

Section 4 – Statistical Reports

Report of the Archivist

Archivist
Rev. Erich Schultz

Additions have been made to the Finding Aid in this biennium. The last major area to be added was the Luther League material. Only miscellaneous items remain and will be added as time permits. Recently there have been requests to deposit early church records in the Synodical Archives. Unfortunately some church records have been deposited in Municipal or Regional archives without consultation with the Synodical Archivist. Parish records should be a Synodical possession. Until now only records from defunct congregations or mergers have been housed. The main reason for discouraging the deposit of congregational records has been the space problem. Mrs. Joan Mitchell, WLU Archivist, now feels this would be feasible on a selective basis. Accordingly a proposal was prepared, approved by Mrs. Mitchell, and forwarded to the Eastern Synod Council. This proposal, voted on and passed at the November, 2007 Council meeting, is now in effect. The approved document reads as follows;

1. Parish records dated prior to 1950 may be transferred to the Synodical Archives. These will be limited to records of baptisms, confirmations, marriages, deaths and may include Constitutions and other legal documents. Provincial marriage registers, Church Council minutes, histories, and historical booklets are also acceptable. Items excluded would be treasurer's records, minutes of auxiliaries, choirs, Boy Scouts, etc. since the annual reports would contain summaries of all parish activities.
2. The Laurier Archivist must be consulted before any records are transferred to make sure they comply with the above stipulations. It is understood that after transfer is made all records become the property of the Eastern Synod Archives.
3. The Finding Aid for the Synodical Archives may be found on the Laurier Archives & Special Collections website: <<http://library.wlu.ca/archives/collections/eastern.htm>>. As in the past, records may be consulted by personal visit to the WLU Archives.

I remind pastors and congregations to forward copies of historical materials such as ground breakings, dedications, anniversaries and special events to the Archivist, Wilfrid Laurier University, 75 University Ave., Waterloo, Ontario N2L 3C5. Also, a reminder to house parish archives in an appropriate place with humidity and temperature controls. These records become increasingly important as years go by.

Report of the Necrologist

Necrologist
Rev. Erich Schultz

If we have died with Him, we shall also live with Him. (2 Timothy 2:11)

In this biennium Synod records the deaths of seven pastors, one deaconess and seven pastor's spouses.

FLORIS GENESTA DAUPHINEE – October 27, 1920 – July 2, 2006

Beloved wife of Rev. James Dauphinee; loving mother of Michael (Monique), John and Lynne (Robert). Sadly missed by her grandchildren, Joanna, Cameron and Mathieu. Floris is also survived by her three sisters Vera, Inez and Ercel as well as her three brothers, Leland, Wallace and Edsel.

A funeral service was held at Zion Lutheran Church in Lunenburg, NS. with Rev. Willis Ott officiating. Interment took place in Hillcrest Cemetery, Lunenburg, NS.

BEVERLY ANNE PRASUHN – August 24, 1937 – July 20, 2006

Beverly was born in the Bronx, NYC, the daughter of Ernst and Anny (Duehnfort) Schafer. After her marriage to the Rev. Adam Prasuhn in 1958 she served with him in Ohio, Nebraska, Pickering, ON, Connecticut, and Thunder Bay, ON. She received a B.A. degree and a Masters degree in Clinical Psychology from Lakehead University. Latterly she had been employed by the Belleville General Hospital as a Crisis Counselor. She is survived by her husband, the Rev. Adam Prasuhn and three children, Mark (Lisa), Matthew (Sharita) and Elyse (Grant) and by eight grandchildren, Tessa, Carolyne, Daniel, Anthony, Adam, Amanda, Erica and Laura.

A memorial service was held in St. Mark's Lutheran Church, Kingston, ON. on July 24, 2006 with the Rev. Stephen Scheidt officiating. Following cremation a private interment took place in Cataraqi Cemetery.

ANNA "PEARL" HEIMRICH – September 10, 1914 – August 24, 2006

Anna was born in Ayton, ON, the daughter of Oscar (Martha Grein) Foerster. She was the postmaster in Ayton for many years and a faithful member of Trinity Lutheran Church. Ayton, ON and latterly St. Peter's Lutheran Church, Zurich, ON. She is survived by her step-children Audrey (Fred Haberer) and Ron (Marilyn Heimrich), five grandchildren, Christine (Gary) Eagleson, Steven (Michele) Haberer, Laurie (Phil) Erb, Mark Heimrich and David (Wendy) Heimrich and thirteen great-grandchildren. She was predeceased by her husband, the Rev. Edward Heimrich, her parents, her sister, Ruby Grein and her brother Norvey Foerster. A memorial service was conducted in St. Peter's Lutheran Church, Zurich, ON on August 28, 2006 with Pastor Ann Krueger officiating followed by interment in Union Cemetery, Ayton, ON.

MARTHA SOPHIE LOUISE BLACKWELL – d. October 4, 2006

Martha was the wife of the late Rev. Andrew Blackwell. She served with him at First United Lutheran, Flin Flon, MB, as Mission Developer in Lakeview, Regina, SK, St. Peters, Williamsburg and St. Lukes, Dunbar, St. Peter, Zurich, and St. James, Renfrew, ON. She is survived by Martin (Susan), Andrew (Maria), Enid (Robert Hinchley), Christina Mills, twelve grandchildren, six great-grandchildren, and her sisters, Katherine Weber and Gertrude Betke. She was predeceased by ten brothers and sisters.

A memorial service was held in St. John's Lutheran Church, Arnprior, ON on October 11, 2006 with the Rev. John Jacobs officiating. Interment followed in Malloch Road Cemetery.

LOIS EMMA OHRT – September 3, 1921 – November 25, 2006

Lois Ohrt, nee Clughley, was the wife of the Rev. Walter Ohrt and served with him in St. Luke, Ridgeway, ON, Zion, Stratford, ON and St. Matthew's, Cornwall before retiring in Ridgeway, ON.

She is survived by sons John (Mary) and Paul (Becky), grandchildren Danielle, Jeffery, Suzanne, John-Paul, Victoria, Brian and a great-grandson, Madison. She was predeceased by her sister, Else Marie.

A memorial service was held on November 28, 2006 in St. Luke's Lutheran Church, Ridgeway, ON. with the Rev. Lori Pilatzke officiating. Interment followed in Immanuel Lutheran Cemetery.

JOHN GEORGE FREDERICK JUDT – July 16, 1922 – May 21, 2007

Pastor Judt was born in Duval, SK. and grew up in western Canada. He graduated from Luther College, Regina, SK. and Lutheran Theological Seminary, Saskatoon, SK. Following ordination in 1946 he served the Schuler Alberta parish (1946-1950), a mission parish in Chilliwack, BC (1950-1958) Christ, Vancouver, BC (1958-1964) and Faith, Downsview, ON (1964-1985). He also served on the Lutheran Student Foundation, Canadian Missions, ULCA, President of the Eastern District, Powell Brown Centre-Autistic Children and Daycare School of the Downsview Church and as part-time chaplain at York University, Toronto, ON.

He is survived by his wife, Florence and five children, John, William, Carolyn, Kathryn and Lois, ten grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

A memorial service was held at Augsburg Lutheran Church, Brampton, ON on May 25, 2007 with the Rev. Nadine Nicholds and the Rev. Phil Heinze officiating. Interment was at Brampton Memorial Gardens, Brampton, ON.

EDWARD GEORGE HACKBUSCH – November 29, 1931 – August 3, 2007

Pastor Ed Hackbusch was born in Hamilton, ON, the son of Edward and Alberta (Kiehl) Hackbusch. Following early education in Hamilton, ON he graduated from Waterloo College and Waterloo Lutheran Seminary. In 1958 he married Joyce MacCormack and following ordination the same year he served the Maynooth/Raglan, ON parish (1958-1963), Trinity, Walkerton, ON (1963-1966), Holy Cross, Burlington, ON (1966-1972), St. John's, Arnprior, ON (1972-1979), St. Matthew's, Hanover, ON (1979-1990) and Mount Calvary, Ottawa, ON (1990-1996) when he retired. Pastor Hackbusch had served on the Worship and Music Committee of the Synod and on the Eastern Synod Council.

Pastor Hackbusch is survived by five children, Anne (Alec) McEwen, Christian (Bill Lamont), James, the Rev. Michael (Sarah) and Rebekah, ten grandchildren Bill (Elizabeth), Danielle, Deborah, Aaron, Sebastian, Alyana, Mandy, Joe and Mike and five great-grandchildren. He was predeceased by his parents and by his wife Joyce from whom he was separated.

A memorial service was held at Christ Lutheran Church, Maynooth, ON on August 8, 2007 with the Rev. Wendell Grahlman and the Rev. Thomas Zumbrock officiating. Interment followed in Christ Lutheran Cemetery, Maynooth, ON.

EVELYN MILLER PEARSON – August 10, 1918 – October 31, 2007

She is survived by her brother Larry Neumann and sister-in-law Pearl Neumann. She was predeceased by her husband, the Rev. John Miller with whom she served in the English Lutheran Church, Litchfield, KS. and Faith Lutheran, Hamilton, ON. She was also predeceased by her second husband, James Pearson, her parents, Emil and Olga Neumann, brothers Ferdinand and Herb, and sisters Frieda, Sidonia, Edna and Evlyn.

A memorial service was held in the Appel Funeral Home/Central Memorial Chapel, Edmonton, AB. with the Rev. Lothar Schwabe officiating.

HERBERT OTTO HARTIG – May 4, 1918 – November 24, 2007

Pastor Herb Hartig was born in Regina, SK, the son of Rev. Thomas Hartig and his wife Christine, nee Rathje. He received his early education there and then attended the Lutheran College and Seminary in Saskatoon, SK. Following ordination in 1948 he served the Meadow Lake Parish, SK (1948-1951), St. Anne's, London, England (1951-1964) Spruce Grove Parish, AB (1954-1958), as

Mission Developer in Edmonton, AB (1958-1960), Beausejour Parish, MN (1960-1964), Fort William, ON (1964-1967) and St. Peter's, Cambridge, ON (1967-1981) when he retired. He also served as interim pastor in several parishes.

Pastor Hartig is survived by three children, David (Valerie), Susan (Vic), the Rev. Paul Hartig (Julie) and a sister, Ruth. He is also survived by seven grandchildren, Dustin, Clinton, Michelle, Benjamin, William, Alex and Madeline and five great-grandchildren, Brooklyn, Tea, Darren, Savannah and Sierra. He was predeceased by his first wife, Margaret in 1959, his second wife, Jeanette in 1992 and brothers, the Rev. Ted, Walter and Johann and sisters Elisabeth and Elfriede.

A memorial service was held in St. Peter's Lutheran Church, Cambridge, ON on November 28, 2007 with Bishop Michael Pryse, Rev. Heidi Wachowiak and Rev. Stephen Weber officiating. Burial took place in St. Peter's Lutheran Cemetery, Kitchener, ON.

VICTOR ROY MUNRO – March 21, 1927 – February 29, 2008

Rev. Munro graduated from Waterloo Lutheran Seminary in 1962. He was ordained on August 19, 1962 and served the Lutheran Church in Guyana from 1962 to 1968. After immigrating to Canada, Pastor Munro served Faith, Geraldton, ON, Gratten Parish, Eganville, ON, Bethesda, Unionville, ON and Faith, St Catharines, ON. Pastor Munro retired in 1993.

Pastor Munro is survived by his wife, Thylamay and their children, Victor Munro Jr. (Jackie), Mark Munro (Phyllis), Kevin Munro (Elaine), Leland Munro, Lauren Padavatton and grandchildren Ashlyn, Aidan and Samuel.

The funeral service was held at Advent Lutheran Church, Toronto, ON on March 7, 2008 with Rev. Michael Mills and Rev. Phil Heinze officiating.

WILLIAM "BILL" ERNEST RIEKERT – April 11, 1917 – March 23, 2008

Rev. Bill Riekert was a graduate of Luther College in Regina, SK, Wartburg College in Waverly, IA and Wartburg Seminary in Dubuque, IA. He was ordained on June 9, 1940 and served at Emmanuel and Christ, Biggar SK and Kindersly, Haultain, SK from 1940-1943; Zion, Winnipeg, MB from 1943-1947; Christ/St. John, Neudorf, SK and St. John, Killaly, SK from 1947-1957; Trinity, Regina, SK from 1957-1972; Faith, Nepean, ON from 1972-1983 when he retired.

Born in Regina, SK, Pastor Riekert is survived by his daughter, Elaine Rainboth (Dan). He was predeceased by his wife, Irene (nee Kinzel) and daughter Thelma. Rev. Riekert is survived by his son-in-law, Benedict Ileleji and grandchildren; Sarah, Christopher, Anne, Andrew, Margaret and Paul.

The funeral service was held at All Saints Lutheran Church, Ottawa, ON, on March 29, 2008 with Rev. Zachariah Mandara and Bishop Michael J. Pryse officiating.

JEAN REBLE – June 13, 1930 – April 23, 2008

Jean grew up in St Jacob's where she received her early education and in 1951 she married the Rev. Eric Reble. Together they served the following parishes: Normanby/Carrick Parish, ON from 1948-1952; St. Paul's, Kitchener, ON from 1953-1959; the Board of World Missions (LCA) serving in India from 1959-1971; St. Mark's, Kingston, ON from 1972-1977 and St. Peter's, Kitchener, ON from 1977-1989.

Surviving are her husband, Pastor Eric and their children, Peter (Terri), Jane (Jane), and Carol (John). Sadly missed by her grandchildren, Rhea, Travis, Jeremy and her sister Doris Egles and brother Harold (Min). Jean was predeceased by her daughter Brenda; her mother, Louise Niergarth and four sisters, Lucille Cotie, Irene Forler, Verna MacLeod and Beatrice Woolner.

A Memorial Service was held on Tuesday April 29, 2008 at St. Peter's Lutheran Church, Kitchener, ON. with Bishop Pryse, Rev. Judith Harris and Rev. Douglas Reble officiating. A private family committal took place at St. Peter's Lutheran Cemetery, Kitchener, ON.

LINDA LOUISE WEDMAN – April 19, 1947 – April 23, 2008

Sister Wedman was a graduate of the Lutheran Theological Seminary in Philadelphia. She served as Deaconess Parish Worker at First Lutheran, Winnipeg, MB from 1971-1974, as the Deaconess Director of Christian Education and Youth Ministry at St. Paul's, Bridgewater, NS and Zion, Lunenburg, NS from 1975-1977, as Deaconess at St John's, Alberta Beach, AB and Advent, Evansburg, AB from 1977-1979, as Deaconess at Lutheran Church of the Cross, Calgary, AB from 1979-1987, as Director of Christian Education at Grace, Winnipeg, MB for 1988-1999 and as Pastoral Assistant at St Paul's, Bridgewater, NS from 2000 until her retirement.

Born in Edmonton Alberta, she was one of eight sisters and three brothers. A disposition of her ashes and a gathering of family and friends will be made at a later date.

GERHARDT WILLIAM THEODORE BECKER – August 13, 1912 – May 5, 2008

Pastor Gerhardt Becker was born in Emerson, MB. After his early education, he attended and graduated from Saskatoon Lutheran Seminary and was ordained on December 9, 1938. He served at Trinity, Esk and St Paul's, Kandahar, SK from 1938-1945; St Paul's, Eilerslie, AB from 1945-1953; St Matthew's, Conestogo and St James, St. Jacobs, ON from 1953-1958; St Mark's, Chesley, and St Peter's, Bentinck Twp, ON from 1958-1961; St Paul's, Guelph and Trinity, Shantz Station, ON from 1961-1981 when he retired.

He is survived by his wife Mary (nee Beitler) and their children Garry, Sylvia (Lanny), John (Jane). Sadly missed by his grandchildren Cecilia, Andrew, Matthew, Julie (Jim), Caroline (Ozzie) and great grandchildren Giovanni, Matthew and James.

A memorial service was held at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Guelph, ON on May 9, 2008 with Bishop Michael J. Pryse and Rev. David Hammer officiating. Interment was made at Woodlawn Cemetery, Guelph, ON.

STUART JOHN SCHROEDER – December 10, 1945 – June 20, 2008

Pastor Schroeder was born in Minneapolis, Minnesota. He graduated from Luther Seminary St. Paul, Minnesota and was ordained on February 25, 1973. Pastor Schroeder served as Chaplain of North Dakota State Hospital, Jamestown ND from 1970-1972; Associate Pastor, Zion Lutheran Church, Saskatoon, Sask., from 1972-1975; Chaplain of Kawartha Lakes School, Lindsay, ON from 1975-1980; Chaplain of Kingston Psychiatric Hospital from 1980-1985; Regional Co-ordinator of Chaplaincy Services of Ontario from 1985-1996; Co-ordinator of Chaplaincy for the Ministry of Community and Social Services in the province of Ontario from 1996-2000; Chaplain of Multifaith Services and Supports from 2004 until the time of his death.

He is survived by his daughter Erika (Mike), two grandchildren Ruby, Delilah and his three brothers, Ted, Grant and Mark.

A funeral service was held at Advent Lutheran Church in Toronto, ON on June 27, 2008 with Rev. Stephen Gross and Jonathan Namssoo officiating.

Report of the Secretary

Secretary
Rev. Wendell C. Grahman

Changes in the Roster of Synod since Assembly 2006

Clerics Received into Synod

By Transfer

Rev. Sari Rinne from the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Finland, effective February 1, 2006
Rev. Donald Nevile from the Alberta and the Territories Synod, effective August 1, 2006
Rev. Jouko Jyrkama from the Diocese of Mikkeli, Evangelical Lutheran Church of Finland, effective September 1, 2006.
Rev. Stephen Kristenson from the Alberta and the Territories Synod, effective September 1, 2006
Rev. Lidvald Haugen-Strand from the Manitoba/Northwestern Ontario Synod, effective September 6, 2006
Rev. Marko Pihlajamaa from the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Finland, effective October 1, 2006
Rev. Heidi Wachowiak from the Alberta and the Territories Synod, effective December 1, 2006
Rev. Kalle Kadakas from the Estonian Evangelical Lutheran Church, effective May 28, 2007
Rev. Gilbert Kabila from the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Congo, effective July 1, 2007
Rev. Alexander Mielke from Evangelischen Kirche in Deutschland (EKD), effective August 15, 2007
Rev. Daniela Mertz from Evangelisch-Lutherische Kirche in Bayern, (ELKiB), effective September 7, 2007
Rev. Thomas Mertz from Evangelisch-Lutherische Kirche in Bayern, (ELKiB), effective September 7, 2007
Rev. Zacharia Mandara from the Lutheran Church of Tanzania, effective September 15, 2007
Rev. John Goldsworthy from the Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod, ELCA, effective December 23, 2007
Rev. Robert Shantz from the British Columbia Synod, effective April 15, 2008
Rev. Vivian Roberts from the Saskatchewan Synod, effective June 1, 2008
Rev. Tuula Van Gasbeek from the Indiana/Kentucky Synod, ELCA, effective July 1, 2008

By Ordination

Rev. Anne Anderson (ordained October 15, 2006)
Rev. Chad Honneyman (ordained June 10, 2007)
Rev. Chun Zhang (ordained June 10, 2007)

Candidates Previously Approved for Ordination upon Receiving a Call

Jun Gao

Candidates Approved for Ordination Subject to Successful Completion of Their Seminary Programme and Upon Receiving and Accepting a Call:

Catharine House (ordained, Assembly 2008)
Karen Kuhnert (ordained, Assembly 2008)
Mei Sum Lai
Michael Lees (ordained, Assembly 2008)
Carey Meadows
Gloria Ryder

Sheryl Stone (ordained, Assembly 2008)

Pastors On Leave from Call Status, July 1, 2008 - June 30, 2009

First Year

Rev. Ed Bastian
Rev. Rasma Caune
Rev. Frank Haggarty
Rev. Kayko Driedger Hesslein
Rev. Hilde Lorenz
Rev. Scott Schellenberger

Second Year

Rev. Dr. Matt Anderson
Rev. Kevin Baglole
Rev. Henriette Donner
Rev. Mavis Fung
Rev. Nadine Schroeder-Kranz

Third Year

Rev. Christine Mussar
Diaconal Minister Jane Olson

Pastors Removed from the Roster of Synod

By Transfer

Rev. Dr. Sarah Dille to the Southwestern Minnesota Synod, ELCA, effective September 1, 2007
Rev. Rebekah Eckert to the Alberta and the Territories Synod, effective May 25, 2007
Rev. Lenise Michalow Francis to the Manitoba/Northwestern Ontario Synod, effective June 30, 2006
Rev. Sari Kuirinlahti (nee Rinne) to the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Finland, effective May 4, 2007
Rev. Stefan Wolf to Evangelischen Kirche in Deutschland (EKD), effective August 2007
Rev. Susan Johnson to the Manitoba/Northwestern Ontario Synod, effective September 1, 2007
Rev. Greg Kjos to the Alberta and the Territories Synod, effective March 1, 2008

By Request

Rev. Harry Vibe resigned from roster effective November 30, 2006.

By Constitutional Directive

Rev. Markku Suokonautio (effective July 1, 2008)

By Death

See Report of the Necrologist

Changes in the Roster of Congregations and Synodical Missions

Trinity, Shantz Station disbanded January 7, 2007.

Estonian Lutheran Church, Sudbury, Ontario, disbanded May 19, 2008.

Pastors Requesting to be Excused from Assembly 2008 Sessions

Rev. Katherine Altenburg	Rev. Peter Mikelic
Rev. Jo Barkley-Probst	Rev. Michael Mills
Rev. Capt. Gary Barr	Rev. Dr. Peter Mogk
Rev. Dwight Biggs	Rev. Douglas Moore
Rev. Jim Bindernagel	Rev. Sue Nevile
Rev. Barry Boeckner	Rev. Willis Ott
Rev. Claudine Carlson	Rev. Gustav Piir
Rev. Rasma Caune	Rev. Marko Pihlajamaa
Rev. Tom Doherty	Rev. John Polocok (Saturday)
Rev. Jack Dressler	Rev. Elizabeth Pugh
Rev. Larry Ehrhardt	Rev. Tanya Ramer
Rev. Christoph Ernst	Rev. Eduard Riegart
Rev. Sheilah Fletch	Rev. Rolf Ruppenthal
Rev. Frank Haggarty	Rev. Jonathan Schmidt
Rev. Herbert Harms	Rev. Doug Schweyer
Rev. Paul Jensen	Rev. Bill Shafer
Rev. Maris Kirsons	Rev. Les Skonnard
Rev. Donald Kranz	Rev. Ernie Skujins
Rev. Timothy Kuhlmann	Rev. Jim Slack
Rev. Paul Langohr	Rev. Don Stroh
Rev. Andre Lavergne	Rev. John Tsang
Rev. Joan Lee	Rev. Barbara Weatherall
Rev. Peter Lisinski	Rev. Arnold Weigel
Rev. Hilde Lorenz	Rev. Judi Williams
Rev. Fred Ludolph	Rev. Lloyd Wiseman
Rev. Jan Malina	Rev. Bob Zimmerman
Rev. Joanna Malina	

Pastors Celebrating Anniversaries of Ordination During Assembly 2008

Twenty-five Years

Rev. Jo Barkley-Probst
Rev. Alan Cook
Rev. Thomas Doherty
Rev. James Goos
Rev. Harry Huff
Rev. Tim Kuhlmann
Rev. Ilze Kuplens-Ewart
Rev. Svante Olson
Rev. Lester Skonnord
Rev. Thomas Zumbrock

Forty Years

Rev. Earl Albrecht
Rev. Phil Heinze
Rev. Ted 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. Dr. Peeter Vanker

Fifty Years

Rev. Vernon Cronmiller
Rev. Charles Deckert
Rev. Dr. David Granskou
Rev. Dr. William Huras
Rev. Dr. William Kurschinski
Rev. Barry Lang
Rev. Hans-Martin Steinert
Rev. Joachim Von Schmeling
Rev. Eric Weber
Rev. Clyde Wentzell

60 Years

Rev. Arthur Conrad
Rev. Eric Reble

Future Assemblies

Synod Council adopted the following rotation of Synod Assemblies at its meeting of July 4, 2006:
2008 – London Conference
2010 – Toronto Conference

- 2012 – Georgian Bay Conference (or K-W Conference if this location is not possible)
- 2014 – Ottawa/St. Lawrence Conference
- 2016 – Hamilton/Niagara Conference
- 2018 – Kitchener/Waterloo Conference

Concluding Remarks

Much of the work and responsibility of this position remains unchanged these past few years with respect to the job description outlined in the Synod Constitution and Bylaws. A large part of my work in this past year especially has been the preparation for Synod Assembly. And while hardly alluded to in our Constitution and Bylaws, another large part of my responsibility is related to congregational bylaws and constitutions, as well as the maintenance of such on a synodical level. There are always new challenges, and it seems an increasing complexity, with constitutional matters and interpretation. I claim no special gift other than the interest to serve the church and help understand its mission and ministry through such governance processes.

The people who have served with me on the Legal & Constitutions Committee have been a great source of pooled wisdom and I gratefully acknowledge their work and their gift. And I wish to express my continued appreciation and thanks to Bishop Pryse and to Vice-Chair Dorothy Froom and Treasurer Keith Myra for their partnership; and to Cathy Caron, Administrative Support Staff to the Secretary of Synod for her very capable assistance and timely wisdom.

Report of the Statistician

Statistician
Rev. Wendell C. Grahman

This year marked the first time that ELCIC parochial reports were to be submitted online, and as a result, were submitted directly to the national office. The Synod Office was responsible for mailing out the forms; follow up notices came directly from the national office. Those congregations not having access to submit reports online were able to complete their forms manually and submit them for filing. As of the publication date of the Bulletin of Reports, approximately 67% of the 2007 forms have been returned. It remains the constitutional responsibility for every ordained minister serving a congregation to see that reports are submitted (i.e., Eastern Synod Constitution, Article VII, Section 3). Composite reports of the church include the most recent statistics entered into the RASMUS database. Only when every pastor/congregation has remitted the required annual statistics does the composite report of the church become an accurate and accountable record.

Appreciation is expressed to the synod support staff members, Christine Archer, Lynn Becker, Cathy Caron and Connie Davison for their efforts in receiving, collating and reporting Eastern Synod statistical information.