

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.~~
- ~~c. 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.
- ~~c. 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.~~
- ~~c. 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 11. 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.