

June 2014

To the congregations, schools and church workers of the ABC District,

*Grace, mercy, and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord. (1Tim 1:2b)*

The convention of our Alberta-British Columbia District will take place in roughly eleven months. It is at this convention where we will elect officers for the next triennium. As people look ahead to that convention, a number of individuals have asked me if I will allow my name to stand in nomination to serve another term as District President.

In 2015 I will turn 64 and will have served in the ministry for 39 years. However, these are not the primary considerations. I was elected to the position of District President in 2000. By the time of our 2015 convention, I will have served five terms - fifteen years - in this office. Over these last five terms, I have had many a pastor call me to say that he feels it is time for him to move on. Pastors have told me, for example, that they believe they have gotten “stale”; or they are afraid the congregations are beginning to take on some of their weaknesses. Particularly in these last several months, I have resonated with the sense that “it’s time”.

After much prayer and conversation with family and co-workers, I have decided that I will not accept a nomination to serve another term in this capacity. I believe, with respect to my service as District President, it is time for me to step aside and for new leadership to take the helm, so to speak.

There are and always will be challenges of one sort or another within our District. Overall, things are going relatively well. I also recognize that there is a “best before” date in terms of my service as District President. I love our Lutheran Church-Canada and I love our Alberta-British Columbia District. It would pain me deeply to know that our beloved District is not receiving the kind of care and leadership from her District President that she needs. So at this point in my life and vocation, I have become convinced that I can best serve our District by allowing someone else to move in to this position.

In a couple of weeks, our first pre-convention bulletin will be sent out. This will contain instructions to our congregations and church workers on the process for nominating someone for the position of District President. As we prepare for that process which will ultimately lead to an election, I urge that we single-mindedly come to Him who

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answers prayer and humbly ask that our gracious Lord would guide and direct our Church to lead us to the man of His choosing, the one who will serve as our next District President.

As I pointed out at the beginning of this letter, our District Convention is eleven months away. We have much work to do and I don't plan on "coasting" to the end of this term. I look forward to our continued work together for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ, our all-sufficient Saviour.

Finally, as St. Paul prayed for the Church in Ephesus, so I pray for our Alberta-British Columbia District:

*<sup>16</sup>I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, <sup>17</sup>so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, <sup>18</sup>may have power, together with all the saints, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, <sup>19</sup>and to know this love that surpasses knowledge--that you may be filled to the measure of all the fulness of God. <sup>20</sup>Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, <sup>21</sup>to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen. (Eph. 3:16-21)*

Sincerely in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Donald Schiemann". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "D" and a long, sweeping underline.

Rev. Donald Schiemann, President  
Alberta-British Columbia District  
Lutheran Church-Canada