

Section 6 – Reports of Standing Committees and Congregational Life Working Groups

Report of the Mission Committee

Committee Roster

Jim Best [N], Rev. Joel Crouse [O/StL], Rev. Guenter Dahle [ES-S], Rev. James Garey [L], Bill Gastmeier [K/W],
Donna Metcalfe [T], Lori Rasmussen [A], Rev. Doug Schweyer [H/N], Charlie Van Sickle [GB]

“We are in Mission for others!”

Over the last two years the Mission Committee has been diligent in seeking out new ways that the church can truly be considered to be *In Mission For Others*. To that end, we have sought out new programs, contributed funds and encouraged training in areas that support diversity within our synod, offer guidance to existing congregations, and explore new models for church growth. In this last area, the committee has been proud to support and foster a novel mission initiative in the Ottawa area, that will result this fall in first fully merged congregation started by an Anglican-Lutheran clergy team.

At the last synod meeting, we were asked to focus our attention on emerging and steadily increasing ethnic communities within in our synod, and to support pastors who are currently, or interested in, serving those communities. We have provided funding to Rev. Mavis Fung to do both English as a Second Language, and social support with Chinese Lutherans in Toronto. The committee also decided to assist with the funding of Mandarin ministry at Peace Lutheran Church in Square One, Mississauga, ON. We also provided support for a Hispanic ministry in Niagara Falls, that continued for more than a year.

To help congregations gain better knowledge about diversity within their neighbourhoods, the committee decided to help pay for area-specific reports using the Canadian census data. Every congregation that participating in the *In Mission For Others* training seminars hosted by the Synod, will receive a copy of their individual report. Any other congregation wishing to receive this demographic information package can do so by contacting their conference mission representative and pay only \$25 for the printing costs, a fraction of the total amount. The congregation would then be able to use the information to identify unique areas of need or target groups within their region.

The Committee has continued its financial support of mission congregations, and participated each year in mission consultation work. In the last two years, the Committee took over the mortgages for two congregations – loans which are now being steadily repaid to the committee. The committee also administered \$60,000 in grants from the Global Hunger and Development Appeal, for outreach programs and social ministry at numerous congregations.

The committee has also been heavily engaged in exploring new models for ministry. Great strides have been made in the past two years in working ecumenically with our Anglican sisters and brothers, in particular in Massey, Orillia and Ottawa. In Barrhaven, a growing suburb of the capital region, a new joint Anglican-Lutheran church, the first of its kind in Canada, has received the blessings of both bishops, and is becoming a reality as we speak. It is a model of the cooperation that can exist between our two denominations. Job applications for the two clergy positions were advertised this winter, and, as you read this report, a team will have been chosen with the aim of beginning their worship as a new community this fall.

As we look to the future, the Mission Committee will have to be increasingly diligent in thinking about new and creative ways of building the church, never losing sight that our main role is service *In Mission for Others*. I would like to thank everyone for their hard work and commitment – the

committee members, the working groups that do so much behind the scenes, our various ecumenical partners in ministry, and the dedicated work of our synod staff, especially the Rev. Guenter Dahle, without whom much of this ministry would never be brought to life.

Conference	Representative	Contact Number
Atlantic	Lori Rasmussen	(902) 475-3376
Northern	Jim Best	(705) 945-8669
Georgian Bay	Charlie Van Sickle	(519) 363-3443
Ottawa/St Lawrence	To Be Announced	
London	Rev. James Garey	(519) 432-4832
Hamilton/Niagara	Rev. Douglas Schweyer	(905) 574-7883
Kitchener/Waterloo	Bill Gastmeier	(519) 885-4633
Toronto	Donna Metcalfe	(416) 322-9410

Rev. Joel Crouse
Chairperson, Mission Committee

Report of the Specialized Ministries Committee

Committee Roster

Rev. William Brown [O/StL], Rev. Joel Crouse [ES-S], Susan Heard [T], Leena Jensen [N], Bob McGee [L], Tim McNabb [A], Rev. Suzanne Nevile [K/W], Rev. Sylvia Poetschke [H/N], Innes Wunderlich, [GB]

Specialized Ministries are in the midst of change, renewal and optimism. Our Camps, which include Camp Edgewood in the Kitchener/Waterloo Conference, Camp Lutherlyn in the Ottawa/St. Lawrence Conference, and Camp Mush-A-Mush in the Atlantic Conference, have been functioning well. Our Lutheran Campus Ministry groups in Waterloo, London, Toronto, and the Atlantic have been meeting regularly and thinking creatively about serving post-secondary students at their various universities and colleges. Our team of special call ministers has enjoyed great success, most notably with the high-profile appointments of Rev. Terrance Richardson as Chaplain General of Corrections Canada and Brigadier General Rev. Stanley Johnstone as Chaplain General of the Canadian Armed Forces, who retires this year.

The committee has also identified several opportunities for growth and new vision. Both Camp Edgewood and Camp Lutherlyn have become incorporated in the last few years. It is the hope of our committee that Camp Mush-A-Mush would enter into the fold in the future. Camp Edgewood has gone through an intentional process of identifying capital improvements that need to take place for the camp to move into the future with confidence. They have received approval from Synod Council for their proposal and will launch their campaign this fall. We are very excited with their energy and enthusiasm for building up the camp to meet the needs of clients in the future.

Our four local Lutheran Campus Ministry committees have expressed concerns and hopes about their future. Some campus centers are struggling to maintain a core group of people to initiate ministry on a volunteer basis. Others are suggesting that there are possibilities for innovative ministry but the funding is insufficient. And still others are saying that we need to radically rethink what we are doing in this area of ministry for young adults. Our committee will be meeting in September with selected individuals representing young adult ministry within our synod to look seriously at the changes that need to take place in order to serve this important constituency of our church.

We have some extremely talented and dedicated individuals who are part of the Lutheran family *In Mission for Others*. They represent a diverse expression of what it means to be church. The renewal

process initiated by Eastern Synod Council and the Directors appointments that cover more focused areas of ministry, has led to some changes within our committee. When Rev. Joel Crouse was appointed Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministries he was given this committee as part of his portfolio. Upon reflection, it became apparent that this committee, whose focus is on youth and young adult ministries, is not really an appropriate group for relating to those special call clergy who are engaged in the important work of institutional chaplaincies. As a result this component of our committee is now under the portfolio of Assistant to the Bishop, Rev. Dr. Mark Harris. This change happened to celebrate the importance of these *In Mission for Others* special call clergy.

We are grateful for the leadership of Rev. Phil Heinze. He will be missed but we know he is still serving God in his new role as Director of Public Policy and his renewed role as husband, father and grandfather. We also say thank-you to Innes, Sylvia, Tim and Bill for their support over the years as they say their good-byes. We look forward to a new chapter in the life of our committee with the leadership of Pastor Joel. We know there will be changes. But we also know that these changes will be for the greater glory of the God we all serve who calls us into mission for others.

Thank you for the privilege to serve our church in this way,

Leena Jensen

Chairperson, Specialized Ministries Committee

Report of the Ontario Multifaith Council on Spiritual and Religious Care (OMC)

The Rev. Mike Schroeder has been our Lutheran Representative to the OMC for the past five years. He retired from this position in the late Fall of 2007. We really appreciate all that he has done for the OMC in that time period (most recently and for the numerous years of serving on Regional Multifaith Committees. Since I am a new appointee to the OMC and have not yet been able to attend any of their meetings, the major part of this report on what has been happening with the OMC in the last two years has come from Pastor Schroeder. (Pastor Sonja Free)

Since the last Synod Assembly the OMC has undergone major changes. The Ontario government withdrew its support for the Reintegration Program which the OMC had been running for 6 or 7 years. The government saw this program as a vehicle to provide housing for homeless returnees from its prisons, while OMC saw it as a way to provide spiritual and religious and emotional support as well. In short, the government saw it to be too expensive a way to provide housing and the program and its funding were cut.

It became necessary to do a structural re-organization since this funding made up over two-thirds of the OMC budget. All the office staff were laid off and replaced by an Office Manager (Patricia Williams), a Secretary and a part-time Multifaith Information (library) Director. All community chaplains and agencies working to implement the Reintegration Program in various parts of Ontario, were also laid off.

The **Strategic Plan** was retooled to scale back the OMC's work to its core activities as reflected in its new Vision & Mission statements:

Vision: "All persons in government operated or funded institutions in Ontario can exercise their spiritual and religious practices in the context of The Ontario Human Rights Code."

Mission: "The Ontario Multifaith Council on Spiritual and Religious Care is dedicated to working with the Ontario government to promote and facilitate equal access to adequate and appropriate spiritual and religious care for persons in government sponsored or funded institutions and organizations."

Sadly, nothing was put in place to replace the Reintegration Program. Hopefully some of the tools developed and some of the people trained to help as integration teams will be utilized in other ways.

On the bright side, the 12 regional Multifaith Committees (the reports of the Lutheran representatives on some of these committees follow) were continued as were the four regional managers who oversee their work. These regional committees are the working arms of OMC and do the work of supporting chaplains in institutions, doing assessments of the religious and spiritual care programmes in government funded institutions, interviewing and certifying spiritual care workers for their ability to work in a multifaith environment and providing learning opportunities for spiritual care workers. Also, on the bright side, the restructuring has forced OMC to focus on these core activities and hopefully, do a better job of them.

The whole process has also shown how necessary it is to improve OMC's working relationship with government by increasing government's understanding of and commitment to OMC's work. It has also led OMC to look for ways to increase a two-way accountability between OMC and the various member faith groups. A new quarterly newsletter produced by OMC should be of some help here.

This relationship between the Ontario government and faith groups is unique. It is inspiring to see how representatives of over 30 different faith groups can work together in a common cause. It is well worth the effort to preserve and improve it. This is a model that can serve our society well.

Thank you to all who have been connected in some way with the work of the Ontario Multifaith Council on Spiritual and Religious Care!

Rev. Sonja Free

Rev. Mike Schroeder

South-East Regional Multifaith Committee

The South-East Regional Multifaith Committee (SE-RMC) celebrated and honoured Rev. Bill Kurschinski, the Lutheran representative, for his years of service and commitment to this ministry. Thanks Bill!! And he has helped immensely in my transitioning into the position. Thanks again Bill!! The SE-RMC represents the collection of Multifaith ministries throughout our area with most of the Christian faith groups and other faith traditions participating. Previous years' goals were evaluated and the next year's approved.

An area where attention will be emphasized is to further encourage member's commitment by inviting alternates if they are unable to attend. We believe this would promote continuity, solidify communication and ensure SE-RMC's viability and relevancy to the communities we've been called to represent.

We've also committed ourselves to talk to people involved in our ministries regarding needs, and voice those concerns to our Members of Provincial Parliament. Our mandate is to assess programs and to certify candidates for chaplaincy. And to further give support to those working in government funded institutions and programs.

We look forward to the ministry we've been called to do this next year. We are open to where the Spirit leads us as we live out the gospel - to provide spiritual and religious care for our imprisoned, our aged, and our infirmed. I'm excited about this opportunity - to be in the midst of all these faith traditions who gather to serve and be that "one church". May God continue to bless the ministry of Ontario Multifaith Council and all the Regional Committees.

Rev. Lori Pilatzke

South-Central Regional Multifaith Committee

As OMC board has focus its attention to Ministry of Health's concern, SC-RMC has focused in promoting support and communications between chaplains in the past year.

Beside the chaplain representative, invitations have been extended to all chaplains to RMC meetings. Breakfast meetings with the chaplains are scheduled periodically. Reporting forms are devised to enhance communications.

RMC is also exploring support the chaplain in their facilities. The ramifications of Bill 171 have been discussed. RMC has agreed to support the chaplains and find out what chaplains think about the Bill. A workload study may be conducted.

Happenings in RMC also include: updating the list of institutions; all regions are advised to take their individual issues to MPP directly instead of going through OMC; life time certification will be issued for people who are screened.

Rev. David Tin

Report of the Candidacy Committee

Committee Roster

Rev. Ed Bastian Jr [L], Rev. Ralph Dwarika [GB], Dennis Eaton [K/W], Bobbye Goldenberg [K/W],
Rev. Dr. Mark Harris [E-ES], Rev. Judi Harris [K/W], Jerry Hogeveen [T], Rev. Dr. Kristine Lund [K/W],
Rev. Doug Reble [L], Keith Rivers [K/W], Rev. Shirley Ruller [K/W], Rev. Elisabeth Wagschal [T]

The Candidacy Committee (CCOM) is responsible for the preparation procedures on behalf of the ELCIC for ordained and diaconal ministry. It is assisted in this by the Candidacy Manual of the ELCIC which exists to provide guidance to those individuals involved in a process of preparing, examining, and approving candidates for ordination or consecration as rostered ministers.

The process for our candidates for ministry are generally as follows: Each student must complete the registration packages before a structured interview and psychological evaluation are arranged by CCOM. Based on this information and the results of the first interview of the candidate, a decision to endorse for study is made. The candidates receive an annual review and endorsement as they work towards internship and, at the end of the process, recommendation to the Examining Committee. The annual reviews and endorsements are made based on written material provided by the students; evaluations provided by the contextual education supervisors, clinical pastoral education supervisors, and internship supervisors depending where they are in the process; one-to-one interviews with members of CCOM; input from the seminary provided through our faculty liaison to CCOM, Rev. Dr. Kristine Lund. Generally a student will meet four times with CCOM and receive four endorsements while they are in the candidacy process ie. endorsement for their first year of study, endorsement for their second year of study, endorsement for internship; endorsement to the Examining Committee. At the beginning of the candidacy process each student is assigned one member of CCOM to act as a relator to the student. The role of the relator is to act as a liaison between the committee and the student helping the student to understand the endorsement decisions that are made and answering related questions as they arise.

Of course, the whole candidacy process demands a good working relationship between CCOM and the Seminary. I am happy to report that this exists. As needed, CCOM meets with the Seminary faculty to exchange ideas and receive feedback. This is valuable time spent together.

For sure the CCOM wouldn't be able to do the work it does without the leadership and organizational skills of our Eastern Synod Liaison person. For a very long time that person was the Rev. Susan Johnson who is now our beloved National Bishop. CCOM wishes to thank Bishop

Johnson for all her support over the years and the graceful way she provided it. Thankfully the torch of Synod Liaison has been passed to the Rev. Dr. Mark Harris. CCOM welcomes Rev. Harris to this position and looks forward to being partners in ministry together.

It should be noted, that in this biennium, CCOM has contracted with a new psychologist to conduct the psychological testing and evaluation which is an important part of the candidacy process. Replacing Dr. Al Evans, who retired, is Dr. Julie Torrance-Perks. CCOM appreciates very much this new relationship and has found the reports of Dr. Torrance-Perks and her associates to be extremely helpful.

CCOM has also spent this last biennium getting very familiar with a “tool” we call the “Candidacy Committee Interview Manual”. The purpose of the manual is to be of assistance in our deliberations, counsel, and guidance to seminary students and applicants to the ordained and diaconal process. It also ensures our interview teams use a similar approach and methodology thus promoting fairness and consistency with all candidates.

Finally, let me conclude this report by quoting from this year’s “*It’s Your Call*” material: “Research shows that the major factor in leading a person into ordained or lay diaconal ministry is the encouragement and support of their pastor and home congregations.” Members of CCOM pray this encouragement and support happens. May it be so!

Rev. Doug Reble
Chairperson, Candidacy Committee

Report of the Recruitment Committee

Committee Roster

Rev. Dr. Robert Binhammer [T], Dennis Eaton [K/W], Rev. Dr. Mark Harris [E-ES],
Rev. Dr. Tim Hegedus [K/W], Rev. Dr. Allen Jorgenson [K/W]

“A Culture of Call” was the major emphasis of our 2007 program. We hope your congregation used the materials we prepared. They were based on our major tenant that local pastors and congregations are the key for our “It’s Your Call” program to be successful. The 2008 emphasis was again centered on an “It’s Your Call” Sunday when congregations were encouraged to nominate people who they felt should consider the ordained or diaconal ministry.

Our committee continues to follow up on the nominees with an annual letter in February and a telephone call in October. We are happy to report that to date 5 have enrolled in Seminary of whom one will be ready for ordination next year. In 2007 we replaced our Discernment Retreat with two Discernment Dinners. More people are able to attend a dinner than a weekend retreat. Two more Dinners are scheduled for this year.

We covet the partnership of everyone in Synod. The ministry of our church is highly dependant on the quality of our ordained and diaconal leadership. “*It’s Your Call*” on whether we will have such leadership in the future.

Rev. Dr. Robert Binhammer
Chairperson, Recruitment Committee

Report of the Examining Committee

Committee Roster

Rev. Claudine Carlson [T], Irene Fancy [K/W], Rev. Dr. Jon Fogleman [K/W], Rev. Dr. Tim Hegedus [K/W],
Bishop Michael Pryse [ES-S], Marge Watters Knebel [T]

This Examining Committee is constitutionally mandated to “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.”

The committee’s examination process consists of two components, one written and the other oral, and is designed to fulfill the following statement of purpose:

1. To explore one’s vocation to the pastoral ministry;
2. To reflect on pastoral identity and practice with a view to integrating identity and practice;
3. To review and affirm responsibilities and commitments basic to the pastoral office.

In fulfilling this mandate during the past biennium, the committee has examined and subsequently recommended the endorsement of nine candidates for ordained pastoral ministry. A record of those persons who have been endorsed can be found in the Report of Synod Council.

Bishop Michael J. Pryse
Chairperson, Examining Committee

Report of the Professional Leadership Committee

Committee Roster

Marie-Laure Collet [T], Sabine Fischer [T], Rev. Dr. Mark Harris [ES-S], Rev. James Koellner [K/W]

In the past biennium, the committee met to review information related to pastoral matters of the Eastern Synod. When the committee did a comparison of the compensation level of the Eastern Synod with the other synods, it was noted that the Eastern Synod was below the minimum compensation of the other synods. The revised compensation schedule for 2009 and 2010 that was submitted to Synod Council for recommendation to the Synod Assembly in 2008 reflects an increase to bring the Eastern Synod closer to the other synods. Further to this, the committee also recommended an increase for pastoral supply.

A detailed examination of the current car allowance was completed using data from a variety of sources and current trends. The result of that examination is reflected in a graduated increase over the next two years.

In 2006, the Assembly adopted *A Renewed Vision for Ministry in the Eastern Synod 2006-2008*. Among those priorities was the need to nurture leaders and encourage them to improve their skill levels. Therefore, the committee felt it was important to increase the amount of Continuing Education to \$600.

Since the last Assembly, the development of a policy related to Maternity and Parental Leave for rostered ministers currently under Call was referred to the ELCIC and Group Services Inc. as such a policy will have an impact on the benefits package.

Our thanks to Rev. Dr. Mark Harris for his support to the committee and its members.

Rev. James Koellner
Chairperson, Professional Leadership Committee

Report of the Resource Development Committee

Committee Roster

Judy Baribeau [T], Rev. Mark Ehlebracht [O/StL], Rev. Dawn Hutchings [T], Jeff Pym [ES-S], David Weicker [K/W]

The general mandate of the committee is to promote financial stewardship within the Synod particularly as it relates to giving to the work and mission of the larger Church and to provide counsel to Synod Council and the greater constituency of the synod on these matters. This mandate also incorporates the specific work of the Global Hunger and Development Appeal and Lutheran Planned Giving.

The committee was originally formed in 2001 and has met on a twice yearly basis since that time. The current membership includes Judy Baribeau, Rev. Mark Ehlebracht, Rev. Dawn Hutchings, and David Weicker. Jeff Pym serves as our staff support. Treasurer Keith Myra provides vital resource information to the committee.

Over the course of the past two years it has become clear to the members of this committee that a business as usual approach to raising benevolences will not achieve the kind of commitment to the work of the Eastern Synod that our current financial situation requires. So many members of our congregations haven't been given the opportunity to connect what their congregation's benevolence giving to the Synod's ability to carry out our Mission.

Our Eastern Synod has outlined an exciting *Renewed Vision for Mission* and in order to raise the funds to enable our Synod to live into our Mission we will need to find ways to create excitement and commitment in our congregations to the exciting work to which we have been called. And so for the past year, this committee has been planning a series of Vision Visits to promote our Synod's *Renewed Vision for Mission*. With the aid of Volunteer Visitors, it is our hope that every congregation in the Eastern Synod will receive a Vision Visit.

Vision Visitors will meet with church councils and together they will view a new DVD that has been produced to highlight the Eastern Synod's Mission to Others, discuss ways to expand the congregation's awareness of the *Renewed Vision for Mission*, and work together to grow our benevolences.

Every congregation that participates in a Vision Visit will receive a packet of resources which includes: a copy of the *Renewed Vision for Mission* DVD, a series of seasonal posters highlighting the various aspects of the *Renewed Vision for Mission* as well as seasonal devotional material for use at congregational meetings.

Our Eastern Synod has vital and exciting work to do! By God's grace, and the gracious benevolence of our congregations, our Synod will have the financial support that will ensure that our *Renewed Vision for Mission* can begin to be realized in ways that exceed even our wildest expectations!

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. Dawn Hutchings
Chairperson, Resource Development Committee

Report of the Investment Committee

Committee Roster

Rev. Guenter Dahle [ES-S], Ken Diebel [K/W], Laurie Kitchen [K/W],
David Michael [K/W], Keith Myra [K/W], Rev. Dr. David Pfrimmer [K/W]

Since its inception in the early 1970's, the Investment Committee has been responsible for overseeing and directing the investment of funds owned or held in trust by the synod, as authorized

by the Synod Council. These funds include the "*General Investment Fund*" as well as other funds that have been established as a result of bequests, memorials, and other gifts made over the years.

After accounting for new donations and other deposits, realized and unrealized gains (losses), the transfer of \$500,000 to fund an interest-free loan to Waterloo Lutheran Seminary and the usual withdrawals of income to help fund synodical ministries, the market value of the portfolio decreased by approximately \$100,000 during the biennium to \$9.8 million as of December 31st, 2007.

The committee provided ongoing oversight of the synod's investments and the investment manager, maintained its awareness of (and responded to) regulatory changes, and continued to increase its focus on socially responsible investment by monitoring the holdings in our portfolio to ensure they align with our church's social responsibility criteria. To this end, committee members attended a Socially Responsible Investment seminar hosted by Waterloo Lutheran Seminary and led by Michael Jantzi, founder of Jantzi Research Inc., a firm with recognized expertise in this area.

In 2006, each member of the Investment Committee agreed to serve as an initial director of the Evangelical Lutheran Foundation of Eastern Canada (ELFEC) during its application process for federal incorporation and status as a charitable organization, both of which applications were subsequently approved. At ELFEC's organizational meeting, each of the founding directors agreed to let their name stand for nomination to the ELFEC Board of Directors and were subsequently elected to terms of one, two or three years.

Consistent with the corporate objects of ELFEC, which include supporting and furthering the work of the Eastern Synod and the management of property and investments for various charitable entities, an agreement between the synod and ELFEC resulted in the transfer of all assets from the synod's investment portfolio to ELFEC, effective January 1st, 2008, whereby they will continue to be managed by the synod's previous investment manager, Rae & Lipskie Investment Counsel Inc. under an investment policy that was identical to the synod's policy at the time of transfer. Under the terms of the agreement, ELFEC is obliged to honour all donor designations and other restrictions. Because an investment committee is no longer required within the synodical structure, it was disbanded at the end of 2007. As a synod, we look forward to beginning a new relationship and fruitful partnership with ELFEC!

Congregations are encouraged to establish an investment policy customized to its particular circumstances. Although the synod's policy (now ELFEC's policy) was designed to meet requirements unique to the synod, a number of congregational leaders have successfully used it as a starting point in the development of a policy for their congregation. A copy of ELFEC's investment policy is available on request.

Fund Performance

Consistent with market conditions in general, we experienced strong returns of 7.9% on our portfolio in 2006 and more modest returns of 3.5% in 2007. It is important to view these returns relative to conservative nature of our investment policy.

Because the majority of the portfolio is invested in guaranteed, fixed income investments, total income over the last two decades has been on a generally declining trend. (As higher yielding bonds purchased in previous years gradually mature, they are being replaced by high quality investments currently available in the market, all of which carry significantly lower yields). To respond to the reality of declining income from fixed income investments, our approach has been to partially offset this decrease by increasing the equity component of the portfolio with the expectation of benefiting from capital appreciation in the longer term. During the past biennium, the maximum for the equity component was increased from 30% to 35%. While an equity component has proven to be a sound

long-term tactic since its implementation in 1998 (and one we anticipate would continue to be effective into the future), in the short term we are susceptible to significant fluctuations in income from year to year.

Selected Statistics

Following are a few selected statistics for the portfolio. Note that the rates of return are not directly comparable to external benchmarks (e.g. S&P TSX Composite Index, Scotia McLeod Bond Universe Bond Index) due to the conservative nature of our investment objectives:

Portfolio Statistics			
Description	Dec 31, 2005	Dec 31, 2006	Dec 31,2007 (see Note 1)
Value of Portfolio			
Book	\$8,578,109	\$8,472,779	\$8,640,974
Market	\$9,936,435	\$9,826,457	\$9,815,549
Composition of Portfolio (compared to total market value)			
Cash/T-Bill/Accrued	2.3%	2.1%	5.4%
Fixed Income	66.4%	64.1%	62.8%
Equity	31.3%	33.8%	31.8%
Annual Rate of Return			
Entire Portfolio	8.2%	7.9%	3.5%
Fixed Income Component	3.2%	3.9%	4.1%
Canadian Equity Component	26.8%	20.8%	6.9%
US Equity Component	0.4%	11.1%	-12.6%
Bond Duration (Years)	3.5	3.0	3.3
Bond Quality			
BBB	-	-	-
A	35%	39%	12%
AA	26%	21%	47%
AAA	39%	40%	41%
Canadian Equity Portfolio Composition			
Resource	33%	28%	27%
Industrial/Conglomerate	11%	6%	7%
Consumer	9%	12%	10%
Utility/Telecom	4%	8%	12%
Financial	43%	46%	44%
Capital Gains / (Losses)			
Realized	\$100,185	\$129,687	\$91,085
Unrealized	\$430,753	\$317,211	-\$66,880
Income earned (& allocated) – see Note 3	\$553,109	\$531,515	\$398,445

Notes:

1. Figures for December 31st, 2007 are immediately prior to funds being transferred to the Evangelical Lutheran Foundation of Eastern Canada.
2. All amounts exclude loans and \$575,500 held in ELCIC LIFE investments
3. Includes 1/3 of unrealized capital gains (losses) from the equity portfolio

The final chart shows a listing of individual holdings in the portfolio as of December 31st, 2007, immediately prior to the transfer of these assets to the Evangelical Lutheran Foundation of Eastern Canada (ELFEC).

Portfolio (As of December 31, 2007)			
Fixed Income		Common Shares (Canadian)	
Quantity (\$)	Description	# Shares	Description
800,000	Government of Canada	2,200	Bank of Montreal
1,250,000	Province of Saskatchewan	3,400	Bank of Nova Scotia
1,000,000	Province of Ontario	2,470	BCE Inc.
300,000	Province of New Brunswick	2,000	Canadian Pacific Railway
300,000	GE Capital Canada	1,500	Canadian Tire Corp
400,000	IPL Energy	2,000	Cdn Imperial Bank of Commerce
300,000	Toyota Credit CDA Inc	2,700	Emera Incorporated
300,000	Province of Manitoba	2,400	Enbridge Inc
300,000	Manulife Bank of Canada	2,500	Encana Corp
350,000	CMHC	2,700	Imperial Oil Ltd
350,000	Canadian Wheat Board	2,775	Investco Ltd
400,000	Alberta Capital Fin Authority	2,000	Loblaw Companies Ltd
Common Shares (US)		600	Magna International
# Shares	Description	1,500	Manitoba Telecom Svc
650	Becton Dickinson	3,600	ManuLife Financial
800	Caterpillar Inc	2,800	Nexen Inc
1,000	Citigroup Inc	2,000	Petro Canada
940	General Electric Co	4,000	Power Corp of Canada
800	Home Depot	2,200	Sun Life Financial
300	Int. Business Machines	2,700	Thomson Corp
1,500	Intel Corp	2,800	Toronto Dominion Bank
500	Johnson & Johnson	3,000	Transalta Corp
430	Merck & Co.	2,700	TransCanada Corp
1,050	Microsoft Corp.		
500	Morgan Stanley		
600	Procter & Gamble Co		
800	Wal Mart Stores Inc		

With the transfer of the synod's investment assets to the Evangelical Lutheran Foundation of Eastern Canada (ELFEC) that took place at the end of 2007, this year's Report of the Investment Committee to the synod will be the final one. This makes it a particularly appropriate time to say a sincere "thank you" to each of the previous committee members, all of whom have served so competently and so faithfully over the years. Thanks especially to those members who served most recently: Laurie (Kitchen), David (Michael), Ken (Diebel), David (Pfrimmer) and Guenter (Dahle) – we rejoice that each of you are willing to continue to share your talents as members of the ELFEC Board of Directors!

Keith Myra
Chairperson, Investment Committee

Report of the Communication Advisory Committee

Committee Roster

Erin Anderssen [O/StL], Rev. Dennis Becker [T], Susan Cook-Scheerer [K/W], Rev. Dr. Mark Harris [ES-S]

The Communication Advisory Committee is responsible for communication across the synod. Over the past two years it has....

- supported Karen Gastmeier, editor of *The Eastern Synod Lutheran* (TESL). The new format of TESL has made it more reader accessible;
- began developing a communication strategy for the synod using the model of the National Church;
- began the search for a new synod logo. A redesign team is being formed.
- began exploring ways in which congregations can offer a forum in which people can share their faith stories. Several individuals have been contacted to facilitate this process. We are awaiting response;
- looked into the possibilities of holding meetings via videoconferencing. Not only would this help cut expenses, but might allow committees to hold more frequent "meetings";
- analyzed the website with regard to readability, accessibility, user appeal. Recommendations have been made to the webmaster.

The three main vehicles of communication within the synod continue to be *The Eastern Synod Lutheran*, *Synod Notes*, and the Website. The retirement of the Rev. Phil Heinze, compounded with the shuffle in synod office following the election of the Rev. Susan Johnson to National Bishop, resulted in the cancellation of our fall meeting. As a result, most of the follow up on our in-progress work was deferred to our spring 2008 meeting. Oh, that videoconferencing was a reality.

Thank you to the Rev. Phil Heinze, synod staff person, for his direction and energy. He will be missed. Thank you to Karen Gastmeier for her excellent work in making *The Eastern Synod Lutheran* a paper we all want to read. Thank you to Cathy Caron for compiling and circulating the *Synod Notes*, which keeps congregations informed about activities within the synod. Thank you to Connie Davison, Cathy Caron and Rev. Heinze for managing the synod website. What a simple yet effective communication tool. To our members, Susan Scheerer-Cook and Erin Anderssen thank you for sharing your gifts with the church. If you have read this far, keep reading. The committee is in need of at least one more member. Are you interested in communication? Do you have ideas on how to get information across the synod in a manner that is time and cost effective and in a form that makes people want to hear it? Then give our new synod staff person, the Rev. Mark Harris a call. Share your gifts with us and the church.

Rev. Dennis Becker
Chairperson, Communication Advisory Committee

Report of the Public Policy Advisory Committee

Committee Roster

Rev. Norine Gullons [O/StL], Rev. Phil Heinze [K/W], Rev. Elina Salonen [L], Michael Schuster [H/N]

Introduction

The Eastern Synod's Public Policy Advisory Committee addresses social policies and social injustices in the public sector. We support the Synod's public witness by helping to discuss these issues, preparing recommendations for Synod Council and advising the Bishop. Over the last two years our focus has been on poverty reduction, affordable housing, expansion of child care, sanctuary policies and corporate social responsibility for Canadian companies.

The **Synod Assembly 2006** (Waterloo) passed the following resolutions in regards to Public Policy issues:

Resolutions

Immigrant and Refugee Concerns

ES 06-13 M/S/C THAT the Eastern Synod, working in partnership with the ELCIC and CLWR,

- Call upon the Canadian government to take steps to develop an immigration policy that better safeguards the rights of those claiming refugee status; and
- Establish a fair and just appeal process for those who are denied refugee status.

FURTHERMORE we,

- Urge our congregations to support and participate in the refugee resettlement campaign of CLWR,
- Request National Church Council to develop guidelines for congregations who choose to offer sanctuary , and
- Ask for Bishop Pryse to communicate actions to congregations and the appropriate elected representatives

Environmental Concerns

ES 06-08 M/S/C THAT the following be referred to the Public Policy Committee of the ELCIC, the Eastern Synod and congregations for implementation:

AND

THAT the Eastern Synod Bishop write the Prime Minister and the Federal Minister of the Environment to express the Assembly's concerns that the government act promptly to reinstate the Ener Guide program or an equivalent, undertake a serious energy conservation program, and provide incentives for sustainable alternative energy sources, and...

CIDA Funding for Augusta Victoria Hospital

ES 06-07 M/S/C THAT the Eastern Synod of the ELCIC urges that approval be given to the request of the ELCIC and CLWR and CIDA make available funding which will enable the continuation of the provision of medical services offered by the Augusta Victoria Hospital in Jerusalem. We add our voice to the chorus of voices from churches and agencies around the world,

AND

THAT Canada and other nations seek to find sustainable solutions to the present crisis in Israel/Palestine, and ensure that essential services, such as health care, continue uninterrupted during the present crisis period.

Other actions undertaken by the Committee

- An article in *The Eastern Synod Lutheran* on Poverty Reduction
- An article in the *Canada Lutheran* on Affordable Housing

- Conducting a Forum at the Synod Assembly (“Let the Children Come to Me”)
- Provided information to congregations through *Synod Notes* (eg. refugee resettlement)
- Supporting the work of KAIROS on Global Economic Justice
- Established a relationship with Rev. Ryan Andersen, Assistant to the Bishop for Stewardship in Public Life (ELCIC)
- Drafting letters for the Bishop to the Prime Minister asking for a national poverty reduction strategy and asking for the federal government to hold Canadian Corporations accountable to Canadian Laws, standards and values for their business conduct in foreign lands
- Collecting information from other agencies regarding Public Policy issues
- Reviewing the CLWR draft policy on sanctuary for refugees
- Working on obtaining more input from Quebec and the Eastern Provinces
- Monitoring the impact of increased funding for Child Care and the Ontario Child Benefit
- Strengthening our relationships with KAIROS

Interfaith Social Assistance Reform Coalition (ISARC)

The committee has also supported the work of ISARC, an Ontario coalition of faith groups and churches by:

- Attending the forums held at Queens Park on the Social Determinants of Health, Child Poverty in Ontario and Poverty Reduction Strategies
- Promoting the latest update of their social audit in the book “Lives Still in the Balance”
- Reviewing the relevance of the recommendations contained in the book

(more information is available about ISARC at <www.isarc.ca>)

Michael Schuster

Chairperson, Public Policy Committee

Report of the Worship Congregational Life Working Group

Committee Roster

Rev. Eric Dyck [O/StL], Debbie Lou Ludolph [K/W], Rev. Fred Ludolph [K/W],
Rev. Tanya Ramer [K/W], Rev. Stephen Scheidt [H/N]

The Worship Congregational Life Working Group seeks to assist Congregational Resource Persons in serving their conferences by highlighting resources and developing a network of skilled people to assist in all areas of worship. We strive to encourage a sharing of information and ideas from the wealth of ability and skill within our Synod.

The Rev. Eric Dyck serves as a liaison between the ELCIC Program Committee for Worship and the Synod's Working Group for Worship. We are grateful for his attendance at our meetings and for the knowledge and insight he brings to our gatherings. We look forward to the upcoming national (ELCIC/ACC) worship event in Montreal this Summer.

During the past two years we have benefited from introductory events for Evangelical Lutheran Worship. Some conferences have had additional workshops and events focusing on our new worship resource. We will continue to look at ways to help congregations more fully utilize the resources of Evangelical Lutheran Worship.

The Congregational Life Worship Resource Persons met last year for a training event, where we focused on items of mutual interest and concern. It was a valuable time to build relationships among the group and to share information and insight.

We look forward to working with the new Director of Worship, Debbie Lou Ludolph. We treasure her background in music and worship and her past experience in Worship leadership for both the Synod and the ELCIC.

Rev. Stephen Scheidt
Chairperson, Worship Congregational Life Working Group

Report of the Learning Congregational Life Working Group

Committee Roster

Susan Jarvis [H/N], Judy Lindeman [H/N], Jackie Nunns [K/W], Viola Weil [L]

Some of the key words in the mandate for CLWGs are - assist, serve, encourage, and support. Our primary contact is with the CRPs.

In response to a *Renewed Vision for Mission* in the Eastern Synod, we developed a set of resources to support adults in their prayer life. There were four bulletin inserts, four skits, a list of prayer resource materials, and the program, "Different People, Different Prayers". Our thanks go out to Dianne Yungblut for writing the skits and to Jackie Nunns for writing the program. These resources were distributed to the congregations for use during Advent 2007 or at a later date.

A training event for all CRPs and CLWGs was held in June 2007. This was an excellent opportunity to meet many people and to discuss our roles. The Learning CLWG and CRPs were able to work on the prayer resource.

Thank you to all who have served and assisted in the last two years.

Susan Jarvis
Chairperson, Learning Congregational Life Working Group

Report of the Witness Congregational Life Working Group

Committee Roster

Rev. Dick Holm [L], Rev. Dr. Allen Jorgenson [K/W], Rev. Lori Pilatzke [O/StL]

A report is not available.

Report of the Support Congregational Life Working Group

Committee Roster

Rod Kruger [K/W], Jeff Pym [ES-S], Rev. Mark Van House [T], Rev. Dean Willich [H/N]

A report is not available.

Report of the Service Congregational Life Working Group

Committee Roster

Maria Featherston [H/N], Margaret Harbinson [L], Rev. Phil Heinze [K/W], Rev. Peter Lisinski [T]

The past two years have been a time of transition for the Service Congregational Life Working Group (SCLWG). In the fall of 2006 our previous chairperson, Rev. Brian Wilker-Frey's term expired; at the end of December 2007 the Rev. Phil Heinze, Assistant to the Bishop and Synod's Liaison to our group, retired – though we are pleased that he will continue to work with us as the representative for the Kitchener/Waterloo Conference. In between, in the spring of 2007, we welcomed our new member, Maria Featherston, of the Hamilton/Niagara Conference.

The work of encouraging compassion for our neediest neighbours in and among our synod's congregations and parishioners, and publicly promoting social justice within its vast territory remains the SCLWG's focus. Reports received from our conference resource persons indicate that a

wide variety of congregational social ministries are being fulfilled, and that educational workshops and forums are regularly sponsored by the conferences. Delegates are encouraged to visit the Service Congregational Life page of the synod's website <www.easternsynod.org> – and/or encourage their respective congregational committees to do so – in order to access the material and financial resources that may enhance the effectiveness of our service initiatives. You may also consider contacting your conference's SCLWG Resource Person.

During the past biennium issues of climate change and stewardship of the environment have become a prominent concern for our church, particularly at the national level. In order to avoid unnecessary duplication our SCLWG has intentionally chosen the equally large issue of peace as our focus for the next two years. We have further identified six specific areas of concentration: Native Land Claims, Racism, Poverty, Housing, Women's Issues, and Corporate Responsibility.

At the ELCIC National Assembly in June 2007, a motion presented on behalf of our SCLWG – that our Bishops encourage Canada's federal government “to develop and pass binding legislation to hold Canadian corporations accountable to Canadian laws, standards and values for their business conduct in foreign lands” was enthusiastically adopted; and Bishop Michael Pryse's letter to Prime Minister Stephen Harper was sent early in January 2008. This is but one small example of our collective vocation to be in mission for others.

With thanks to my colleagues of our Service Congregational Life Working Group for their companionship, vigilance and persistence in our oft-overwhelming work, and to Pastor Phil Heinze for his wisdom, knowledge and leadership, and on their behalf, I offer this report and invite your prayers and suggestions.

Rev. Peter Lisinski
Chairperson, Service Congregational Life Working Group

Report of the Youth Congregational Life Working Group

Committee Roster

Rev. Joel Crouse [O/StL], Ian Koellner [O/StL], Rev. Nadine Nicholds [T],
Rev. John Polacok [GB], Rev. Robert Wiesner [K/W]

The work of the Congregational Life Working Group for Youth Ministry and the Synod Youth Council (SYC) continues to be both busy and challenging. As outlined in our mandate of the Lutheran Youth Movement (LYM) introduced at the 2004 Synod Assembly, our primary function continues to be the support and resourcing of the Conference Resource People (CRPs) in the Eastern Synod as well as to support and work with the SYC. This support takes the form of facilitating network opportunities between the CRPs and SYC members, as well as regular meetings with the SYC.

The establishment of the LYM has been an opportunity for learning and growth for all involved. Progress has been made in establishing Conference Youth Councils (CYC) in most of the eight conferences that comprise the Eastern Synod. Member of the CYC, along with their SYC representative and the CRP are growing into this new role and ministry and thereby giving it voice and expression that is unique to each conference. Many conference - based activities have been planned and implemented with varying degrees of success. The establishment of the CYC has truly been an experience of empowerment and leadership development among the Youth of this Synod. There is much work to be done though if we are to truly reinvigorate and give voice to our young people.

To that end, some highlights of the past biennium, include “Go Deep”, the Eastern Synod Youth Gathering held in August 2007, at the University of Ottawa. More than 120 participants were

involved in this event and planning is currently underway for the next Gathering to be held in 2009.

In addition to “Go Deep”, the CLWG-Y and the SYC met November 9-10, 2007 and planned for the Conference Resource Person Training Event. Included in the Youth Leadership training CLWG - Youth have been asked to approach the Conference Resource People in order to re-create the CRP Training Event *In Mission For Others* in their own conferences, with options for expansions in the future. At the end of this event, the CRP’s would invite those in attendance to bring forth what they perceived to be or have observed to be some of the “tough questions” facing the church today. Its goal is to give our young people the opportunity to ask questions they may not always feel comfortable asking in their regular church setting, and to bring forth ideas they believe can have a positive impact not only on youth ministry in the synod, but which can benefit the wider church.

The SYC and CLWG-Y also worked together in crafting worship services for congregational use in support of the National Youth Project “Reunión”. This was an extension of CLWG-Y’s efforts, through dance and story to introduce “Reunión” to those present at the Synod Youth Gathering in Ottawa. It is our hope that the greater church will respond as our young people already have and join with them to raise the \$25,000 the youth of the IELB (Bolivian Evangelical Lutheran Church) are seeking to meet in national gatherings (Reunión means “Gathering” in Spanish), to study the Bible, learn about the problems facing their people, and gain leadership skills. They are taking strong leadership in their church as they proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ in word and deed.

The CLWG-Y and SYC appreciates the work and commitment of all those involved in deepening awareness of the contributions of our young people to the church and for supporting the youth and youth ministry in the synod. Remember, they are not the future of the church. They are the church today.

Rev. John M. Polacok
Chairperson, Youth Congregational Life Working Group