

**EASTERN SYNOD** of the  
**Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada**

74 Weber Street West, Kitchener, ON N2H 3Z3  
Phone (519) 743-1461 Fax (519) 743-4291  
Toll Free 1-877-373-5242

**BISHOP**

The Rev. Michael J. Pryse  
mpryse@elcic.ca

**ASSISTANTS TO THE BISHOP**

The Rev. Guenter F. Dahle  
gdahle@elcic.ca

The Rev. Dr. Mark W. Harris  
mharris@elcic.ca



October 6, 2008

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

During our Eastern Synod Assembly this summer in London, Ontario we adopted the following motion:

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.

On Wednesday June 11, 2008, many of us watched as The Right Honourable Stephen Harper, Prime Minister made an apology to the Assembly of First Nations, Inuit and Métis. National Chief Phil Fontaine responded to the apology. This has become an historic moment in our Canadian history. I encourage you, our synod congregations, to express your 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. Please continue to hold these partners up in prayer.

As we worship, work, and live in community with others, be they our neighbors, family or friends, I encourage you, as people of God to be aware of, sensitive to and supportive of the work of reconciliation and transformation among the peoples of your particular communities.

Do not be afraid to take small steps forward toward the truth of what has happened and move towards authentic reconciliation. Do not be afraid to develop ecumenical partnerships on the grassroots level. Do not be afraid to support the vision of human rights and their principles and values to strengthen joint initiatives and to build relationships.

Sincerely,

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Bishop Michael J Pryse, Eastern Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada  
MJP/cd

cc: Archbishop Fred Hiltz, Primate, of the Anglican Church of Canada  
The Rev. Susan Johnson, National Bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada