



Assembly 2008

Twelfth Biennial Convention

EASTERN SYNOD of the
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada
London Convention Centre, London Ontario

July 9 -13, 2008

Agenda

Tuesday – July 8, 2008

- 10:00 am Synod Council Meeting
- 12:00 noon *Synod Council – Lunch*
- 4:00 pm Synod Council Adjourns
- 6:00 pm *Synod Council – Dinner (on your own)*

Wednesday – July 9, 2008

- 7:30 am *Breakfast (on your own)*
- 9:00 am Delegate Registration Open

Session One

- 2:00 pm Opening of Convention

- Report of Committee on Registration
Establishment of Quorum
Delegate Orientation and Procedural Guidelines
Introduction of Special Guests
Requests to Grant Privilege of Vote and/or Voice
Notice of Consent Agenda Items
 Report of the Synod Council – Items not requiring action
 Report of the Secretary
 Report of the Statistician
 Report of the Necrologist
 Report of the Archivist
 Report of the Auditor
 Report of the Investment Committee
 Reports of the Standing Committees and Working Groups
 Report of Lutheran Planned Giving
 Adoption of Minutes of 2006 Convention
 Appointment of Convention Committees
 Reports of the Conferences
- Adoption of Agenda
- 2:30 pm Report of the Bishop
- 3:00 pm Report of the Synod Council
 – Notice of Items Requiring Action
 – Notice of Proposed Amendments to Eastern Synod Constitution
- 3:15 pm **SPECIAL ORDER** – Report of the Treasurer
 • 2006–2007 Financial Review
 • 2008–2009–2010 Budget Overview
- 3:45 pm **SPECIAL ORDER** – Bishop Susan C. Johnson
 National Bishop, Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada
- 4:15 pm Report of the Nominating Committee
 – Synod Council/WLS Board of Governors
 – Reception of Nominations from the Floor
- 4:30 pm Report of the President, Eastern Synodical ELW
- 4:45 pm Report of the “*It’s Your Call*” Coordinator – Rev. Dr. Robert Binhammer
- 5:00 pm *Closing Prayer and Adjournment for Supper (on your own)*
- 5:15 pm Rehearsal for Opening Service
- 6:00 pm Delegate Registration Closed
- 7:30 pm Opening Service of Holy Communion**
- 9:00 pm Welcome Reception for Delegates and Visitors
- 9:00 pm Bishop’s Reception for Retired Pastors & Spouses

Thursday – July 10, 2008

7:30 am *Breakfast (on your own)*

8:00 am Delegate Registration Open

Session Two

8:30 am Holy Communion

9:10 am Report of the Committee on Elections

First Ballot – Synod Council/WLS Board of Governors

9:20 am **SPECIAL ORDER – A PEOPLE CALLED**

- to be passionate about our relationship with God, in Christ

10:30 am *Break*

10:45 am Hymn Sing

11:00 am Report of Synod Council (cont'd)

12:00 noon *Closing Prayer and Adjournment for Lunch (on your own)*

(WLS – Reception – Salon A)

Session Three

1:30 pm Hymn Sing and Opening Prayer

1:45 pm Report of the Committee on Elections

Second Ballot – Synod Council/WLS Board of Governors

2:15 pm Report of Committee on Reference and Counsel

3:00 pm **SPECIAL ORDER** – Hildy Thiessen, Executive Director
ELCIC Group Services

3:15 pm *Break*

3:30 pm Report of Synod Council (con't.)

4:15 pm Report of Committee on Reference and Counsel

5:00 pm *Dinner (on your own)*

Session Four

7:00 pm Hymn Sing and Opening Prayer

7:15 pm **SPECIAL ORDER – A PEOPLE CALLED**

- to nurture leaders who encourage and equip other leaders
- to work in partnership with others

8:30 pm Evening Prayer

Friday – July 11, 2008

7:30 am *Breakfast (on your own)*

Session Five

8:30 am Holy Communion – This Eucharist will include a Memorial Rite for pastors and clergy spouses who have died during the past biennium.

9:10 am Report of Committee on Elections

Third Ballot – Synod Council/WLS Board of Governors

9:30 am ***SPECIAL ORDER – A PEOPLE CALLED***

- to reflect the diversity of our society
- to be generous

10:30 am *Break*

10:45 am Hymn Sing

11:00 am Report of WLS Board of Governors

11:30 am Report of Committee on Reference and Counsel

12:00 noon *Closing Prayer and Adjournment for Lunch (on your own)*

1:30 pm FORUMS

3:00 pm *Break*

3:30 pm FORUMS

4:00 pm Rehearsal for Ordination Service

5:30 pm *Dinner (on your own)*

7:30 pm Ordination Service and Reception

St. Paul's Cathedral – 472 Richmond Street, London ON

Saturday – July 12, 2008

7:30 am *Breakfast (on your own)*

Session Six

8:30 am Holy Communion

Note: All non-germane motions must be in the hands of the Secretary at this time.

9:10 am Report of the Committee on Elections

9:20 am Report of Committee on Reference and Counsel

10:15 am *Break*

10:30 am Hymn Sing

- 10:45 am Report of Synod Council (con't.)
- 11:15 am Presentation of Pastors, Diaconal Ministers, and Congregations received into the Synod since July 1, 2006.
- 12:00 noon *Closing Prayer and Adjournment for Lunch (on your own)*

Session Seven

- 1:30 pm Hymn Sing
- 1:45 pm **SPECIAL ORDER** – Report of the Treasurer
 - 2009-2010 Budget
- 2:15 pm Report of Committee on Reference and Counsel
- 2:45 pm Report of Committee on Minutes
- 2:50 pm Report of Committee on Registration
- 2:55 pm Report of Committee on the Report of the Bishop
- 3:10 pm *Break*
- 3:30 pm **SPECIAL ORDER – A PEOPLE CALLED**
 - to be engaged by challenging questions
- 4:30 pm Adjournment of Convention
- 6:30 pm** ***Eastern Synod Banquet***
6:30 pm – Gathering Time
7:00 pm – Dinner

Sunday – July 13, 2008

- 7:30 am *Breakfast (on your own)*
- 8:00 am Synod Council Meeting
- 10:00 am** **Closing Service of Holy Communion – Installation of Synod Council**



Assembly 2008
Twelfth Biennial Convention
EASTERN SYNOD of the
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada
London Convention Centre, London Ontario
July 9-13, 2008
Minutes

Session One – Wednesday, July 9, 2008

Bishop Michael Pryse called to order the Eastern Synod Assembly for 2008. By song and dance, baptismal remembrance and prayer, the Assembly was declared open by the bishop.

Report of the Committee on Registration

The Report of the Committee on Registration was presented by Irene Fancy, Chairperson.

Total eligible clergy delegates	303
Total registered clergy delegates	123
Total eligible lay delegates (congregational)	245
Registered youth delegates	8
Registered lay officers	2
Registered diaconal delegates	1
Registered lay delegates (congregational)	82
Total registered lay delegates	93
Total eligible clergy and lay delegates	548
Total registered clergy and lay delegates	216
Required quorum is 1/3 of eligible voters (see MS/02 Art. X Sec. 5)	182
Registered visitors	21
Registered youth leaders	10
Registered, other non-delegates	10
Registered volunteers	85
Sub-total	123
Grand total attendees at Assembly	339

* included in total of line above, "Registered Visitors"

Bishop Pryse declared a quorum present.

Delegate Orientation and Procedural Guidelines

Bishop Pryse directed delegates' attention to some procedural guidelines outlined in the Bulletin of Reports, microphones on the convention floor, and voting card procedures. The duties and procedures of the Committee of Reference and Counsel were outlined.

Requests to Grant Privilege of Vote and/or Voice

Voice:

MSC to grant voice to: Debbie Lou Ludolph, Jackie Nunns, Jeff Pym.

Voice and Vote:

MSC to grant voice and vote to those being ordained: Michael Lees, Karen Kuhnert, Catharine House and Sheryl Stone.

Notice of Consent Agenda Items

Report of the Synod Council – Items not requiring action

Report of the Secretary

Report of the Statistician

Report of the Necrologist

Report of the Archivist

Report of the Auditor

Report of the Investment Committee

Reports of the Standing Committees and Working Groups

Report of Lutheran Planned Giving

Adoption of Minutes of 2006 Convention

Appointment of Convention Committees

Report of the Lutheran Office for Public Policy

Reports of the Conferences

MSC that the Consent Agenda Items and the Agenda be adopted.

Report of the Bishop

Vice-Chairperson Dorothy Frook assumed the Chair for the Report of the Bishop. Bishop Pryse presented his report of which printed copies were distributed afterwards (see BR Section 3, pages 3-1a and following). The report was referred to the Committee on the Report of the Bishop.

Report of the Synod Council

The Secretary, Rev. Wendell Grahlman, directed delegates' notice to the Items Requiring Action by the convention. Notice was also directed to those Proposed Amendments to Eastern Synod Constitution, First and Second Readings, and Bylaws. (See Section 5, Appendix A and Appendix B).

Report of the Treasurer

The Treasurer of Synod, Keith Myra, presented the financial overview of 2006 - 2007. He also introduced the budget proposals for 2008, 2009 and 2010. (See Section 7 – Financial Reports).

Report of the National Bishop

National Bishop, Rev. Susan Johnson, presented her report (see Section 3-3). Bishop Johnson elaborated on recent work of the National Church Council which has resulted in five organizing pillars, or goals, which are intended to highlight, clarify, and strengthen the work of the ELCIC. She offered our Synod's and National Church's gratitude to Bonnie Wepler, who has recently returned from a number of years of missionary service in Papua New Guinea. She also introduced Bob Granke, Executive Director of Canadian Lutheran World Relief, who spoke on behalf of CLWR. As part of his report, he introduced volunteers in mission, Rev. Dale and Donna Finch, who have returned from their ministry and work at the Augusta Victoria Hospital in Jerusalem.

Report of the Nominating Committee

The Secretary presented the slate of those who have been nominated for Synod Council and the Waterloo Lutheran Seminary Board of Governors. Additional nominations were received from the floor. (See Section 2 – Reports of Assembly Committees).

Further nominations were received for the Synod Council: John Meyer (London Conference), Lay, and Rev. Paul Hartig (Kitchener/Waterloo Conference), Clergy, for the term of 2008-2012. There were no further nominations for the WLS Board of Governors.

Report of the Evangelical Lutheran Women (ELW)

Dorothy Frook presented the report of the ELW on behalf of Eleanor McLeod, the president of the Eastern Synodical of ELW. (See Section 8).

Report of the "It's Your Call" Coordinator

Rev. Dr. Robert Binhammer reported on the progress of the "It's Your Call" program, begun in the Eastern Synod and now used throughout the ELCIC. He appealed for feedback about the program and for continued support and uplifting of persons for ministry in the church.

ES 08-01 MSC that the Eastern Synod recommit itself to the It's Your Call program and ask all pastors and congregations to participate fully each year in identifying, encouraging, nurturing and supporting candidates for the ordained and diaconal ministry.

The Convention Manager, Rev. Guenter Dahle, relayed announcements regarding worship, hospitality and convention items.

Debbie Lou Ludolph, Ministry Director of Worship Ministries, closed the session with song and prayer.

The Opening Service of Holy Communion was held on Wednesday evening, with a Welcome Reception for delegates and visitors, and the Bishop's Reception for retired pastors and spouses.

Session Two – Thursday, July 10, 2008 8:30 a.m.

A morning service of Holy Communion was held.

Bishop Pryse called the meeting to order.

Report of the Committee on Elections

Bishop Pryse introduced Alven Choi, the chairperson of the Committee on Elections.

The First Ballot for the WLS Board of Governors was distributed, and then collected.

The bishop explained that since there is a recent vacancy on the Synod Council, additional nominees brought forward by Synod Council and the Officers – Rev. James Slack and Rev. David Maginley – will stand for the term 2008-2010 to complete the vacated position. Biographical information will be distributed prior to the first ballot for Synod Council.

A People Called

Bishop Pryse welcomed guest speaker Tana Kjos to the podium. She spoke on the first item of the synod's renewed vision for ministry, "to be passionate about our relationship with God, in Christ."

The Assembly took a break, and reconvened with song.

Rev. Lori Pilatzke, Ministry Director of Witness and Evangelism, spoke of her passion in ministry, and of the invitation we have to share the good news of Christ.

Report of Synod Council

Bishop Pryse called upon the Secretary of Synod, Rev Wendell Grahlman, to give the Report of Eastern Synod Council – Amendments to Eastern Synod Constitution. (See Section 5-27ff, Appendix B).

Second Reading:

ES 08-02 MSC that Article XI, Section 5 be amended to read:

Section 5. Every member of synod council and officer and their heirs, executors and administrators and estate and effects, respectively, shall from time to time and at all times be indemnified and saved harmless out of the funds of this synod and this church from and against all costs, charges and expenses whatsoever that any such member or officer sustains or incurs or about any action, suit or proceeding that is brought, commenced or prosecuted against any of the aforementioned for or in respect of any act, deed, **omission**, matter or thing whatsoever made, done or permitted by them in or about the execution of the duties of their office; and all other costs, charges and expenses that any sustain or incur in or about or in relation to the elected position to synod council or office of this synod, except such costs, charges or expenses as are occasioned by their own willful neglect or default.

ES 08-03 MSC that Article X, Section 6 and 8 be amended to read:

Section 6. The eligible voting membership of conventions shall consist of:

b. Ordained ministers **and lay diaconal ministers** on the roster of synod, ~~and~~ lay officers of synod, **and lay members of synod council**.

Section 8. 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 shall have seat and voice in the conventions of the synod. Like privileges shall be accorded ~~to the lay members of the synod council and~~ to the presidents of synodical units of official auxiliaries of this church throughout each convention and, in connection with their reports, to the chairpersons of synodical committees ~~and working groups~~, to representatives of institutions and agencies related to or officially recognized by the synod.

ES 08-04 MSC that a new Article IX (Full Communion Provisions) Section 1, be inserted into the Synod Constitution and that the current Articles IX to XVIII be renumbered to Articles X to XIX:

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.

First Reading:

ES 08-05 MSC that Constitution Article VII, Section 7b be amended by deleting:

~~the attainment by the pastor of the age of sixty-five years, after which time the pastor may be called for renewable two-year terms;~~
and re-lettering the remaining points.

ES 08-06 MSC that Constitution Article VII, Section 7d be amended:

division, dissolution, or realignment of a pastoral charge.

ES 08-07 MSC that Constitution Article XIII be amended:

ARTICLE XIII

Standing and Other Committees, ~~Other Committees and Working Groups~~

Section 1. There shall be standing committees ~~and working groups~~ as needed to carry out the work of the synod not otherwise delegated in this constitution.

Section 2. The specific duties and responsibilities of each standing committee ~~and working group~~ shall be set out in the bylaws.

Section 3. Each standing committee ~~and working group~~ shall include both ordained and lay members who shall be appointed by the synod council for terms of four years according to procedures set out in the bylaws. Except for ex-officio members, no person shall be eligible to serve more than two consecutive terms or shall be a member of more than one committee ~~or working group~~ at the same time. For the purposes of this section, a partial term of less than two years shall not count as a term.

Section 4. The synod council may, by resolution, create other committees ~~and working groups~~ as it deems advisable. The synod council may, in its discretion, determine the terms of reference, membership, term of office and other characteristics of such committees ~~and working groups~~.

Section 5. All committees ~~and working groups~~ shall be accountable to the synod council.

Bylaws

ES 08-08 MSC that the Bylaws Part VII be amended:

Bylaws PART VII

Standing Committees ~~and Working Groups~~

(Constitution, ARTICLE XIII)

Section 1. Standing Committees

- a. The standing committees of synod are: mission committee, youth and young adult ministry committee ~~specialized ministry committee~~, candidacy committee, professional

- leadership committee, ~~resource development committee, communication advisory committee, public policy advisory committee and~~ examining committee. ~~and investment committee.~~
- b. The standing committees shall be formulated according to the provisions of Article XIII, Section 3 of the constitution in such a manner that not all of the terms of the members shall expire each synodical convention year.
 - c. Unless otherwise provided for, the chairperson and secretary of each standing committee shall be elected by the committee at the first meeting following appointment by the synod council.
 - d. Each standing committee shall meet at least yearly.
 - e. The standing committees shall have the power to appoint task forces and sub-committees.
 - f. The chairperson of a standing committee shall be an ex-officio member of the appointed sub-committees and task forces.
 - g. A majority of the membership of any standing committee, sub-committee or task force shall constitute a quorum.
 - h. The absence of any member for two consecutive committee, sub-committee, or task force meetings without prior excuse invalidates the appointment.

Section 2. Mission Committee

This committee shall:

- a. Support congregations in the development of a missionary spirit within the Eastern Synod.
 - i. Seek new fields for mission and development;
 - ii. Select future church sites;
 - iii. Assist congregations in the selection and purchase of parsonages and church sites;
 - iv. Annually review and recommend program proposals of ministry support congregations;
 - v. Provide assistance to loan-support congregations;
 - vi. Review and recommend grants and/or loans to congregations in need of special assistance;
 - vii. Develop strategies for mission ministry in new developing communities, isolated communities, urban (inner-city) communities, town and country communities, and special interest communities.
- b. Be responsible for the distribution of Global Hunger and Development Appeal domestic grants.
- c. Serve as a liaison to this church regarding domestic and world mission.
- d. Be responsible for liaison with companion synods.
- e. Consist of eight members, one from each conference.

Section 3. ~~Specialized Ministries Committee~~ Youth and Young Adult Ministry Committee

This committee shall:

- a. Oversee the work of the Synod Youth Council, local campus ministry councils and of camp management boards.

- b. Appoint the members of the Synod Youth Council, local campus ministry councils and camp management boards in consultation with those councils and boards.
- c. Be responsible for programme development in the areas of youth ministry, campus ministry and outdoor ministry.
- d. ~~Be responsible for synodical support of institutional chaplaincies.~~
- e. ~~Relate to any social service agencies or health care institutions affiliated with the synod.~~
- f. Consist of eight members, one from each conference.

Section 4. Candidacy Committee

This committee shall:

- a. Seek out, enlist and offer guidance and financial aid to prospective candidates for professional leadership in the church.
- b. Make decisions regarding the registration, endorsement and approval of candidates for ordination or consecration.
- c. Consist of ten members.

Section 5. Professional Leadership Committee

This committee shall:

- a. Prepare guidelines for the compensation of professional leaders.
- b. Initiate, encourage and implement programmes for the continuing education of professional leaders in consultation with the seminary.
- c. Co-ordinate matters related to the financial, vocational and physical needs of professional leaders.
- d. Be responsible for the synodical support of institutional chaplaincies.
- e. Consist of three members.

~~Section 6. Resource Development Committee~~

~~This committee shall:~~

- a. ~~Encourage support for the mission and ministry of the synod and this church by~~
 - i. ~~Promoting congregational and individual giving to benevolence;~~
 - ii. ~~Supporting the work of Lutheran Planned Giving;~~
 - iii. ~~Promoting congregational and individual giving to Global Hunger and Development Appeal;~~
 - iv. ~~Encouraging the synod to reach its full commitment goal to this church.~~
- b. ~~Consist of five members.~~

~~Section 7. Communication Advisory Committee~~

~~This committee shall:~~

- a. ~~Establish and oversee the implementation of a synodical communication strategy.~~
- b. ~~Serve in an advisory capacity to the synod council in matters related to the policy and production of the official synod periodical.~~
- e. ~~Strive to improve the quality and effectiveness of communications within the synod and to the general public.~~
- d. ~~Be responsible for the synod's public relations.~~

- e. ~~Consist of three members.~~

Section 6 8. Public Policy Advisory Committee

This committee shall:

- a. Serve in an advisory capacity to the bishop and the synod council regarding those areas of social ministry, social service and justice issues in which the synod will be involved..
- b. Consult with the church about social issues and trends within synod which may be identified as areas of national concern.
- e. ~~Serve as a liaison to the Lutheran Office for Public Policy.~~
- d. Explore and define those areas of social ministry, social service and justice issues in which the synod will be involved.
- e. Co-operate with other churches and agencies as is appropriate to implement social ministry, social service, justice and health-care programs.
- f. Address issues of internal justice within the synod, in particular striving to ensure the full participation of members representative of the sex, age, ethnic, social and economic profile of the synod.
- g. Consist of three members.

Section 7 9. Examining Committee

This committee shall:

- a. Examine candidates for ordination or for reception from other churches with whom mutual recognition of ministry has not been established and to present recommendations to the synod council.
- b. Work in close co-operation with the candidacy committee.
- c. Consist of the bishop, one seminary professor, two lay persons and one pastor, together with one pastor appointed by the national church council, nominated by synod council.

SECTION 10. INVESTMENT COMMITTEE

This committee shall:

- a. ~~Have the power to oversee and direct the investment of funds owned or held in trust by the synod, as authorized by the synod council. The committee shall also have the power to engage one or more investment managers as agent of the synod and to delegate to that manager, or managers, day to day investment decisions, subject always to the investment policy of the synod.~~
- b. ~~Recommend to the synod council an investment policy which conforms to the church's ethical guidelines and all relevant legislation.~~
- e. ~~Review the investment policy at least once every two years; report and recommend amendments to the synod council as the committee deems necessary.~~
- d. ~~Meet as often as necessary to administer the investment policy of the synod according to the standards of a prudent investor.~~
- e. ~~Recommend one or more investment managers to the synod council and, when necessary, a replacement, or replacements.~~
- f. ~~Regularly monitor and supervise the performance of the investment manager[s] and its conformity to the investment policy.~~
- g. ~~Document its decisions and the reasons for them.~~

- ~~h. Report regularly to the synod council and conventions of the synod.~~
- ~~i. Consist of the treasurer of the synod and other such members as the synod council may appoint; the treasurer of the synod shall be the chair ex officio.~~

~~Note: the provisions of this section shall have effect retroactively to the date that an Investment Committee was first appointed.~~

SECTION II. CONGREGATIONAL LIFE WORKING GROUPS

- ~~a. The Congregational Life Working Groups of synod are: worship, learning, witness, support, service, and youth.~~
- ~~b. These working groups shall:~~
 - ~~i. Assist congregations in fulfilling their nature and mission as defined in Article 3 of the Approved Model Constitution for Congregations.~~
 - ~~ii. Work in consultation with and provide resource support to conference councils and designated conference resource persons.~~
 - ~~iii. Develop and implement those services which can be provided most effectively on a synod-wide basis.~~
 - ~~iv. Serve as a liaison to their counterpart national working groups.~~
 - ~~v. Provide guidance for and foster new approaches to congregational life and work.~~
 - ~~vi. Encourage and support innovative local programmes and assist in evaluating their potential for use in other congregations.~~
 - ~~vii. Maintain a resource bank of trained personnel in synod who can assist congregations and provide a support system for such persons.~~
 - viii. Consist of three members.

Synod Youth Council

Synod Youth Council members made a presentation regarding the need for peace, justice and relief in Darfur. CLWR is one agency who has supported these needs in Darfur. Delegates were invited to participate in a post card campaign.

The name and biennial purpose – BTRU2U – of the Synod Youth Council was presented to the Assembly. T-shirts were presented to Bishops Johnson and Pryse and to the Synodical Officers.

The Session was adjourned with a song and closing prayer and sent for lunch.

Session Three – Thursday, July 10, 2008, 1:30 p.m.

The Session was begun with song, led by Debbie Lou Ludolph and a team of singers and musicians.

Rev. Joel Crouse, Ministry Director of Youth and Young Adults, presented a video related to youth and young adult ministries. Be true to God. BTRU2U.

Bishop Pryse introduced Rev. Dr. Dieter Kays, President of FaithLife Financial. Rev. Kays spoke of the work and mission of FaithLife, the increase of membership, grants and chapters, all in service to the church community as partners of the Lord's work. A video clip was shown further reviewing the ways in which FaithLife works.

Report on the Committee of Elections

Alven Choi, chairperson of the Committee of Elections, reported the results of the first ballot for the WLS Board of Governors.

Elected to WLS Board of Governors: Marianne Thornton, lay, 2008-2011; Marge Watters-Knebel, lay, 2009-2012.

The First Ballot was distributed for Synod Council; the Second Ballot was distributed for WLS Board of Governors.

Report of Committee on Reference and Counsel

Rev. Mark Van House, chairperson of Reference and Counsel, presented the first report of the Committee.

ES 08-09 MSC that this synod express its support for the U.N. Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples adopted by the General Assembly on September 13, 2007, and express its disappointment that the Canadian Government has chosen not to commit Canada to fulfilling our responsibilities under this universal human rights standard – the first time that Canada has sought to be exempted from a human rights standard adopted by the General Assembly. The synod encourages the Government of Canada and the Governments of all the Provinces to join with the overwhelming majority of states, jurisdictions, Indigenous peoples and human rights organizations worldwide that endorse this standard.

ES 08-10 MSC that this synod express its solidarity with our sisters and brothers in our full communion partner, the Anglican Church in Canada and our Aboriginal sisters and brothers as they continue to implement and live out the Indian Residential Schools Settlement Agreement through the launch of Canada's *Truth and Reconciliation Commission* and that we encourage the congregations of synod to likewise be aware of, sensitive to and supportive of the work of reconciliation and transformation among the peoples of these communities.

ES 08-11 MS Defeated that this synod express its concern and disappointment at the Canadian Government's failure to address the growing reality of poverty and especially child poverty in Canada and that the Eastern Synod in Assembly call on our national government and each provincial government to develop and implement a national poverty reduction strategy.

ES 08-12 MS that this synod express its concern and disappointment at ~~the Canadian Government's failure to address~~ the growing reality of poverty and especially child poverty in Canada and that the Eastern Synod in Assembly call on our national government and each provincial government to develop and implement a national poverty reduction strategy.

MSC to refer the motion back to Reference and Counsel.

ES 08-13 MSC that the following submitted motion:

As the ELCIC is currently divided on issues related to the full inclusion of its gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgendered members in the full life of the church, we move that

this Eastern Synod Assembly encourage our Bishop and Synod Council to refrain from or demonstrate restraint in disciplining those congregations, pastors and members who, as a matter of conscience and faithfulness to the Gospel, call pastors who are "self-declared and practicing homosexuals," and

that this Assembly encourage our Bishop and Synod Council to refrain from or demonstrate restraint in disciplining those pastors who as a matter of conscience and faithfulness to the Gospel conduct marriages for queer couples in compliance with provincial law.

be split, amended, and recommended for adoption as follows:

That the Eastern Synod Assembly encourage our Bishop and Synod Council to exercise restraint in disciplining those congregations, pastors and members who, as a matter of conscience and faithfulness to the Gospel, call individuals who are “self-declared and practicing homosexuals.”

That the Eastern Synod Assembly encourage our Bishop and Synod Council to exercise restraint in disciplining those pastors who as a matter of conscience and faithfulness to the Gospel bless or marry same-gendered couples in compliance with provincial law.

MS Amended that the words “and faithfulness to the Gospel” be deleted from the above two paragraphs.

[The final approved motion reads:

That the Eastern Synod Assembly encourage our Bishop and Synod Council to exercise restraint in disciplining those congregations, pastors and members who, as a matter of conscience call individuals who are “self-declared and practicing homosexuals”; and,

That the Eastern Synod Assembly encourage our Bishop and Synod Council to exercise restraint in disciplining those pastors who as a matter of conscience bless or marry same-gendered couples in compliance with provincial law.]

Special Order: ELCIC Group Services

Bishop Pryse introduced Hildy Thiessen, the Executive Director of ELCIC Group Services Inc. Hildy was joined by John Wolff, the chairperson of the GSI Board of Directors. Hildy spoke of the various services provided by the pension plan. She also encouraged members to plan ahead in order to attain their retirement goals.

After a break, Bishop Pryse welcomed the Very Reverend Dean Peter Wall, co-chair of the Joint Anglican Lutheran Commission, who spoke of the many gifts and relationships that our two churches share. Rev. Wall also brought greetings from the Niagara Diocese of the Anglican Church of Canada.

Report of Synod Council

Bishop Pryse called upon the Secretary, Rev. Wendell Grahlman, and Rev. Mark Harris and Rev. Jim Koellner to present the Compensation Schedule for 2009 and 2010. (See Appendix D).

ES 08-14 MSC that the Compensation Schedule for Pastors, Diaconal Ministers and Pastoral Supply 2009 and 2010 be adopted.

The Secretary presented the motion to affirm *A Renewed Vision for Mission*. Synod Councillors Rev. Brad Mittleholtz and Carol Christensen encouraged the Assembly to continue its work in mission for others.

ES 08-15 MSC that this Synod Assembly affirm *A Renewed Vision for Mission in the Eastern Synod 2006-2010*.

Report of Committee on Reference and Counsel

Rev. Mark Van House, chairperson of Reference and Counsel, continued the first report of the Committee.

ES 08-16 MSC that no action is recommended to R&C Motion 1.5.

That this assembly direct the Bishop of the Eastern Synod to refrain from discipline, whether of persons or congregations, in connection with the ordination of persons vetted through the Extraordinary Lutheran Ministries candidacy process, pending an ELCIC decision to ordain

qualified individuals who are openly gay or lesbian and/or in committed same-sex relationships.

ES 08-17 MSC that no action is recommended to R&C Motion 1.6.

That pending a decision on the part of the ELCIC to authorize such unions, this assembly directs the bishop to refrain from discipline in connection with pastors who, with the support of their congregations, bless or marry individuals in committed same-sex relationships.

ES 08-18 MSC that no action is recommended to R&C Motion 1.7.

In the name of Jesus Christ, all glory, thanks and honour to God the Father, Son and Holy Ghost.

Our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ, died for our sins and speaks to us through the Bible. God's Word is the truth and the only way to salvation. Jesus said: "If you love me, you will obey what I command John." 14:15 (NIV). The man who says, "I know Him, but does not do what He commands is a liar, and the truth is not in him." I John 2:4 (NIV). "Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets: I have come not to abolish but to fulfill them." Matt. 5:17 (NIV)

A motion, known as the "local option", was defeated at the 2007 ELCIC National Convention. The ELCIC Convention as well as our Congregation agreed that blessing a sin was contrary to God's Word.

Therefore, we petition all people at this Assembly to uphold our Constitution and reject the blessing of same-sex relationships as well as other revisionist motions that are contrary to God's Word, the Lutheran Confessions, and the Constitution. Such motions weaken the witness of the Church and threaten our unity.

ES 08-19 MSC that the following be referred to National Church Council:

We move that the Eastern Synod Assembly 2008 encourage the ELCIC Convention 2009 to instruct ELCIC Group Services Inc. to establish an optional fixed income investments account for persons age 55 and above.

ES 08-20 MSC that the Eastern Synod call upon the Government of Ontario:

- to prohibit further exploration and mining in Ontario on Indigenous lands that violate constitutionally protected Aboriginal rights, including the right to consultation and accommodation or in other developed areas without the approval of local communities and a full comprehensive independent environmental assessment;
- to begin an immediate public comprehensive review of the Ontario Mining Act – including the free entry system - in consultation with Aboriginal peoples and affected stakeholders; and
- to develop effective regulatory measures safeguard Ontario's water resources and to uphold the public interest to exercise responsible stewardship in developing and preserving a socially and ecologically sustainable future for future generations in Ontario; and
- that the Synod ask the Bishop to write to the Premier of Ontario communicating this action, that the issue be referred to the Synod's Committee on Public Policy for further monitoring and implementation, and that Kairos be asked for their help in promoting support for this resolution.

(It is understood that other provincial jurisdictions will be included in letters and communication.)

ES 08-20 MSC that the Eastern Synod encourage deeper theological study and ethical reflection by the ELCIC, its congregations and members concerning the urgent crisis posed by climate change; and

that the Eastern Synod encourages congregations and members to implement measures that reduce their carbon foot print; and

that the Eastern Synod call upon the ELCIC to support the LWF carbon offset program for air travel; and

that the Eastern Synod call upon all levels of Government in Canada:

- to promote strong political commitments that would lead to achieving a 40 per cent reduction of CO2 emissions compared to the 1990 levels of CO2 by 2020;
- to encourage advocacy for rapid transition from coal and other fossil fuels for power generation to non –nuclear renewable energy sources; and

that the Synod ask the Bishop to write to the Prime Minister of Canada and Premiers of the Provinces communicating this action; and

that the issue be referred to the Synod's Committee on Public Policy for further monitoring and implementation.

ES 08-21 MSC that no action is recommended to R&C Motion 2.5.

That a summary of each session of the synod convention of the Eastern Synod of the ELCIC be compiled and distributed to each delegate who is in attendance at this assembly.

ES 08-22 MSC that the following be referred to Synod Council for consideration and reporting back to the 2010 Assembly.

That the Synod Council explore the possibility of forgiving, in whole or in part, the \$500,000 loan that the synod made to Waterloo Lutheran Seminary, and that this determination be made in consultation with the seminary to determine what might be appropriate according to their needs, and that synod council be authorized to take action as they deem appropriate, and that such determination be made in advance of the 2014 due date of the loan, and that synod council report their decision and action to the synod.

The Session was adjourned with the singing of the Doxology, led by National Bishop Susan Johnson.

Session Four – Thursday, July 10, 2008 7:00 p.m.

The Session began with song led by Debbie Lou Ludolph.

Rev. Beth Wagschal, Ministry Director for Ecumenical and Multi-faith Ministries, spoke about the ways that she and people of the Eastern Synod have been involved in mission for others in ecumenical and multi-faith contexts.

Theme Speaker: A People Called

Tana Kjos continued her presentation: to nurture leaders who encourage and equip other leaders; and to work in partnership with others.

The Session was adjourned.

A service of Evening Prayer closed the day.

Session Five – Friday, July 11, 2008, 8:30 a.m.

A service of Holy Communion was held at 8:30 a.m.

Bishop Pryce called the session to order.

Rev. Guenter Dahle made some housekeeping announcements regarding the Ordination service and for forms to be returned to the Hospitality Desk.

Report of the Committee on Elections

Rev. Jouko Jyrkama, of the Committee on Elections, reported the results of the second ballot for the WLS Board of Governors, and the first ballot for Synod Council.

Elected to WLS Board of Governors: Rev. Stephen Kristenson, clergy, 2008-2011; Rev. Julio Romero, clergy, 2008-2011; Rev. Kimberlynn McNabb, clergy, 2009-2012; Rev. Heather Spencer, clergy, 2009-2012; Vicki Huehn, lay, 2009-2012.

Elected to Synod Council: Rev. Richard Pryce (K/W), clergy, 2008-2012; Rev. James Slack (A), clergy, 2008-2010; Carol Christensen (O/StL), lay, 2008-2012; Janet Weber (K/W), lay, 2008-2012.

A People Called

Tana Kjos continued with her next installment of our being called; to reflect the diversity of our society; to be generous. In order to help delegates engage diversity, Tana directed them to a different seating arrangement for the remainder of the morning.

After a break, the Session continued with song led by Debbie Lou Ludolph.

Jeff Pym, Ministry Director of Stewardship and Resource Development, addressed the Assembly about what it means to be generous stewards inviting others into our vision.

Report of the Committee on Elections

Rev. Jouko Jyrkama, of the Committee on Elections, reported the results of the second ballot for Synod Council.

Elected to Synod Council: Rev. Colin Cameron (H/N), clergy, 2008-2012; Rev. Riitta Hepomaki (N), clergy, 2008-2012; Brian Koivu (N), lay, 2008-2012.

Report of the WLS Board of Governors

Sheila Hamilton, chairperson of the Board of Governors, and Rev. Dr. David Pfrimmer, Principal-Dean of WLS, addressed the Assembly. (See Section 9).

Report of the Committee on Reference and Counsel

Rev. Mark Van House, chairperson of the Committee, brought the third report of Reference and Counsel to the Assembly.

ES 08-23 MSC that this synod express its profound disappointment and growing concern to the Government of Canada about the persistent and growing reality of poverty in Canada, especially child poverty, and that this Assembly call on the Government of Canada to work with provincial and territorial governments to develop and implement a national poverty reduction strategy.

ES 08-24 MSC that in the interest of preserving the treasure of our national forests, the Bishop, Synod Council, and Assembly planners provide electronic copies of assembly documents as an option for the future assemblies of this synod.

MS Amended to delete “in the interest of preserving the treasure of our national forests.”

[The final approved motion reads:

That the Bishop, Synod Council, and Assembly planners provide electronic copies of assembly documents as an option for the future assemblies of this synod.]

Some further housekeeping announcements were made.

The business session was adjourned with a prayer and a song led by Debbie Lou Ludolph.

Friday, July 11, 2008, 1:30 p.m.

Forums took place in the afternoon.

The forum topics were:

- ELCIC Benefits and Pension Plan
- Ordination Choir Rehearsal
- Waterloo Lutheran Seminary
- Kairos 2007-2010 Campaign
- Volunteers in Mission
- Emergency Preparedness
- A Poverty Reduction Forum

Ordination Service – Friday evening, July 11, 2008

The Ordination Service took place in the evening at St. Paul’s Cathedral, London at 7:30 p.m.

The Presiding Minister was Bishop Michael J. Pryse. The Preacher was National Bishop Susan Johnson.

Ordained to the ministry of Word and Sacrament were: Catharine House, Karen Kuhnert, Michael Lees, Sheryl Stone.

Session Six – Saturday, July 12, 2008, 8:30 a.m.

A service of Holy Communion was held at 8:30 a.m.

Bishop Pryse called the session to order.

Jeff Pym was called upon to share information about the Evangelical Lutheran Foundation of Eastern Canada which was created in 2007 and is now “open for business” for endowment funds.

Rev. Erich Schultz, the archivist of the Eastern Synod for the past 37 years, spoke of the work related to archives; he shared information about the kind of records that are received into the archives and encouraged congregations to remember the archives regarding their historical documents.

Report of the Committee on Reference and Counsel

Rev. Mark Van House, chairperson of the Committee, presented the next to last report of the Committee.

ES 08-25 MSC that the assembly ask the Synod Council & WLS Board of Governors to examine the process of nominating members to the WLS Board of Governors, focusing on skills and needs of the board.

ES 08-26 MSC that the Assembly expresses its thanks to the Rev. Guenter Dahle, Convention Manager, to the Rev. Jeff Smith, chairperson of the Local Arrangements Committee, to the members of the Local Arrangements Committee, to the Registrar and registration team, to the scores of

stewards and volunteers, and to the synod office and technical staff, for the enormous amount of work that has gone into the planning, conduct, and warm hospitality of this Assembly;

And that this Assembly express its thanks to the ELW of the London Conference who provided hospitality and food services at the receptions;

And that this Assembly express thanks to the Worship Design Team Debbie Lou Ludolph, Jennifer Famme, Rev. James Brown, Robb Wilson), sacristan (Susan Climo), our worship participants, dancer (Lindsay Eitzen) , crafter of the intercessions (Paul Bosch), keyboardist (Jane Kristenson), choristers and and musicians, for the love and talent that have gone into the planning and carrying out of the Assembly's worship life;

And that this Assembly express our thanks to our Bishop, Rev. Michael Pryse, to his assistants, Rev. Guenter Dahle and Rev. Mark Harris, and to the synod office staff, Connie Davison, Christine Archer, Cathy Caron, and Lynn Becker, for their tireless partnership in ministry.

Rev. Guenter Dahle introduced the local planning committee for the Assembly and thanked them for their work, and asked the delegates to express their appreciation. A special thanks was offered for Rev. Jeff Smith.

Report of Synod Council

Keith Myra, Treasurer of Synod, was called upon to present further synod council motions for adoption.

ES 08-27 MSC that the 2006 Special Project Fund be allocated for "The Gathering Place" at Trinity Village Care Centre.

ES 08-28 MSC that the 2007 Special Project Fund be allocated to fund the Every Congregation Visit Program being conducted by the Resource Development Committee.

ES 08-29 MSC that the General Investment Fund policy be amended as follows:

- i) An amount between 80-100% of the annual investment income shall be allocated for the synod's operating budget from each fund. The officers of the Eastern Synod shall determine the exact amount.
- ii) An amount of up to 20% of the annual income from each of the funds may be allocated for a specific project by the ~~Synod in Assembly upon recommendation of the~~ Synod Council.
- iii) An amount of up to 20% of the annual income from each of the funds may be retained as an "emergency fund" as determined by Synod Council.

The bishop welcomed all the rostered people who have been received into the synod since the last Assembly. Each person briefly introduced themselves.

After a break, the assembly reconvened with song.

Jackie Nunns, Ministry Director of Learning Ministries, spoke and reminded everyone that all people of God are invited and encouraged to use their gifts to grow in faith and increase in daily ministry.

Report of Synod Council

Bishop Pryse called upon Keith Myra, Treasurer of the synod, to present the budget for the next biennium, including some revisions to the budget for 2008. (See Section 7).

ES 08-30 MSC that the Level 1 and 2 budgets for 2008-2010 be adopted.

Rev. Phil Heinze, Ministry Director for Public Policy and Service, addressed the assembly of its baptismal responsibility to proclaim Christ in word and deed, to serve all people and strive for justice in all the earth.

The Session was closed with some announcements regarding the banquet and the conclusion of business sessions, and with a prayer.

Session Seven – Saturday, July 12, 2008, 1:30 p.m.

The Session began with song led by Debbie Lou Ludolph, and a reading and prayer led by Rev. Dr. Matt Anderson. Debbie Lou thanked all those who took part in worship in any way over the days of the Assembly. Bishop Pryse expressed appreciation to all who were part of the audio-visual technology support crew during the Assembly.

Report of the Committee on Reference and Counsel

Rev. Mark Van House, chairperson of the Committee on Reference and Counsel, came forward for the final report of the Committee. The Committee was introduced and thanked for their work.

ES 08-31 MSC that as soon as possible, the Bishop and the Eastern Synod Counsel publish in the Eastern Synod Lutheran the appointment, mandate and guidelines for the investigating committee called in response to the extraordinary ordination and call to Holy Cross Lutheran Church, Newmarket.

ES 08-32 MSC that the Eastern Synod—its members, congregations, synodical agencies and institutions—seek ways to live together faithfully in the midst of disagreements, recognizing that we are in mission for others; and

that the Eastern Synod in assembly urge its members, congregations, synodical agencies and institutions to participate in and respond fully to the ELCIC Sexuality Study at the individual, congregational, and institutional levels; and

that the Eastern Synod Assembly convey this motion to the 2009 National Convention of the ELCIC for its consideration.

MS Amended to delete the words “in the midst of disagreements.”

[The final wording of the motions reads:

That the Eastern Synod—its members, congregations, synodical agencies and institutions—seek ways to live together faithfully, recognizing that we are in mission for others; and

that the Eastern Synod in assembly urge its members, congregations, synodical agencies and institutions to participate in and respond fully to the ELCIC Sexuality Study at the individual, congregational, and institutional levels; and

that the Eastern Synod Assembly convey this motion to the 2009 National Convention of the ELCIC for its consideration.]

ES 08-33 MSC that the following be referred to the Synod Council:

the Eastern Synod review and study the report prepared under the auspices of Senator Michael Kirby on a Canadian Mental Health strategy for Canada (“The Kirby Report”) with a view to encouraging the federal and provincial governments to develop a national mental health strategy.

ES 08-34 MSC that the Eastern Synod Assembly planners consider providing an optional service/servant event the day prior to assembly and/or in place of one of the forums.

MS Amended and Defeated to delete the words “the day prior to assembly and/or.”

ES 08-35 that at the conclusion of this Assembly, any items of unfinished business be referred to the Synod Council for consideration and action.

Linda Grainger, of the Local Planning Committee, made an announcement regarding breakfast availability on Sunday morning.

Report of Committee on Minutes

Kimberley Strassburger, chairperson of the Committee, gave the report of the Committee.

MSC that the minutes from Sessions One through Five be adopted as reviewed.

Report of Committee on Registration

The final report of the Committee on Registration was presented.

Total eligible clergy delegates	303
Total registered clergy delegates	180
Total eligible lay delegates (congregational)	245
Registered youth delegates	7
Registered lay officers	2
Registered diaconal delegates	1
Registered lay delegates (congregational)	134
Total registered lay delegates	144
Total eligible clergy and lay delegates	548
Total registered clergy and lay delegates	324
Required quorum is 1/3 of eligible voters (see MS/02 Art. X Sec. 5)	182
Registered visitors	26
Registered youth leaders	0
Registered, other non-delegates	19
Registered volunteers	85
Sub-total	130
Grand total attendees at Assembly	454

Report of Committee on the Report of the Bishop

Dorothy Frook, vice-chairperson of Synod introduced the Committee. Rev. Anne Krueger, chairperson of the Committee, and members of the Committee made their presentation. Using ten balls of yarn representing the ten years that Bishop Pryse has served as bishop of the Eastern Synod, (Ephesians 4:12), the Committee expressed through word, image, and jars of relish, jam, pickles and mustard the many ways that the bishop has led, inspired and transformed us these past ten years. To conclude the report, a prayer was offered for the ministry of the bishop.

A People Called

Tana Kjos made her presentation: to be engaged by challenging questions, and asking purposeful questions.

At the conclusion of Tana’s presentation, Pat Lovell expressed thanks and appreciation on behalf of the Assembly.

Bishop Pryse and Debbie Lou Ludolph led the Assembly in the Adjournment of Convention.

Saturday Evening, July 12, 2008

On Saturday evening, the Eastern Synod Banquet took place at the Convention Centre. Musical entertainment was provided by Carol McFadden and Barb Koontz.

RECOGNITION OF SERVICE TO THE SYNOD

Recognition of service for Synod Council members who finished their term of office: Jim Krats, Rev. Jeff Smith.

Recognition of service for Synod Youth Council members who finished their term of service: Nicholas Beck, Erin Dupuis, Nicole Clement, Jackie Fromme, Jordan Smith, David Wilk, Kate Wilson.

A special presentation was made to Rev. W. Phil Heinze, who upon his retirement at the end of 2007, had served ten years as Assistant to the Bishop.

EASTERN SYNOD LEADERSHIP AWARD RECIPIENTS

Outstanding Service to the Eastern Synod – Lay Person: Shirley & Paul Bruer

Outstanding Service to the Eastern Synod – Clergy: Rev. Dr. Bart Beglo

Outstanding Service to the Community – Lay Person: Herb Henkel

Outstanding Service to the Community – Clergy: Rev. Nancy Kelly

RECOGNITION OF ANNIVERSARIES OF ORDINATION

Twenty-Five Years

Rev. Joachim Barkley-Probst

Rev. Alan Cook

Rev. Thomas Doherty

Rev. James Goos

Rev. Harry Huff

Rev. Timothy Kuhlmann

Rev. Ilze Kuplens-Ewart

Rev. Svante Olson

Rev. Lester Skonnard

Rev. Thomas Zumbrock

Forty Years

Rev. Earl Albrecht

Rev. Theodore Heinze

Rev. W. Philip Heinze

Rev. Carl Kappes

Rev. Maris Kirsons

Rev. Heino Laaneots

Rev. Everett Mossman

Rev. Tonis Nommik

Rev. Clinton Rohr

Rev. Gordon Schmidt

Rev. Donald Stroh

Rev. Peeter Vanker

Fifty Years

Rev. Vernon Cronmiller
Rev. Charles Dechert
Rev. Dr. David Granskou
Rev. Dr. William Huras
Rev. William Kurschinski
Rev. Barry Lang
Rev. Joachim Von Schmeling
Rev. Eric Weber
Rev. Clyde Wentzell

Sixty Years

Rev. Arthur Conrad
Rev. Eric Reble

Sunday Morning, July 13, 2008

The Synod Council met for a brief meeting at 8:00 a.m., including those newly elected.

The closing service of the Assembly was held at 10:00 a.m., during which the Synod Council and the Officers were installed. Bishop Michael Pryse presided, with Tana Kjos preaching.