on a Sunday morning. Or maybe it was Glen Kneller, or Rev. Erik Sorensen or Aly Bowd joining you for coffee and conversation. If you haven't seen us yet, don't worry. We are on our way. What are these conversations about? Hearing from you what inspires you about life in your community, about the ministry of your congregation. Listening and discerning together about the wonderful deeds of God at work in your communities and churches.

And you, too, are invited to have conversations of your own. In your neighbourhoods, with people at the grocery store, people in your hockey arenas and soccer fields, in your hospitals and care homes, with other congregations 10 minutes or 3 hours down the road. Who are they? Where do they come from? What do they talk about over the dinner table? What is important and how does faith fit in?

"Such stories," writes Alan Roxborough, "Such stories are the proof. The Spirit is moving like an underground stream, stirring relationship and inviting us to discover ways of being God's people that hardly fit the ways we've imagined being church in the past. The Spirit is disrupting and calling our churches into a new imagination about what it means to follow the way of Jesus."¹

And so, I give thanks to your Area Leadership Team, for their faithful and passionate service, for their gifts, for their willingness to risk and try something new:

- Vivian Holtby, Grace, Wetaskiwin;
- Glen Kneller, Good Shepherd, Red Deer;
- Rev. Erik Sorenson, St. Peter's, Millet;
- Alysse Bowd, Peace, Innisfail;
- and our treasurer Pearl Fee, Peace, Innisfail.

Since 2016, together we have had many opportunities for gathering, studying, supporting and participating in the life of the church and one another. Here are just a few:

- **Gathering:** Your West Central Area council planned and hosted two Reformation 500 Area Gatherings on May 20th at Mulhurst Camp and May 27th at Camp Kuriakos. There was laughter and conversation, there

was a campfire and hotdogs and sweets, there was worship and tree planting. Attendance was small, but for those who came it was an opportunity to get to know one another, join in good food and conversation, and participate in the hopeful act of planting a tree.

- **Studying:** Two gatherings were hosted in our area to facilitate discussion on the FOD Study on Medical Assistance in Dying, on September 30 at Good Shepherd in Red Deer, and On October 28th at Peace in Leduc. Thanks to **Rev. Marty Tuer** who led us through a thoughtful, engaging afternoon. **Watch for information coming soon on a Mental Health First Aid course presented by CARE.**
- **Supporting: The Reformation Challenge (and spending some money...):** Under the direction of Area delegates, you instructed us to creatively employ some of the money that had been building in our bank account for a number of years. In 2016 someone we know and love had a **BIG** birthday and we joined the Synod Challenge to raise money for ELCJHL Scholarships by forwarding \$1400 to the Bishop Larry Birthday Scholarship Fund. **(How old is he????)**
- **Participating: Area Leadership Training:** In the fall of 2017 and the spring of 2018 members of your Area Leadership Team have joined in Synod wide training. Some of the goals of the Area Leadership Teams are:
 - To support, promote and express Synod Mission Priorities in Spirit-Led Leadership, Hope-Filled Discipleship, Innovative Tradition and Collaborative Partnerships
 - To encourage and equip congregations and ministries within the area to collaborate and implement the mission of this church
 - Develop a discerning, learning community who follow where God leads
 - Work with congregational leaders to create area ministry strategies and collaborative opportunities.
 - Encourage networking and mutual support among rostered and lay leaders
 - Discern the local, unique ways God is already working
 - Arrange for continuing education opportunities for rostered and lay leaders

Sounds easy enough, right? Thankfully, there is more training ahead. And thankfully, it is work we do together. So, what are your ideas? Your hopes? Your stories? Talk to each other. Tell us. Recount!

¹ Alan J. Roxborough. *Joining God, Remaking Church, Changing the World: The New Shape of Church in our Time*, (New York, NY: Morehouse Publishing, 2015), p. viii.

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

- For regular opportunities to meet as rostered leaders in our regular monthly gatherings on the second Tuesday of each month. Thanks to **Good Shepherd, Red Deer** and **Rev. Marty Tuer, Interim** for their hospitality in hosting most of these gatherings, and to the leaders who lead us in time of devotion, communion and worship.
- Thanks also to **Peace, Leduc** and **Rev. Matt Lyseng** for their hospitality in hosting monthly ministerial gatherings in the Leduc area.
- For area leadership and the opportunity to meet at the **Congregational Life Event**: “No One is Immune: Taking Action for Mental Health in Congregations.” hosted by **Good Shepherd, Red Deer** and the **CARE Committee**. The Congregational Life Even is an annual event planned by our Synod, and an opportunity for both lay and rostered leaders to gather together in worship, learning and lively conversation about issues of faith and life. If you have never attended any of these events, mark your calendars for April 2019. It is a day well spent!
- For collaborative partnerships with **Lutheran Theological Seminary** in the training of interns (now ordained): **Rev. Jailyn Corbin** and completion of her internship under the guidance of **Rev. Matt Lyseng** and **Peace, Leduc**. For **Rev. Colin Milang** and completion of his internship under the guidance of **Rev. John Lentz**.
- For all the ways each and every one of you faithfully lives out the Gospel in your community and context. For Fall Suppers and Blanket Exercises. For Car Shows and Fashion Shows. In hospitals and hockey rinks. In community centres and schools. In building playgrounds and building lives. In ecumenical partnerships, in churches and cemeteries. These are the stories, the underground streams of the Spirit! We will recount!

As we give thanks for our leadership, **we mark changes in ministry and ministry leaders** in the following congregations since 2016:

- For **Grace, Gnadenthal**, and the welcome ministry of **Rev. Marvin Krebs**.

- For **St. Paul's, Rolly View**, and the welcome ministry of **Rev. Dennis Aicken**.
- For **St. Peter's, Millet**, and the welcome ministry of **Rev. Erik Sorenson**
- For **Grace, Bentley and Peace, Innisfail** in a new shared ministry agreement.

For ministries and leaders in transition; we pray for the Spirit's leading, peace and discernment:

- For **Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd, Red Deer** and interim pastor **Rev. Marty Tuer**
- For **Rev. Dr. Marc Jerry**, temporarily without call and in discernment.

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

We give thanks for our **area chaplains** and their good work in compassion and care for those whose journey is nearing life's end; for those who struggle with issues of health, memory loss, and loneliness. A word of hope, a hand held, a tear wiped away, a smile given, a smile returned, **the presence of Christ, the Good News of the Gospel!**

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

In all this, we have so much to tell, to recount, recall, repeat, remember. And so, we **will**. We will recount; from one generation to the next. We will recount, for the sheer and simple joy! We will recount because we can. We will recount the praiseworthy deeds of the Lord! Why? Because we are a people **recounted and remembered** by God. And we are a people who love to count. Wahahahaha!

*I love to tell the story: how pleasant to repeat
What seems, each time I tell it, more wonderfully sweet
I love to tell the story, for some have never heard
The message of salvation from God's own holy word
I love to tell the story; 'twill be my theme in glory
To tell the old, old story of Jesus and his love.*

(From Evangelical Lutheran Worship, Hymn #661, *I Love to Tell the Story*)

Rev. Kathy Calkins Dean, West Central Area

East Central Area

God continues to be at work around us. As people who really believe that grace and love are at the root of the gospel we can continue to look for God to be at work in the hearts and lives of those around us, both inside and outside of the church. Some may need a “Paul” to connect with them, build relationship, listen and serve, sharing the gospel as the opportunity presents itself. As Paul was moved by the guidance of the Spirit so may we also go where we are sent, to engage those around us in love, service, and conversation.

In the East Central Area we thank Pastor Eleanor Ness for her years of service as the Dean. We also thank Horst Schreiber and Linda Aker-Paulgaard for their participation on the Conference Council.

On October 14th, 2017 Diaconal Minister Signi Bruner, Kathy Nelson, Mark Wight, and Pastor Julianna Wehrfritz-Hanson were installed as the “Area Leadership Team”, thank you to these members for their continued participation and service.

At the Area Retreat on October 28th, 2017, at Zion Lutheran Church in Bawlf, those who gathered felt they had spent that Saturday well. We were inspired, encouraged and informed about the topic, Holy Places, Holy Spaces for Hol(e)y People. The speaker, Dr. Faith Nostbakken, spoke about how we encounter the holy in the midst of daily life.

By the time of the Synod Convention the Rostered leaders of the Area will have gathered for a Rostered Leaders retreat on April 23-24, 2018.

Over the past year we celebrated and supported a couple of candidates as they were ordained. The Rev. Colin Millang was ordained on July 15, 2017 at Messiah Lutheran Church, Camrose. The Rev. Bev Swanson was ordained and installed at Messiah Lutheran Church, Camrose on August 26, 2017.

We also remember and give thanks for the lives and ministries of those pastors who have died including

- The Rev. Allen Severson on July 16, 2016
- The Rev. Milton Rude on January 15, 2017; and
- The Rev. Larry Soveran on April 2, 2018

During this past summer two congregation celebrated milestone anniversaries. St. Peter’s Lutheran Church, Bashaw rejoiced for 120 years as a congregation, and Hope Lutheran Church, Forestburg gave thanks for their 100th Anniversary. Both congregations appreciated the presence of Bishop Larry Kochendorfer at their celebrations.

In the midst of all the various things that are happening in the lives of our members, our Pastors and Diaconal Ministers, and our congregations, our Area and Synod, we thank God for the life, the community and the work of our churches in

cities, towns, villages and the open country. May divine grace continue to flow to us and to those around us calling disciples into ever deeper relationship with the One who gave his very life for us, the heavenly Parent, and the Blessed Spirit.

Submitted by Pastor Julianna Wehrfritz-Hanson
Dean of East Central Area

Southwestern Area

We’ve given thanks to St. John’s Calgary for the many years of faithful service to the community, as well as for the kind gifts they’ve left the Conference churches and other ministries as they closed their doors and sold their building. Their legacy will live on as the gifts they’ve given will help ensure that God’s work is being done with and among us.

We’ve seen pastoral transitions and congregational celebrations. We’ve learned to work together in common mission in various ways among our churches. Specifically, the Southwest Conference Refugee Mission has grown as we support four families (and growing as I write this). Refugee sponsorship has been a bright light in the SW Conference, and I am proud of the hard work that the committee has done, and by the generosity of our churches and ministries in supporting and sustaining this vital ministry.

Lutheran Campus Ministry Calgary (LCMC), under the leadership of Pr. Margaret Propp, has grown from the University of Calgary to Mount Royal University. This ministry has been a model of ecumenical and interfaith partnership and LCMC as Pr. Margaret has collaborated with colleagues from a variety of faiths, as well as with the university itself, to create a strong spiritual presence on those two campuses.

While we’ve seen much success with our Southwest Conference Refugee Mission, and this ministry continues to grow, we’re also looking towards the future that the Spirit is leading us into.

As the new Area Leadership Team begins to meet, so does the process of listening and discernment. We have a strong team as I am privileged to work with Wayne Hoff, Nyajuok Kulang, Pr. Tim Wray, and Heidi Schlotter to lead the listening and discernment process. Over time, more voices will be heard as we listen to what the Spirit is saying to us in our time and place, and our eyes will be open to God’s activity in our community. Then, with listening hears and discerning eyes, together, as a community of the Southwest Area, we will join in what we see God doing with and among us. The future is open to the Spirit’s leading. And I am excited about the possibilities for partnership and community building that will unfold as we grab hold of the future that God has given us.

Submitted in Jesus’ Name,

Rev. Kevin Powell
Dean, Southwestern Area

Southern Area

Grace and peace to you from God our Father and our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

This is an exciting time to be newly appointed as dean, as part of the transition from the conference structure to the new Area Leadership Team (we're calling ourselves **SALT** - Southern Area Leadership Team).

One of the main challenges we face is one of distance — our congregations are quite far removed from each other. However, the work that has been done through the Missional Formation process which involved most Southern Area pastors and many of the Southern Area congregations (and wrapped up in June 2017) has begun conversations about mission, ministry and leadership that can be built upon.

We are also very grateful to Spirit of Grace in Brooks for being a central point for the Area, as their office hosts our monthly pastor cluster meetings as well as Area Leadership Team meetings. We are thankful to have this central space to gather. Serving with me on SALT are Rev. Colin Millang (Redeemer, Hanna), Michelle Pulsifer (Good Shepherd, Lethbridge), and Leah Steiner (Unity, Medicine Hat). Our treasurer is Crystal Sherwick (Unity, Medicine Hat).

Part of the transition from conferences to areas is moving from a business structure to a missional one, where we seek to be collaborative in ministry together. Our team is looking at ways at facilitating conversations between our distant congregations and sharing stories of ministry with one another.

We give thanks to Rev. Reg Berg for his years of service as dean. He installed all of the current active pastors in the Area (myself included) and we are grateful for his leadership.

Transitions in the Southern Area since the 2016 Synod Convention:

- St. Paul's, Burstall, SK was welcomed to the ABT Synod at the 2016 Convention from the Saskatchewan Synod because of its proximity to Medicine Hat. Beginning in September 2016, Rev. Shane Hein (St. Peter, Medicine Hat) and myself have taken turns leading a monthly service of Holy Communion.
- Rev. Tom Peterson retired from Good Shepherd, Lethbridge. Rev. Andrew Horne (Anglican) is serving Good Shepherd in a part-time interim capacity.
- Rev. Colin Millang was ordained and installed as pastor at Redeemer, Hanna. Pastor Colin had previously been serving Redeemer as an intern.
- Rev. Reg Berg resigned his call to Bethany, Tilley and Faith, Rolling Hills to serve Prince of Peace, Calgary.
- Bethany, Tilley has contracted with Pastor Les Skonnard for pulpit supply. Pastor Les also serves as part-time chaplain for Good Samaritan Society homes in Raymond and Cardston.
- Rev. Emil Krause has retired after many years of service to Bethlehem, Hilda. An arrangement for pulpit supply similar to the one at St. Paul's, Burstall is a possibility for the future.

Our Area team is excited by the possibilities of flexibility in the new area structures and especially for a renewed focus on mission together. We are looking forward to engaging our area congregations in new conversations and experiments in working together for the sake of the gospel.

Yours in Christ Jesus —

Rev. Jeff Decelle, Southern Area Dean

Synod of Alberta and the Territories Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada Roster of Synod Council

Rev. Dr. Larry Kochendorfer	Bishop	2018
Wayne Street	Chairperson	2021
Paul Ellison	Treasurer	2018
Marilyn Murray	Secretary	2018
Terrie Coombs	Southwestern Area	2021
Rev. Dr. Phil Holck	Southwestern Area	2018
Rev. Dr. Deborah Ann Taylor	East Central Area	2021
Shae Belanger	East Central Area	2018
Mark Ree	West Central Area	2021
Rev. John Lentz	West Central Area	2021
Michael Harmon	Northern Area	2021
Rev. Heidi Wachowiak	Northern Area	2018
Wendy Kalkan	Southern Area	2021
Rev. Janice Whitelock	Southern Area	2018
The Ven. Alan T. Perry	Full Communion Partner Representative	2018