

FOREWORD

The 2017 *Convention Workbook* is a valuable resource for anyone preparing for the Eleventh Convention of our Lutheran Church-Canada, set for October 13-16, at the Crowne Plaza Hotel, Kitchener, ON. It helps you get your bearings for this “family gathering,” whether you are a voting or advisory delegate, an official visitor or an interested guest. This book includes reports from the Synod’s officers, its standing boards and commissions, from all its districts, its educational institutions, and from its auxiliaries and Listed Service Organizations (LSO’s).

Please pay special attention to the section recording so-called “overtures.” These were due in our Winnipeg office by mid-June. An overture is basically a request from a congregation, an authorized board or commission, or another official entity asking the Convention to take a particular action. The title of each overture tries to say in a brief, clear way what the concern of that specific request is.

Though this book records numerous overtures, they do not come in that form before the Convention sessions. In mid-July I appointed three Resolutions Committees to work through them. After their review of the overtures, the committees will provide “proposed resolutions” on the subjects the overtures address. These committees perform a helpful service, but they do not have the final word. Voting delegates to the Convention may amend their proposed resolutions, accept them, decline them, or even go back to one of the original overtures if that is the assembly’s will. **This points to important homework for you delegates: Please read carefully and study the resources provided in this *Workbook*! That is the best way to understand the issues so you are able to respond wisely in Kitchener.** In the final weeks before the Convention, the initial batch of proposed resolutions from the Resolutions Committees will be sent as a separate publication to all delegates.

Pastor Paul Schallhorn of Tillsonburg, ON, has served as Synod’s Secretary in this triennium. He has devoted much effort to the details of his work. While Pastor Schallhorn has the ultimate responsibility for publishing this volume, he has carried out this responsibility relying strongly on our staff members at the Synod’s office in Winnipeg. We thank any and all who submitted reports and other resources for this *Convention Workbook*. I would be negligent if I did not give special acknowledgement to my administrative assistant, Marlene Mohr, and to our office manager, Iris Barta, who have supervised this project within our office.

Christ Alone, Christ Forever 1517-2017: The 2017 Convention theme points in many directions. “Christ alone” – solus Christus – was one of Luther’s great Reformation concerns, and this Convention meets within a few weeks of the 500th Anniversary of the start of the Reformation. But “Christ alone” is never just a reminder of some emphasis needed by other people at some faraway past time in history. He is also our Lord, our need, and God’s solution for us right now. It will be that way until the end of time. This is why we’re also focusing on “Christ forever.” Pray that the Lord will bless the preparations for our “family gathering” in mid-October, for the time we have together there, and for your personal part in it all!

Rev. Dr. Robert Bugbee, President
Lutheran Church—Canada

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LUTHERAN CHURCH—CANADA
Eleventh Convention
PROPOSED SUMMARY AGENDA

(Full Agenda to be published in the Initial Edition of Today's Business)

Friday, October 13

1:00-7:00 p.m. Registration
1:00 p.m. All Resolutions Committees meet in assigned rooms and are free to adjourn on completion of their work.
2:00 p.m. Board of Directors
4:00-5:00 p.m. **BUSINESS SESSION 1**
Welcome & Introductions
Convention Delegate Orientation
Orientation and Organization
Special Standing Rules
Adoption of Agenda
5:30 p.m. Dinner
7:30 p.m. Opening Communion Service at Historic St. Paul's Lutheran Church
9:30 p.m. Reception

Saturday, October 14

6:45-8:00 Breakfast/Info Meal LHM-Canada
7:00 a.m. Late Registration
8:15 a.m. Devotion/Bible Study
9:00 a.m. **BUSINESS SESSION 2**
12:00 p.m. Closing Prayer
12:15 p.m. Lunch/Info Meal LFC
1:30 p.m. **BUSINESS SESSION 3**
3:00 p.m. Break
3:15 p.m. **BUSINESS SESSION 3 (Cont.)**
5:00 p.m. Closing Prayer
5:15 p.m. Dinner
7:30/8:00 p.m. Reformation Celebration Event, Grace Lutheran Church

Sunday, October 15

6:45-8:00 a.m. Breakfast/Info Meal CLMS
8:15 a.m. Worship in Convention Venue
9:30 a.m. Break
9:45 a.m. **BUSINESS SESSION 4**
12:00 p.m. Closing Prayer
12:15 p.m. Lunch/Info Meal LWMLC
1:30 p.m. Devotion/Bible Study
2:15 p.m. **BUSINESS SESSION 5**
3:30 p.m. Break
3:45 p.m. **BUSINESS SESSION 5 (Cont.)**
3:45 p.m. Exhibits and Bookstore close
6:00 p.m. Closing Prayer
6:30 p.m. Banquet Dinner
8:00 p.m. President's Reception

Monday, October 16

6:45-8:00 a.m. Breakfast/Info Meal CLWR
8:15 a.m. Devotion/Bible study
9:00 a.m. **BUSINESS SESSION 6**
Resolutions Committees
Other Unfinished Items
Approval of Minutes
Closing Devotion
12:00 p.m. Adjournment
12:15 p.m. Lunch
1:00 p.m. Bus #1 departs for airport (3:30+ departures)
2:00 p.m. Bus #2 departs for airport (4:30+ departures)

SPECIAL STANDING RULES (proposed)

1. A delegate wishing to address the convention should approach one of the floor microphones, and, when recognized by the chair, state his or her name. The delegate shall also state the name of the district or administrative unit (eg: board, committee, faculty) he or she represents.
2. A three-minute limitation shall be applied to all who speak from the floor.
3. All new business, including that which arises from overtures and recommendations contained in reports, shall come before the convention only through the appropriate resolutions committee (Bylaw 2.19f).
4. The preface, preamble and whereas sections shall be considered an integral part of a resolution and any action pertaining to the resolution applies to all its parts.
5. If substitute motions are offered, they shall be handled according to Robert's Rules of Order.
6. Resolutions prepared by the Resolutions Committee, which are not acted upon by the convention before adjournment, die.
7. Unless covered by these Standing Rules of the convention, parliamentary procedures shall be governed by Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised, latest edition.

A PRIMER OF PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURE**A. Purpose of Parliamentary Law and Procedure**

The purpose of parliamentary procedure is to carry out the aims of the assembly in an orderly and fair manner, to expedite business, to insure justice and fairness to all, both the majority and the minority. It is not the purpose of parliamentary procedure to make the conduct of business in an assembly difficult, or to entangle an assembly in technicalities, or to provide a channel for individuals to flaunt their parliamentary knowledge.

B. Basic Steps of Parliamentary Procedure

The chairman and members of the assembly should be acquainted with and observe eight basic, essential parliamentary steps to take care of convention business in an orderly and fair manner.

They are:

Members:

1. Address the Chair, "Mr. Chairman" (or "Mr. President".)
2. Await recognition by the Chair.

3. Make the motion, "I move that..."

4. Second the motion. (Unless not required.)

Chair:

5. States the motion. (Or rules it out of order.)

6. Calls for discussion. (Unless motion is undebatable.)

"Is there any discussion?" or "Are there any remarks?" Ample opportunity must always be given for expression of opinion and discussion.

7. Takes the vote. (Or "Puts the question.")

First calls for the affirmative vote, then the negative. (A tie vote defeats the motion, since a majority is required to adopt-unless the motion requires a 2/3 vote.)

8. States the results.

The motion is carried, or, the motion is lost. The vote does not go into effect until the results are announced.

BASIC PARLIAMENTARY PRINCIPLES FOR SYNOD CONVENTION

1. A Synod convention is a parliamentary assembly called to deliberate and to make decisions. From time to time it defines the privileges, the rights, and the duties of the members of Synod and sets up or changes the framework of the synodical organization. It hears the reports of its officers, board, and commissions as to what these have done with their constitutional and convention directives and receives and passes on proposals for their future activity.
2. All voting delegates have equal rights, privileges, and obligations.
3. The vote of the majority decides. The will of a Synod convention is determined by the taking of a vote.
4. Free discussion of every proposition or resolution presented for decision is an established right for all delegates, voting and advisory. The convention has the right to decide when it has heard sufficient discussion. This right, however, should be exercised with restraint.
5. Both proponents and opponents of a given proposal have rights which must be safeguarded. The decision belongs to the majority, but the right to discuss, the right to be heard, and the right to oppose should be upheld. A member of the majority on one question is often a member of the minority on another.
6. The simplest and most direct parliamentary procedure for accomplishing a purpose would be followed rather than taking devious routes multiplying technicalities.

CONVENTION GLOSSARY

Ad Hoc Committee

Special committee with a limited assignment and a limited life.

Advisory Delegate

A certified member of the convention with the right to speak, but without vote. However, if appointed to a floor committee, entitled to vote there.

Agenda

A list of items of convention business "to be done."

Alternate

A full-time substitute to take the place of a delegate to the convention, if necessary.

Amend

To change or modify a resolution or motion.

Appeal

An appeal from a decision of the chair requires that the decision be referred to the convention for its immediate decision by a vote.

Audit

Official examination and verification of accounts.

Bylaw

A rule of Synod or district ranking immediately below the constitution in authority and above standing rules.

Chair

The presiding officer of the convention, usually the president, or temporarily a vice-president.

Constitution

The statement of the basic principles and structures of Synod, the highest continuing authority created by the association of congregations, pastors, deacons constituting Synod. The synodical constitution is also the constitution of all of its districts.

Division of the House

A vote taken by rising to verify a voice vote at the call of the chair or at the request of a voting delegate.

General Consent

An informal method of disposing of routine and generally favoured proposals by assuming approval of a request unless immediate objection is raised.

Handbook

A manual containing the synodical Articles of Incorporation, the synodical constitution and bylaws.

In Order

Correct from a parliamentary standpoint at a given time.

Lay on the Table

To set aside a motion or a proposed resolution for consideration in the indefinite future. If adopted, it usually kills consideration of an action on the main motion by postponing it without a set time to take it up again. If this is not the intent, the motion should be not

to table but to postpone, preferably to a set time.

Majority

More than half the votes cast. The synodical constitution provides: "All matters of doctrine and of conscience shall be decided only by the Word of God. All other matters shall be decided by a majority vote." This means a simple majority in all instances except those which involve a proposed constitutional amendment; they require a two-thirds affirmative vote of all votes cast. Certain procedural motions also require a two-thirds majority.

Out of Order

Not correct from a parliamentary standpoint at that particular time.

Overture

A recommendation, proposed resolution, or petition submitted by a member congregation of Synod, or other group recognized in the bylaws.

Parliamentarian

A person or persons designated by the chair to advise him on the applicability of parliamentary principles and procedures in a given situation.

Pending

Not yet decided. A pending motion is one that has been stated by the chair, but is not yet disposed of by vote.

Point of Order

Any delegate may promptly call attention to the fact that the rules of Synod or its convention are seemingly not in force by saying, "I rise to a point of order." Upon hearing the point made, the chair rules as to its validity.

Postpone

To defer action on a question or proposed resolution (1) indefinitely, or (2) until a certain specified time.

Preamble

The introductory part of a resolution or report, usually in the form of whereas. The assembly has the right to amend these since they are part of the resolution when presented together with the resolves.

Previous Question

A motion calling for the previous question stops all discussion or debate if two-thirds of the voting delegates vote "Yes" after a motion has been made and seconded to call for the previous question. When two-thirds of the voting delegates have responded "Yes" the chair must immediately call a vote on the motion pending before the convention.

Privileged Motion.

A motion, such as to recess, to fix the time of the next session and to change the order of the day. It takes precedence over all other motions.

Putting the Question

The taking of the vote by the chair.

Question

A subject or point of debate or a resolution being, or to be voted on.

Quorum

The fewest number of delegates that can be present and still permit business to be transacted.

Report

Usually the formal accounting given by an officer, a board, a department, a committee, or a commission of the discharge of its responsibilities under the constitution and bylaws of Synod, such as accounting to be evaluated by the delegate convention of Synod.

Rescind

To annul or to cancel. To undo or reverse a previous decision.

Resolution

A formal proposal submitted previously in writing by convention floor committee for action by the convention.

Resolutions Committee

(Floor Committee) A working group of convention voting and advisory delegates to whom the processing of a share of convention business is entrusted for recommendation in turn to the convention proper.

Seriatim

In a series; one after another.

Substitute Amendment

When a full paragraph, section, or resolution is dropped and another is inserted in its place.

Table

(See also "Lay on the Table") To set aside a motion or a proposed resolution for consideration in the indefinite future. If adopted it usually kills consideration of an action on the main motion by postponing it without a set time to take it up again.

ELECTION INSTRUCTIONS/COMMENTS

After a brief introduction of the members of the Election Committee, the chair of the Committee will provide the convention with the following election instructions/comments.

1. All elections shall be conducted according to the appropriate bylaws of Synod (2.505, 2.515, 2.531-2.539) and any special standing rules which might be adopted by the convention.
2. The Elections Committee is responsible for all matters pertaining to elections, but is not responsible for matters pertaining to nominations.
3. All voting will be carried out in a very specific order/sequence:

A President (1)

B Vice-presidents - 1 from each district.

C Board of Directors (3 lay people; 1 Central; 2 ABC; 1 pastor-at-large)

D Ranking of Vice-presidents.

E Other Elected Boards and Commissions:

i. Board of Regents:

(a) CLS, Edmonton (1 each District)
Require 1 pastor and 2 lay or deacon

(b) CLTS, St. Catharines. (1 each District)
Require 1 pastor and 2 lay or deacon

ii Commission on Adjudication (3 church workers, 1 from each District)

iii. Commission On Theology And Church Relations (1 lay)

4. More than one ballot may be required to complete the voting in any specific category.
5. The Election Committee is responsible for:
 - S The preparation, presentation, distribution, collection, counting and reporting of the ballots.
 - S The preparation of a master report for the secretary of the convention for inclusion in the official minutes.
6. Ballots will only be distributed to voting convention delegates who are seated in their designated section on the convention floor (includes committees meeting and those on convention platform).
7. No other convention business will be conducted or announcements made while balloting is taking place.
8. All voting requires delegates to mark the ballot with an "X" in the appropriate space beside the name of the candidate(s) for whom they are voting. The process for the ranking vice-presidents is noted below.
9. The identity of the election taking place, the number of candidates to be elected, and any pertinent information for each vote that will be conducted, shall appear at the top of each ballot that is distributed during the election process.
10. The name and the district affiliations of the candidates in all elections (at least two for each position) shall be placed on the election ballot in alphabetical order and without any distinctive mark, except where regional representation is a synodical preference or requirement.
11. Ballots shall be colour-coded as to series and contain the sequential number of the ballots required to complete the election in any specific series.
12. A majority of all votes cast shall be required for election to all executive offices and elective board positions. Spoiled or blank ballots or abstentions are not counted as votes cast.
13. The election of president shall follow Synodical

Bylaw 2.505. The election of Vice-presidents shall follow Synodical Bylaw 2.515.

14. Ranking of Vice-presidents:

The First Vice-president: Delegates will vote for one of the three Vice Presidents. The Vice President receiving the majority of the votes will be the First Vice-president. If no majority is received on the first ballot, the Vice-president who receives the lowest number of votes will be eliminated from the second ballot.

The Second Vice-president: Delegates will vote for one from the two remaining Vice-presidents. The Vice-president receiving the majority of the votes will be the Second Vice-president. The remaining Vice-president will be the Third Vice-president.

15. The following regulations shall apply for the election of all Boards and Commissions:

- Delegates will vote for as many candidates as are to be elected. If more than the required number of candidates receive a majority, those candidates who have received the greatest number of votes shall be declared elected provided that regional or clergy and

lay requirements are met.

- When a second or succeeding ballot is required, those candidates in each category receiving no votes, as well as those candidates receiving less than 15% of the votes cast shall be dropped from the ballot. If more than two candidates receive less than 15% of the votes cast, the three highest candidates shall remain on the ballot.

16. The tally of the votes cast for each candidate shall be announced after each ballot in all elections in the order that the candidates appeared on the ballot.

17. After ballot results are reported, the Elections Committee shall indicate which names are to be dropped. Thereupon, any other candidates who wish to do so may withdraw their names from subsequent balloting.

18. All ballots in each election shall be preserved by the chairman of the Elections Committee until the close of the convention and shall then be destroyed.

19. The president shall determine and announce a period of time during the convention for the election of the members of all elective boards and commissions.

Lutheran Church—Canada

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1-800-LUTHCAN (1-800-588-4226)

Officers:

President: Rev. Robert Bugbee, (2017)

President Emeritus: Rev. Dr. Ralph Mayan

President Emeritus: Rev. Dr. Edwin Lehman,

Vice-president: Rev. Nolan Astley (2017)

Vice-president: Rev. Rudy Pastucha (2017)

Vice-president: Rev. Thomas Kruesel, (2017)

Secretary: Rev. Paul Schallhorn, (2017)

Treasurer: Dwayne Cleave

Board of Directors

Officers:

Chairman: Arnold Drung; Secretary: Rev. Paul Schallhorn

Clergy members:

Rev. Dr. Robert Bugbee (2017); Rev. Nolan Astley, (2017); Rev. Kurt Reinhardt (2020); Rev. Thomas Kruesel (2017); Rev. Rudy Pastucha (2014); Rev. Paul Schallhorn (2017)

Lay members:

Arnold Drung (2020); Grace Henderson (2017); Cam Pelzer (2017); Ronald Roller (2017); Cindy Sholdice (2020); Alan Schmitt (2020)

Legal Counsel:

Thomas P. Dooley, Aikins, MacAulay & Thorvaldson, Barristers & Solicitors, 30th Floor
360 Main Street Winnipeg MB R3C 4G1

COMMITTEES OF THE BOARD

Committee for Mission and Social Ministry Services

Jane Ford; Rev. Kurt Reinhardt; Rev. James Wood; Rev. Dr. David Somers; Larry Walter Staff: Rev. Dr. Leonardo Neitzel

Committee for Communication & Technology

Grace Henderson; Michael Schutz; Staff: Mathew Block; Advisory: Stephen Klinck, Glen Demetriooff

Committee on Worship and Music

TBA

Committee on Cultural Properties and Archives

TBA

BOARDS OF REGENTS

Concordia Lutheran Theological Seminary - St.

Catharines, ON:

Rev. Nolan Astley (2017); Ivan Boles (2017); Rev. Robert Krestick, chairman (2017); Rev. Cameron Schnarr (2020); Bruno Korst (2020); Wayne Timm (2017); Rev. Dan Abraham (2020); Rev. Paul Zabel (ex officio); Rev. Dr. Thomas Winger, president

Concordia Lutheran Seminary - Edmonton, AB:

Karen Gallas (2017); Central Clergy - Vacant; Rev. Rudy Pastucha (2020); Christopher Klarenbach (2017); Ian Lande (2020); Rev. Scott Lyons (2020); Rev. Daryl Solie, chairman (2020); Rev. Dr. James Gimbel, President; Rev. Dr. Glen Schaeffer (ex officio)

COMMISSIONS

Commission on Adjudication

Rev. Harold Borchardt (2020); Deacon Monica Schultz (2020); Rev. Richard Frey (2020); Darcy Werschler (2017); Jeffrey Kriwetz (2017); Rev. Neil Stern, chairman (2017); ABC: Francis Taman (2015); CENT: Vacant; EAST: Kevin Sandham, secretary (2018)

Commission on Reconciliation

Alberta—British Columbia District:

Phil Brose (2018); Todd Hennig (2015); Rev. Jim Schuelke (2015); Francis Taman (2015); Rev. Phil Washeim (2018)

Central District:

Rev. Harold Borchardt (2015); Gerald Greinke (2015); Gloria Rathgeber (2015); Amanda Hastings (2015)

East District:

Rev. Dr. Bryan King (2015); Roger Kleebaum (2018); Rev. Dr. Kevin Fast (2018); Doug McLaren (2015); Rev. Nolan Astley (2015)

Commission on Constitutional Matters and Structure

Gary Gilmore (2017); Rev. Paul Schallhorn; Rev. William R.A.Ney (2020); Rev. Dennis Putzman (2020); Staff: Rev. Robert Bugbee

Advisory: Rev. Dr. Harold Ristau; Marilyn Schultz, Deacon Jennifer Frim

Commission on Theology and Church Relations

Rev. Warren Hamp, chairman (2017); Rev. Dr. James Gimbel (2020); Rev. Jim Heinbuch (2017); Rev. Joel Kuhl (2020); Cliff Pyle (2020); Rev. Dr. John Stephenson (2020); Paul Walrath (2017); Staff: Rev. Robert Bugbee

COUNCILS

Council of Presidents

Rev. Thomas Prachar, chairman; Rev. Robert Bugbee; Rev. Nolan Astley, secretary; Rev. Thomas Kruesel, vice Chairman; Rev. Paul Zabel; Rev. Rudy Pastucha; Rev. Dr. Glenn Schaeffer; Rev. Dr. Ralph Mayan; Rev. Dr. Edwin Lehman;

Placement Committee

Rev. Robert Bugbee; Rev. Paul Zabel; Rev. Thomas Prachar; Rev. Nolan Astley

Colloquy Committee for the Pastoral Ministry

Rev. Dr. Thomas Winger; Rev. Thomas Kruesel; Rev. Dr. Norman Threinan

Colloquy Committee for Teachers

Rev. Dr. Thomas Winger; Rev. Dr. Gerald Krispin; Rev. Thomas Kruesel; Rev. Dr. James Gimbel

OTHER SYNODICAL ENTITIES

Board of Managers– Worker Benefit Plans

Board: Ellen Nygaard (2016); Rev. Dr. Dieter Kays, chair (2017); Ken Griffin (2017); Dwayne Cleave (ex-officio)

Lutheran Church–Canada Financial Ministries

Board: Cindy Gellner (2017); Bruce Brubacher (2017); Randy Stefan (2017); Lynda Saar (2017); Dan Ashton (2018); Rev. Mark Danielson (2018); Bill McLean (2019); Ron Dagg (2019); Larry Walter (2019); *Advisory:* Dwayne Cleave, Rev. Robert Bugbee, Allen Schellenberg; Alfred Feth; David Friesen

AUXILIARIES

Concordia Lutheran Mission Society
International Lutheran Laymen's League
Lutheran Layman's League Canada
Lutheran Women's Missionary League–Canada

LISTED SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS

Mission Organizations

BC Mission Boat Society
Crew Ministries
Haiti Lutheran Mission Society
Lutheran Association of Missionaries and Pilots
Lutheran Bible Translators of Canada
Lutherans for Life – Canada
Lutherans for Life of Pembroke & Area
Malabar Mission Society
Philoxenia/Hospitality Ministry

Social Ministry Organizations

Lutheran Community Care Centre
Lutheran Hospital Ministry of Northern Alberta
The Rock Lutheran Inner City Society
Bethany Pioneer Village Inc.
Wagner Hills Farm Society

LUTHERAN COOPERATIVE AGENCIES

Lutheran Council in Canada
Canadian Lutheran World Relief

CONVENTION DELEGATES

Alberta British Columbia District**Clergy**

Craig	Andrew	Lethbridge
Boehm	Curtis	Edmonton
Kubke	Roland	Stony Plain
Dressler	David	Calgary
Rink	Fred	Vancouver
Hoveland	Keith	Stony Plain
Hautz	Laverne	Fraser Valley
Kraemer	Jonathan	Edmonton
Wemyss	Ian	Fraser Valley
Schultz	Mark	Wetaskiwin
Tufts	Craig	Okanagan
Reddemann	Lorne	Cariboo
Abresch	Ron	Kootenay
Lyons	Scott	Vancouver Island
Bode	David	Calgary
Schutz	Michael	Okanagan
Eifert	Ken	Peace River
Moore	Vincent	Elk Island
Howard	Russell	Wetaskiwin

Lay

Jarvis	Fred	Okanagan
Walter	Larry	Calgary
Rodgers	Tyler	Lethbridge
Friesen	Clifford	Wetaskiwin
Eidick	Bruce	Edmonton
Mitchell	David	Edmonton
Hennig	Brent	Stony Plain
Schulze	Stan	Wetaskiwin
Faulkner	Ron	Elk Island
Smith	Marvin	Kootenay
Kaut	Jurgen	Peace River
Schellenberg	Allen	Vancouver
Hardy	Audrey	Okanagan
Felstead	Robert	Calgary
Laslop	Paul	Stony Plain
Trithardt	Susan	Fraser Valley
Nystrom	Roland	Vancouver Island
Welke	Rick	Cariboo
Schroenroth	Kevin	Fraser Valley

Advisory

Paulgaard	James	district BOD advisory
Fraser	William	district BOD advisory
Chambers	Steve	district clergy advisory
Haberstock	Cliff	district clergy advisory
Winstanley	Miriam	district diaconate advisory
Haberstock	Caleb	district youth advisory
New	Jacob	district youth advisory

Central District**Clergy**

Anderson	Gerald	Qu'Appelle
Schnarr	Cam	Red River
Falkenholt	Brian	Ontario
Schoubye	Harald	Red River
Chimirri-Russel	James	Wascana
Gust	Arron	Assiniboine
Kleemola	Randy	Southland
Quast	Jacob	Ontario
Rapp	John	Northland
Klages	Alex	Portage
Giese	Ted	Wascana
Keith	Murray	Saskatoon
Wood	Barry	Assiniboine

Lay

Ulmer	Calvin	Qu'Appelle
Buck	David	Southland
Marfleet	Jeff	Assiniboine
Haas	Todd	Assiniboine
Kangas	Eldon	Ontario
Wall	Jordan	Red River
Rocheleau	Merv	Northland
Madsen	Linda	Ontario
Cullen	John	Red River
Kendel	Dennis	Saskatoon
Heinemann	Walter	Wascana
Turner	Eileen	Portage
Raedecke	Mike	Wascana

Maunula	Michael	district BOD advisory
Paulus	Don	district office advisory
Koch	Don	district clergy advisory
Hastings	Amanda	district diaconate advisory
Wodajo	Kengnan	district youth advisory
Dobrohoczki	Kale	district youth advisory

East District**Clergy**

Bublitz	Marvin	Stratford
Voegel	Kenneth	London
Koehler	Mark	Hamilton
Tillinger	Dusan	Windsor
Clifford	Robert	Hanover
Christoforidis	Vasilios	Toronto
Schroth	Andy	Kitchener
Pakrul	Peter	Toronto
Korsch	Robin	Kitchener
Meleg	Michael	Hamilton
Kuhl	Joel	Kitchener
Ritter	Larry	Niagara
Stefanik	Darryl	Niagara
Schieman	Donald A.	London
King	Bryan	Ottawa
Smilek	David	Ottawa
Teuscher	Timothy	Stratford

Lay

Putzman	Dan	Niagara
Keller	Earl	Stratford
Oberholzer	John	Kitchener
Tiegs	Reginald	Toronto
Famme	Howard	Stratford
Hogg	John	Hanover
Keller	Roger	London
Straby	Bill	Ottawa
Wolfe	Don	Niagara
Wenzel	Rick	Hamilton
Schweyer	Mark	Hamilton
Von Zuben	Edward	Toronto
Krestick	James	Windsor
Currie	Kenneth	Ottawa
Fooks	Barb	Kitchener
Wilson	Robert	London
Witzke	Karl	Kitchener

Advisory

Griffin	Lois	district BOD advisory
Schallhorn	Rosalie	district diaconate advisory
Holland	Darryll	district office advisory
Winger	Roger	district clergy advisory
Syons	Roland	district clergy advisory
Johnson	Isaac	district youth advisory
Hunt	Davian	district youth advisory

OTHER ADVISORY DELEGATES AND REPRESENTATIVES

<i>President</i>	Rev. Dr. Robert Bugbee
<i>President Emeritus</i>	Rev. Dr. Ralph Mayan
<i>President Emeritus</i>	Rev. Dr. Edwin Lehman
<i>Vice-presidents</i>	Rev. Nolan Astley
	Rev. Thomas Kruesel
	Rev. Rudy Pastucha
<i>Secretary</i>	Rev. Paul Schallhorn
<i>Treasurer</i>	Mr. Dwayne Cleave
<i>District Presidents</i>	Rev. Paul Zabel
	Rev. Thomas Prachar
	Rev. Dr. Glenn Schaeffer

Board of Directors

Rev. Dr. Robert Bugbee, Rev. Nolan Astley,
Rev. Thomas Kruesel, Rev. Rudy Pastucha, Dwayne Cleave
Rev. Paul Schallhorn, Rev. Kurt Reinhardt
Arnold Drung, Cindy Sholdice, Ronald Roller,
Grace Henderson, Cameron Pelzer, Alan Schmitt

Committee for Communication and Technology

Grace Henderson

Committee for Cultural Property and Archives

N/A

Committee for Mission and Social Ministry Services

Rev. Leonardo Neitzel

Commission on Adjudication

Rev. Neil Stern

Commission on Constitutional Matters and Structure

Rev. Dr. Robert Bugbee, Rev. Paul Schallhorn,
Rev. Bill Ney, Rev. Dennis Putzman, Rev. Dr. Harold Ristau
Marilyn Schultz, Deacon Jennifer Frim, Gary Gilmore

Commission on Theology and Church Relations

Rev. Warren Hamp

Lutheran Church—Canada Financial Ministries

Mr. Allen Schellenberg

Board of Managers-Worker Benefits

Rev. Dr. Dieter Kays

Board of Regents - CLS Edmonton AB

Rev. Dr. James Gimbel, Rev. Daryl Solie

Board of Regents - CLTS St. Catharines ON

Rev. Dr. Thomas Winger, Rev. Robert Krestick

CONVENTION APPOINTMENTS

Convention Manager

Dr. Ian Adnams

Local Arrangements

Dr. Ian Adnams,

Kitchener Circuit

Host Congregation: Historic St. Paul's Lutheran Church

Registration and Hospitality: Udi Machel Scott

Page Coordinator and Head Page: Doris Schaeffer

Assistant to the Secretary

Rev. Glenn Stresman

Worship Committee

Rev. Ken Maher (chair), Paul Walrath

Rev. Ron Mohr; Rev. Larry Gajdos

Delegate Choir Director: Rev. David Bode

Convention Chaplain

Rev. Kenneth Maher

Convention Parliamentarian

Rev. Dr. Ralph Mayan

Committee on Registrations

Grace Henderson (chair)

Committee on Nominations (as elected by districts)

Reg Tiegs (chair); Rev. Rudy Pastucha,

Rev. Vincent Moore, Rev. Bill Stanfel

Rod Johnson, Milton Joneson

Election Committee

TBD

Committee on Elections

Rev. Lorne Reddeman (chair), Eileen Turner

Rev. Robert S. Morley

Resolutions Committee 1

(Synodical Structure)

Rev. Tom Prachar (chair), Merv Rocheleau;

Bill Straby; Ron Faulkner

Rev. Jonathan Kraemer, Rev. Robin Korsch

Resolutions Committee 2

(Parish Services & Higher Education)

Rev. Dr. Glenn Schaeffer (chair), Rev. Ted Giese,

Barb Fooks, Jordan Wall

Robert Felstead, Rev. David Smilek

Resolutions Committee 3

(Administration & Finance)

Rev. Paul Zabel (chair), Jon Oberholzer;

David Mitchell, Deacon Miriam Winstanley

Rev. Alex Klages, Michael Maunula

REPORT ON NOMINATIONS FOR PRESIDENT

Bylaw 2.501 provides for the direct nomination of candidates for the Office of President by congregations of Synod. Each congregation has the opportunity of placing two names in nominations and sending them to the secretary of Synod not later than four months prior to the opening date of the convention. The secretary shall report to the convention by means of the convention manual the names of the candidates for the office of president.

Bylaw 2.503 specifies that the candidates for the Office of President shall be five clergymen receiving the highest number of votes in the nominating ballots. In case of a tie for fifth place, all names involved in the tie shall be listed as candidates provided that the candidate has been listed on at least two nomination ballots.

Accordingly, the names listed below constitute the slate proposed to the 2017 convention of Lutheran Church–Canada. All have consented to have their names appear on the ballot.

Bylaw 2.501d instructs the secretary of Synod to publish “the names and tallies of all pastors who have received nominating votes for the Office of President.”

That report is as follows:

Rev. Timothy Teuscher 11 nominations
Rev. Dr. Glenn Schaeffer 4 nominations

The following received forty nominations
Rev. Nolan Astley (declined)

The following received seven nominations:
Rev. Dr. Tom Winger (declined)

The following received six nominations:
Rev. Tom Kruesel (declined)
Rev. Warren Hamp (declined)

The following received four nominations:
Rev. David Bode (declined)
Rev. Roland Kubke (declined)

The following received three nominations
Rev. Daryl Solie (declined)
Rev. Lee Loveridge (declined)
Rev. Michael Keith (declined)
Rev. Roland Syens (declined)

The following received two nominations
Rev. James Paulgaard (declined)
Rev. Leonardo Neitzel (declined)
Rev. Mark Ruf (declined)
Rev. Paul Zabel (declined)
Rev. Ron Mohr (declined)
Rev. Tom Prachar (declined)

The following received one nomination:
Rev. Alex Klages; Rev. Brian Falkenholt; Rev. Dr. Bryan King; Rev. Cameron Schnarr; Rev. Don Schieman; Rev. Harold Borchardt; Rev. Dr. James Gimbel; Rev. James Schnarr; Rev. James Scholz; Rev. Larry Mackay; Rev. Mark Koehler; Rev. Dr. Robert Bugbee; Rev. Dr. Steven Harald; Rev. Marvin Bublitz.

The total number of nominating congregations was 79.

Respectfully submitted,
Rev. Paul Schallhorn, secretary

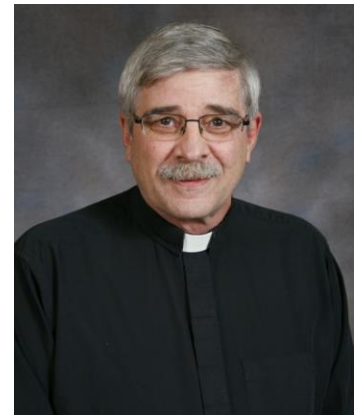
CANDIDATE PROFILE

Name:	Glenn Schaeffer
Age:	56
Degrees:	BA, MDiv, DMiss
Present Position:	District President, ABC District
Years in Ministry:	30
Church Service:	Member of Concordia Lutheran Church, Edmonton; Intentional Interim Pastor, Cross Pointe, Calgary (2014-2015); Pastor/Church Planter, Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd/Loving Saviour Lutheran Church, Barrie, ON (1995-2005); Pastor, St. Paul’s Lutheran Church, Cobourg, ON (1987-1993)



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Offices Held	ABC District President: Member of the LCC COP: Advisor to Synod BOD (2015-present); Member Board of Regents CLS, Edmonton (2015-present); VP of EnCharis BOD (2015-present); Executive Assistant-Outreach, ABC District (2005-2015); Developer/Supervisor/Presenter/Coach of Transforming for Missions in ABC District (2010-present); Administrator of the ABC District Intentional Interim Ministry (2014-present); Coordinator of the Pastors with Alternative Training (PAT) program (2008-2013); Organizer/Participant for LCC Intercultural Conferences (2006, 2008, 2010, 2014, 2016); Sessional Instructor at CLS, Edmonton (2006-present); Instructor in Thailand (2004) and Nicaragua (2001, 2003, 2014); Retreat presenter in Cameroon for LBT Missionaries (2018) and seminar leader in Rwanda (Jan 2018); Sessional Instructor at CUE, Edmonton (2006-2011); Frequent speaker at conferences/conventions (LWML, LLL); Workshop leader for church planting, witness workshops, marriage/family retreats; Served on ATS Seminary Self-Study Committee 2 at CLS, Edmonton, (Jan. 2012-May 2012); Author of articles in the <i>ABC Connect</i> , <i>The Canadian Lutheran</i> , <i>the Lutheran Theological Review</i> , <i>Word & Deed</i> : A Lutheran lay theological journal and unpublished papers/workshops; Administrator of the blog, "Go!" (http://goandmake.ca) – (2011-present); Guest Leader/Trainer for Free & Joyous Response Stewardship Initiative; Member/Chairman, Dept. of Outreach, East District (1997-2003); Toronto Circuit Counselor, East District (1995-1997); Zone & District Pastoral Advisor for LWML-Ontario (1990-93/1996-2000); Special Advisor to the LLL (1995-96); Pastoral Advisor to Toronto Circuit Youth (1987-1990)
Other	Member of the BOD, Canadian Lutheran World Relief (2012-present); Member of Love Life Conference Committee – annual Life conference at Concordia University of Alberta (2006-2015); Chairman, BOD, Lutheran Bible Translators – Canada (2006-2012); President and Founding Member, Lutherans for Life- Canada (2003-2006); Speaker at the Alberta March for Life (2015); Founder/Board Member of Open Arms Early Childhood Center, Barrie, ON (1997-2005); Founder/Board Member of Martin Luther Court – a 21 Life-lease Unit Senior's Housing Development (1997-2005); Tour Host for Rostad Tours (Israel/Jordan 1999; Turkey/Greece 2001; Greece/Italy 2004; Germany/Czech Republic/Austria 2006); Volunteer Hospital Chaplain at Royal Victoria Hospital (Barrie); Chairman of Cobourg and Area right to Life (1988-1992); Chairman/Member of Ad hoc committee that founded/developed Beginnings Pregnancy Care Centre in Cobourg, ON (1989-93)
Name:	Timothy Teuscher
Age:	64
Degrees:	MDiv
Present Position:	Pastor (St. Peter's Lutheran Church, Stratford, ON); 1 st Vice Pres (LCC, East District)
Years in Ministry:	37
Church Service:	Pastor, St. Peter's, Stratford, ON 1996-present; Supervising Pastor, St. Andrew's, Halifax, NS 2012-2015; Pastor, Christ, Petawawa & First, Palmer Rapids, ON 1986-1996; Pastor, Risen Christ, Mississauga, ON 1980-1986
Offices Held:	East District BOD (1 st VP 2012-present; 2 nd VP 2000-2006); East District 125 th Anniversary Chair 2003-2006; East District Pastors & Deacons Conference Chair 2011-2014; LCC CTR 1993-1999



REPORT ON NOMINATIONS FOR VICE-PRESIDENTS

Bylaw 2.511 provides for the direct nomination of candidates for the Office of Vice-President by the congregations of Synod. Each congregation has the opportunity of placing three names in nomination and sending them to the secretary of Synod not later than 4 months prior to the opening date of the convention. The secretary according to Bylaw 2.511d. shall report to the convention by means of the convention manual the names of the candidates for the office of vice-president.

Bylaw 2.513 specifies that the candidates for the Office of Vice-President shall be the three persons from each of the districts receiving the highest number of votes in the nominating ballots of the congregations. In the event of a tie for the third position among the candidates from each of the districts, all names involved in the tie shall be listed as candidates, provided that the candidate has been named on at least two nominating ballots, and if no third candidate so qualifies, the third ballot position will be eliminated. In the event of the death, declination, or unavailability of any candidate, the nominee from that district having the next highest number of votes shall become a candidate.

Accordingly, the names listed (in alphabetical order) constitute the slate proposed to the convention. All have given their consent to have their names appear on the ballot.

Alberta–British Columbia District

Rev. David Bode, Rev. Tom Kruesel, Rev. Roland Kubke, Rev. Lee Loveridge

Central District

Rev. Ted Giese, Rev. Alex Klages, Rev. Dr. Harald Schoubye

East District

Rev. Marvin Bublitz, Rev. Timothy Teuscher, Rev. Kurt Reinhardt

Bylaw 2.511d. also instructs the secretary of Synod to publish “the names of all pastors who have received nominating votes for the Office of Vice-President.” They are:

ABC Rev. Thomas Kruesel 13; Rev. David Bode 5; Rev. Glenn Schaeffer 5 (declined); Rev. Mark Ruf 4 (declined); Rev. James Paulgaard 3 (declined); Rev. Lee Loveridge 3; Rev. Michael Keith 3 (declined); Rev. Roland Kubke 3; Rev. Jan Pastucha 2; Rev. Ken Eifert 2; Rev. Michael Schutz 2;

Central Rev. Arron Gust 3 (declined); Rev. Alex Klages 2; Rev. Harald Schoubye 2; Rev. Leonardo Neitzel 2 (declined); Rev. Rudy Pastucha 2 (declined); Rev. Ted Giese 2;

East Rev. Nolan Astley 13 (declined); Rev. Ron Mohr 9 (declined); Rev. Warren Hamp 7 (declined); Rev. Marvin Bublitz 5; Rev. Paul Schallhorn 5 (declined); Rev. Kurt Reinhardt 4; Rev. Timothy Teuscher 4; Rev. Donald Schieman 3; Rev. Kurt Lantz 3; Rev. Paul Zabel 3; Rev. Bill Ney 2;

The following received one nomination:

Rev. Craig Tufts; Rev. Darren Siegle, Rev. David Dressler; Rev. David Hilderman; Rev. Erik Troval; Rev. Fred Rink; Rev. Dr. James Gimbel; Rev. Mark Lobitz; Rev. Robert Mohns; Rev. Dr. Stephen Chambers; Rev. Ted Rink; Rev. Brian Falkenholt; Rev. Daryl Solie; Rev. David Haberstock; Rev. Johannes Nieminen; Rev. Lowell Dennis; Rev. Harold Borchardt; Rev. Andre Schroth; Rev. Dr. Bryan King; Rev. Dr. David Saar; Rev. David Smilek; Rev. Gerhard Maag; Rev. Jody Rinas; Rev. Kevin Walrath; Rev. Larry Gajdos; Rev. Mark Danielson; Rev. Mark Smith; Rev. Roland Syens; Rev. Dr. Thomas Winger.

The total number of nominating congregations was 66.

Respectfully submitted,
Rev. Paul Schallhorn, secretary

CANDIDATE PROFILES

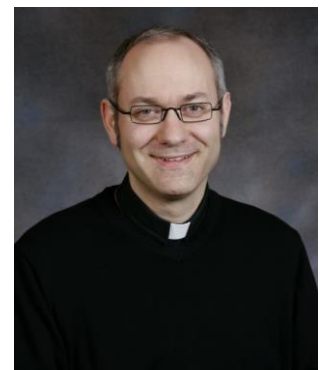
Name: **Bode, David**
Age: 60
Degrees: MDiv;
Present Position: Senior Pastor, Foothills Lutheran, Calgary, AB 2011-Present
Years in Ministry: 35
Church Service: Pastor, St. John's Lutheran, Gasline, ON 1982-1987; Senior Pastor, Faith Lutheran, London, ON 1987-2011
Offices Held: Circuit Counsellor, 1999-2000, 2006-2011; LWML London Zone Pastoral advisor; LLL Calgary Zone Pastoral Advisor; Member, Dept. for Parish Services, Secretary, Board of Directors 1988-1993; First VP 2000-2006, 2009-2011; EnCharis Board of Directors 2012-2015; Board of Regents, Concordia Lutheran Theological Seminary, St. Catharines, 1993-1999
Other: Pastoral advisor, East District Lutheran Young Adults; Concordia Seminary Guild Pastoral advisor



Name: **Bublitz, Marvin**
Age: 53
Degrees: MDiv
Present Position: Pastor, Redeemer Lutheran, Monkton & First Lutheran, Logan, ON
Years in Ministry: 26
Church Service: Redeemer Lutheran, Monkton/First Lutheran, Logan, ON 2002-present; Faith Lutheran, Dunnville, ON 1998-2002; St. John's Lutheran, Gasline, ON 1991-1998
Offices Held: 2nd VP East District 2015-present; District Board of Directors – clergy at large 2012-2015; Handbook Committee 2012-2015 secretary, 2015-present Chairman; Governance Committee 2012-present; Department of Outreach Liaison 2012-present; Circuit Counsellor (Stratford) 2006-2012; Nomination Committee 1994-2000 secretary, 2003-2009 Chairman; Doctrinal Unity Committee 2006-2009; Communications Committee 2002-2008 chairman; LWML Niagara Zone Pastoral Advisor; Convention Delegate; Resolutions Committee; Worker Benefits-strategic planning conference; Synodical Nominations Committee 2009-2015
Other: Involvement in community, government and/or interchurch affairs or other specific qualifications for the office; on call Hospital Chaplain 1991-2002; Board of Directors @ Ritz Lutheran Villa (Long Term Care Home, Mitchell ON, Building Committee Chairman 2007-2009, Treasurer 2008-2009, Chairman 2009-2012



Name: **Giese, Theodore (Ted)**
Age: 42
Degrees: MDiv
Present Position: Pastor, Mount Olive Lutheran, Regina, SK
Years in Ministry: 10
Church Service: Pastor, Mount Olive Lutheran, Regina SK 2007-present
Offices Held: Board of Directors (CLWR) 2016-present; Board of Regents (CLS) 2011-2016; Lutheran Historical Institute Museum Committee (ABC District) 2007-2011; Lutheran Historical Institute Board of Directors (ABC District) 2004-2007; CLS Academic Liaison (ABC District) 2004-2007; Wascana Circuit Counsellor (Central District) 2009-2011



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Other: Writing for Canadian Lutheran (print & online) 2009-present; Film reviewer for LCMS Reporter (online) 2014-present; Film reviewer for IssuesEtc radio programme 2013-present; Contributor to KFUOam St. Louis (MO) 2014-2016; CLWR Global Encounter to Palestine & Israel LCC representative 2014; Latitude 53 (a Contemporary Art Gallery in Edmonton AB) Board of Directors President 2001-2004, Latitude 53 Board of Directors 2000-2001

Name: **Klages, Alex**

Age: 41

Degrees: MDiv

Present Position: Pastor Trinity Ev. Lutheran/Zion Ev. Lutheran, Winkler/Morden MB

Years in Ministry: 14

Church Service: Pastor, Trinity Lutheran, Winkler/Zion Lutheran, Morden MB 2003-present

Offices Held: VP Central District 2015-present; Circuit Counsellor, Portage Circuit 2009-2015; Communications Committees; EDLYA Board

Other:



Name: **Kruesel, Tom**

Age: 53

Degrees: MDiv

Present Position: Pastor Bethany Lutheran, Campbell River, BC 2001-present; 2nd Vice President LCC

Years in Ministry: 27

Church Service: Pastor Redeemer Lutheran, Portage la Prairie, MB 1990-2001; Commission on Adjudication 1993-1996; 3rd Vice President Synod 2009-2011; 2nd Vice President 2011-present; Chairman, Colloquy Committee 2011-present; District Dept. of Evangelism 1991-1996; Circuit Counsellor; LWML Pastoral Advisor

Other: Central Plans Community Network Board Member 1998-2001; God's Children Board Chair 1996-2002; Simms Creek Stewardship Society board Member 2001-2016; Birthright Pastoral Advisor 2002-2017; City of Campbell River Parks Rec & Culture Commission 2002-2004; Glacier Heritage Power & Equipment Club 2010-2016; Campbell River Amateur Radio Club Member 2013-present; Comox Valley Beekeepers Club Vice President 2017-present



Name: **Kubke, Roland**

Age: 56

Degrees: MDiv

Present Position: Pastor, St. John's Lutheran, Beach Corner, AB

Years in Service: 29

Church Service: Pastor, Mount Calvary, Maple Creek, & Fox Valley SK 1988-1992; Pastor, St. Peter's, Simcoe, ON 1992-1997; Pastor, St. Paul, Medicine Hat, AB 1997-2004; Pastor, St. John's, Beach Corner, AB 2004-present

Other: Circuit Counselor, Cypress Hills Circuit 1991-1992; Circuit Counselor, London Circuit 1996-1997; Concordia University College, Edmonton Board of Regents 2003-2009; Lutheran Historical Institute Board 2005-2008; First vice President, ABC District 2015-present



D. 6

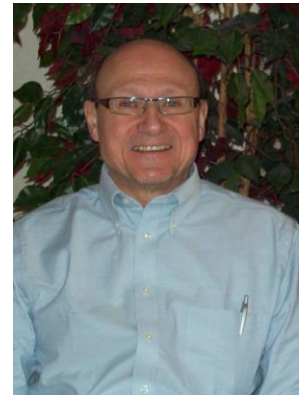
Name: **Loveridge, Lee**
Age: 45
Degrees: MDiv
Present Position: Associate Pastor, First Lutheran, Kelowna, BC 2008-present
Years in Service: 17
Church Service: King of Kings, Lutheran St. Albert, AB 2003-2008; Lappe Lutheran Church, Thunder Bay, ON 2000-2003
Offices Held: Youth Gathering, Assisted with numerous program and planning committees at District & National level; Circuit Counsellor – Okanagan Circuit 2015-present
Other: Pastoral leadership Institute 2007-2011; Strata Council President 2012-2015; Volunteer Kelowna Gospel Mission; participant in stewardship, reconciliation and coaching workshops and seminars



Name: **Reinhardt, Kurt**
Age: 48
Degrees: B.A. Hon.; MDiv
Present Position: Pastor, Trinity Lutheran, Gowanstown, ON
Years in Service: 18
Church Service: Trinity, Gowanstown, ON 1999-present
Offices Held: Hanover Circuit Counselor (6 years); Pastoral Advisor LWML – Ontario District; BoR CLTS St. Catharines (2 years) to fill a temporary vacancy
Other: Plenary Speaker Corpus Christi Youth Conference/Sweden 2012 & Finland 2013; Chair CMSMS (2014-present)



Name: **Schoubye, Harald**
Age: 61
Degrees: MDiv, MTh, Th.D.
Present Position: Pastor Holy Cross Ev. Lutheran, Winnipeg, MB
Years in Ministry: 13
Church Service: 1980-2014 Pastor, Immanuel /Lutheran, Emerson MB; Pastor, St. Paul Lutheran, Melfort, SK; Pastor, St. Paul Lutheran, Ironton, MO; Pastoral Care Pastor, Zion Lutheran, Mayer, MN; Interim Pastor, St. John Lutheran, Webster, MN; Interim Pastor, Immanuel Lutheran, Fish Lake, MN; Pastor, Living Word Lutheran, Vernon, BC; 1997-2007 Associate Professor of Biblical Studies (American Lutheran Theological Seminary, Minneapolis, MN); Adjunct Professor at Concordia (Mequon, WI); Adjunct professor at Concordia (St. Paul, MN) 2007-present, Tshwane Lutheran Seminary (Pretoria, South Africa); Mekane Yesus Seminary (Addis Ababa, Ethiopia); Evangelical Lutheran Church in Ukraine Seminary (Odessa, Ukraine)
Offices Held: Circuit Counselor (Humboldt Circuit, SK); President of the American Lutheran Theological Seminary
Other: President of Thrivent Financial Chapter (Edina, MN); President Melfort & District Pro-Life Association (Melfort, SK); board member for Ends of the Earth Courier for Christ



Name: **Teuscher, Timothy** (see President Profile)

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON NOMINATIONS

The committee submits the following list of nominees for positions to be filled at this Convention.

Board of Directors

Required: 3 lay people-1 Central District, 2 ABC District; 1 pastor at large

Clergy:	Rev. Alex Klages (Central)	Rev. Johannes Nieminen (Central)
	Rev. Harald Schoubye (Central)	Rev. Marvin Bublitz (East)
Lay:	Rev. Joe Das (East)	Rev. Warren Hamp (East)
	Rev. Paul Schallhorn (East)	
	Ivan Boles (ABC)	Grace Henderson (ABC)
	Doug Petersen (ABC)	Shannon Dul (Central)
	Kirsten Guggenmos (Central)	Cam Pelzer (Central)

Commission on Adjudication

Required: 3 church workers, 1 from each District

Clergy:	Rev. Jonathan Asmus (ABC)	Rev. Mark Chiang (ABC)
	Rev. Jeremy Richert (ABC)	Rev. Nick Wasylowich (ABC)
	Rev. Keith Blom (Central)	Rev. Jeff Dul (Central)
	Rev. Robert Grout (Central)	Rev. Todd Guggenmos (Central)
	Rev. John Rapp (Central)	Rev. Glenn Worcester (Central)
	Rev. Dr. Kevin Fast (East)	Rev. Greg Johnson (East)

Commission on Theology and Church Relations

Required: 1 lay person

Lay: Kelly Klages (Central) Shane Kelly (East) Paul Walrath (East)

Board of Regents – Concordia Lutheran Seminary, Edmonton, Alta.

Required: 1 pastor; 2 lay person/deacons (in total one from each District)

Clergy:	Rev. Jeremy Richert (ABC)	Rev. Robert Grout (Central)
	Rev. Randy Heide (Central)	Rev. Clint Magnus (Central)
	Rev. Barry Wood (Central)	Rev. Aaron Astley (East)
	Rev. Perry Hart (East)	Rev. Kurt Lantz (East)
Lay:	Brigitte Mueller (ABC)	Corinne Nowoczin (ABC)
	Gerry Steinke (ABC)	Arlene Kish (Central)
	Wayne Timm (Central)	Dr. Kenneth Currie (East)
	Jeremy Drung (East)	Mark Hersey (East)

Board of Regents – Concordia Lutheran Theological Seminary, St. Catharines, Ont.

Required: 1 pastor, 2 lay person/deacon (in total one from each District)

Clergy:	Rev. Jeremy Richert (ABC)	Rev. Phil Washeim (ABC)
	Rev. Nick Wasylowich (ABC)	Rev. Neil Stern (ABC)
	Rev. David Habershtock (Central)	Rev. Johannes Nieminen (Central)
	Rev. Robert Krestick (East)	
Lay:	Ivan Boles (ABC)	Jordan Wall (Central)
	Norma Wall (Central)	Mark Hersey (East)
	Anne Taylor (East)	

Additional nominations will be accepted from the floor. The nominator must have full biographical information and consent from the nominee.

CANDIDATE PROFILES

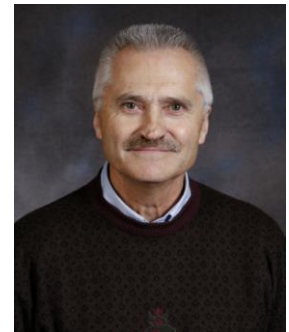
Name Asmus, Jonathan
Age 58
Congregation Redeemer Lutheran, West Kelowna, BC
District ABC
Occupation Pastor
Service *District:* Ministry Wives Committee Pastoral Advisor (2013-present); Okanagan Circuit Secretary (2012-2015); elected Toronto Circuit secretary (2006) served only briefly due to move to BC; *Congregation:* Pastor, Redeemer, West Kelowna BC (2009-present); Pastoral Assistant, Redeemer, Kelowna (2008-2009); Assistant Pastor Trinity Lutheran, Algona, IA (1988-1990); Grace Lutheran Mission, Kincardine, ON (1985-1987)



Name Astley, Aaron
Age 28
Congregation Christ Our Saviour Lutheran, Grimsby, ON/Redeemer Lutheran, Hamilton, ON
District East
Occupation Pastor
Service



Name Blom, Keith
Age 65
Congregation Epiphany, Thunder Bay, ON
District Central
Occupation Retired Pastor
Service *Synod:* Convention Delegate 2014; *District:* Ontario Circuit Counsellor 2015-; Eastern Circuit Counsellor (LCMS) 2000-2004; *Congregation:* Vacancy Pastor Immanuel, Nipigon, ON; 2010-present; Pastor Faith, Atikoken, ON 2010-2016



Name Boles, Ivan
Age 60
Congregation St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church, Stony Plain, AB
District ABC
Occupation Self Employed Business Entrepreneur
Service *Synod:* Delegate to numerous Synod Conventions; Board of Regents CLTS (2012-2017); *District:* Congregation & Circuit Delegate to numerous District Conventions; *Congregation:* Elder (2009-2015); Chairman & Vice-Chairman (1988-2004); Stewardship (1978-1984);



Name **Bublitz, Marvin** (see Vice President Profile)

Name **Chiang, Mark**

Age

Congregation Killarney Community Lutheran, Vancouver, BC

District ABC

Occupation Pastor

Service *Congregation:* Killarney Comm. Lutheran Pastor (2006-present); *Other:* CNIB (2007)



Name **Currie, Ken**

Age

Congregation Christ Risen Lutheran, Kanata, ON

District East

Occupation Retired Geologist

Service *District:* East Director (1990-2008); Chairman (1993-1999); Secretary (1999-2005); Chairman (2005-2008); Director (1965-1969); *Congregation:* Christ Risen Treasurer (2013-2017); Chairman (2012-2013); Our Saviour Chairman, Elder (several times, 1967-2012); *Other:* Lutherwood, Founding Governor (1967); Board of Governors (1990-2002)



Name **Das, Joe**

Age 50

Congregation Holy Cross Lutheran, Kitchener, ON

District East

Occupation Pastor

Service *Congregation:* Bethel Evangelical, Kitchener (2009-2013); St. Matthew, Stony Plain (2008-2009); *Other:* Confessio Augustana (Board)



Name **Drung, Jeremy**

Age

Congregation Holy Cross Evangelical Lutheran, Kitchener, ON

District East

Occupation Medical Student

Service *Synod:* LCC National Youth Gathering Volunteer (2013, 2016); *Congregation:* Board of Young Peoples (2009-2013); Ukraine Mission Trip (2012); Nicaragua Mission Trip (2008); *Other:* Woolwich Community Health Centre Volunteer (2011-2016); University of Western Ontario Peer Mentor (2015-2016)



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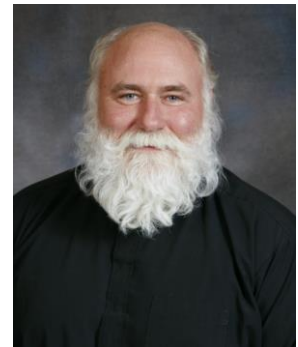
Name **Dul, Jeff**
Age 41
Congregation Trinity Lutheran, Churchbridge, SK
District Central
Occupation Pastor
Service *Synod:* LWMLC National Pastoral Counselor (2016-present); *District:* Chair of Sask Church Workers Conference (2014-2015); LWML Assiniboine Zone Counselor (2013-present); *Congregation:* Trinity, Churchbridge (2010-present); *Other:* Jackfish Camp Board Counselor (2012-present); Family & Friends Foundation (2012-present)



Name **Dul, Shannon**
Age
Congregation Trinity Lutheran, Churchbridge, SK
District Central
Occupation Teacher
Service *Congregation:* Trinity Education Committee (2012-present); VBS – many; *Other:* Town Drama Club (2012-present); High School Drama (2016-present); Volleyball referee (2015-present)



Name **Fast, Kevin**
Age
Congregation St. Paul's Lutheran, Cobourg, ON
District East
Occupation Pastor
Service



Name **Grout, Rob**
Age
Congregation Trinity Lutheran, Wilkie, SK/Unity Lutheran, Unity, SK
District Central
Occupation Pastor
Service *District:* Mission & Congregational Services (2004-2006); Circuit Counsellor – Northlands (2009-2016); *Congregation:* Trinity/Unity (2016-present); St. John Humboldt (2007-2016); Holy Trinity, Inglis MB (2002-2007); Hope Grandview MB (2002-2007)



Name **Guggenmos, Kirsten**

Age

Congregation Our Saviour Lutheran, Fort Qu'Appelle, SK

District Central

Occupation Funeral Director/Embalmer

Service *District:* Seminary Wives Liaison (2010-2011); *Congregation:* LWML (2014); Glow (after school program) (2013); Sunday School Leader (2003-2007); VBS Coordinator (2004-2007); *Other:* Sea Cadet Parent Committee Vice-Chair (2014-1025)**Name** **Guggenmos, Todd**

Age

Congregation Our Saviour Lutheran, Fort Qu'Appelle, SK

District Central

Occupation Pastor

Service *District:* LWML Zone Pastoral Advisor (2014-present); Camp Lutherland Board (2014-present); Floor Committee – Constitutional Matters Central District Convention 2015; *Congregation:* Chairman & Vice-Chairman – Lutheran Church of Unity, SK (2005-2007); *Other:* Lutheran Church of Unity Adult Housing Authority Board (2004-2007); Youth Curling Coach (2012, 2014)**Name** **Haberstock, David**

Age

Congregation Grace Evangelical Lutheran, Regina, SK

District Central

Occupation Pastor

Service *Synod:* Board for Parish Services (1993-1996); *District:* Board of Directors (2006-2015); *Congregation:* Epiphany, Thunder Bay (2004-2015); Grace, Regina (2015-present)**Name** **Hamp, Warren**

Age 53

Congregation Faith Lutheran, Kitchener, ON

District East

Occupation Pastor

Service *Synod:* CTCR (2008-present); *District:* East District Board of Directors (2009-2012); *Congregation:* Faith, Kitchener (1993-present); Emmanuel, Beamsville, (1990-1993)

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Name Hart, Perry

Age

Congregation Bethel Evangelical Lutheran, Kitchener, ON

District East

Occupation Pastor

Service *Synod:* LCC (2016-Present); Lutheran Church of Australia (2012-2015); *District:* East District LCC (2016-present); South Australia District (2012-2015); *Congregation:* Bethel, Kitchener, ON (2016-present); St. Paul's, Blair Athol, S.A. (2015); Waikerie Lutheran Parish, Waikerie, S.A. (2012-2014); *Other:* Waikerie Ministers Association President (2013-2014); Concordia Seminary Students Association President (2010-2011)



Name Heide, Randy

Age

Congregation St. John's Evangelical Lutheran, Warman, SK

District Central

Occupation Pastor

Service *District:* Circuit Counsellor (2010-present); Dept. of Youth Ministry (2006-2009); CEF Dept. (2001-2009); ABC District Secretary (2000-2001); ABC District CEF (1996-2000); *Congregation:* Lutheran Early Learning Centers: Pastoral Advisor (2001-2005, 2008-2016); Director of Curriculum (2014-2017); Chairman (2012-2014); *Other:* Warman Football Assoc. Chairman (2011-2017); Warman Ministerial Treasurer (2003-2016)



Name Henderson, Grace

Age

Congregation St. Peter's Lutheran, Leduc, AB

District ABC

Occupation Teacher

Service *Synod:* LCC Board of Directors (2013-present); LCC Communications/Tech Committee; Host/Emcee Young Adult Gathering, Niagara Falls; Social Event Coordinator – Young Adult Gathering, Canmore; *District:* Committee Member, Evangelism Program (2001-2003); *Congregation:* Organist/Pianist (1987-present); Children's Message presenter (1996-present); Bible Study Leader (2016-present); Youth Coordinator (2016-present); *Other:* ELJHS Tour Band Conductor (2013-present); Operation Christmas Child (1990's-present); ELJHS Chef in Residence Coordinator (2016-2017); Fundraising Coordinator – Band & Choir (2013-present)



Name Hersey, Mark

Age

Congregation Grace Lutheran, Oshawa, ON

District East

Occupation Retired

Service *Congregation:* Elder (2015-present); Elder (2000-2004); *Other:* Curriculum Advisory (2010-2014); Committee for Chemical Engineering Technology at Durham College (Chair for 2 years)

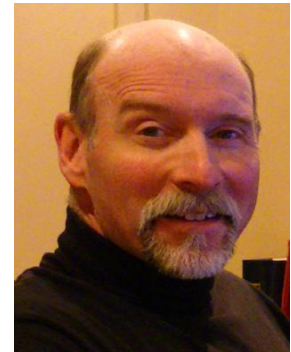


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Name **Johnson, Greg**
Age 49
Congregation Our Saviour Lutheran, Toronto, ON
District East
Occupation Pastor
Service *District:* Toronto Circuit Counselor (2007-2012); Dept. of Finance (2006); *Congregation:* Our Saviour (1998-present); *Other:* Frankland Day Care Board (2014)



Name **Kelly, Shane**
Age 54
Congregation Grace Lutheran, Oshawa, ON
District East
Occupation Business Owner/Operator
Service *Congregation:* Elder (2008-); School Board Chairman (2002-2005); *Other:* St. Vincent Kitchen (2013-)

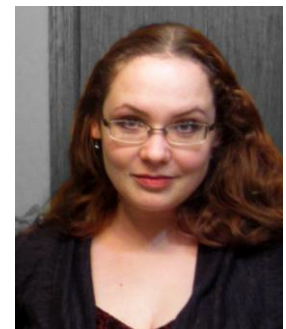


Name **Kish, Arlene**
Age
Congregation Faith Lutheran, Middle Lake, SK
District Central
Occupation Accountant/Computer Consultant
Service *Synod:* Communication Committee (1998-2000); *District:* Communication Committee (2000-2003); Nomination Committee (2015); *Congregation:* Treasurer (2007-2015); Stewardship (2000-2006); Sunday School (1970-1980); Organist (1960-present); *Other:* LWMLC Central District (1994-present); LWMLC National (2000-2012); Kinsmen Telemiracle (1995-present); La Ronge VBS (2006-present)



Name **Klages, Alex** (see Vice President Profile)

Name **Klages, Kelly**
Age
Congregation Trinity Lutheran, Winkler, MB
District Central
Occupation Artist, Homemaker
Service *Synod:* LWMLC Rebranding Committee (Present); *District:* LWMLC Banner & Logo Designer (2016); *Congregation:* Sunday School Teacher (2015-present); Youth Leader (2004-2008); LWMLC Spiritual Growth (2005-2007); Choir (2004-2007); *Other:* Hymn-writer for CPH/LCMS (2013-present); Writer for Canadian Lutheran, Higher Things, Lutheran Forum; Tapestry, etc. (various); Higher Things Forum Moderator (2005-2007)



Name Krestick, Robert

Age

Congregation Redeemer Lutheran, Waterloo, ON

District East

Occupation Pastor Emeritus

Service *Synod:* Worker Benefits Plan; Board of Managers (1989-1996); Vice President (2002-2011); *District:* Secretary; Vice President; *Congregation:* Trinity, Gowansdown & St. Johns, Mt. Forest, ON (1974-1978); St. Peter's, Port Colborne, ON (1978-1990); Chaplain Lutherwood, Waterloo, ON (1990-2000); Redeemer, Waterloo, ON (2000-2014); *Other:* Chairman – Christ Lutheran School, Kitchener, ON; Lutherwood Board of Governors (2000-2015)



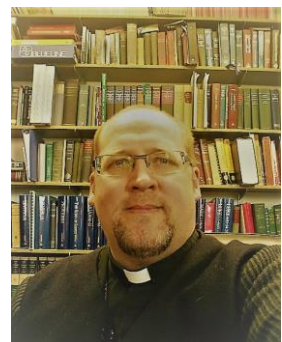
Name Lantz, Kurt

Age

Congregation Resurrection Lutheran, St. Catharines, ON

District East

Service *Synod:* CLTS Assessment Committee (2015-2017); *District:* Circuit Counselor (2015-2018); Dept. for Parish Services; Worship Committee; Conference Chaplain; Hanover Zone LWML Pastoral Advisor; Confirmation Retreat speaker; *Congregation:* Pastor – Resurrection, St. Catharines (2009-2017); Southampton (2006-2009); Grace, Kincardine (1998-2009); *Other:* Brock University Chaplain (2009-2017); Trillium Court Spiritual Care Committee



Name Magnus, Clint

Age

Congregation St. John's Lutheran, Humboldt, SK

District Central

Service *Synod:* Committee for Overtures 2014 LCC Convention; *District:* ABC Circuit Counsellor – Cariobu Circuit (2011-2017); *Congregation:* Pastor, Redeemer Lutheran Kitimat/Terrace BC (2008-2017); Pastor, St. John's Lutheran, Humboldt, SK (2017- present); *Other:* Lead Extended Care Services; Ran Soup Kitchen in Terrace (8 yrs); Worked in Homeless Shelter (8 yrs.); President Kitimat Ministerial



Name Mueller, Brigitte

Age

Congregation Bethlehem Lutheran, Bruderheim, AB

District ABC

Service *Synod:* Teacher at Concordia High School Edmonton, German language and Physics (1984-1988) part-time; Planning committee for Love Life Conferences at (then) Concordia University College of Alberta (2007-2017); Planning committee for Worship Music Conferences at Concordia University College of Alberta, (2010-2015); VBS teaching with LAMP 92011-2014); organize trip of Pastor Bror Erickson to speak at Concordia University and Concordia Lutheran Seminary about pastoral formation and



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his translations of the famed confessional Swedish Bishop Bo Giertz, in the light of pastoral formation. *Congregation:* Organist (1978-2017); Sunday School Teacher, VBS teacher (1978-2015); Preschool Teacher (2015); Other: Peer counselling at Pregnancy Care Center, in person and hotline, Edmonton (1995-2000); Choir Director for Pioneer Singers in Fort Saskatchewan (2013-2016); Choir Member and President of Bach to Pop ladies choir, Fort Saskatchewan (2011-2013); Music Together, business owner and teacher, music for families with young children (2016); Leader of Music group in home with adults with autism; Piano teaching for adults with autism; Original and personal Christian blogging and research on culture and theology: *Thoughts-Brigitte.blogspot.com*; married to Dr. Martin Mueller, past Chair of the Board of Governors at (then) Concordia University College of Alberta.

Name	Nieminen, Johannes
Age	35
Congregation	Zion Lutheran, Melville, SK
District	Central
Occupation	Pastor
Service	<i>District:</i> East District Voting Lay Delegate (2009, 2012); <i>Congregation:</i> Emmanuel, Petersburg Elder (2003-2010); Sunday School/Youth Bible Class teacher (2007-2010); Pastor Trinity Lutheran, Neudorf, SK & Zion Lutheran, Melville, SK (2014-present); Vacancy Pastor St. Paul's Lutheran, Springside, SK (2016-present); <i>Other:</i> Christ Lutheran School, Kitchener Board of Directors (2005-2007); Treasurer & Financial Committee Chair (2006-2007); Special Task Force Chairman (2009-2011); Concordia Academy, Moncton – Board of Directors, Vice Chairman (2009-2011); Brothers of John the Steadfast Writer (2015-present)



Name	Nowoczin, Corinne
Age	
Congregation	Mt Calvary Lutheran, Red Deer AB
District	ABC
Occupation	Retired
Service	<i>Congregation:</i> Mt. Calvary – Parish Coordinator; Bible Class Teacher; Congregational Secretary (2009-2011); St. Matthew Lutheran School (teacher) (1991-93); St. Matthew School (1967-1976); <i>Other:</i> CLS Sem Registrar, Director of Admissions, (2003-2006); Admin Assistant to the Deans (1993-2017).



Name	Peltzer, Cameron
Age	
Congregation	Mount Olive Lutheran, Regina, SK
District	Central
Occupation	Public Servant
Service	<i>Synod:</i> Board of Directors (2011-present); <i>District:</i> Salary Review Committee (1980's); Missions & Cong Services (2000's); <i>Congregation:</i> Elder (2009-present); Chairman (1983-1988, 1999-2000); Chair, Evangelism (1994-1998); Bible Study Leader; <i>Other:</i> Volunteer Canvasser–Cancer, Heart & Stroke, Diabetes, M.S. (1990-present)



Name Petersen, Doug

Age

Congregation Trinity Lutheran, Fort McMurray, AB

District ABC

Occupation Maintenance Leader, Syncrude Canada

Service *District:* ABC Dept. of Outreach (2012-2015); *Congregation:* Trinity Fort McMurray, Chairman (2011-present); Redeemer, Kitimat, Elder, Chairman (1988-2010); Trinity, Quesnel, Vice Chair/Chairman (1983-19988); *Other:* Coached Youth Soccer; Coached Youth Hockey



Name Rapp, John

Age

Congregation Faith Lutheran, Middle Lake, SK

District Central

Occupation Pastor

Service *Other:* Member of Board of Directors, Bethany Pioneer Village (2015-present); School Community Council, Vice Chair (2015-present); Toastmasters, President (2012-2013)



Name Richert, Jeremy

Age 30

Congregation St. John's Lutheran, Magrath/St. Matthew Lutheran, Milk River, AB

District ABC

Occupation Pastor

Service *Synod:* Clergy Representative for CLWR Global Encounters – (2016); *District:* Advisory Youth Delegate to Synodical Convention (2005); *Congregation:* President of Youth Group; Sunday School Teacher; Deacon; *Other:* Blood Donor (since 2012)



Name Schallhorn, Paul

Age

Congregation Peace Lutheran, Tillsonburg, ON

District East

Occupation Pastor

Service *Synod:* LCC Board of Directors Secretary (2011-2017); CCMS Secretary (2011-2017); Board of Regents CLS (1996-2002, 2003-2011, Chair 2009-2011); LWMLC National Pastoral Advisor (2003-2006); *District:* Circuit Counsellor (2004-2006); LWMLC District Pastoral Advisor (1999-2003, 1995-1997); Commission on Constitutions Chair (1993-1995); *Other:* Community Nursing Home Services (2004-present); Parent Council, Local School, Vice-chair (2007-2008); Soccer Coach (2000-2005)



Name **Schoubye, Harald** (see Vice President Profile)

Name **Steinke, Gerry**

Age

Congregation Good Shepherd Lutheran, Valleyview, AB

District ABC

Occupation Site Manager

Service *Synod:* Circuit Delegate (1990); *District:* Board of Directors (1994); Board of Missions (1989-1993); *Congregation:* Treasurer (current); President (2011-2014); Elder (current); *Other:* Public School Board Member (1997-current); Chamber of Commerce



Name **Stern, Neil**

Age

Congregation St. Peter's Lutheran, Leduc, AB

District ABC

Occupation Pastor

Service *Synod:* LCC Commission Adjudication Chairman (2011-2017); CLS Admission Committee (2016-present); CLS Ministry Program Committee (2003-2008); CLS Field Work Supervisor for 6 students; *District:* ABC District Nominating Com Chairman for 2015 Convention



Name **Taylor, Anne**

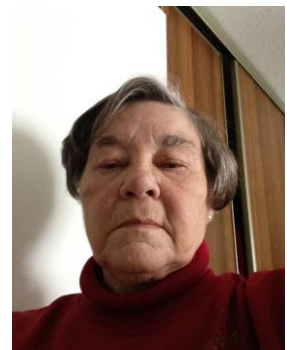
Age

Congregation St. Luke Lutheran, Ottawa, ON

District East

Occupation Retired

Service *Synod:* LCC Board of Directors (2008-2014); Board of Regents CLTS (1996-2008); LWMLC Tapestry Editor (2014); LWMLC Christian Mission Committee (current); CLMS (1998-2012); *Congregation:* Ladies Bible Study Leader (current)



Name **Timm, Wayne**

Age

Congregation Prince of Peace, Regina, SK

District Central

Occupation Professional Engineer

Service *Synod:* CLTS – Board of Regents (2005-2017); *Congregation:* President (1989); Elder (various); Trustee (various); *Other:* Recreation Board (1980's); LLL – District President (1980's, 1990's); IEBE (1980)



Name **Wall, Jordan**

Age

Congregation Lutheran Church of the Redeemer, Winnipeg, MB

District Central

Occupation Federal Government

Service *Congregation:* President (2012-present); Vice President (2009-2010); *Other:* Folklorama Board of Directors (2012-present); President–Scandinavian Folk Group of Manitoba (2006-2012)



Name **Walrath, Paul**

Age

Congregation Historic St. Paul's Lutheran, Kitchener, ON

District East

Occupation Software Developer; Church Organist

Service *Synod:* CTCR (2011-present); Lay Delegate(2014); Convention Reporter (2002); *District:* Convention Organist (2006, 2015); Ventures in Outreach Volunteer (1996-2004); *Congregation:* Elder (2012- present); Organist (2006-present)



Name **Washeim, Philip**

Age

Congregation Redeemer Lutheran, Sooke, BC

District ABC

Occupation Pastor

Service *Synod:* Committee for Communication & Technology (2003-2006); Commission on Adjudication (2004-2010); *District:* ABC Board of Directors (2007-2010); Mission & Outreach Committee (2007-2010); LWML Circuit Counselor (2004-2005); *Other:* Chaplain with Canadian Armed Forces (2015-present); Board of Directors-LBTC (2016-present)



Name **Wasylowich, Nicholas**

Age

Congregation Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church, Torrington, AB

District ABC

Occupation Pastor

Service *District:* Calgary Circuit Counselors (2003-2009); *Other:* Chaplain for Senior Care Facility (2011-present); Volunteer Fire Fighter Chaplain (2001-2009)



Name Wood, Barry
Age 55
Congregation Grace Lutheran, Zorra, SK/St. Matthew's Lutheran, Roblin, MB
District Central
Service *District:* Trinity, Moosomin, SK/St. Paul, Broadview, SK, (1987-1990); Trinity, Winkler/Zion, Morden, MB (1990-1993); Redeemer, Prince Albert, SK (1993-1996); Living Christ, Lipton, SK (2001-2004); Interim Pastor St. Paul, Indian Head, SK (2004-2008); CKT Parish (Canora, Kamsack, Togo, SK) (2008-2013); St. Matthew's Roblin, MB/Grace, Zorra, SK (2013-present); Past secretary/treasurer and chair of Saskatchewan Church Workers' conference; past secretary/treasurer of Manitoba/NW Ontario Church Workers' conference; Circuit Counsellor, Assiniboine Circuit (2009-present); *Congregation:* Parish Pastor; *Other:* Funeral Home (attendant/Director) (1996-2001); Multiple Sclerosis Society of Canada, Saskatchewan Division – local chapter board and chair, division board and chair; representative on National MS Society Board.



Name Worcester, Glenn
Age
Congregation Peace Lutheran, Winnipeg, MB
District Central
Service *Synod:* LCC (March 2012-present); LCMS (June 2008-March 2012); *District:* LCC Central (March 2012-present); LCMS MI (June 2008-March 2012); *Congregation:* Peace, Winnipeg, MB (March 2012-Present); St. Mark Kentwood, MI (July 2011-March 2012); Family of Christ, Grand Rapids (June 2008-March 2011); *Other:* Assistant Basketball Coach, Canadian Mennonite University (August 2015-present)



Name Wynn, Norma
Age
Congregation Calvary Lutheran, Thunder Bay, ON
District East
Occupation Retired Elementary School Administrator
Service *District:* Board of Directors Concordia U of A (2009-2013); District Lay Rep; *Congregation:* President (2010-2013); Member Church Council (2007-2010); Sunday School Superintendent (1980); *Other:* L.C.C.C. President (2008-2012); Chair of Governance LCCC (2010-2012); Thunder Bay Quilters Guild President (2010-2012)



REPORT 1: PRESIDENT OF LUTHERAN CHURCH—CANADA

Part 1

I am required by the Statutory Bylaws of Lutheran Church-Canada to report on my activities “to each meeting of the Board (of Directors) and to each Convention” (*Bylaw 10.07.g, 2014 Handbook, p. 3*). What I provide on these pages represents a portion of my effort to do that. When delegates are gathered in Kitchener, I will add Part 2 of my report in person. Delegates to the Convention will help me greatly by reading this document as part of their own preparation. Later in the year, Part 2 (the report I shall give in person) will be printed in the *Convention Proceedings* so that the church will have a fuller picture of the work I have carried out.

A Review of Conventions Past

This is now the eleventh time we have met in Convention since those days in May, 1988, in downtown Winnipeg when the Synod was first constituted. Let me review the growing record of these family gatherings:

- 1988 First (Constituting) Convention, Winnipeg, MB (*President Edwin Lehman elected*)
- 1990 Second Convention, Winnipeg
- 1993 Third Convention, Niagara Falls, ON
- 1996 Fourth Convention, Edmonton, AB (*President Ralph Mayan elected*)
- 1999 Fifth Convention, Winnipeg
- 2002 Sixth Convention, Kitchener, ON
- 2005 Seventh Convention, Edmonton
- 2008 Eighth Convention, Winnipeg (*President Robert Bugbee elected*)
- 2011 Ninth Convention, Hamilton, ON
- 2014 Tenth Convention, Vancouver, BC

Note that the first and second gatherings came just two years apart, so that we could get the Synod on a three-year Convention cycle distinct from the years when the Districts meet. (Those with a long memory recall that the Districts held conventions immediately after the 1988 constituting convention in the same hall.) The national conventions subsequently moved from District to District. We were preparing to follow the usual custom by locating this Eleventh Convention in the Central District. However, when the Board of Directors resolved to delay the Convention by four months to provide more time for restructuring proposals, it ended up being far more cost-effective to arrange for this gathering in Kitchener.

A Not-Just-for-the-Reformation Theme: *Christ Alone, Christ Forever*

You who read this *Convention Workbook* are keenly aware that our Convention comes within two weeks

or so of the great 500th Anniversary of Luther’s Reformation on October 31, 2017. The famous three “solas” of the Reformation, *sola gratia* (grace alone), *sola fide* (faith alone), and *sola Scriptura* (Scripture alone) are all built on another one, the “*solus Christus*” (Christ alone). God’s grace comes to us because of *Christ*. We don’t put faith in any old general conception of God, but in the God and Father of Jesus *Christ*. And the glory of Scripture is that it’s not just another book of rules and regulations by which we save ourselves, but it’s there to point to *Christ*. St. Paul says of Him, “*He is before all things, and in him (Christ) all things hold together*” (Colossians 1:17 NIV). He is the Saviour of the world. He’s the Lord of the Church. He’s the foundation of our hope. And He’s the heart of the mission we have to carry out. No other Lord and no other cause can ever be everything Jesus is for us. We thank God that we carry forth the best of Luther’s Reformation heritage when we say we stand for “Christ alone.”

Nor is it only true in this Reformation anniversary year. No matter how much society and the externals of life may change, Christ must be the focus of your personal faith and the focus of the Church’s mission to the end of time. When the world passes away, our joy and songs of praise will all be focused on Him (Revelation 5:12; 7:9-17). So it’s not just “Christ 500 years ago” or “Christ today.” Going forward from this gathering, it’s “Christ *forever*.”

We plan to mark the “*solus Christus ... Christ alone*” with three Bible study / devotional essays that begin the business sessions of each convention day. Our presenter is a pastor and theologian originally from the Evangelical Lutheran Mission Diocese of Finland, The Rev. Esko Murto, who recently accepted a call to teach at Concordia Lutheran Theological Seminary in St. Catharines. Pastor Murto will devote each of these sessions to one of the historic Bible readings appointed for Reformation Day. I’m hoping it will help these words – which you have likely heard many times at worship – come alive. And it will give you the opportunity to see one of the young teaching theologians of our Synod in action. Welcome him warmly!

Our Vice-Presidents

Once again, the past triennium brought a change in the ranks of our Synodical vice-presidents, though not nearly as frequently as we had experienced them in the previous term. A year after the 2014 Convention in Vancouver, the newly-elected Third

Vice-President, The Rev. Mark L. Smith, moved from Plumas, MB, to accept a call to Halifax. His transfer from the Central to the East District meant that he had to be released from the vice-presidency, which is tied to a specific District. As a result, the Board of Directors (BOD) welcomed back Pastor Rudy Pastucha of Faith Lutheran Church, Saskatoon, as a vice-president. He has brought his characteristic good humour and encouraging spirit to both the BOD and the Council of Presidents (COP). In addition, Pastor Pastucha has served as my designate on the Board of Regents of Concordia Lutheran Seminary in Edmonton. I thank God for the time he has invested in these tasks in addition to the challenges of parish and family life.

Pastor Thomas Kruesel of Bethany Lutheran Church, Campbell River, BC (on Vancouver Island), has faithfully served as Second Vice-President throughout this past triennium. Over the years, Pastor Kruesel has been kind enough to represent me at events like the “Global Encounter” trip sponsored by Canadian Lutheran World Relief, and in exploring new ways to provide for Synod’s archives after the former Lutheran Historical Institute (LHI) was to be transferred from ABC District ownership to us. He is hard-working and winsome, not only in these special assignments, but also in his regular participation at BOD and COP meetings. In addition, Pastor Kruesel continues to serve as Chairman of the Synod’s Colloquy Committee, which processes applications from pastors of other church bodies and from deacon candidates who wish to join the roster of LCC. This is a time-consuming responsibility, because the background and details of the various applicants differ widely. I am deeply grateful for the thoroughness and balance he brings to the task.

I come now to Pastor Nolan Astley, who gave us yet another triennium of service as First Vice-President. Three years ago he surely never dreamed of the extraordinary ways the Synod would need him during the past term. Because of the trauma suffered in the Alberta-British Columbia (ABC) District after the Church Extension Fund (CEF) crisis of 2015, I indicated to the District convention that the Synod would need to take a more direct role in providing ecclesiastical supervision there for a time. The regularly-elected District President, as CEO of the District corporation, was bound by law to place priority on the well-being of the corporation. Meanwhile, God’s people in Alberta and British Columbia needed a pastoral presence not encumbered by legal and corporate challenges. The ABC District convention agreed, asking me by a large margin to appoint such a servant as “interim pastoral leader.” I could hardly have found a stronger candidate for the task than Pastor Astley. Though he had spent the

vast majority of his ministry in the ABC District, he was no longer there and had not been involved in any of the legal and corporate issues that were in dispute. He was, however, well known out west and, in turn, knew most of our pastors and leaders there. For over a year, he divided his time between the western region of our church and his large congregation, Holy Cross Lutheran Church in Kitchener, ON, labouring tirelessly. Nothing like this had ever been necessary, even in the history of the Missouri Synod going back to 1847. We owe so very much to Pastor Astley, who met with congregations, pastors, circuits, and even many beleaguered individuals throughout that year. In addition, our deepest thanks go to God’s people at Holy Cross for giving us half their senior pastor’s time to carry out this assignment and to Pastor Roland Syens of Holy Cross for taking on a heavier parish workload during Pastor Astley’s absences. I am also very mindful of the love we owe to Mrs. Susan Astley for the personal sacrifices she made in their household. During this interim period, Pastor Astley asked to be relieved for a time as my designate on the Board of Regents of Concordia Lutheran Theological Seminary in St. Catharines. We found an able substitute in Pastor Kurt Reinhardt of Gowanstown, ON.

ABC District Church Extension Fund Crisis

So many things that could be written about this; I hardly know where to begin. In early January, 2015, the Alberta-British Columbia District contacted account-holders of its Church Extension Fund (CEF) and District Investments Limited (DIL) that there were problems. Some weeks later, the District sought protection under the “CCAA” (Canadian Corporations Arrangements Act). This precluded anyone from taking legal action against the District while the CCAA umbrella was in place. The CCAA proceeding is intended to provide assurance that all creditors are treated fairly in accordance with the law and that returns on any assets that have to be sold to meet liabilities are prudently dealt with. It is still in effect as of this writing.

A court monitor was appointed for the District, which supervised its financial activity. For a time, the courts prohibited the District from forwarding the customary percentage of their mission receipts to LCC for national and international ministry. This created immediate difficulties for LCC, since the three Districts are our most basic source of mission support. Since mission offerings throughout LCC are voluntary, since congregations are not compelled to contribute – and neither are Districts – I wrote to LCC congregations in Alberta and British Columbia in March of 2015, inviting them to consider forwarding the “Synod portion” of their support directly to us in Winnipeg. A good number of them

have done so. Sometime later the courts permitted the ABC District to resume releasing to LCC the historic “Synod portion.” But, because the CCAA process was still in effect, and because the legal issues confronting the District remain unresolved, LCC has not pushed congregations to return to the “old” system of remitting. A few of them do so, sending their entire mission offering to the District with the understanding that the Synod portion will be forwarded to us. Others continue to remit in the “new” way we had suggested in the early stages of the crisis, sending contributions directly to the national church.

For many people, especially those who had large sums of money invested in CEF, the loss was not financial alone. Their trust in the church was badly shaken in many cases. A good number of them did not understand that the District is an independent corporation and that Lutheran Church-Canada was not involved in the financial decisions that gave rise to the problem, nor did LCC have the authority to intervene in the running of the District corporation. It is not difficult to appreciate that many of them are disappointed and in some cases deeply embittered toward all levels of “the church.” I am especially grateful to the faithful parish pastors in Alberta and British Columbia, who have sought to counsel and encourage their people in the midst of this sorrow. I also thank God for the lay people in our churches out west, who stood by their fellow believers in a great many ways.

Lutheran Church-Canada has faced significant financial trouble because of all of this, having to spend resources on legal counsel and insurance matters while enduring a reduced income, especially from the west, for understandable reasons. But the Lord has been undeservedly kind to us. He has enabled us so far to meet the basic responsibilities for which the Synod was created in the first place. He has also brought forth gifts from other Districts, some local congregations, and individual people that were unexpected and timely. I don’t want the serious problems of this past triennium to overshadow the sincere gratitude that I – and all of us together – owe to the Lord. He has not forgotten us.

Members of the previous presidium and governing board chose not to accept re-election at the time of their District convention in 2015. Current members of the District’s governing Board of Directors have been new to their tasks since that time. These are brave people. They signed up for a demanding job at one of the most painful points in their District’s history, due to the pre-existing problems they now must contend with. I appreciate the efforts of the colleagues who served as chairman of that Board

since 2015; namely, Pastor Roland Kubke (Beach Corner, AB) and Mr. Bill Fraser (Edmonton), to try to navigate the troubled waters. They have also worked to promote a strengthened relationship with the LCC Board of Directors and with me.

Nominations/Elections

The Committee for Convention Nominations 2017 has performed superbly in the months leading up to the deadline for nominations. I cannot say enough in appreciation for their chairman, Reg Tiegs of Oshawa, ON, and for those who served with him. They did all their work via conference call and e-mail, eliminating the costs for a face-to-face meeting in Winnipeg. Reg was repeatedly in touch with new “status reports” on the committee’s progress via Excel spreadsheets; he ended up generating over 100 new versions of that spreadsheet as the work moved forward! As a result, the Convention has a full and workable line-up of candidates from which to choose leaders for the coming several years.

Participation in the direct-nominating process for the offices of President and Vice-President of the Synod improved somewhat this year, perhaps in part because the presidency is now an open seat. It would still be a welcome blessing if all member congregations took part in submitting nominating ballots for these offices every time the call for nominations goes out. Local pastors and circuit counselors can be of immeasurable help in encouraging this to happen.

To be sure, our *Handbook* provides for floor nominations at the Convention in addition to any names already provided through the Nominating Committee or through those direct nomination ballots from congregations for President and Vice-President. Any delegate who is considering placing another candidate’s name forward by means of a floor nomination is reminded that you will need to have that candidate’s permission as well as biographical information (and record of service) in advance of making such a motion.

It is not my place as the outgoing President to make endorsements or to influence delegates to vote for particular candidates. When the first Christian congregation approached the election of a new apostle to replace Judas, they prayed, “*Lord, you know everyone’s heart. Show us which of these ... you have chosen*” (Acts 1:24 NIV). After that, they cast lots. This method was not commanded by God, as far as we know, and yet they trusted the Lord to make use of the weak and frail human means they had available to them. We’ve reached a point in Christian history where we do not employ lots, but ballots and elections. This was not commanded by

the Lord, either, but we can trust Him to make use of this means so common among us – which is also weak and imperfect – to work His will for the Synod. I have been praying this prayer of the first Christians for months, sometimes repeatedly in the course of the day. As you read these lines, I hope you will also stop for a moment and offer such a prayer ... and to keep on doing it from now until we come together in Kitchener.

Cultivating New Leaders

With these lines I repeat a plea I made three years ago: I hope that members and leaders in our church will do what you can to seek out new faces and voices to serve in a variety of ways; as voting delegates from your congregation or area, or in an elected or appointed office. This will be important whether we move to a new structure or retain the one we currently have. The best place for this to start is within local churches, where pastors and longtime members know the gifted newer people the Lord has placed into their midst. To be sure, many of those newer men and women will not be aware of the possibilities of this kind of service, will not know what is involved, and it will never have dawned on them. Both lay leaders and pastors of congregations will help us all by taking the time to approach these people who are gifts from God to us, to take time to describe the work of the larger church beyond the congregation's boundaries, and to encourage them to consider participating.

I do not write this in any way to criticize or discredit the conscientious work done by longtime leaders and delegates. Our Convention would be very poor without them! At the same time, it will require a conscious effort to begin adding new people to the ranks of those who have served long and faithfully. My own sense is that the Convention will be at its strongest when it is comprised of a good, healthy blend of longtime wisdom and newfound enthusiasm. It will not do simply to wring our hands and lament, "I wish new people would get involved!" The Lord wants to use your intercessory prayers and your encouragement to help it happen.

The candidate profiles in this *Convention Workbook* can assist you in seeking out men and women who are equipped to do the Lord's work. Even in those cases where a given person has not yet held a leadership post, you will be able to see how their involvement in the body of Christ in their local congregation in years past may have suited them well for a new task.

Special Guests at the Convention

As of this writing it is not yet clear whether President Dr. Matthew Harrison of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod will be able to join us in Kitchener.

At recent meetings where we were together in Europe he expressed his desire to come, if schedules will cooperate, though he has struggled with some health issues of late.

Dr. Albert Collver, President Harrison's assistant for Church Relations and also Executive Secretary of the International Lutheran Council, notified me recently of his intention to come. This will be a real encouragement.

It will be a special joy to welcome The Rev. Dr. Hans-Jörg Voigt, Bishop of the Selbständige Evangelisch-Lutherische Kirche (SELK), our partner church in Germany, who serves also as the Chairman of the International Lutheran Council (ILC). Bishop Voigt and I have worked closely together for a number of years on ILC and other projects. He is also tied to our Canadian church by a special bond since the Faculty of Concordia Lutheran Seminary in Edmonton honoured him with an honorary D.D. (Doctor of Divinity) degree in 2014.

We are also overjoyed to have the manager of our LCC Mission in Nicaragua, Mr. Roberto José Zepeda, coming from Chinandega with his wife, Maricela. Roberto Jose has been a solid partner of ours since before the Nicaraguan church became self-governing in 2008, and this will be his first visit to Canada. We are absolutely delighted to have him come.

As I write these lines in late July we also received word that the President of the Evangelical Lutheran Church—Peru, The Rev. Milton Winston Tejeda Huatuco, will be joining us and will provide a brief greeting to the delegates. His church is one of a growing number of developing confessional Lutheran churches throughout Latin America, and it will be wonderful to meet him.

The Rev. Dr. Curtis E. Leins, President of The American Association of Lutheran Churches (AALC) will also join us in Kitchener. The AALC was founded decades ago by congregations, largely of the former ALC, who opposed the ELCA merger of 1988 for theological reasons. AALC is a full communion partner of the Missouri Synod, and a fellow member church with us of the ILC.

I don't wish to overlook the presence at Convention of our former Synodical presidents, The Rev. Dr. Edwin Lehman (who served 1988-1996); and the Rev. Dr. Ralph E. Mayan (who served 1996-2008). They are not "guests," strictly speaking, but treasured advisors and encouragers in the body of Christ. This final report of my presidency gives me one more welcome opportunity before God and all of you to record how grateful I am for the cordial relationship I

have enjoyed with both of them. They have been willing to provide valuable guidance whenever they were asked, and yet did not push or resort to “second guessing” the decisions and directions of a new generation of Synodical leaders. They have continued to provide this help even through the personal struggles they endured in recent years; President Lehman bade farewell to his beautiful wife of many years, Marge, who died in the Lord in 2015, while President Mayan was working through some health challenges as announced on the stage of our Vancouver convention in 2014.

Church Relations

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS)

It would be difficult to count all the ways in which we benefit constantly from the encouragement and goodwill we experience from our “mother Synod.” God has blessed me with very brotherly ties to President Matthew Harrison. When I consider the enormous workload he shoulders, I feel deeply grateful for the time and attention he has given to issues in the LCC-LCMS relationship. Another servant – one who isn’t so widely known to most of you – is President Harrison’s Assistant for Church Relations, Dr. Albert Collver. Dr. Collver and I are usually in contact on at least a weekly basis, and in the past triennium he has taken time to travel to areas where we had common mission concerns; namely, in Nicaragua and Ukraine.

The Missouri Synod continues to be the clear leader of confessional Lutheran churches around the world, and is expending money and manpower to strengthen even those outside her traditional fellowship, especially among the large and rapidly growing Lutheran churches of Africa. Missouri has gone out of her way during my presidency to involve LCC also in inter-church dialogues where dialogue partners on the “other side of the table” have ties to Canada and not only in the U.S. Beyond this, Missouri has consistently supported the involvement of LCC theologians in ILC-related dialogues and projects. I was able to submit greetings on your behalf and was in attendance at the Synod’s most recent Convention in July, 2016, at Milwaukee.

Lutheran Church of Australia (LCA)

Though we continue to have periodic contact with the LCA, there was somewhat less formal involvement between our two synods in this past triennium. LCA Bishop Dr. John Henderson, while visiting various partners in North America, spent a day at our Synod office in September, 2014, with Pastor Warren Hamp (Chairman of the CTRC) and me.

The LCA continues to be preoccupied with diverse views on the ordination of women to the pastoral

office. Their most recent national convention had this item on its agenda again, and the proposal to open the ministry to women narrowly failed to reach the two-thirds level of approval required to change a public doctrinal position of that kind. I wrote to the LCA on behalf of our church in the lead-up to that convention to reaffirm our commitment to historic Christian teaching in this area, and to offer the prayer support of our people.

The past triennium did not include any of the pastoral “exchanges” which have taken place on occasion between LCA and LCA clergy. By transfer we did receive onto our clergy roster a Canadian pastor who had gone to serve in the LCA a number of years ago following his graduation from the St. Catharines Seminary, and who was now returning “home,” so to speak.

The LCA is very unique among Lutheran churches in the world, holding “associate” membership in both the Lutheran World Federation (LWF) and the International Lutheran Council (ILC), of which LCC is a part. Theological professors from the LCA made a very welcome contribution to the ILC’s triennial World Seminary Conference in October, 2016, in Wittenberg, Germany, which I also attended.

Igreja Evangelica Luterana do Brasil (IELB) / Mozambique

Just prior to our 2014 convention, I had opportunity to attend the IELB’s massive convention in the coastal city of Aracruz. I was not able to provide any details in our *Convention Workbook* at that time, since it had gone to press before I arrived in Brazil. In addition to the warm relationship I have with President Egon Kopereck, I had opportunity to meet two very gifted IELB pastors, The Rev. Lucas Albrecht and the former IELB president, Dr. Carlos Winterle. Pastor Albrecht was very open to the possibility of receiving a call to Canada, and this past winter this became a reality when he was installed at Mount Olive Church, Regina, SK. Pastor Albrecht had a very impressive record of working with university students.

My contacts with Pastor Winterle were fruitful, since he is currently serving a congregation at Capetown, South Africa, and had made repeated mission-related visits to the neighbouring country of Mozambique. You may recall that the “Kapasseni Project” (a former LCC Listed Service Organization which has now concluded its work) had been active in marshalling Canadian support for the work of LCC pastor, Rev. Joseph Alfazema. Pastor Alfazema had returned to his native Mozambique years ago, ultimately planting new Lutheran congregations and mission stations. When Pastor Alfazema retired to

Edmonton for health reasons, we had encouraged the church in Brazil to get involved with theological education and other forms of encouragement in Mozambique, since Mozambique (like Brazil) is officially a Portuguese-speaking country. The response from Brazil has been encouraging; from his “nearby” spot in South Africa, Pastor Winterle made repeated trips to Mozambique, which resulted in the organizing of a self-governing church there in August, 2015. Nor is it only the Africans who have benefitted from this new partnership! The Brazilian church itself, though large and growing, had done rather little foreign mission work in its history, and this venture represented a wonderful step forward in their development, too.

Iglesia Luterana—Sínodo de Nicaragua (ILSN)

Since our last convention, I have travelled twice to Nicaragua; the first trip in October, 2014, to install LCMS missionary-pastor, Rev. Edmund Auger and his wife, Deaconess Cherie Auger, as mission resource persons for our entire Central American field, in other words, for Honduras and Costa Rica as well as Nicaragua. The Augers served in this capacity for just under two years, moving on to the Dominican Republic in late 2016.

Meanwhile, LCC encouraged the Nicaraguan church to become more involved in the International Lutheran Council (ILC) and especially its Latin America world region. Brother Presidents of church bodies in that region have shown great encouragement to ILSN President Pastor Marvin Donaire. The ILC, meeting in September, 2015, in Buenos Aires, Argentina, voted to accept the ILSN as a member church, subject to the Nicaraguan church’s vote to ratify this acceptance. That ratification took place at the ILSN’s regular biennial Synod convention in January, 2016, which marked my second trip there in this triennium. We were all overjoyed when Bishop Voigt, the ILC Chairman, came from Germany to formally celebrate this forward step. At that same convention, Pastor Donaire was elected to a second term as the ILSN Synodical president.

LCC people continue to be active as members of “brigadas” (teams) which do construction work, provide Vacation Bible School support, and in some cases have developed long-standing partnership relationships with various local congregations in Nicaragua. LCC clergy have also gone to teach theological courses to pastors and deaconesses at various times during the past triennium.

Selbständige Evangelisch-Lutherische Kirche (SELK)

A formal bilateral protocol between LCC and the SELK (Independent Evangelical Lutheran Church)

was established very early on after LCC autonomy in the late 1980s. I work very closely with Bishop Voigt in his capacity as ILC Chairman, since I serve as his Vice-Chairman. The past triennium brought several visits to Germany, some of them under ILC auspices, some more directly because of our relationship to the SELK.

The SELK – together with the Missouri Synod – celebrated the dedication of the “Old Latin School” (www.ouldlatinschool.org) in Luther’s Wittenberg in May, 2015. This building, originally erected in the 1560s, had fallen into disrepair and neglect in the later years of communist East Germany. Now the Old Latin School lives again as a place where groups and conferences come to study the Lutheran Reformation, where Concordia Publishing House maintains a bookstore, and where our German partners are attempting to plant a new preaching station in the city, which has had no Biblical Lutheran congregation for years. In August, 2015, on the way back from a mission visit to Ukraine, I was invited to preach in Luther’s Town Church (just a few metres away from the Latin School) for the installation of Kristen Lange as the new managing Director of this International Lutheran Study Centre.

Earlier this summer, I returned to Germany in June for the ILC’s annual Executive Committee meeting in Berlin, and also to participate in the SELK’s own national celebration of the Reformation, which happened June 23-25. I was asked to participate in a public panel discussion on “Opportunities and Challenges for the Lutheran Church in the 21st Century” in one Berlin-area congregation, and to preach in another one the following Sunday. The SELK has also done very remarkable mission work in recent years, particularly in the area of outreach to people from Iran and Afghanistan, in larger German cities such as Berlin, Leipzig and Braunschweig. Large numbers of immigrants from these countries have come to faith in Christ, often at great personal risk and sacrifice.

Synod of Evangelical Lutheran Churches of Ukraine (SELCU)

I attended the SELCU Synod convention on your behalf in November, 2014. Their longtime bishop, Dr. Viktor Gräfenstein, had asked to be released from this post and was replaced by The Rev. Aleksandr “Sasha” Yurchenko. Dr. Norman Threinen, longtime Rector of our Concordia Seminary, Odessa, was with me during that visit together with his daughter, Deborah Belden. Plans were already underway to resume the work of the seminary, which had been interrupted in prior years because of the political and military tensions between Ukraine and Russia.

Soon after that visit, Dr. Threinen asked to be released from his leadership post at the Ukraine seminary. He had poured so much of himself into that program and through countless teaching trips to Kamenka and Odessa since 1998. Regretfully we accepted his request to fully retire. Soon afterward we identified a successor in the person of Dr. Wilhelm Torgerson, an adjunct professor at our St. Catharines Seminary, although the Ukraine program remains under the jurisdiction of Concordia Lutheran Seminary in Edmonton. A group of four students began in the fall of 2015. It has been a struggle, however, to find LCC pastors willing to travel to Ukraine to provide theological teaching. We have received some help from clergy of the Missouri Synod and the Evangelical Lutheran Mission Diocese of Finland. Let me take this moment to encourage brother pastors to consider this form of service. I can testify from my own visits in the past triennium that, even though Ukraine has been in conflict with Russia, the crisis zone is many hundreds of kilometres east of our seminary, and the Odessa area remains quiet and secure. A well-equipped “professor’s apartment” is awaiting you in the seminary building, and receptive students are anxious to see you!

Another church body in Ukraine is known as the “DELKU” (German Evangelical Lutheran Church of Ukraine), whose headquarters is also in Odessa. For many years, the DELKU was dominated by the more liberal Lutheran state churches of Germany, which appointed German-based bishops to lead it. It was encouraging several years ago when the DELKU elected its first Ukraine-based bishop, The Rev. Serge Maschewski. Bishop Maschewski was committed to a much more conservative and biblical approach to Christian life and teaching. As a result, the German state church authorities broke their ties with the DELKU in mid-2015. Since Bishop Maschewski had studied for some years in the “Russian Project” of Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, IN, that Seminary became involved with the DELKU beginning in the autumn of 2015. This has given rise to the unusual situation where Missouri Synod affiliates have been active in an area traditionally recognized as an LCC mission field. Dr. Collver and I traveled to Odessa in August, 2016, and worked out a four-party agreement encouraging stronger communication and cooperation among DELKU, SELCU, LCMS and LCC. I was back in Odessa in February, 2017, for a conference of Eastern European bishops at which I was also invited to present.

Developments in mission areas and fledgling church bodies – such as the ones we know from Nicaragua, Ukraine and southeastern Asia – all remind me of the

infant churches we read of in the New Testament. Like growing children and young people, their development is nearly always marked by some frustrations and conflicts. But, again, like growing children, they have faith and trust in Christ because of God’s Word and Spirit. The apostle St. Paul encouraged his co-workers never to lose sight of that! And, because that is a reality, he admonished the workers and members to be patient with each other. That becomes much easier to do when you and I recognize how the Lord has shown such endless patience with our own sins, weaknesses and failures ... yours and mine.

Thailand Concordia Lutheran Church (TCLC)

The second visit of my presidency to Thailand took place in March, 2015. There I had consultations with their Synod president, The Rev. Ted NaThalang, and with members of the TCLC national Board of Directors. This church is often challenged because it was a merger of a number of smaller groups, which had been developed by various Lutheran church bodies, and which all had a separate development before the formation of TCLC. The work is further challenged since their Synod president travels extensively and divides his time between Thailand and another residence in the U.S.

Cambodia

My 2015 visit to Thailand also included some days in neighbouring Cambodia. This past triennium has brought great sorrow and challenge to the former “Evangelical Lutheran Church of Cambodia” (ELCC). Some of you will remember that ELCC President, Rev. Vannarith Chhim, attended our 2014 Vancouver convention and brought greetings.

It came to light in 2016 that President Vannarith was guilty of conduct that resulted in his resignation as ELCC president and as a pastor. Legal difficulties ensued, because the ELCC’s official registration as a recognized religious body in Cambodia had lapsed, and furthermore was issued only to the name of President Vannarith. Attempts to transfer the registration were unsuccessful. As a result, the leadership of this young church came to the conclusion that the only realistic solution was to allow the old ELCC registration to remain lapsed and to formally constitute a new Synodical structure, the “Cambodian Lutheran Church” (CLC).

I cannot say enough about the valuable ministry of our retired LCC mission director, Rev. Dr. Leonard Harms, who has made repeated visits to Cambodia to help this young church through its days of crisis. As I write these lines, the Cambodians are on the verge of scheduling their constituting convention for the

new Synodical organization, and appear to be moving forward.

The Cambodian church had already experienced remarkable growth before the crisis of 2016, with approximately 35 primary congregations, and something like 150+ preaching stations or house churches affiliated with them. And all of this since 2009! I am hopeful that the stage will now be set for their continued growth and maturity.

Evangelical Lutheran Mission Diocese of Finland (ELMDF)

Historically, Lutherans were the “state churches” in the Nordic countries of Denmark, Norway, Sweden and Finland. In some of them well over 90% of the population were formally members of such churches. However, for decades, the Nordic churches have been afflicted with the corrosive effects of “Bible-critical” theology and have sometimes been willing to reverse historic Christian teaching.

As a result, Biblical Lutherans in these countries began forming “mission dioceses” some years ago. These were like non-geographic districts within the state churches, which began forming very alive and growing local congregations (often called “koinonias”), marked by strong preaching of Christ, serious Bible study, and the involvement of many young adults and families. State church authorities have reacted to these developments negatively, generally expelling from their clergy rosters pastors who were involved with the mission-diocese movement. As a result, the mission dioceses began having bishops consecrated for them ... with help from Africa, a wonderful story!

LCC has become involved with the mission diocese in Finland, since this young church body provided two visiting instructors for our St. Catharines seminary, Rev. Juhana Pohjola, and Rev. Esko Murto. When Pastor Murto was recently called to be a permanent part of our seminary faculty, arrangements were made for him to join the LCC clergy roster by colloquy. Meanwhile, the mission diocese in Finland approached me in October, 2016, to ask whether LCC would be prepared to establish a formal fellowship relationship with them. I have consulted several times with Bishop Risto Soramies on this matter. As I write these lines, Pastor Warren Hamp (Chairman of our CTCR) and I are preparing to travel to Helsinki in early August to carry out the necessary discussions. If these consultations go well, you may have a “late overture” submitted prior to the convention on this subject. You’ll recall from earlier in this report how the Finnish mission diocese has also assisted us with theological teaching at our seminary in Odessa, Ukraine.

International Lutheran Council (ILC)

We have continued our active participation in the ILC throughout the previous triennium. Its last World Conference met in Buenos Aires, Argentina, in September, 2015. This conference was somewhat frustrated by the fact that nearly all representatives from African countries were unable to procure a visa to enter Argentina. Ironically, some of the strongest interest in the ILC and its work is coming from Lutheran churches in Africa who were traditionally members of the Lutheran World Federation (LWF). A number of them have become concerned over changes in teaching on human sexuality, but actually as part of the larger issues of Biblical authority, the nature of the Gospel and the mission of the church. Significant interest is also arising from Eastern Europe, especially from church bodies rooted in republics of the former Soviet Union.

Also in this past triennium, the ILC World Seminary Conference took place in Luther’s Wittenberg in Germany in October, 2016. Our LCC seminary presidents, Dr. James Gimbel and Dr. Thomas Winger, were there to represent our Synod; I was in attendance because the ILC Executive Committee was meeting in Wittenberg at the same time.

Our LCC communications manager, Mathew Block, continues to serve as the editor of *ILC News*, and the Council has also launched an improved internet website (www.ilc-online.org).

The ILC is subdivided into five “world areas” which include Europe, Africa, Asia, Latin America and North America. Each of those areas elects a member church whose president becomes the area representative on the Executive Committee for his region. I have served as the North American world area representative throughout my presidency since 2008. In addition, I have had the honour to be the Council’s Vice-Chairman since 2009.

Dr. Albert Collver of the Missouri Synod serves as the part-time ILC Executive Secretary. Currently the ILC is on the verge of becoming incorporated, which will help it to access deeper financial support. Our dream is that, in the not-too-distant future, the Council will be in a position to have a full-time Executive Secretary and the infrastructure to process the rising number of inquiries it is receiving from interested Lutheran church bodies around the world.

One notable effort begun in the past several years is a series of informal theological dialogues between ILC and the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity (PCPCU). Dr. John Stephenson of our St. Catharines Seminary was named by the ILC as a

regular member of the “team” from our side. Most of these conversations are happening in Germany, since the Catholic Church had designated the German-based Johann-Adam-Möhler-Institute as the coordinating agency from their side.

Lutheran Council in Canada (LCIC)

You will find the LCIC report elsewhere in this *Convention Workbook*. The Council continues to meet annually in Winnipeg to monitor a limited number of common concerns where the major Lutheran bodies in Canada – ELCIC and LCC – continue to work together.

Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada (ELCIC)

Our relationship with the ELCIC is certainly cordial, but it is distant in that both church bodies – ELCIC and LCC – recognize that they are not each other’s primary partners. The ELCIC has strong and active ties to the Anglican Church of Canada, and the ELCIC Bishop, Dr. Susan Johnson, is a recognized international leader in the Lutheran World Federation (LWF). LCC, meanwhile, is more strongly focused on its relationships with The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod and the International Lutheran Council.

The most regular contacts with the ELCIC happen within the context of other inter-church agencies, such as the Lutheran Council in Canada and Canadian Lutheran World Relief (CLWR). These are clearly of benefit to our people, as well as those of the ELCIC. I did appreciate the opportunity in November, 2015, to make a presentation at Redeemer, Saskatoon, SK (ELCIC) at the annual concert and program of the local hospital ministry organization. The diverging paths of major Lutheran bodies in Canada, regrettable as it is, is not surprising. It is a manifestation of the same development taking place on the world scene.

North American Lutheran Church (NALC)

Semi-annual dialogues involving the NALC, the LCMS and LCC, which began in late 2011, have continued throughout this triennium. The participating churches determined to work on substantive theological issues, one at a time. The first result of this approach was the publication of *God’s Word Forever Shall Abide* in 2016, a common statement on the inspiration, authority and inerrancy of Holy Scripture. Afterward the dialogue group moved to discussions on Law and Gospel, and pushed for the publication of a series of essays on that subject. The volume from Concordia Publishing House will appear this fall under the title, *The Necessary Distinction*. I have had the honour of representing LCC in these talks; in addition, we had

the opportunity in 2015 to host one of the meetings at our Synod office in Winnipeg.

Meanwhile, LCC district presidents have assisted NALC pastors in obtaining credentials to perform marriages in their respective provincial jurisdictions; some NALC pastors have also enrolled in the LCC Worker Benefit Plans. It has also been a real joy to see NALC youth and their counselors participate once again at the LCC National Youth Gathering in 2016 in St. Catharines, ON. In addition, NALC parish pastors have attended the LCC monthly circuit meetings regularly in the Red River Circuit here in Winnipeg; as of this moment I am unaware whether this is happening in other parts of the Synod.

Anglican Church in North America (ACNA) / Anglican Network in Canada (ANiC)

Parallel to the twice-a-year meetings involving the NALC, our Synod has also continued its participation in similar discussions involving LCC, LCMS and the ACNA. Dr. John Stephenson of the St. Catharines Seminary, originally just an “observer” from LCC, was later granted full participant status and – if I may give way to some sanctified pride – became one of the leading voices in this effort. God has also given His blessing to these discussions. Anglicans and Lutherans involved in this dialogue are strongly committed to the authority of Scripture as God’s revealed Word, and to the mission of proclaiming Christ as the only Saviour of the world. The discussions resulted in the publication of a major paper in 2016 under the title *On Closer Acquaintance*.

The fractures within the world Anglican communion – as well as in North America – are comparable to the similar disconnect taking place in Lutheran circles. As theologians in western Europe and North America continue propagating a critical approach to Scripture with its negative consequences for historic Biblical teaching, the growing churches in Africa – Anglican as well as Lutheran – are finding their way into closer collaboration with those who share their convictions on foundational teachings of the faith. The so-called “GAFCON” conference of conservative Anglican church bodies now accounts for the majority of Anglican Christians in the world.

The most recent LCMS/LCC/ACNA dialogue meeting was hosted by our Concordia Lutheran Theological Seminary, St. Catharines, in early March, 2017. Among the participants was Bishop Charles Masters of the Anglican Network in Canada (ANiC), a regional unit of the ACNA.

Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops (CCCCB)

The “national” dialogues authorized by the CCCB and LCC continued throughout this past triennium. They are generally concentrated in the Niagara region of southern Ontario to save on expenses for both participating churches. The LCC side is ably represented by Pastor Warren Hamp, Chairman of the Synod’s CTCR; First Vice-President Rev. Nolan Astley; as well as by St. Catharines Seminary professors John Stephenson and Thomas Winger. The Roman Catholic delegation is headed by Bishop Gerard Bergie of the Diocese of St. Catharines.

Meanwhile, a “regional” dialogue for the Edmonton area was launched, largely through the influence of former Concordia University president, Dr. Gerald Krispin. After Dr. Krispin resigned from the Synod’s clergy roster in early 2016, the LCC delegation re-organized somewhat and is now chaired by Pastor Michael Keith of Stony Plain, AB. Other LCC participants include Dr. John Maxfield of Concordia University; Dr. Adrian Leske, retired Concordia professor; and Dr. John Hellwege of Concordia Lutheran Seminary in Edmonton.

The intensified contacts between the Roman Catholic Church in Canada and LCC resulted in an invitation to me to participate in the CCCB’s annual plenary conference at Cornwall, ON, in September, 2016. I was able to take part in a panel discussion between the bishops’ commission on inter-Christian relationships and other ecumenical guests who were present. In addition, I had the special honour of addressing the Catholic bishops of Canada as we were drawing close to the 500th Anniversary of Luther’s Reformation.

Dialogues with Roman Catholics have been very encouraging when one considers the spirit in which the participants on both sides are able to discuss theology. Dialogue members are respectful and cordial to each other on the human level; at the same time, nobody pretends that there are no significant differences between us, nor do participants “gloss over” the problems as if they were of no consequence.

I am especially grateful for the public witness of Roman Catholics in Canada in recent years as society continues to secularize, especially in the areas of defense of unborn human life, as well as the matter of physician-assisted suicide and the sanctity of traditional holy marriage. Core areas of Christian teaching which launched the Lutheran Reformation still involve serious disagreement. We do not muffle this fact. But in a time when Christians in this society are on the defensive in many ways, the willingness of the Roman Church to stand tall for family life and marriage issues is welcome indeed.

Concordia University of Edmonton (CUE)

Much has been written and published on this subject. You will recall the numerous resolutions passed in 2014 to express appreciation and encouragement for the work of Concordia University of Edmonton (CUE), as well as the very fine Pentecost sermon preached at the convention by then-University President, Dr. Gerald S. Krispin. Following the disclosure of the CEF problem in early 2015, CUE advised us that it wished to exit the LCC Worker Benefit Plans and to establish a worker benefit plan of its own. The negotiations took many months to complete, but this was finally successfully and equitably done, as CUE took with it a just share of both its assets and liabilities from our Plan.

In late 2015, without consultation and indeed without even any advance notice, the CUE Board of Governors resolved to sever any formal connection with Lutheran Church-Canada. This was simply contrary to repeated assurances that the Lutheran heritage was anchored in the Mission/Vision/Values statement of the University. The University was concerned that it needed to make a broader appeal, particularly within the Alberta constituency it serves. I initiated contact with Dr. Krispin in the aftermath of these matters in December of that year. He ultimately published a piece in *The Canadian Lutheran* explaining himself on this issue, and at my urging did so also in a public forum at Riverbend Lutheran Church, Edmonton, in March 2016. One consequence of these events was he resigned from the clergy roster of LCC in early 2016.

The status of any LCC rostered workers (pastors or deacons) on the staff of CUE became a matter of concern, since teaching positions at a non-church institution are not generally recognized as assignments that maintain one’s rostered status. At the same time, the Council of Presidents (COP) understood that CUE action to sever its church connections took place without any encouragement on the part of such rostered workers. So they are being maintained on the roster at the present time.

At the same time, CUE has continued to promote certain events and activities which appear to promote – or at least provide a hearing – for the Christian faith. Dr. Bill Anderson, an LCC pastor, has been prominent in stimulating a Christian witness there, and this past March the University hosted Dr. Robert Kolb, a Missouri Synod scholar, who provided a Reformation lecture in observance of the Luther anniversary year. We are aware that a good number of faithful Christian staff people and students continue to teach and learn at Concordia, and for this

we thank God ... even though we cannot help feeling sorrow over the distance now separating the University and the church which established it long, long ago.

Statistics in Brief

2016 Statistics Summary:

Congregations	300
Baptized Membership	58,216
Confirmed Membership	44,666
Pastors	409
Deacons	76
Children Baptized	645
Adults Baptized or Confirmed	177

Statistical reverses in these areas have been with us throughout the time I have served as the Synod's president. If the current restructuring efforts underway can result in a streamlining of LCC's administrative side, I am hopeful that pastoral leaders will be able to give much more concentrated attention to these sorts of challenges: How can we strengthen pastoral ministry in our congregations so that people are less likely to drift away from the body of Christ, and become the sort of nurturing places that attract people who currently do not confess Jesus? How can we equip our people to be the kind of witnesses urgently needed in our land in this time where the Lord has placed us?

2014 Resolutions Assigned to the President

Following the Vancouver convention, rather few resolutions were assigned specifically or solely to the president for implementation during the triennium. One of them (Resolution 14.3.02) had to do with amending the *Handbook* provisions regarding the frequency of the Synodical Planning Council, and this was done with the publication of the updated *2014 Handbook* at the end of that year.

Another (Resolution 14.3.13) had to do with developing new ways of funding vicarages, apart from assessment, and encouraging congregations to support the work of District and Synod. The development of such "new ways" largely stalled in the past triennium, first, because of the time required to deal with the CEF crisis and restructuring challenges (all of which surfaced after our 2014 Vancouver convention); and second, because it was felt that approaching local churches – particularly in the ABC District – on stewardship and financial matters would be painful and counterproductive at this moment in the immediate aftermath of the CEF/DIL crisis.

2017: 500th Reformation Anniversary

There is little doubt in my mind that Synodical preparations for the 500th anniversary of Luther's

Reformation suffered significantly because of all the additional work required this past triennium to cope with both the ABC CEF crisis, as well as the call for restructuring issued by all three District conventions in 2015.

Some time ago, a "Reformation 500 Committee" was created and has been convening regular conference calls ever since. Its members include: Rev. Dr. David Somers (Montreal), Rev. Paul Roggow (Duncan, BC), Stephen Klinck (for the LLL-Canada), Joy Berg (Edmonton), Dr. John Hellwege (Concordia Lutheran Seminary, Edmonton), Marion Hollinger (for LWML-Canada), Mathew Block (LCC communications manager) and Rev. James Heinbuch (Spruce Grove, AB), who is the chairman. The committee has reported creation of a dedicated internet website, www.reformation2017.ca, where you can find informative articles, a schedule of special events, and other resources related to the Reformation. Special articles have appeared in recent months in *The Canadian Lutheran*, as well as a series of cover artwork by Kelly Klages (Morden, MB). During our Convention, the committee is encouraging all of you to attend a Reformation-themed concert on Saturday evening at Grace Lutheran Church in Kitchener, sponsored by our friends at Redeemer Lutheran Church in Waterloo. The worship services and Bible studies at the Convention will take up the Reformation theme also.

Our Board of Directors

This triennium has brought considerably greater stability to the ranks of our LCC Board of Directors (BOD), when compared with the many comings-and-goings we had experienced in the previous term. The organizational meeting of the BOD after the Vancouver once again elected **Arnold Drung** (West Montrose, ON) to continue as its Chairman, and he has performed with competence and patience. **Pastor Paul Schallhorn** (Tillsonburg, ON) was selected to a second term as Synodical secretary, which includes also service on the Commission on Constitutional Matters and Structure (CCMS). Pastor Schallhorn has been involved in countless extra meetings and conference calls through his CCMS work and the restructuring process in general. As mentioned earlier in my comments about Synod's vice-presidents, **Pastor Mark L. Smith** (Halifax, NS) was released in 2015 and then succeeded by **Pastor Rudy Pastucha** (Saskatoon, SK). New faces on the BOD this term included **Pastor Kurt Reinhardt** (Gowanstown, ON), **Alan Schmitt** (London, ON) and **Cindy Sholdice** (Winnipeg, MB).

At this Convention, BOD member **Ron Roller** (Walnut Grove, BC) is concluding his service. He has been a faithful and steady presence at the table,

always considerate of others while making his views clear when we needed to hear them.

Committee functions have strengthened during the past triennium, especially within the Board's Personnel Committee, chaired by BOD member Cam Pelzer (Regina, SK), and more recently within the Committee on Communications and Technology, chaired by BOD member Grace Henderson (Millet, AB).

Changes Coming at Synod's Office

We've been through changes in the past three years: Longtime colleagues from the Worker Benefit Plans, **Cheryll Matthes** and **Janice Otto**, left at the end of 2014 as administrative services for that section were out-sourced to Ellement & Ellement of Winnipeg. **President Thomas Prachar** of the Central District (upstairs) is ably assisted by **Lil Kozussek**, whom many of you know, and who has served us for many years. **David Friesen** continues as the Central District's planned giving counselor; and **Gail Bugbee** has carried on one day a week with special assignments for the Central District. **Dwayne Cleave** has remained in his dual role as LCC Treasurer and the Executive Director of the LCC Worker Benefit Plans; in the accounting department he is assisted by **Christine Bradley**, who took over as accounting manager when **Jim Clark** left in 2016. **Deb Kitlar** and **Rose Rosyati** also work in accounting, and have been assisted throughout the past few years by a series of part-time and temporary employees.

Marlene Mohr joined us since the last Convention, and now sits at the front desk as an administrative assistant, while **Iris Barta** was advanced to office manager and oversees a dizzying array of areas and assignments. I am very dependent on these "downstairs supervisors" of mine on a daily basis!

There are some departures on the horizon: **Mathew Block**, our communications manager, has worked on a deployed basis the past year (at Swan River, MB), due to the medical residency assignment of his wife, Dr. Leah Block. Mathew will vacate this position soon after the Convention, though he may assist with some special assignments after he leaves our full-time employment. In addition, **Dr. Leonardo Neitzel**, our mission executive since 2009, will retire sometime in the first half of the New Year. I have asked him to remain on so that the new Synodical president may recommend a successor, since our new president and new mission director will hopefully be working together for many years into the future.

Entered into Rest

We remember with thanksgiving the following rostered workers who died in the Lord since our last

Convention, and praise Him for the seeds they were privileged to plant during their service in His church:

- April 5, 2014	Rev. Lester Gierach
- June 24, 2014	Deacon Roy Albert Wicke
- June 17, 2014	Rev. Herbert Heinemann
- October 30, 2014	Rev. Dr. Russell Nelson
- November 4, 2014	Rev. Aaron Rubach
- February 9, 2015	Rev. Harold Patzer
- August 21, 2015	Rev. Richard Wukasch
- September 14, 2015	Rev. Martin S.W. Chiang
- December 28, 2015	Rev. Siegmund Redenbach
- January 28, 2016	Rev. Allan Carl Harlos
- May 30, 2016	Deacon Carol Haberstock
- July 10, 2016	Rev. Hangook Bai
- September 25, 2016	Rev. Harold C. Clark
- October 17, 2016	Rev. Norman Eifert
- January 13, 2017	Dr. Judith Claire Meier
- February 26, 2017	Rev. Albert Schmidt
- March 29, 2017	Rev. Glenway Backus
- April 30, 2017	Rev. Paul Schult

My Transition to the Parish

In February, 2017, I notified Synod's family by public letter that I could not be available for election to a fourth term as president. The strongest reasons have to do with family needs, my wife's ongoing medical situation, and the progressing physical and mental state of her mother, who is dependent on her since my wife is her only surviving child. The distance between Winnipeg and "Granny's" home is too great for us to properly address her needs, and my frequent lengthy travels away from home and out of the country make it impossible for me to continue with this work indefinitely. I sought the Lord's guidance in my prayers for many, many months leading to this decision, and thank Him for the conviction He gave me.

A month after my decision I fell on a hillside in rural New England the day after a blizzard and severely fractured my left ankle, requiring substantial surgery. The recovery has been steady, but slow. I was required to stay away from the office for a number of weeks; subsequent physiotherapy appointments added to my time away from the desk. Accordingly, the pile of neglects grew higher ... if there are things that do not seem quite properly prepared for this Convention, I am the most likely cause in one way or another.

In late March, I was notified by the voters of First Lutheran Church in Windsor, ON, that they had elected me to be their pastor. This is a challenging assignment, requiring bilingual preaching each week and the pastoral care of their school, First Lutheran Christian Academy. Because of my medical situation it took longer than usual to come to a decision on this matter, but I was moved to accept this call in early May. The Synod's BOD determined that my term of

service will officially end on January 15, 2018, and asked me to remain to the end of the month in case I am needed for advice or transitional matters. As God wills, Gail and I will leave Winnipeg around February 1 so that I can take up my new work as pastor to Christ's people in Windsor.

Restructuring

Without doubt, the proposed restructuring of Lutheran Church-Canada will take centre stage at this Eleventh Synodical Convention. Magazine articles, a national poll, circuit meetings and regional convocations have resulted in a great mountain of words and opinions on the subject. Because there have been recent developments on this matter as published on www.canadianlutheran.ca, important work will continue until late August, shepherded forward by a Working Group recently appointed by the BOD and the CCMS. This will come in time for consideration by Resolutions Committee #1, set to meet September 8-9 in Winnipeg and to be communicated to delegates and the church in time to meet the 30-day advance notice required for bylaw changes.

Because this work is continuing as of this writing, I will have more to say on the subject of restructuring in Part 2 of my report at the beginning of the Convention.

Sincere Thanks

REPORT 2: Secretary

To say the last three years as secretary of LCC has been an overwhelming period of time in my service to the Church would be an understatement: the intense and voluminous work done on restructuring with the CCMS; the extensive work done as a Board member in struggling with the ABC District CEF and DIL crisis; and moving to a new calling at Peace Lutheran, Tillsonburg, ON. If I would have known what this last Convention cycle would have entailed – personally and professionally – I would have been tempted to give up, yet as so often happens, God knows better than us what we are capable of and places the right people to encourage and support us to follow through on the tasks He sets before us.

Therefore, with that in mind, I would like to say thank you to President Bugbee; you have provided LCC with a steady hand at the tiller in keeping the ship, LCC, moving in a focused direction through some very turbulent waters. Only God knows the extent of your service to Him and His Church, but we are indebted to you and to Gail for letting you serve us. May your new field of service to the people of

I thank the Synod for providing me with this very unique opportunity to serve, and for giving me her confidence three times by vote of the Convention. Except for the Lord Himself, nobody is more conscious than I of all the shortcomings I have shown during these 9-plus years, missed opportunities, and neglects of various kinds. I can only hope that God's people may be as patient and merciful toward me as He is. I ask your forgiveness here for every failure, not only the ones of which I am aware, but the many others that have likely not occurred to me.

At the same time, I wish you all to know how deeply I have treasured your goodwill, your welcoming spirit when I came to visit your parts of the Synod, and the undeserved respect you have given me. Your prayer support was especially treasured by Gail and me during those early years when she was in the acute stages of cancer and its treatment.

For whatever things in my ministry as president were good, sound and helpful, I give glory to the Lord alone. The prophet said it better than I can: *"All that we have accomplished You have done for us"* (Isaiah 26:12 NIV).

In Christ our dear Lord,
Rev. Dr. Robert Bugbee, President
Lutheran Church-Canada

First Lutheran, Windsor, ON give you many more years of fulfilling service to God.

Secondly, thank you to Iris, Marlene, and the rest of the staff at the LCC office for their diligent work done on our behalf to make sure all of the "i"s were dotted and the "t"s were crossed.

Continued thanks goes also to Chairman Arnold Drung for his direction and to the Board of Directors for their faithful efforts to deal with what was placed before us, and to Pastor Nolan Astley who shared secretarial duties when I was unable to.

To Rev. Bill Ney, CCMS Chair, my fellow CCMS members, and our restructuring consultant, Rev. Dr. Les Stahlke, thank you for your hard work this past triennium; we have had much work to do, and at times, it seemed like we were going to be overwhelmed, yet by tackling the hard issues we have provided LCC with some valuable information to enable her to move forward as we focus on sharing Christ Alone, Christ Forever.

To the gracious saints at Peace Lutheran, Tillsonburg, ON who in calling me as their new pastor probably didn't know what they were getting themselves into yet fully and freely allowed me to be away from them for a significant amount of time over the past 22 months; your support is exceptional.

Finally, thank you to my wife, Rosalie, who has had to put up with all the extra work that took me from her and our family – whether abroad or at home; I couldn't have done any of this without her generous understanding and support as my sounding board and cheerleader. You live and show me Christ every day.

For the record, minutes have been taken for the past three years and filed with the appropriate people, as has any correspondence received or sent.

I would like to challenge the new incoming Board of Directors – and all Synod Commissions, Committees and the like – to try and utilize video-conferencing and other digital technologies more fully as the means of communication for our Synod wherever it is expedient and proper to do so. Hopefully we will save some time and money by using what God has placed at our disposal.

May God bless our time and work together as we seek to serve Him.

Think of God Loving You,
Pastor Paul Schallhorn

REPORT 3: TREASURER OF LUTHERAN CHURCH–CANADA (LCC)

We never could have imagined the turmoil our Synodical family was going to face when we last gathered together, at the June 2014 convention. The failure of the ABC District Church Extension Fund was financially devastating to a large number of CEF depositors and their families. The subsequent CCAA proceedings and pending class action lawsuit have been emotionally and spiritually draining to most everyone involved.

The direct financial impact of this situation on LCC has been a significant drop in mission receipts through the ABC District office and also substantial incurred legal costs with regard to the CCAA proceedings.

We therefore must humbly keep placing our trust in the Lord's care; and pray that He will continue to bless our Church family with the solutions it needs to move beyond this very painful situation.

Before they call I will answer, while they are still speaking I will hear (Isaiah 65:24).

Trust in the Lord's care was answered during this triennium in some very tangible ways.

1. Despite all the financial trouble, LCC's statement of operations for the recent triennium period illustrates a slight **surplus** of **\$11,222**. God alone accomplished this positive result through the influence of the Holy Spirit on his faithful people. The other

two Districts immediately made up some of the ABC shortfall by providing extra mission gifts in 2015, congregations within the ABC District continue to help a great deal by regularly sending a portion of their mission gifts directly to LCC. Several congregations in the other two Districts also sent extra mission receipts directly to LCC. *For I testify that they gave as much as they were able and even beyond their ability, entirely on their own (2 Corinthians 8:3)*

2. LCC **did not** have to **change** its core overseas mission **budget** and continues to carry on meaningful mission initiatives in Nicaragua, Ukraine, Thailand and Cambodia. In addition to the primary objective of gospel proclamation in these areas we were still able to share the love of Jesus our Saviour through a number of social ministry programs. Examples include children's Christian education and feeding programs.
3. The two Seminaries did experience a **slight reduction** in the financial support they receive from LCC, but individual donors bridged some of this shortfall by providing large financial gifts directly to the Seminaries. Despite the decrease in LCC contributions the two Seminaries remained financially stable. More importantly both

Seminaries continue to train and form men for the service of pastoral office in our congregations. Our Seminaries also continue to provide considerable support to the training and forming of pastors in our overseas mission fields.

4. LCC manages the delivery of the pension and benefit program to our pastors and other church workers. Your offerings help support the body of Christ by providing for the well-being of our workers and their families. We are pleased to share that for the first time in nearly ten years our Defined Benefit (DB) pension plan is in a **surplus position**, when measured on a “**going concern**” funded basis.
5. Communication services remain a very important component of our work in Synod and the **publication** of *The Canadian Lutheran* and other media continues to be valued by our membership

Despite these recent blessings our Synod is still facing significant financial challenges, primarily due to declining church membership. Declining membership is certainly not unique to our church body. But we do need to be responsible stewards and fully accept the fact that we have a serious problem; and courageously address the core issues on why some members are walking away from the family.

Core issues for us generally relate to prosperity or conformity to culture.

The Lord certainly warned ancient Israel in Deuteronomy 8 not to forget God in times of prosperity, and Paul in Romans 12:1-2 urges everyone not to be conformed to the culture, but

rather be transformed by the renewing of the mind so you may discern what the will of God is.

The proposed restructuring model alone, will not fix these fundamental problems. But the change should facilitate a streamlined organization where our key pastoral leaders can focus the majority of their time on Ecclesiastical matters, building community and on the care of members. More frequent interaction between the key pastoral leaders and their constituents will be viewed as a positive step, in helping shape the spiritual growth within our church family.

2017-2020 Work Program

The 2017-2020 LCC Work Program is included in your workbook. It is important that delegates are familiar with the Work Program in preparation for the significant items of business before them where decisions will impact finances. Please note that there are **two proposed Work Program budgets**. One that assumes the new restructuring model is adopted and the other assuming it is not.

It is a privilege to serve you in the capacity of Treasurer. May the Lord continue to bless the work we do together throughout our Synod.

In His Service,
Dwayne Cleave, Treasurer
Lutheran Church-Canada

LUTHERAN CHURCH CANADA

STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS

FEB 1, 2014-JAN 31, 2017

REVENUE	2015 Actual Audited	2016 Actual Audited	2017 Budget	2017 Actual Audited	Total Triennial Budget	Total Triennial Actual
District Contributions ₁	1,276,667	1,354,581	1,346,532	1,206,423	3,999,732	3,837,671
Designated Purposes ₂	761,178	620,843	688,135	560,522	2,104,475	1,942,543
Investment, Rental & Other Revenue	110,575	74,285	83,500	153,227	240,400	338,087
Communication Services	57,194	59,146	51,107	61,105	151,808	177,445
Total Revenue	2,205,614	2,108,855	2,169,274	1,981,277	6,496,415	6,295,746
EXPENSES						
Programs						
Foreign Missions & Social Ministry ₃	810,807	746,565	897,000	657,202	2,685,927	2,214,574
Higher Education ₄	487,271	398,391	471,000	329,562	1,413,000	1,215,224
Communication Services	172,237	176,573	186,000	174,544	555,176	523,354
President's Office & Parish Services	134,209	129,981	136,500	130,918	407,943	395,108
Pastoral Leadership- ABC District ₅		54,035		56,436	0	110,471
Sub-Total	1,604,524	1,505,545	1,690,500	1,348,662	5,062,046	4,458,731
Boards/Commissions						
Commissions	8,366	16,556	15,000	58,951	45,000	83,873
Board Of Directors	28,821	21,734	24,000	25,423	69,000	75,978
Restructuring Study	0	9,932	0	55,756	0	65,688
Lutheran Historical Institute	18,478	14,000	15,000	15,102	45,000	47,580
Council Of Presidents	12,313	11,999	15,000	12,777	45,500	37,089
International Lutheran Council	3,500	2,199	3,700	9,123	10,800	14,822
Sub-Total	71,478	76,420	72,700	177,132	215,300	325,030
Operations/Administration						
Salaries & Benefits	321,502	331,055	329,834	321,200	979,737	973,757
Office Suppl/ Equip/Professional Services ₆	123,902	183,930	85,005	191,082	252,498	498,914
Planned Giving-LCCFM	60,000	60,000	62,000	60,000	213,000	180,000
Property Operations	61,163	46,502	52,300	50,288	156,850	157,953
Bad Debt Allowance ₇		63,170		58,470	0	121,640
Less Administration Recoveries	(148,600)	(149,321)	(145,000)	(184,596)	-438,600	-482,517
Sub-Total	417,967	535,336	384,139	496,444	1,163,486	1,449,747
Total Expenses	2,093,969	2,117,301	2,147,339	2,022,238	6,440,832	6,233,508
Excess of Income over Expenses	111,645	(8,446)	21,935	(40,961)	55,583	62,238
Principal Payments on Mortgage	17,179	16,494	21,500	17,343	55,077	51,016
Excess of Income after Mortgage Payments	94,466	(24,940)	435	(58,304)	506	11,222

Revenue

Expense

Surplus

Synodical Events- Financial Results

	2015 Actual Audited	2016 Actual Audited	2017 Budget	2017 Actual Audited	Total Triennial Budget	Total Triennial Actual
Revenue						
Synodical Convention	290,351				286,250	290,351
National Youth Gathering			200,000	140,777	200,000	140,777
Expenses						
Synodical Convention	258,658				286,250	258,658
National Youth Gathering			200,000	137,580	200,000	137,580
Surplus (Shortfall) Synod Events	31,693		0	3,197	0	34,890

Surplus
SE

TREASURERS COMMENTS ON FINANCIAL RESULTS
FEB 1, 2014-JAN 31, 2017

REVENUES**1. District Contributions- \$3,837,671**

Contributions in this line item include mission receipts LCC is receiving directly from ABC District congregations. The bulk of mission receipts LCC receives from the ABC District are now coming from the congregations.

Mission contributions to LCC from the three districts for this triennium were **\$222,136 less** than they were in the previous triennium. The reduction to LCC simply reflects the fact that the Districts are receiving less mission revenue from their respective congregations. It is important to mention that despite reductions in their own revenues both the East and Central District provided extra mission contributions, (\$100,000 East & \$50,000 Central) at a time when LCC desperately needed the help.

We certainly understand that our congregations are also facing significant financial challenges due to declining memberships. Over the past three years Synod has been very thankful to receive your offerings in response to the many gifts God has provided.

2. Designated Purposes - \$1,942,543

The majority of the donations categorized to this line item were designated for overseas mission. The Schwan foundation has continued to provide LCC with substantial annual donations for the theological education program in Central America. Concordia Lutheran Mission Society (CLMS) and the Lutheran Women's Missionary League-Canada (LWMLC) both at the National and District level also provide regular donations to LCC for overseas mission. LCC also received a couple of significant estate gifts.

EXPENSES**3. Foreign Missions & Social Ministry - \$2,214,574**

Despite the financial challenges, LCC expenditures for overseas mission this triennium were only \$84,840 less than the previous three year period. We give thanks to God that we did not have to reduce our core overseas mission initiatives; primarily due to designated mission gifts received from our Auxiliaries and individual donors.

4. Higher Education -\$1,215,224

The expense for this line item was less than originally budgeted, because part way through the triennium Concordia University of Edmonton (CUE) severed its ties with LCC and discontinued its Church Worker education program. Up to that time, LCC was sending annual contributions of \$122,400 to CUE to help support the training of future Church Workers.

Throughout the triennium LCC was providing each of the two Seminaries with \$160,000 annually, but recently had to reduce that support to \$136,000 because of financial constraints. However, once the extra-ordinary expenses LCC is experiencing for legal and insurance fees stop, we hope to restore the funding level back to the Seminaries.

We also hope to provide additional funding to the Edmonton Seminary (CLS), for the delivery of the Church Worker education program that previously was conducted at CUE.

5. Pastoral Leadership- ABC District \$110,471

Delegates of the ABC District in convention (2015) passed a resolution requesting LCC to provide interim Pastoral leadership to the District, while their elected District President (President Schaffer) was required

to focus his attention on corporate matters related to the CCAA proceedings.

LCC eagerly agreed to provide this much needed support and so Rev. Nolan Astley (the First Vice President of Synod) faithfully served the ABC District in this capacity for an 18 month period. We are very grateful to Rev. Astley for his Pastoral efforts, ministering to the District congregations during a very difficult time.

6. Operations/Administration - \$1,449,747

The total administration expenses net of recoveries for this triennium were \$138,846 **higher** than the previous three year period (2011-14-**\$1,310,901**). It must be noted however, that the previous period included net building renovations of \$103,250, which we did not have to experience this period. Taking that anomaly into consideration the increase in expenditures is closer to \$240,000.

Unfortunately, this added expenditure is primarily attributable to the significant legal and insurance cost LCC is incurring because of the ABC District CEF failure.

7. Bad Debt Allowance- \$121,640

Write down of accounts receivable due from the Lutheran University of Papua New Guinea (LUPNG). LCC had a missionary (Dr. Brent Kilback) seconded in Papua New Guinea since 1991. Most of Dr. Kilback's

tenure was at the Highlands High School, but since 2006 Dr. Kilback was working at LUPNG. Even though Dr. Kilback worked for LCC, the funding to cover his salary and benefits always came from external sources. Originally the funding came from LCMS world missions, then the Highland High School, and finally from LUPNG.

LUPNG had been faithfully reimbursing LCC for Dr. Kilback's salary and benefits for a number of years. Unfortunately unbeknownst to LCC during this triennium, the PNG provincial government and one of the sponsoring Lutheran Church bodies discontinued their financial support to LUPNG. As a result of the lack of funding Dr. Kilback left the University and accepted employment in another country. He no longer is employed by LCC. Regretfully, as of this date we have not been able to recover what we are owed despite numerous attempts; which included President Bugbee personally writing letters to high ranking government officials. As more time passes the likely hood of a successful recovery is doubtful. As a result we have recorded an allowance for bad debt.

In His Service,
Dwayne Cleave, treasurer
Lutheran Church-Canada

**LUTHERAN CHURCH CANADA
WORK PROGRAM (RESTRUCTURED)**

FEB 1, 2017-JAN 31, 2020

REVENUE	Current Year			Total Triennial	% Rev. Revenue
	2018 Work Program	2019 Work Program	2020 Work Program		
District Contributions	780,000			780,000	8.93%
Congregation Contributions	350,000	2,800,000	2,800,000	5,950,000	68.16%
Traditional Contributions	1,130,000	2,800,000	2,800,000	6,730,000	77.09%
Other Revenue:					
Designated Purposes	445,000	450,000	450,000	1,345,000	15.41%
Communication Services	55,000	50,000	50,000	155,000	1.78%
Investment, Rental & Other Revenue	95,000	200,000	205,000	500,000	5.73%
Total Revenue	1,725,000	3,500,000	3,505,000	8,730,000	100.00%

EXPENSES				Total Triennial	% Exp. Category
	2018 Work Program	2019 Work Program	2020 Work Program		
Programs					
Domestic Missions		900,000	900,000	1,800,000	20.76%
Foreign Missions	610,000	620,000	620,000	1,850,000	21.33%
Regional Pastors		375,000	380,000	755,000	8.71%
Higher Education	292,500	400,000	400,000	1,092,500	12.60%
Communication Services	175,000	200,000	200,000	575,000	6.63%
President's Office & Parish Services	133,000	134,000	134,000	401,000	4.62%
Sub-Total	1,210,500	2,629,000	2,634,000	6,473,500	53.89%
Boards/Commissions					
Commissions	50,000	25,000	20,000	95,000	1.10%
Board Of Directors	25,000	25,000	25,000	75,000	0.86%
Lutheran Historical Institute	15,000	15,000	15,000	45,000	0.52%
Council Of Presidents	15,000	15,000	15,000	45,000	0.52%
International Lutheran Council	4,000	4,000	4,000	12,000	0.14%
Sub-Total	109,000	84,000	79,000	272,000	3.14%
Operations/Administration					
Administration & Property Operations	432,000	556,000	565,000	1,553,000	17.91%
Office Suppl/ Equip/Professional Services	115,000	131,500	135,000	381,500	4.40%
Less Administration Recoveries	-205,500	-120,000	-128,000	(453,500)	-5.23%
Sub-Total	341,500	567,500	572,000	1,481,000	17.08%
Financial Services-LCCFM	45,000	200,000	200,000	445,000	5.13%
Expenses before Synodical Events	1,706,000	3,480,500	3,485,000	8,671,500	74.11%
Excess of Income over Expenses	19,000	19,500	20,000	58,500	
Principal Payments on Mortgage	18,075	18,900	19,800	56,775	
Excess of Income after Mortgage Payment	925	600	200	1,725	

Synodical Events- Financial Budget				
	Current Year Budget	2019 Budget	2020 Budget	Total Triennial Budget
Revenue				
Synodical Convention	345,000			345,000
National Youth Gathering			200,000	200,000
Expenses				
Synodical Convention	345,000			345,000
National Youth Gathering			200,000	200,000
Surplus (Shortfall) Synod Events	0	0	0	0

**LUTHERAN CHURCH CANADA
WORK PROGRAM (STATUS QUO)
FEB 1, 2017- JAN 31, 2020**

	Current Year				
	2018	2019	2020	Total	% Rev.
REVENUE	Work Program	Work Program	Work Program	Triennial	Revenue
Distict Contributions	780,000	785,000	785,000	2,350,000	45.15%
Congregation Contributions	350,000	355,000	355,000	1,060,000	20.37%
Traditional Contributions	1,130,000	1,140,000	1,140,000	3,410,000	65.51%
Other Revenue:					
Designated Purposes	445,000	445,000	445,000	1,335,000	25.65%
Communication Services	55,000	55,000	55,000	165,000	3.17%
Investment, Rental & Other Revenue	95,000	100,000	100,000	295,000	5.67%
Total Revenue	1,725,000	1,740,000	1,740,000	5,205,000	100.00%

	2018	2019	2020	Total	% Exp.
EXPENSES	Work Program	Work Program	Work Program	Triennial	Category
Programs					
Foreign Missions	610,000	620,000	620,000	1,850,000	35.95%
Higher Education	292,500	300,000	300,000	892,500	17.34%
Communication Services	175,000	175,000	175,000	525,000	10.20%
President's Office & Parish Services	133,000	134,000	134,000	401,000	7.79%
Sub-Total	1,210,500	1,229,000	1,229,000	3,668,500	71.28%
Boards/Commissions					
Commissions	50,000	25,000	20,000	95,000	1.85%
Board Of Directors	25,000	25,000	25,000	75,000	1.46%
Lutheran Historical Institute	15,000	15,000	15,000	45,000	0.87%
Council Of Presidents	15,000	15,000	15,000	45,000	0.87%
International Lutheran Council	4,000	4,000	4,000	12,000	0.23%
Sub-Total	109,000	84,000	79,000	272,000	5.29%
Operations/Administration					
Administration & Property Operations	432,000	438,000	440,500	1,310,500	25.46%
Office Suppl/ Equip/Professional Services	115,000	115,000	117,000	347,000	6.74%
Less Administration Recoveries	-205,500	-205,500	-205,500	(616,500)	-11.98%
Sub-Total	341,500	347,500	352,000	1,041,000	20.23%
Financial Services-LCCFM	45,000	60,000	60,000	165,000	3.21%
Expenses before Synodical Events	1,706,000	1,720,500	1,720,000	5,146,500	100.00%
Excess of Income over Expenses	19,000	19,500	20,000	58,500	
Principal Payments on Mortgage	18,075	18,900	19,800	56,775	
Excess of Income after Mortgage Paymei	925	600	200	1,725	

Synodical Events- Financial Budget				
	Current Year Budget	2019 Budget	2020 Budget	Total Triennial Budget
Revenue				
Synodical Convention	345,000			345,000
National Youth Gathering			200,000	200,000
Expenses				
Synodical Convention	345,000			345,000
National Youth Gathering			200,000	200,000
Surplus (Shortfall) Synod Events	0	0	0	0

TREASURER COMMENTARY TO LUTHERAN CHURCH –CANADA (LCC) PROPOSED WORK PROGRAM (WITH RESTRUCTURING)

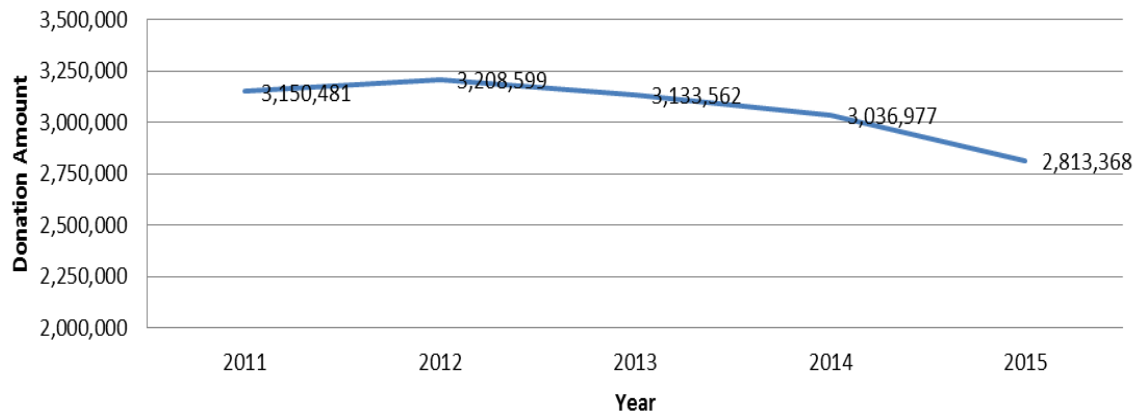
INTRODUCTION

Upon careful analysis, we have estimated that LCC will have financial resources totalling **\$3.5** million to allocate amongst the eight key services it provides to the Synod. This is a much more modest program than our Synod constituency has been accustomed to in the past, but it is an honest reflection of the current financial realities. The majority of revenue LCC and the three Districts receive to fund their respective work programs continue to originate from the

congregations; and those remittances are steadily shrinking.

Subsequent to the ABC District CCAA proceedings; congregational mission remittances to that District and LCC in aggregate have decreased by \$400,000 (a drop of approximately 33%). The other two Districts have also experienced annual reductions in mission receipts the past few years. The East District is down \$150,000 or (15%) and Central is down about \$50,000 or (6%). The chart below illustrates the decline in mission remittances over the past five years.

LCC CONGREGATIONS- MISSION REMITTANCES TO DISTRICTS



Note to Reader: In fiscal 2016 the total mission remittances to LCC and the Districts were \$2,600,000

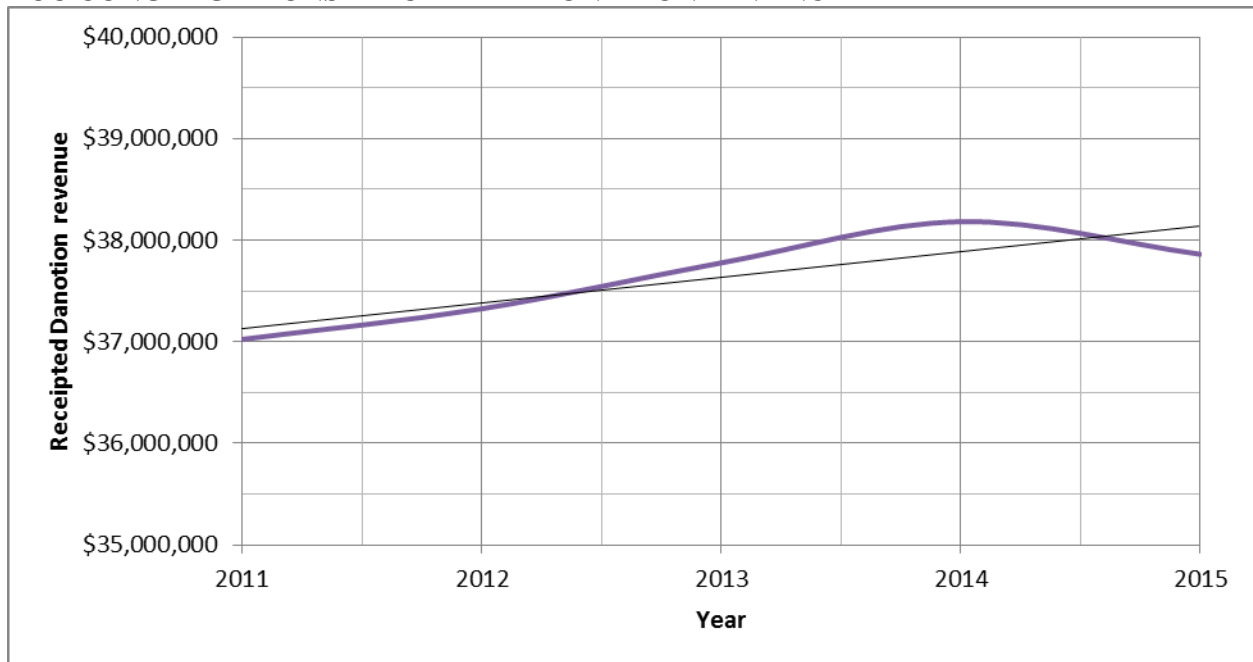
We certainly understand that our congregations are also facing significant financial challenges due to declining memberships. Over the past three years LCC and the Districts have been very thankful to receive your offerings in response to the many gifts God has provided.

Upon the review of charitable returns that our congregations have submitted to the Canada Revenue

Agency the past few years, it appears that the annual charitable donations to congregations have remained consistent at between \$37 and \$38 million dollars.

The chart below is a five year summary of the charitable gifts received by our congregations.

Based on this financial data we think our initial work program expectation of receiving \$2.8 million from the congregations is achievable. The \$2.8 million would represent 70% of Synod's total revenue budget (\$3.5 Million)

LCC CONGREGATIONS- RECEIPTED DONATION REVENUE

Note to Reader: Fiscal Year 2016 data was not available at the time of this writing. So it is certainly possible that the aggregate congregational financial picture has changed substantially

The proposed Synod restructuring model from an administrative perspective would result in LCC taking on the additional task of receiving and allocating the aggregate congregational remittances, which are currently being retained by the Districts. (Estimated to be \$1,435,000 please see chart below for details)

ONE ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE

District	Congregation Remittances	Share to LCC	Retained by Districts
East	1,020,000	425,000	595,000
Central	780,000	300,000	480,000
ABC	440,000	80,000	360,000
Sub-Total	\$2,240,000	\$805,000	\$1,435,000
<i>ABC –Direct to LCC</i>	<i>360,000</i>	<i>\$360,000</i>	
Total	\$2,600,000	\$1,165,000	\$1,435,000

If restructuring is adopted and LCC begins to receive all mission receipts directly from the congregations; it is expected that the \$1,435,000 share currently retained by the Districts would be allocated amongst services within the initial LCC work program as follows:

Domestic Missions -	\$900,000
Regional Pastors-	\$375,000
Higher Education –Diaconate	\$ 25,000
Regional Administration	\$135,000
(Central District figure is excluded because LCC already performs their administration.)	
Total	\$1,435,000

As a comparison the Districts currently appear to be spending the following amounts amongst similar services;

Domestic Missions-	\$1,100,000
District Presidents-	\$ 375,000
Higher Education –Diaconate	N/A
District Administration	\$ 300,000
(Central District figure is excluded because LCC already performs their administration.)	
Total	\$ 1,775,000

Note to Reader: The current spending levels the Districts are trying to be maintain amongst these services; either results in operating deficits, or the Districts having to find additional sources of revenue to make up the shortfall.

CONCLUSION

We sincerely hope that the proposed work program and commentary are helpful to delegates in their debate on how to proceed with the restructuring proposal. Advisory delegates will also be present at the convention to answer questions that may come up during the debate.

May the Lord continue to Bless and direct our dialogue on this very important decision.

In His Service,
Dwayne Cleave, treasurer
Lutheran Church–Canada

REPORT 4: BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Tenth Convention of Lutheran Church Canada was held in Vancouver, British Columbia, June 6-9, 2014 under the theme “*Come to Him who answers prayer.*” As of this writing, BOD membership includes: Arnold Drung (Chairman), Rev. Paul Schallhorn (Secretary), Cameron Pelzer, Cindy Sholdice, Ronald Roller, Grace Henderson, Alan Schmitt, Rev. Kurt Reinhardt, Dwayne Cleave (Treasurer), Rev. Dr. Robert Bugbee (President), Rev. Nolan Astley (First Vice-President), Rev. Rudy Pastucha (Second Vice-President), and Rev. Thomas Kruesel (Third Vice-President). Executive assistants to the President, Mr. Mathew Block (Communications) and Dr. Leonardo Neitzel (Missions) are also regularly in attendance at our meetings.

When the new Board of Directors met the following September in Winnipeg, Manitoba, these resolutions were referred to the BOD:

14.2.06 To Clarify the Vision and Direction of the Church Work Programs at Concordia University College of Alberta

Shortly after the news of the A-BC District’s financial crisis became public, CUCA made decisions to effectively remove all ties with LCC. The church worker program had been all but phased out by that point. Since that time, the board has been working with Concordia Lutheran Seminary in Edmonton to offer a church worker program and planning for this is underway.

14.2.07 To Support the Chaplaincy Program at Concordia University College of Alberta

As per the previous resolution, this item was impacted by the moves of CUCA.

14.3.14b To Study and Provide for Diaconal Voting at Synod and District Conventions

This work was included in the restructuring work delegated to the CCMS.

Shortly after the first meeting of the Board of Directors in this triennium, the A-BC CEF crisis became public knowledge. The fall-out of this event has had a tremendous impact on the work of the Board. The combined financial, legal and structural ramifications of the crisis quickly became apparent and have shaped much of the board’s work over the past two years. The board endorsed the provision of ecclesiastical support for A-BC churches due to the need for the District President to focus on the requirements of the corporate side of district administration. The Board was thankful that First Vice President, Rev. Nolan Astley was granted partial leave from his congregation to fill the role of interim pastoral leader for the ABC District. Legal work and costs both to provide clarity on the position of LCC relative to the ABC district and then to observe and defend LCC interests in the receivership and following proceedings have been substantial. We are very appreciative of the additional efforts of President Bugbee and Treasurer Dwayne Cleave in dealing with this taxing and unfamiliar situation. The board has also been closely involved, on an advisory basis, with the work of the CCMS on restructuring. Resolutions from the Synod

convention along with all three District conventions made it clear that there is a strong desire for restructuring among our members and this was heightened by the A-BC crisis. While the CCMS does not report to the Board, there is overlap of membership and there has been a close dialogue between the Commission and Board on all matters relating to the research work that was completed and the proposal for a new structure being put forward at this convention. The Board is supportive of restructuring and will carry out the wishes of the convention in this regard.

The Board is thankful to God that our seminaries continue to work collaboratively as per the Memorandum of Understanding that was completed in the previous triennium. Our church will need a large number of new Pastors as the “baby boom” generation of Pastors retires and our seminaries need our ongoing support to provide these men.

During the triennium, the Board dealt with one change in membership. Synod Vice President, Rev. Mark Smith accepted a call that moved him from the

Central to the East District requiring him to step down from the Board. He was replaced by Rev. Rudy Pastucha of Saskatoon.

The Board of Directors also extends thanks to those who faithfully served as appointed on:

- Committee on Mission and Social Ministry
- Board of Managers of Worker Benefit Plans
- Lutheran Church–Canada Financial Ministries
- Committee for Communication and Technology Services
- Commission on Constitutional Matters and Structure

We look forward to the eleventh Convention in Kitchener, ON, under the theme “*Christ Alone, Christ Forever*”.

Respectfully submitted,
Arnold Drung, Chairman
LCC Board of Directors

REPORT 5: Committee on Mission & Social Ministry Services

I. INTRODUCTION

Thanks and praises be to our God for all His mercies through His church in the world, especially for the work of His servant Martin Luther. We celebrate the 500th Reformation Anniversary not as a Historic fact only, but especially as a timeless reference and mark in bringing back the truth of God’s Word and pointing the church and the world to Christ, the Holy Scripture, Grace and Faith as the “Alones” for the salvation of people. By God’s grace we are made to stand on this solid foundation – and as LCC desiring in all our efforts to witness and confess *Jesus Christ Only and Jesus Christ Forever* for the salvation of all who believe in Him as Saviour.

The present report is comprised of three parts: Overview of LCC’s international missions, considerations regarding LCC’s current and future mission focuses, and current financial costs.

II. LCC’s INTERNATIONAL MISSIONS

1. **Cambodia:** We report with gratitude that after having gone through internal turmoil the Cambodia Lutheran Church (CLC) has completed and submitted the application process for its registration with the Government and is joyfully retaking its mission and education

responsibilities in that country. The old Evangelical Lutheran Church in Cambodia (ELCC) has ceased to exist and the new CLC is the synod with which LCC’s carries on its alliance in ministry and mission. A national convention will gather later in 2017 and great blessings are hoped as outcome. CLC’s Board of Directors is very faithful and committed to the work, and has reported on each restructuring stage. LCC has supported CLC through its entire restructuring and registration application process, and will continue to support the projects which had been put on hold due to the internal issues in 2016.

2. **Thailand:** LCC continues committed in supporting the mission and education in the Southern peninsula, especially in the region of Takuapa and Kokkloi. Needs related to Theological leadership training and expansion of the mission in that region have emerged and were brought to the President of the Thailand Concordia Lutheran Church – and

directives are being taken in 2017 by LCC to work on the succession plan for the missionary in the South and for training three candidates who have walked with the missionaries Chujit and Yongthanayos Mahustanapol (Yong) (originally called Suchart Srikakarn), and have expressed desire to be trained for the pastoral ministry.

3. **Ukraine:** The number of mission and social ministry projects for SELCU has grown: There are pastors and congregations in the front line of mission outreach, work with orphan children, youth Bible studies, summer camps and other activities. On national level SELCU has four students at the Seminary and carries on with the Days of Faith seminars, Children VBSs and summer camps. In Dnepropetrovsk Pastor Sergey Bevz continues his ministry in this city and in outreach in forming a new congregation in Zorya. In Nikolaev, Pastor Alexey Navrotsky continues his work in reorganizing the two congregations, implementing the work at one mission station, and also reaching out to orphans and hospitalized children. There is much work congregations could continue incrementing as reaching out to poor communities and orphans. LCC has encouraged and will continue to support SELCU's projects.
4. **Costa Rica:** The mission in the city of Cartago has had a steady and progressive growth. Missionary Edmundo Retana and his wife, Deaconess Betty, invest much effort in reaching out with Bible studies to children, youth and to women. The work with youth has expanded and there are two groups with around 15 youth in each in regular Bible studies and outreach activities. Pastor and Deaconess have planned and schedule retreats with the youth with in-depth Bible study, doctrine and fellowship. Two young men, who were in the first children Sunday School in Costa Rica

few years ago will participate for the first time as youth delegate representatives from the congregation at the National Youth Gathering in Nicaragua in October 2017. The work with children is centred in catechesis through Bible stories and Small Catechism. The women's group works on crafts, sewing workshops and fellowship time after their Bible studies. Together with the local church the women look for alternatives to assist the mission in its self-sustainable endeavour. Among the challenges in Costa Rica mission is the high cost of housing and rentals, as well as the stipends for our workers. The USD dollar is not powerful as in other countries in Central America. Our space of worship is small to accommodate activities with larger groups, and we need still to find alternatives regarding the purchase of a property for the church in the near future. One problem with this is that the local congregation has not started his registration process with the government yet. The missionary has been approached and requested to work on the congregation's constitution and by-laws, but little progress has been made so far. At this moment it is challenging for LCC's mission in Nicaragua to purchase property in Costa Rica.

5. **Honduras:** God continues to bless the mission in the city of La Paz as well as in the community of Comayaguella, suburb of Tegucigalpa. Pastor Junior continues reaching out and canvassing families in that town with the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and also taking each opportunity in municipal schools to lead devotions for children. He also leads Bible study and devotions to the police force at its headquarters in that city. The police are very appreciative of his pastoral care for them. He has a group of around 30 people attending services regularly at his home. Two congregations of the LCMS support the

mission in La Paz fully: St. Luke Lutheran Church, Olviedo, FL and Christ Lutheran Church in Perry, GA. There are several LCMS' mission teams which travel yearly to Honduras and join in several community outreach events. There is no pastor in Comayaguella. Pastor Junior leads service with Sacraments once a month with the Deacon Tulio Meza as assistant, the deacon in charge of this mission. Tulio is very organized and currently focused on working with his church and surrounding community. They have community events regularly, especially on Advent/Christmas in delivering hampers to families with which they are in contact. One challenge for this place is to have a missionary clergy in charge of the ministry on a regular basis. As the work continues to grow there is the need for organizing the local congregation. Choluteca is a third mission post, where Deacon Tulio has relatives and family members living. It is a promising mission start as there are many youth who have opened the door for the Gospel. There is delinquency among youth, and the church's presence would be a blessing in reaching out and helping the youth.

6. **Nicaragua:** The Lord continues to bless His mission work in Nicaragua. There are challenges, but the Lord has always provided for His mission in that country. The general local administration of the Iglesia Luterana Sinodo de Nicaragua (ILSN) seems lacking focus on its core mission and administrative role lately. In years past a mission statement and strategic plan and directions for the Synod was set and voted on in the ILSN's convention. However, it has not received the attention it should have from the President and his Council. As a result, some initiatives were either compromised or halted. ILSN's President has request LCC's help in this

regard. Dr. Ralph Mayan invested considerable effort on directives and documents helpful for the administration of the synod, but due to his health treatment was forced to cancel his trip planned for March 2017. A conference call has been planned to take place between him and the ILSN's Council soon.

- i. **Continuing Education for church workers:** LCC continues to provide fully for the church and mission in Central America. Several one-week intensive seminars and retreats take place regularly year after year. These are separate and joint seminars for pastors and deaconesses. The main focus of the seminars this year is on 500th Reformation – with the deaconesses retreat focusing on God's Word (Oratio, Tentatio, Meditatio), the Christian faith and life in community by our deaconesses. Another Seminar will be on Elementary N.T. Greek for pastors. A joint seminar for both groups will be on "La Piedad Pastoral", focusing on the spiritual life, stewardship life of the pastor and deaconess.
- ii. **Computer training program:** All deaconesses have received basic computer training provided by LCC. The training has now extended to the local congregations where the children education takes part. LCC has generously provided computers and training and all children will have opportunity to have their Bible stories and lessons on done illustratively on the computer. Several communities do not have internet connection, but the students will have access to

- Christian videos, clipart and other illustrated tools for learning the Bible stories, Catechism and songs.
- iii. **Gospel Outreach to youth** has grown, especially as an outgrowth of the years of children education and feeding programs. There is a yearly NYG with around 240 youth in attendance. A NYG committee has been struck and there are plans to work on regional NYGs in order to be more focused on the Gospel proclamation within local communities. Holy Cross Lutheran Church in Kitchener will have a youth teams led by Rev. Roland Syens joining the NYG in Nicaragua for the 500th Anniversary celebration in October 2017.
 - iv. **Children Education and Feeding Programs:** This is a large project of LCC and the ILSN. There are 700 children enrolled in the regular formal CEP and around 300 in the Feeding Program. LCC's Mission has a project for the development of a unified CEP Curriculum for Nicaragua (extensive to Costa Rica and Honduras). The basic curriculum through the years has been the Bible stories and Luther's Small Catechism. The new curriculum, budgeted at CAD 12,000.00, will include all pertaining modules, elements, technical aspects, crafts, worship and educational aspects and activities involved in teaching.
 - v. **Care ministry:** LCC has supported communities in the aftermath of the earthquake in Rancheria in June 2016. Health needs and treatment of our pastors has increased, and LCC spent much more in 2016 than in years before.
 - vi. **LCC's Missionaries in Nicaragua:** Beginning in 2018, LCC will not have the distinguishing categories of ILSN's pastors and LCC's missionaries in Nicaragua. With the latter graduates the Synod has now one pastor and one or two deaconesses for each of its 23 congregations, making it the best clergy and diaconal served Lutheran church in the world. The change of strategy means that LCC will be able to use around CAD 50,000 per year in other projects than supporting the missionaries in three specific regions. The mission work of the Synod and the pastors' ministry won't be compromised or hindered by no means as the pastors will live in their own communities and working with their own congregations. In this way, the strategic cycle started and implemented by LCC will be discontinued as there is no need for it at the present.
 - vii. **Several other projects** have been adopted by Concordia Lutheran Mission Society and will be implemented in 2017. The list is in the dockets of LCC's CMSMS.

III. Pastors With Alternate Training Program (PAT)

1. There are currently nine students in the PAT program. A required on-site intensive course, Christian Ethics took place at Concordia Lutheran Seminary on the week of March 27-31. Four students participated, and a Nuer pastor from Edmonton with his student joined part time for auditing.

2. There are two students nearing graduation in 2017/18: Terry Goerz for a remote region, High Prairie, and Oboya Ochalla (Anuak culture) for Winnipeg.
3. The great number of immigrants to our country, the current LCC related ethnic students and PAT sites call for an urgent mission strategy direction from LCC. The ethnic panorama of our country is changing rapidly, and with this a call for new approaches in mission outreach with the Gospel of Jesus Christ to new immigrants. International students attending Canadian universities currently bring with them challenges in learning about our country and the English language, as well as opportunities as many of them are Christian from their countries of origin. Even in the midst of LCC's restructuring process I see a need for us to come up with a comprehensive and detailed mission outreach plan in a very near future. For a first consultation and brainstorming moment the COP may want to meet with the District mission's executives and the international missions committee. Assignment could be given for drafting a strategy plan, which could be discussed further via conference calls.
4. There are currently nine students in the Program. The culture/languages represented are: Oromo (Ethiopia); Nuer (South Sudan); Annuak (Ethiopia); English (Canada) and Korean (South Korea).

IV. CONCLUSION

I would like to take the opportunity to express my gratitude and appreciation to all congregations, agencies, auxiliaries and LSOs, lay leaders and pastors with whom I had the privilege to join in the mission work of our Lord Christ. It has been a privilege and special blessing to work in the capacity of assistant to LCC for missions and social ministry services, to President Bugbee, to the CMSMS and the BOD. In the same way

it has been a privilege and special blessing to work with LCC's staff at LCC's office in Winnipeg.

LCC's restructuring process plan is a sign that we want to be better stewards, to organize ourselves in order to better embrace the challenges and opportunities ahead with prospective growth and profit for the Lord's Kingdom. We pray that He continue to bless our efforts, which LCC's new outlook and focus be a blessing for the advancement of His Gospel in Canada and abroad, standing on the solid foundation of God's Word and the Lutheran Confessions.

As we join in Convention in October and celebrate the Five Centuries of the Lutheran Reformation, we want to do it as carried on two wings by God – Christ Alone and Christ Forever. We pray that the Lord continue to bless His church in such a way that we keep our eyes of faith fixed on Jesus Alone through our entire journey till the Day when we will be with Christ Forever in the triumphant eternal church. We want to move ahead actively, with prayer for the mission of Christ and in service for our neighbour – that at the very end a great cloud of uncountable people may be received by our Lord Christ for all eternity. My prayer is that He continue to grace LCC with great measure of strength, joy and encouragement in the restructuring process always with the mindset and in the certainty of the glorious Parousia and our encounter with the Lord and in being received finally into the victorious triumphant church.

V. CONSIDERATIONS ON LCC'S MISSIONS

I. Introduction

From Genesis 3:15, the first promise of a Saviour to the last day of this earth, our Lord God has made it clear that His people on earth are on a rescue mission, reaching out to all peoples, tribes, languages and nations through the proclamation of the Gospel for their salvation, through faith in Jesus Christ.

The Lord's clear desire expressed in His Word is to save all people. For this, He has commissioned His church and given her the substance, equipment, tools, resources, training and means to accomplish His mission.

For Martin Luther, public witness and proclamation of the Gospel is the immediate and blessed result in the life of a person who has been brought to the saving faith in Jesus Christ.

For once a Christian begins to know Christ as his Lord and Saviour, through whom he is redeemed from death and brought into His dominion and inheritance, God completely permeates his heart. Now he is eager to help everyone acquire the same benefits. For his greatest delight is in this treasure, the knowledge of Christ. Therefore he steps forth boldly, teaches and admonishes others, praises and confesses his treasure before everybody, prays and yearns that they, too, may obtain such mercy. There is a spirit of restlessness amid the greatest calm, that is, in God's grace and peace. A Christian cannot be still or idle. He constantly strives and struggles with all his might, as one who has no other object in life than to disseminate God's honor and glory among the people, that others may also receive such a spirit of grace and through this spirit also help him pray. For wherever the spirit of grace resides, there we can and dare, yes, must begin to pray. (Luther's Works, American Edition, 30:107; vol. 24:87-88 or in The Church Comes from All Nations, p. 23).

In a sermon preached on the 12th Sunday after Trinity in the year 1842 on the theme "The Holy Desire and Duty of all Christians to Lead Souls to Christ C.F.W. Walther says:

The holy desire to bring souls to Christ begins immediately, as soon as the light of true faith comes into a person's soul bringing with it the fire of true love for others. This holy desire is inseparable from a true faith. Whoever has no desire to bring someone else to the saving knowledge of the saving Gospel has certainly not yet come to know the heavenly power himself." ("Bringing Souls to Christ: Every Christian's Desire and Duty, 1942, Gnadenjahr. Predigten ueber die Evangelien

des Kirchenjahrs. St. Louis, CPH, 1891, pp. 439-445).

It is true that the Lord Christ desires and enables His church and each Christian individually to be His instrument, voice, beacon of grace and mercy to all – "to reach out, confess, teach and proclaim the wonderful deeds of Him who brought us out of darkness into His wonderful light" (1 Peter 2:9). In his priestly prayer registered in John 17 Jesus prays for His disciples on their task as His witnesses. He also prays for the church today, for the entire world, that people may know God, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom God has sent.

II. Disturbing Symptoms

The results of proclaiming the Gospel and winning souls for Christ cannot be always measured by the same standards used to evaluate material production and results in other areas of life, such as business income, financial investment and others. The counting of souls won by Christ is done in heaven, and we do know from Revelation, that the number will be uncountable.

The New Testament church – professional workers as well as lay people – put their lives on the line and witnessed Christ with great boldness despite personal losses or privileges. The Book of Acts is an inspiring a tremendous handbook on this venture.

Reality today shows that the church is seemingly losing its first love, which is the life active in love in reaching out to our neighbour that he/she also may be saved and come to the knowledge of the truth. Here are few facts in our society and in the church, which may be checked:

- Society, materialism, consumerism, personally focused interests, decline of moral and ethics continue to raise walls for Gospel proclamation. Our country has gone down the slope in terms of knowledge about Christianity and moral ethos. We are already called a post-Christian society.
- Minimal or no emphasis on mission outreach in many of LCC's congregations. This result leads to complacency and lack of effort – individually and corporately.
- Struggle for survival of maintenance ministry;
- Lack of regular Bible studies on the call, responsibility and blessings of God's mission;
- Minimal or lack of congregational focus and strategy planning for local outreach;

- Lack of encouragement and engagement of individuals, groups, households and the entire congregation to witness the Gospel;
- Disconnect between pastors and church leaders in a same circuit or region;
- Pastors' overload with maintenance activities, majoring on minors, having minimal or lacking totally the outreach mission focus approach personally as well as in engaging, equipping and encouraging their congregations in community outreach.
- Pastors and congregations in danger of losing sight of the big picture of the church's mission or of her *raison d'être* in the world. As a result church leaders present poor or empty reports on their ministerial work;
- Symptoms of pastoral/ministerial stress/draining/burnouts.

III. Viable Alternatives and Emphasis for LCC's Missions

1. Canada

- **Regular Bible study:** Pastors and congregations proactively, actively and regularly engaged in Christian nurture and mercy outreach at all levels;
- **In-depth catechesis:** Avoid rushing through confirmation for sudden graduation to please family and friends. Look more for engagement of youth in witness. Combine more intellectual knowledge with spiritual life of Catechumens, and in this way 'adorn the doctrine of Christ with their lives and witness' (*kosmew* in Titus 2:10)
- **Youth and Single Adults:** Engage youth and single adults in spiritual retreats, recreational church events and mission outreach activities.
- **Single Adults, one parent household:** Promote activities and provide/give space for single adults to view themselves as integral part and accepted by the local congregations.
- **Strategy Plan:** Maintaining alive and active a congregational working strategy plan – designed, published, worked on, updated, assessed regularly, redirected, new emphasis incorporated, etc.;
- **Ethnic and Cross-cultural ministry and mission:** Work on establishing connection and Gospel bridges with new comers to our country. Time is pressing that LCC take a closer look into ethnic communities worldwide coming to our country. It is time that pastors, church workers and congregations focus on planning outreach strategies for new immigrants. Also, it is time that on a National/Regional level LCC start and implement ethnic regional mission planning and overseers. For example, having an ethnic missionary called and put in charge of the ethnic mission in his region/District/Circuit. It doesn't require a full-time worker. An ethnic missionary could continue pastoring his own congregation as he oversees the ethnic mission outreach in his region.
- **Circuit:** Promote and implement mission forums on basics of congregational outreach. The circuit forum should be supported more by the presence of all pastors and leaders in the same circuit. Also, the Winkel's meeting become a forum for local mission outreach themes.
- **Intercultural conferences:** LCC may want to grow and expand on these conferences to make it more open to public.
- **Seminaries:** Outreach engagement with congregations; focus on forming church workers for mission outreach; seminars for lay people. Seminaries need to expand focus for training church workers as missionaries for cross-cultural missions.
- **PAT Program:** Expand and grow the formation of ethnic missionaries.
- **LWMLC:** Women's outreach to First Nations' women and their families, to immigrants, engage most women of a congregation.
- **Pastoral Family:** Encourage and promote programs for strengthening the pastoral family in the fellowship of believers. The pastor's family is not the professional minister, nor is it responsible for the work and affairs of the congregation only. Active presence and encouragement from the pastoral family is a tremendous asset and blessing for strengthening the brethren in general in faith and life when engaged in the life of the congregation.

2. International

i. Central America: Nicaragua, Honduras, Costa Rica

- Leadership Formation
- Regional Training seminars
- Children Education Program
- Children Feeding Programs

- ILSN Continuing Education Program
- Youth Ministry and Mission outreach
- Health care for church workers
- Self-Sustainable projects for church workers
- Emergency Fund Relief
- Church and Mission properties
- Maintenance of Mission Centre and Staff
- Registration process of the ILSN
- Short-term volunteer mission teams
- Sundry yearly projects
- With ILSN encourage and work on congregational focus/growth in Central America in the areas of unified/unity of confessional Lutheran Liturgics and Hymnody.
- As the work in Central America expands there is an imminent need of a part-time LCC regional mission and social ministry overseer on the ground on a more regular basis.

ii. Ukraine

- Seminary Education – leadership training
- LCC's Missionary in Nikolaev
- Projects: Orphans; prison ministry; VBS; summer camps, outreach and church planting in general
- Renew loaning agreement for Nikolaev and/or Dnipropetrovsk mission

iii. SE Asia: Thailand and Cambodia

- Seminary Education – leadership training
 - LCC's Missionary(ies) in Thailand
- Projects: Children education; evangelists deaconesses; support to Synod in Cambodia; outreach in general.

LUTHERAN CHURCH–CANADA INTERNATIONAL MISSIONS



Central America:

Nicaragua, Honduras, Costa Rica

1. Leadership Formation
2. Regional Training seminars
3. Children Education Program
4. Children Feeding Programs
5. ILSN Continuing Education Program
6. Youth Ministry and Mission outreach
7. Health care for church workers
8. Self-Sustainable projects for church workers
9. Emergency Fund Relief
10. Church and Mission properties
11. Maintenance of Mission Centre and Staff
12. Registration process of the ILSN
13. Short-term volunteer mission teams
14. Sundry yearly projects

Mission Ctre:	CAD 90,000.00
Missionaries:	CAD 132,000.00
Projects CLMS:	CAD 140,000.00
Children Ed CLWR:	CAD 35,000.00
Honduras LCMS:	CAD 35,000.00
Costa Rica Budget:	CAD 28,000.00
Total Yearly Budget:	CAD 460,000.00

Ukraine

1. Seminary Education
2. LCC's Missionary in Nikolaev
3. Projects:
 - a. Orphans
 - b. Prison ministry
 - c. VBS
 - d. Summer camps
 - e. Church planting and outreach in general

Yearly Budget: CAD 53,000.00

SE Asia:

Thailand and Cambodia

1. Seminary Education
2. LCC's Missionary in Thailand
3. Projects:
 - a. Children Education
 - b. Evangelists deaconesses
 - c. Support to Synod in Cambodia
 - d. Outreach in general

Yearly Budget: CAD 30,000.00

Grand Total: CAD 543,000.00

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REPORT 6: Colloquy Committee

The Pastoral and Diaconal Colloquy Committees of Lutheran Church-Canada are entrusted with the task of evaluating the credentials, experience, and aptitude of professional church workers seeking to join our Ministerium (as pastors) or Diaconate (as teachers, DPSs or other full-time workers) from other denominations, or from men seeking to join the Ministerium of LCC after serving for a number of years as a member of our Diaconate.

For the last triennium the members of these committees have been: Rev. Dr. Steve Chambers, Professor Jennifer Frim, Rev. Dr. Jim Gimbel, Rev. Tom Kruesel, Rev. Dr. John Stevenson, and Rev. Dr. Thomas Winger. Rev. Tom Kruesel has served as the chairman of the committees and Rev. Dr. Tom Winger has served as Secretary for the committees.

In our work of receiving applications, evaluating educational and life experiences, developing a course of study, and monitoring the progress toward completion of these requirements, the two committees have met nine times in the last three years. All of these meetings have been accomplished through the use of video conferencing. There have been no direct costs of running this committee to the Synod.

Over the last three years the committee has been working on a Policy and Procedures Manual to assist them in attaining some measure of uniformity in how applications are processed. This can be a challenge, as each person who applies for Colloquy has different educational, professional and personal experiences and qualifications that must be taken into consideration in setting up a program for them.

The greatest challenge the Diaconal Committee has faced this triennium has been the decision of Concordia University of Edmonton to sever ties with LCC. We can no longer look to the members of their faculty to assist us with evaluation of Colloquy applicants, or to the institution to offer courses required by Colloquy students. The end of support for the Church Worker's Program at the institution also presents a whole series of difficulties for men and women who desire to serve the Lord as rostered members of the Diaconate. We continue to seek solutions to the challenges presented by these actions.

In evaluating applicants for the Colloquy programs of Synod, the Committees takes to heart the

responsibility delegated to them by Synod to ensure that those entering our Ministerial and Diaconate are in agreement with the Scriptural and Confessional stance of our Synod, and with the practices of our church. At the same time we do not want to unduly hinder those individuals who seek to join our fellowship because they want to be able to serve in a church body in which they have doctrinal agreement.

The following individuals have taken part in Colloquy in the last three years, and their status in the program is indicated:

Rev. Tsegayge Angassa (R)
 Susan Eisner – (ANP)
 Rev. George Betsos – applied, no response to program proposal
 Rev. Tim Graff – (AW)
 Rev. Javed Jamil – Application in progress
 Rev. Samuel Masih (R)
 Rev. Dr. Esko Murto – (AC) Rostered (effective September 2017)
 Rev. Charles Okongo – (AW)
 Rev. Insub (Isaac) Paik – application in process
 Rev. Stanley Park (R)
 Rev. Andrianasandratarivo (Ndriana) Rakotoarimah - Application in process
 Rev. Will Rose – (AW) earned MDiv at CLS
 Rev. Mezgebu Tucho (ANP)
 Candidate Jakob Vaalson - (AC), on Candidate status

There are also several people who have requested application forms and indicated they will be applying shortly.

I would like to thank the members of these two committees for the tremendous effort they put into their work in service to the church. It should be noted that the work they do is cheerfully done, with no additional remuneration. They truly are a blessing to our church.

Rev. Tom Kruesel
 2nd Vice President, LCC
 Chair, Pastoral & Diaconal Colloquy Committees

Key: (C) – Completed
 (D) - Not accepted into program
 (W) - Application withdrawn
 (A-IP) - Accepted into program, in progress
 (A-NP) - Accepted into program, no progress at this time
 (R) - Removed from program

REPORT 7: Committee for Communications and Technology

Introduction

This report begins with the recognition that there is likely to be a change in staffing in Lutheran Church–Canada’s communications services in the coming months, as the current communications manager, Mathew Block, prepares to leave office. In 2016, Block relocated to rural Manitoba as his wife has a return-of-service component in the area as a medical doctor. He offered his resignation at the time, noting that synod would probably want someone in-office to continue the work, but was asked to stay on in a deployed capacity through the end of 2017 (given the current business of synod as a result of the ongoing restructuring process and upcoming synodical convention).

Block may continue to serve synod in certain communications aspects following the end of 2017 but will likely be handing over the major part of the work of communications manager to a successor by the end of the year.

The Canadian Lutheran (print edition)

The Canadian Lutheran, in its print and online forms, continues to serve Lutheran Church–Canada as its primary vehicle for communication. To that end, the physical copy of the magazine remains an essential part of synod’s larger communication strategy. 2015 marked the 30th year of publication for the magazine in its current series, though its actual history dates back more than 80 years.

In late 2014, the magazine upgraded its paper quality (fulfilling a long-term request from readers), deferring the increase in cost by reducing the overall page count per issue.

Currently, The Canadian Lutheran prints six issues per year (a publication schedule that has been in place since 2010), with a usual page count (since late 2014) of 44 pages per issue (including back and front covers). As of the May/June 2017 issue, LCC was printing just under 15,000 copies of the magazine per issue. This represents a significant reduction in printing volume from previous years. At the time of the publication of the 2014 synodical workbook, for example, Lutheran Church–Canada was printing approximately 19,000 copies per issue. That’s a reduction of approximately 21 percent over three years.

The decline in subscription numbers should be a cause for concern, as it reflects declining membership numbers in LCC congregations across the country. It

mirrors, in other words, recent declines in LCC’s overall membership.

Understood in another way, however, the subscription decrease is actually healthy, as it means congregations have been taking stock of how many copies of the magazine they actually need and informing Lutheran Church–Canada of their new subscription requirements. When LCC requests annual statistics from congregations, one of the questions included is how many copies of The Canadian Lutheran the congregation needs. When congregations fail to submit their statistics, they consequently end up receiving too many copies of the magazine. And even when congregations do submit their reports, they sometimes fail to answer the question as to how many copies of the magazine they need. The result is an excess number of copies of The Canadian Lutheran, meaning LCC is paying for unnecessary printing and shipping costs. With more accurate subscription numbers, the church is able to be a better steward of its limited communications budget.

The Canadian Lutheran, like many North American print publications, continues to face challenges related to significant increases in printing and shipping costs. Those pressures have led many publications—both sacred and secular—to cut back on issues/length or even close in the past decade and a half. In September 2016, for example, Rogers announced they were cutting or reducing the print-run of multiple magazines in their lineup. Macleans, which had been a weekly since the 1970s, was reduced to a monthly schedule, while other publications went bi-monthly. A number of others lost their print versions entirely in favour of an online-only publication.

Just a few days earlier, the Western Catholic Reporter (a publication of the Roman Catholic Church’s Edmonton Archdiocese) ceased after more than fifty years of operation. Like The Canadian Lutheran, this newspaper functioned as a church-subsidized publication for years. That changed a few years ago when the Edmonton archdiocese publication went to a subscriber-paid model. Subscriptions plummeted to 21.8% of what they had been. The result was a publication that made its way into less than a quarter of Catholic households in the Edmonton archdiocese—drastically reducing the archdiocese’s ability to effectively instruct and communicate with parishioners. The move must also have led to serious

financial difficulties as well (a decline in subscriber-base inevitably precipitates a decline in advertising revenue).

In lieu of continuing the newspaper, the archdiocese has decided to focus more on online communications—a decision that will undoubtedly reach fewer parishioners, as older members of the church (who often make up a majority in Canadian congregations) are far less likely to read church-news and devotional articles online.

The demise of the Western Catholic Reporter is instructive for members of Lutheran Church–Canada. Like all North American publications, The Canadian Lutheran faces increasing production costs. In light of that reality, it can be tempting to consider cheaper alternatives—going online-only, for example. But that would cut-off from readership vast swaths of the church’s most faithful members—members who tend to be older and less capable with computer communications. It can also be tempting to look for additional revenue streams, by making the publication subscriber-paid, for example. But as the Western Catholic Reporter reminds us, that move would result in a massive loss of readers (thus reducing the church’s ability to communicate with members). It also leads to diminished ad-revenue. The history of early Lutheran publishing in Canada is rife with the difficulties of operating on a subscriber-paid model; in fact, it was only with the transition to a church-subsidized model that these publications managed to operate successfully.

In some respects, this is nothing new: producing The Canadian Lutheran has always come at a cost, as advertising revenue does not cover all printing/shipping expenses. The church must be aware, however, that these costs are likely to increase in the years to come if printing/shipping costs continue to rise.

The Canadian Lutheran (online)

The Canadian Lutheran has had a dedicated website since the beginning of 2009. Since that time, it has grown to be a significant communications tool for Lutheran Church–Canada, something recognized at the previous synodical convention when it was authorized (along with the print version of the magazine) to be a vehicle for the publication of official synodical notices.

At the time of the previous synodical convention workbook, the annual readership numbers for The Canadian Lutheran online was approximately 80,000 per year. Today that has grown to well over 100,000 per year. 2017 is on track to be the highest readership ever, with an average readership of 312 unique

readers per day. If that trend holds true, it would mean more than 110,000 readers over the whole year.

Social Media

Lutheran Church–Canada’s social media services continue to be an important tool in engaging church-workers and laypeople.

As of July 25, 2017, The Canadian Lutheran’s Facebook page counted 722 followers, while Lutheran Church–Canada’s Facebook page counted 1,911 followers. That means LCC’s combined Facebook outreach potential is 2,633 followers—up 1,222 followers from the 2014 synodical report. On Twitter, meanwhile, LCC has 1,170 followers—up 419 followers from the 2014 synodical report.

Email lists

Anti-spam legislation came into effect in Canada in 2014. In order to ensure compliance with the legislation, LCC’s e-newsletter InfoDigest invited subscribers to opt-in anew in order to continue receiving the newsletter. Readers can subscribe by visiting <http://eepurl.com/YRUvf>.

The InfoDigest, which is usually published bi-weekly, informs readers of important news stories published in The Canadian Lutheran. It also occasionally highlights information from LCC auxiliaries and listed service organizations with appropriate links. Another electronic newsletter, DoorPosts, is a less regular email service for church workers and congregations, highlighting important news and resources for use at the congregational level.

Website

Lutheran Church–Canada has begun work on the creation of a new synodical website, which should be live by the time of the 2017 synodical convention. Planning for the creation of a new website has been ongoing for several years, and has been a recurring topic of discussion among synod’s Committee for Communications and Technology.

Synod’s existing website is out of date (having been built in 2008) and generally cumbersome by today’s web standards. Because the site is patterned on a uniquely crafted content management system, synod has been dependent on third-party support to make most updates, a process that regularly delays the publication of important news and resources—sometimes by months.

The creation of a new site should streamline the user experience for visitors today, whether on mobile or desktop computers. It should also allow synod to make more timely updates.

Redevelopment work began in earnest in May 2016, with subsequent months spent determining what content and functions were most important in the new site. Significant stakeholders in LCC were also consulted for their input (on the national and district levels), and LCC members at large were also invited to submit their suggestions via a national survey.

After a plan for the redesign was finalized, several communications companies with experience working for Lutheran Church–Canada and affiliated organizations were contacted and invited to submit proposals. The winning bidder is developing the new site along a standardized content management system, which will simplify the work necessary to maintain and update the site.

The new site will continue the trend of folding in LCC’s various online websites into one site (with The Canadian Lutheran’s website planned to become part of LCC’s larger website, as one example). A key part of the redesign has also been ensuring adaptability in the event that synod should vote to restructure.

Mission Newsletter

Lutheran Church–Canada has continued publishing an annual mission newsletter, with publication of the 2017 edition expected to be released in advance of the synodical convention. The mission newsletter is an important vehicle to highlight the work of synod’s international mission work.

Work on the annual publication is a joint project between the communications manager and the executive for missions and social ministry. These newsletters are made available online and publicized through LCC’s communication publication channels (both in print and online). Hardcopies of the newsletter are often distributed at special events (like conventions).

International Lutheran Council

As directed by Lutheran Church–Canada’s Board of Directors, synod’s communications manager continues to serve the International Lutheran Council (ILC) as its editor. This work remains an important way that the Canadian church contributes to the global family of confessional Lutherans.

A significant portion of this work focuses on soliciting and writing important Lutheran news for publication online. It also includes handling occasional media interview requests.

The position also requires occasional travel for reporting on major ILC events, with all costs covered by the ILC. In 2015, the communications manager

travelled to Argentina to report on the ILC’s triennial World Conference. In 2016, he traveled to Germany to report on the ILC’s triennial World Seminaries Conference.

Reformation

As a member of synod’s Reformation anniversary committee, the communications manager has been very busy in the last triennium writing and soliciting Reformation related resources. Some of these items have been featured in the magazine—the History of the Reformation series, for example, and the Saints of the Reformation series. The latter of these is to be collected and published, along with new material, as a book in advance of the five-hundredth anniversary of the Reformation. The book will be made available to congregations at cost as a Reformation outreach tool.

Another series has been the solicitation of original artwork to commemorate the Reformation. This artwork, by Kelly Klages, is being featured on the cover of each issue of The Canadian Lutheran in 2017. It is also being made available as downloadable posters, which congregations can print out and display as part of their local Reformation commemorations.

A major communications project related to the five-hundredth anniversary of the Reformation was the development of www.Reformation2017.ca. This website provides information and resources (including a new series on the Reformation’s impact on culture) as a way of engaging not only Lutherans but also those of other backgrounds who are interested in the Reformation faith. The website is regularly updated, and will point interested parties back to Lutheran Church–Canada congregations, where they can find a living manifestation of the Reformation faith.

Other materials are scheduled to be released as time goes on, including worship resources and more.

Synodical representation to Lutheran agencies

The communications manager has served as synod’s representative to several Lutheran organizations over the past triennium. He served on the board of the Lutheran Historical Institute on behalf of LCC until it was unfortunately shut down in 2015 due to the financial crisis taking place in the Alberta-British Columbia District. The board’s final meeting took place August 18, 2015, at which time the board disbanded and the agency reverted back to the control of the ABC District’s Board of Directors. Since that time, former board members have provided occasional advice to the District on the storage of the archives.

The communications manager also served as synod's representative to the International Lutheran Laymen's League (Lutheran Hour Ministries) until April 2016 (he had first been appointed in 2012). The transition to deployed staff brought with it increased distance from an international airport, meaning the communications manager was no longer the best fit for regular travel to St. Louis, Missouri for LHM's board meetings.

Canadian Church Press

The Canadian Lutheran continues its membership in the Canadian Church Press, a national association of Christian magazines and newspapers. The past few years have seen The Canadian Lutheran win several major awards at the annual CCP awards, a reminder of the quality articles and devotionals Lutheran Church–Canada provides its members through its national magazine.

Awards have included:

- 2015 Feature (Magazine), Second Place: "Hands of Mercy" by Dr. L. Block
- 2015 Biographical Profile (Magazine), Second Place: "Woman of Faith—Katie Luther: Reformer's Wife" by Peggy Pedersen
- 2016 Biographical Profile (Magazine), Second Place: "Martin Luther: Father of the Reformation" by Rev. Dr. Edward Kettner
- 2016 Letter from the Editor (Magazine), Second Place: "Lord, to Whom Shall We Go?" by Mathew Block
- 2017 Feature (Magazine), First Place: "Driven From Distraction" by Rev. Michael Schutz
- 2017 Media Review, First Place: "X-Men Apocalypse" by Rev. Ted Giese

The Committee for Communications and Technology

The Committee for Communications and Technology has moved over the past few years to become a more active guide in the development of synod's communications strategy. The current members of the board include Glenn Demitrioff, Grace Henderson, Stephen Klinck, Rev. Michael Schutz, and Mathew Block (ex officio).

After several years of holding all meetings online, the committee met in person in Winnipeg on April 29, 2017 for intensive strategic planning. A significant portion of the meeting was dedicated to strengthening the current mandate of the CCT, and developing guidance for synod's Board of Directors on LCC's communications needs going forward.

This resulted in a major report which was shared with synod's Board of Directors in advance of their July

meetings. In this document, the CCT invited synod's Board of Directors to encourage all LCC commissions and committees to consult more intentionally with the CCT for guidance when preparing to communicate major news and documents to the church at large.

The CCT also commented on the likelihood that synod will experience increased communications needs as a result of restructuring, as the national office absorbs communications services previously handled by districts. In light of this, combined with the knowledge of the forthcoming departure of the current communications manager, the CCT took the opportunity to provide specific guidance on staffing. The CCT has advised the BOD to expand the number of positions currently dedicated to communications, providing guidance on how best to do so. This expansion in staffing would not only allow synod to meet its expected communications needs, but also to expand services to better serve LCC congregations across the country.

The CCT sent representation to synod's BOD meetings in July, to further comment on some of these expanded services, and to highlight potential projects that synod could undertake with a better equipped communications department.

Conclusion

The communications department is committed to providing LCC members with resources that equip, inform, and encourage them in their personal faith lives, as well as in the ministry of their congregations as they proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ. That work utilizes traditional approaches (like the print edition of the magazine) of course, but also new media as well). As always, it remains the communication manager's hope that this department will continue to be a strong support to clergy and laypeople alike, as they seek to make Christ and His Gospel known.

On a personal note, the communications manager would like to express his sincere thanks to synod's leadership and the members of LCC congregations across the country as he draws near to the end of his current service as full-time communications manager. By the time of his projected end-date (the end of 2017), he will have served more than six years in the position (having first started in November 2011).

It has been a joy to serve the church in this way, and I wish my successor the very best. I look forward to continuing to assist Lutheran Church–Canada's communication work in whatever way time and

opportunity allow. May God continue to bless the work of our church as we share the message of Christ crucified for our sins and resurrected for our salvation.

Respectfully submitted,
Mathew Block
Communications Manager

REPORT 8: COMMISSION ON CONSTITUTIONAL MATTERS AND STRUCTURE

In the triennium from 2014 to 2017 the Commission on Constitutional Matters and Structure (CCMS) was more active than in any other time in the history of Lutheran Church-Canada (LCC). Along with the ordinary course of the business of interpreting the Constitution and Bylaws of LCC, the Commission was also tasked with the doing a major overhaul of the structure of Lutheran Church-Canada. This request was made by all three Districts in Convention in 2015 and communicated to the CCMS by the Board of Directors that year.

Following the announcement that the Church Extension Fund of the ABC District was unable to meet its financial obligations to its depositors, I had agreed to Chair a restructuring committee for the Alberta-British Columbia District whose ultimate goal was to set in motion a plan of restructuring that would enable the recovery of all depositors' money that was put in jeopardy when the District filed for CCAA protection under the laws of Canada. The goal was that every depositor should, within the shortest possible time, receive his or her deposits back in full. After one year of serving in that capacity, having recused myself from participation in the work of the CCMS, I resigned from the ABC District Committee and resumed my service with the CCMS.

In its March 24, 2015 meeting at which I was not in attendance, the CCMS dealt with a number of questions that came from both the East District and the Central District regarding resolutions that would be presented to their Conventions. Additionally, the East District requested a ruling of the CCMS on whether a woman could serve as Chairman of a District Board of Directors. The CCMS ruled in the affirmative saying that "since it is the function of the BOD to deal with the "business and legal affairs" (Bylaw 3.91) of the District the CCMS sees no conflict in a layperson, either male or female serving as Chair of the BOD".

The CCMS also ruled that the size of Circuits is determined, not by parishes, but by the number of congregations in that Circuit.

Throughout the past 2 years of my participation with the CCMS there were many other requests for

clarification of the Constitution or Bylaws that I often answered but always with the proviso that if someone was requesting a formal ruling, then I would take it to a meeting of the CCMS. Those informal responses that were simply seeking advice were many, but I will not enumerate them in this report.

I joined the CCMS again for its meeting August 31 – September 1, 2015. At that meeting a number of important matters were discussed, such as:

- a. Correspondence from Mrs. Rhonda Lorch, and Rev. Les Stahlke, both restructuring consultants who were offering to assist the CCMS in its massive task of working on restructuring LCC.
- b. The CCMS interviewed Mrs. Lorch for the Consultant position at that meeting.
- c. A decision to add people to the Commission for the task ahead was made.
- d. A request to the Board of Directors to move the Synodical Convention in 2017 to October in order to coincide with the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation and also to give the CCMS additional time to prepare a comprehensive restructuring proposal for the Convention was made.
- e. President Bugbee who was travelling to Germany indicated that he would speak with church leaders in SELK about their structure and how it functions.

The CCMS met again in November 2015 and at that meeting the following occurred:

- a. Since the Bylaws did not allow the CCMS to add additional people to its membership, we added three Advisors, Rev. Harold Ristau (East District), Mrs. Jennifer Frimm (ABC District), and Mrs. Marilyn Schultz (Central District).
- b. The CCMS interviewed Rev. Dr. Les Stahlke for the Consultant position.
- c. After discussing the merits of the Mrs. Lorch's proposals and Rev. Stahlke's proposals, the decision was made to engage Rev. Stahlke as our Consultant.

The next meeting of the CCMS was held in January of 2016. The following are decisions and highlights of that meeting.

- a. Rev. Stahlke reported on many visits that he conducted across LCC in order to get initial input from various church leaders.
- b. A preliminary format for a national survey was shared by the Consultant who sought CCMS input. A number of changes were made by the Commission.
- c. The Commission decided to request that the Board of Directors host a planning conference in Winnipeg for all members of the Synodical Family in 2016.
- d. Tasks for initiating the national survey were assigned to various members and advisors of the CCMS.
- e. It was noted that it would be important for Rev. Stahlke cultivate a close working relationship with our Synod's legal counsel, Mr. Tom Dooley, who will need to vet whatever restructuring the CCMS will propose, from a legal point of view.

Another meeting of the CCMS was held March 2-3 in Winnipeg with the following results:

- a. Seven Stages for the restructuring process were adopted:
 1. Survey;
 2. Discussing Survey results with the Church;
 3. Going through results of stage 2;
 4. Second Gathering of Church Leaders like Stage 2;
 5. Handbook Revision;
 6. Convention;
 7. Implementation from Stage 6
- b. Rev. Stahlke led the CCMS through a review of the national survey results by means of a PowerPoint Presentation. The following direction was gleaned from the survey results:
 1. Dissolving the districts and restructuring the Synod to function with one administrative structure, including the possibility of restructuring the circuits geographically.
 2. Merging the District CEFs into one Synodical CEF subject to legal review. (Note: After further consultation with the church, especially the East District, this option was taken off the table.)
 3. Reaffirming our practice that each congregation of Synod may cast two votes at a convention. The two votes are to be cast as follows: one vote to be cast by one of its

rostered church-workers, and one to be cast by a lay person. (Note: This was later changed to "one vote to be cast by its pastor and one to be cast by a lay person.")

4. Dividing the responsibilities of the Synodical presidency into two positions: Spiritual Leader and Administrator.
 5. Having discussion groups explore options for the title for the "Spiritual Leader."
 6. Restructuring the training of deacons as a high priority.
 7. Fulfilling the 2014 Synodical Convention mandate to complete the process of transitioning to one seminary at two campuses by the 2017 Convention or communicating to the Church the reasons why this has not yet been fulfilled. (Note: After discussion with the Board of Directors and others, this was taken off the table for consideration at a later time).
 8. Preparing a formal news release to clarify the relationship between Lutheran Church-Canada (LCC) and Concordia University of Edmonton (CUE) including the results of actions taken by the CUE Board and the LCC Conventions.
 9. Clarifying the relationship between LCC and Canadian Lutheran World Relief (CLWR).
- c. The CCMS decided that while it was tasked by the District Conventions with the primary job of restructuring, it would not take any restructuring proposal to the Convention without the prior approval of the President, Legal Counsel, and the Board of Directors of the Synod.
 - d. Chairman Ney and our Consultant were tasked with formulating a training package for leaders of meetings across the country designed to receive input and suggestions from the pastors, deacons and lay people of LCC.
 - e. Given the late timing for the 2017 Convention the CCMS decided to recommend to the Board of Directors and the Synod that the new officers would take office in January of 2017.
 - f. Discussion ensued on multi-point parishes and also on the concept of "Deaneries".

The CCMS next met on June 27, 2016:

- a. Due to health concerns Mr. Herb Doering resigned from the CCMS and was thanked for his faithful service.
- b. There was much discussion on the question of full-time equivalents for possible Regional Pastors positions and synodical office workers.
- c. Developing Memorandums of Understanding with approximately 25 separately legally incorporated members of the Synodical Family was discussed.
- d. The number of Regions and Regional Pastors was discussed but no decision made. Initially the CCMS was leaning toward 8 Regions, 4 Regional Pastors, and one half-time Director of Canadian Missions.

June 17, 2016 Conference Call:

- a. The CCMS decided that it would recommend providing ecclesiastical service and financial service through one corporate structure to its members, eliminating the need for districts to continue to do so.
- b. Much discussion occurred on the work that was ahead of us in Stage 4, consultations once again across the country.

The next meeting was with the Board of Directors on June 27, 2016 with the following results:

- a. The following points were made by the CCMS and its Consultant in sharing with the Board:
 1. Building on Corporate Strengths
 - Two dozen specialized legal entities – an orchard, not a single tree: LCC is in a relationship with 25 legally incorporated entities that we call the “synodical family”; this relationship between LCC and these entities is what is being restructured (not theology and practice)
 - Clear mission and ministry in 8 services: LCC (corporately speaking) was brought into existence by 300 congregations and these congregations “own” LCC; when LCC was constituted in 1988 it had 10 objectives delivering 8 services: that is LCC’s mandate – to provide these 8 services to the 300 congregations and the other members of Synod (i.e. pastors, deacons)
 - Strong membership base: we are in it together; we need everyone involved

2. Overcoming dysfunctional flaws (what brought us to this situation; it is not a blame game but to determine cause so we can stop it from happening again)
 - Clarify flow of authority: it is unclear in the Handbook
 - Establish accountability processes (measuring results, monitoring risks): “Who is responsible to whom?”; there are even places in our Handbook where the statutory bylaws contradict the synodical bylaws
 - Document organizational relationships in Memoranda of Agreement: lack of clear agreements between LCC and various entities that provide many of the 8 Services.
 - Document structure in simplified Handbook: less clutter and more defined relationships with the appropriate accountability
- b. Many other items of discussion were shared between the Board of Directors and the CCMS which resulted in general agreement with the direction the CCMS was heading based on input from the larger church.

July 29, 2016 Conference Call:

- a. Rev. Stahlke shared the big picture of Stage 4: meeting with every circuit, and boards of seminaries and 3 districts, and if possible, the boards of our auxiliaries from September to December. We decided to try to have at least 2 CCMS members at each meeting, if possible, to have accurate input and recording. Dr. Stahlke was given the task of collating the responses into one document for the CCMS to review in advance of our January meeting.
- b. Rev. Stahlke then led the CCMS through a brief overview of our discussion guide. There is a foundation of 11 things that haven’t changed (Section A). Section B then is our recommendations. Section C will engage people to take ownership and give input to move us forward.
- c. Rev. Stahlke reminded the CCMS that it was important for the membership of LCC to be aware that we are not changing any theological items but only the corporate.

November 28-30 Meeting: The following decisions were made by the CCMS: (This was one of the longest and most challenging meetings of the CCMS this triennium.)

1. One administrative unit vs. the current 4 administrative units.

2. Moving to a 4-year Convention Schedule.
3. Delegates to Conventions from every congregation, thus removing Circuit representation.
4. Allowing advisory pastors, not serving a congregation, to serve as a congregation's voting pastor if that congregation is vacant.
5. The Relationship Model, Handbook design will be utilized.
6. Handbook name: LCC Act and Bylaws.
7. The Board of Directors will be authorized to change regional and circuit boundaries after going through the proper procedures.
8. The cost of providing the 8 Services and administration to be worked out in conjunction with working on the new Handbook.
9. Initial naming of the Regions would be done by the CCMS.
10. Regional and Circuit Convocations would be required one a year.
11. The size of the Board of Directors to be determined by the number of Regions, each having a pastoral and lay representative.
12. A format for a strategic planning conference to be put in place.
13. Responsibilities and expectations of the Board of Directors to be determined.
14. The President's responsibilities would be divided with the President in charge of ecclesiastical responsibilities only and the Administrator in charge of financial concerns.
15. The Synodical President, between Conventions, will be accountable to the Board of Directors.
16. Titles will be as follows: President, Vice-President, Synodical Administrator, Regional Pastor, Circuit Counsellor.
17. The responsibilities and accountability of all who serve.
18. The means of vetting all nominees for all offices.
19. Responsibilities and expectations of all Regional Pastors and Circuit Counsellors.
20. Determining all costs and positions cost for the Regional Pastor and the Director of Canadian Missions.
21. How Regional Mission and Ministry Councils will operate.
22. How the President's Ministry Council will operate.
23. Structure and process for all Commissions.
24. One Vice-President, not three as is currently the case.
25. Retaining the following committees:
 - a. Committee on Convention Nominations

- b. Pastoral Colloquy Committee
- c. Diaconal Colloquy Committee
- d. Electors (won't be in the Bylaws but in an MOU)
- e. PAT Committee (accountable to the President)

In April of 2017 a Conference Call of the CCMS centered on the question of working with Synodical legal counsel to define more clearly what the membership of Lutheran Church-Canada will look like.

Meeting of April 3-4, 2017:

- a. The CCMS spent its time working through version 3.4 of the proposed new LCC Act and Bylaws.
- b. The setting up of Regional Convocations was discussed at which the CCMS would receive final input from the pastors, deacons and lay people from across the church.
- c. Electronic Convocations would also be done in order to accommodate those who could not attend a Convocation in person.

Meeting of July 10, 2017:

- a. Just prior to this meeting, the Board of Directors and legal counsel for LCC, having received the next to final copy of the LCC Act and Bylaws as developed by Dr. Stahlke and the CCMS utilizing the "Relationship Model", told the CCMS that they could not support the document.
- b. They explained that there was growing dissatisfaction, not so much with the contents and the changes being proposed by the CCMS, but by the format of the Relationship Model itself. In fact, they were of the strong opinion that the document in its present form would not be acceptable to the delegates in Convention.
- c. Both the CCMS and Rev. Stahlke were very taken aback by this sudden change in the Board's direction, but the CCMS had said from the beginning of the process of restructuring that they would not take any document to the Convention that was not supported by the Synod's legal counsel and the Board of Directors.
- d. Thus, the CCMS, after much discussion, determined to follow the advice of legal counsel and the Board and not use the Relationship Model, but simply revise the current Constitution, Statutory Bylaws, and Synodical Bylaws in such a way that all or most of the changes asked for by the pastors, deacons and lay people would find their way

into a new revised 2017 Handbook of Synod.

- e. Rev. Stahlke was thanked for his services for which the CCMS will ever be grateful and because he felt that he was unable to work outside of the Relationship Model, was given a peaceful release from his contract and in honouring that contract was given a severance payment as stipulated therein.
- f. Mr. Dooley, Synod's legal counsel, had indicated to the Board of Directors that he would be capable of making the changes mandated by the people and the CCMS, and contained in the document the CCMS produced (LCC Act and Bylaws), in time for the printing of the Convention Workbook but that he would need assistance.
- g. The Board of Directors, with the agreement of the CCMS then formed a "Working Committee" made up of Ms. Cindy Sholdice (member of the BOD), Rev. Paul Schallhorn (member of the CCMS and Synod Secretary), Rev. Nolan Astley (1st Vice-President), and Rev. William Ney (CCMS Chairman) to work together with Mr. Dooley to produce this document within the required time-line.
- h. This "Working Committee" has been hard at work and as of the writing of this report has planned a meeting with Mr. Dooley in person in Winnipeg, on August 21-22 to finalize the proposed restructuring document that will go to the Convention.
- i. Following that meeting both the CCMS and the BOD will be asked to give their support to the new documents.

On behalf of the Commission on Constitutional Matters and Structure I want to offer a sincere "thank you" to all of the lay people, pastors and deacons that contributed so much to our restructuring effort by attending meetings, emailing, writing letters, and calling myself and members of the CCMS with constructive ideas and even criticisms.

I also want to sincerely thank Rev. Dr. Les Stahlke for his service, "over and above the call of duty" and at a greatly reduced rate of reimbursement for his services. Without Dr. Stahlke's aid, support, constant encouragement, and advice for over 20 months, the CCMS would not have been able to provide these recommendations for substantive structural change that you, the delegates, will be considering during this Convention.

But above all I want to give thanks to our gracious

and loving God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit for his guidance and direction freely given to our church and especially to the Commission during the time we have been working on the restructuring of Lutheran Church-Canada.

At every meeting across the country, at every meeting of the CCMS and the Board of Directors, God's sovereign and gracious guidance and help was heartily requested. No decision was made, no discussion convened without prayer and devotion. Therefore, the Commission is confident our wonderful God will also guide and direct the delegates to this Convention as they discuss and debate the restructuring issues that we of the CCMS have set before them.

I personally thank the Lord God for sustaining me and the other members and advisors of the CCMS through a very challenging and physical and mentally draining job.

Psalm 127:1 says: "*Unless the Lord builds the house, those who build it labour in vain. Unless the Lord watches over the city, the watchman stays awake in vain.*" It is the CCMS's fervent prayer that the building of our corporate house, Lutheran Church-Canada, may be God's doing as He uses all of us to get the job done so that His holy, inerrant Word might be proclaimed more faithfully and more earnestly by us all in our fallen world today.

In His service and yours,
Rev. William R.A. Ney, Chairman
Commission on Constitutional Matters and Structure

REPORT 9: Commission on Theology & Church Relations

May Jesus Christ, Who is the same yesterday, today, and forever, keep His church on earth in the true faith, strengthened by His Holy Word and blessed Sacraments, enduring in hope until the End that brings sight and joy.

For the past triennium the members of the Commission on Theology and Church Relations were: parish pastors Rev. James Heinbuch of Spruce Grove, AB (formerly of Kitchener, ON) and Rev. Joel Kuhl of Waterloo, ON; lay members Cliff Pyle of Saskatoon, SK, and Paul Walrath of Kitchener, ON; appointed member Rev. Warren Hamp of Kitchener, ON; seminary representatives the Rev. Dr. John Stephenson of St. Catharines, ON, and the Rev. Dr. James Gimbel of Edmonton, AB. The Rev. Dr. Robert Bugbee, President of the Synod, is an advisory member and serves as staff person for the commission. During this triennium Rev. Warren Hamp served as chairman, and Mr. Cliff Pyle as secretary.

Due to the dual pressures of restructuring planning and finances, the commission met only three times in person (September 22-23, 2014; October 22-23, 2015; January 16-17, 2017). Conference calls filled in the gaps remaining.

The commission's mandate from Synod is to assist the President at his request in discharging his constitutional responsibilities and to provide guidance to the Synod in matters of theology and church relations (Bylaw 2.107). During the past triennium the commission has worked to fulfill its mandate as follows:

I Theology

The commission continues discussion on the topics of early communion, divorced and remarried clergy, and the question of multiple, or multi-point calls. While no formal documents have been finalized on these matters, the commission will remain in conversation with the church to develop responses that will be both orthodox and beneficial.

After a preliminary analysis of the proposed 'deanery model', the commission recommends that such models not be implemented until there has been further discussion by the Council of Presidents and others involved, with the intention of developing a model that will be appropriate across LCC.

In response to requests for guidance on the pastoral care of transgendered individuals, the commission recommended the document developed by the CTCR of the LCMS, entitled Gender Identity Disorder or Gender Dysphoria in Christian Perspective.

II Church Relations

Because our resources are limited, LCC does not seek to enter into official agreements of altar and pulpit fellowship with every confessional Lutheran Church body in the world. If we did, most of these would be pragmatically meaningless, since we would have little actual contact and/or partnership with them. So we limit our official partnerships to those churches with whom we have specific connections.

Currently, LCC has protocol agreements with these Lutheran Church Bodies: Takauapa Sahatay Lutheran Church – Thailand; Igreja Evangelica Luterana Do Brazil (The Evangelical Lutheran Church of Brazil); Iglesia Luterana Sinodo de Nicaragua; The Lutheran Church – Hong Kong Synod; Lutheran Church of Australia; Die Selbständige Evangelisch-Lutherische Kirche (SELK); The Evangelical Lutheran Church of England; Synod of Evangelical Lutheran Churches in Ukraine; Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod.

It is the hope of the commission that this summer (August 2017) we will formulate a working agreement with the Finnish Lutheran Mission. We have encouraged one of our francophone pastors, the Rev. David Somers of Montreal, to pursue conversations with the Quebec representatives of the Malagasy Lutheran Church, which has requested fellowship discussions with both LCC and LCMS.

Ongoing dialogues continue with bodies with whom we do not have fellowship. The LCC/Roman Catholic dialogue continues, with a national dialogue happening in the east and a local dialogue taking place in Edmonton. LCC is a partner with the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod in dialogues with the North American Lutheran Church (NALC) and with the Anglican Church of North America (ACNA). All of these dialogues have been fruitful in both gaining understanding and in seeking ways in which we can make common cause, especially in moral issues.

The commission assisted in creating a Protocol document and MOU for Theological Education in Haiti. While the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Haiti is not an official partner of LCC, support is provided to that church through the Haiti Lutheran Mission Society, an LSO of LCC. Thus, the MOU signed by the HLMS, LCC, and the ELCH promotes LCC pastors and professors to teach in the Haitian church, with funding provided through the Mission Society.

The Commission on Theology and Church Relations
Respectfully submitted,
Rev. Warren Hamp, Chairman

REPORT 10: COMMISSION ON ADJUDICATION

Dear LCC Convention Delegates,

Thankfully, the brevity of this report testifies to the activity of the Commission on Adjudication within the last three years.

A single appeal was received by the Commission in the spring of 2016. It was from acting Ecclesiastical Supervisor of the ABC District, Rev. Nolan Astley, from Rev. Nathan Fuehrer regarding what transpired at Immanuel church, Lethbridge. As a Case Panel was struck, additional information projected our view of this conflict into a different direction. We were being asked to adjudicate faithfulness to Robert's Rules of Order for a congregational vote. Upon careful consideration we determined that events had occurred (namely, the termination of a pastor's employment and call with the congregation) that could not be reversed by any decision of the Commission. Any issue involving the procedure followed by the congregation in triggering the termination (including whether the congregation followed Robert's Rules of Order in conducting its meeting) was an internal matter best left for review by the congregation.

We were simply being asked to adjudicate a conflict that belongs in the civil realm. Thereby, the Case Panel unanimously voted to decline to hear this case citing LCC Bylaw 8.43 Pending Criminal and Civil Procedures.

During this time I truly appreciated the insight and advice offered by members of the Commission on Adjudication; especially, those upon the Case Panel (Rev. Harold Borchardt, Mr. Jeffrey Kriwetz, Mr. Kevin Sandham, and Mr. Darcy Wershler). The assistance and counsel offered by President Bugbee and Rev. Astley was also of great value.

Respectfully submitted,
Rev. Neil D. Stern
(Chairman – Commission on Adjudication)

"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God." (Matthew 5:9)

REPORT 11: BOARD OF MANAGERS - WORKER BENEFIT PLANS (WBPs)

Our Mission: The mission of Worker Benefit Plans is to serve members and employers by ensuring the provision of sustainable benefits.

Our Vision: We will develop an efficient, innovative and sustainable benefit plan with shared responsibility among engaged stakeholders.

Highlights 2014-2016

- Successfully concluded a pension transfer agreement with Concordia University-Edmonton (CUE) and transferred CUE member's assets and liabilities.
- Defined Benefit Pension (DB) Plan has had satisfactory returns (9.9%, 4.9%, and 7.4%) over the last three years.
- DB Asset allocation reviewed resulting in diversification into private debt and real estate to enhance return while managing risk.
- The funded status of the DB plan has steadily improved on a going-concern

basis over the three year period.

- While fluctuations continue on a solvency basis there was, nevertheless, a large improvement in the solvency ratio at the end of 2016 as a result of increased interest rates.
- Ellement Consulting hired in 2014 to provide cost-effective actuarial, investment, consulting and administrative services for Worker Benefit Plans
- Two members step down from the Board of Managers (BOM) due to conflicting responsibilities and a new member joins the BOM.
- Time and effort was deployed on a number of fronts to protect the interests of employers and plan members ensuring that all employers carry their fair share of the solvency deficit created primarily as a result of low interest rates.

Board of Managers

The Board of Managers (BOM) has general management responsibilities for the Worker Benefit Plans (WBPs) and oversees the plans' operations, including the selection and termination of investment managers, insurer's, actuaries and other advisors. In addition the BOM is responsible for setting strategies overseeing administration, developing pension policies, determining funding policies, establishing contribution rates, investing assets, and ensuring the plans are compliant with legislation.

Changes to the BOM

Ellen Nygaard joined the BOM at the end of 2015 following the resignation of Richard Currie who was the CFO of Concordia University (CUE). Ellen comes to us after working for many years as the Executive Director of Pension Policy for the Government of Alberta, as well as, holding the role of the Deputy Superintendent of Pensions for the Province of Alberta. Pastor Mark Hennig resigned from the BOM in February 2016 due to other commitments. BOM members are appointed by the Board of Directors of LCC for a three year term. The one exception being the Treasurer of LCC who is ex-officio a BOM member.

Overview 2014-2016

During the three year period under review, the BOM has done a significant amount of work towards positioning the Worker Benefit Plans and especially the DB plan for the future. This has involved a look at the LCC organization of the future and its needs along with the commitments that have been made to our church workers. With the departure of CUE from the programs the resulting group is more homogeneous lessening the need to meet a varied demographic need. There is a desire to align the Worker Benefit Plans with the changing organization needs, potentially changing structure, an older work force, smaller membership base and financially constrained employers. A number of different actions will be taken over the next few years to bring about a program more aligned with these concerns.

While some things can be planned others are not. One of the most significant accomplishments over the period was the successful negotiation with CUE of a Pension and Benefits Transfer agreement concluding with the transfer of assets and liabilities for active, retired and deferred members to CUE at the end of May, 2016. CUE is now solely responsible for the pension benefits for their members. CUE's exit from the LCC pension plan did not affect the funded position of the plan as CUE took a proportional share of the plan's assets along with the plan's liabilities (all employers own a share of the assets and liabilities).

At the beginning of 2014 the BOM appointed Ellement Consulting to replace Towers Watson in the provision of actuarial, investment and consulting services. The appointment of Ellement Consulting was the result of a search to obtain quality consulting at a lower cost. The outsourcing of the WBPs' administration was also awarded to Ellement Consulting effective January 1, 2015 as we also looked at whether we could effectively outsource some of our internal administration and systems and have them done at a lower price.

The BOM spent some time over the period improving our governance processes, partly sparked by legislative changes but also from a desire to have best practices. As a result, the BOM developed a comprehensive Governance Policy. This governance policy resulted in the implementation of a board skills matrix that facilitates board recruitment efforts, an individual board peer review process, as well as a board performance review.

The BOM has also spent considerable time and effort to protect the interests of all contributing employers and plan members to ensure that all employers carry their fair share of the DB Plan solvency deficit created primarily as a result of low interest rates. Those employers include not only active calling entities, but also vacant congregations, those who have dramatically downsized their workforce and any congregation who is considering withdrawing from the Worker Benefit Plan. It is especially important that employers understand that when they have a temporary or permanent pastoral vacancy they are still required to continue contributing towards the going-concern and solvency deficit of the Defined Benefit Plan (the legacy costs) in order that members receive the full benefits that they have earned. A significant amount of time has also been spent ensuring the interests of the Worker Benefit Plans with regard to the Alberta/British Columbia District Corp. CCCA proceedings are represented and honoured. An acceptable solution has finally been reached.

The BOM has also developed a policy outlining the process that will be followed when an employer fails to fully pay their pension and benefit account payments within the allowable time-frames. The process, designed to find a mutually agreeable resolution, encourages employers to discuss their situation with the Executive Director of the Worker Benefit Plans and to work out a payment schedule. The policy can be found under the Employer section of the WBP website (www.lccbenefts.ca).

Pension DB Investments

Investment returns from 2014 to the end of 2016 have been satisfactory (see the accompanying chart for details). Investment returns are an important component

of the plan's funding, accounting for 70%-75% of pension funding while employer and employee contributions account for 25%-30% of the plan's funding. For this reason, the BOM periodically conducts a review of the fund's asset allocation to ensure the asset allocation is the most appropriate one for meeting the obligations of the DB plan and the long-term growth of the fund. Asset allocation is the most important determiner of fund return. As a result of this oversight, along with the desire to enhance returns without increasing risk, there were a number of investment fund manager changes that took place during the period.

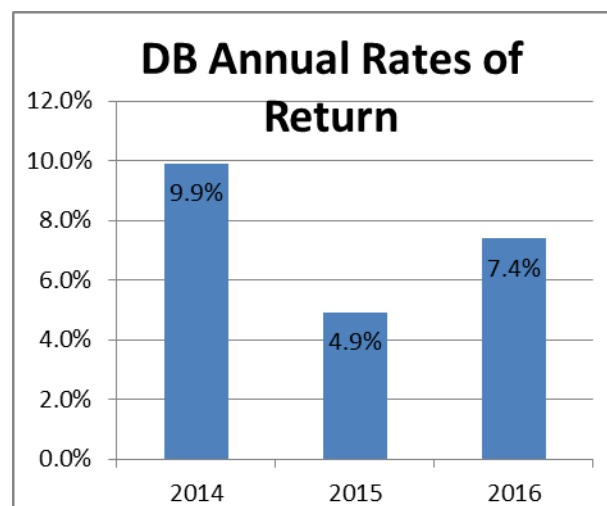
In 2014, Sky Investment council advised they would be winding down their operations. This notice proved timely as the Board of Managers (BOM) had just decided to move half of the international portfolio from Sky to a manager with less volatility. After a search for an international investment manager was conducted, Mawer Investment Management was selected.

In 2015, the BOM decided to move a portion of the funds invested in Canadian equity to a low volatility Canadian Equity fund. The change was the result of research indicating that higher risk has not meant higher returns and lower volatility equities have provided better returns over the long-term. TD Emerald, the new fund manager, selects less volatile equities from the S&P/TSX composite and from non-cyclical sectors such as utilities and consumer staples. Their portfolio is less sensitive to market movements and they expect to outperform the index in down markets. TD's strategy is to take as little risk as required to harvest the return on equities.

After being closely monitored by the Board for some time because of poor returns, Foyston, Gordon and Payne (FGP) were terminated in early 2016 from managing the plan's assets in Bond, Canadian Equity and Small CAP Canadian Equity investments. In addition, despite excellent returns, the BOM decided to

concerns which became more significant as a result of the smaller asset base, due to the CUE withdrawal. The BOM also had a desire to broaden and diversify the asset classes held in the fund portfolio given the generally accepted view in investment circles that returns from bonds and bond funds would be very modest going forward.

During 2016 the BOM embarked on an investment manager search to find a private debt manager and a real estate fund manager, resulting in the hiring of Romspen Investment Corporation and Greystone. As part of this review the board also examined whether there was any advantage to actively managed bond funds versus passively managed funds and, not seeing any significant advantages, decided the bond component of the fund would be managed on a passive basis. Funds previously managed by FGP and Wellington Financial were moved to TD Emerald Canadian Bond Fund, TD Low Volatility Canadian Equity Fund, Romspen Mortgage Fund and Greystone Real Estate Fund.



"It is especially important that employers understand that when they have a temporary or permanent pastoral vacancy they are still required to continue contributing towards the going-concern deficit of the Defined Benefit Plan "...

withdraw our funds from Wellington Financial LP where we held a modest position in venture debt. This decision was made due to liquidity and risk tolerance

DB Plan Funded Status

The last full valuation of the DB Pension Plan was conducted at December 31, 2014. Normally we would not have been required to do an actuarial valuation at that date, however with CUE seeking to establish its own plan including the proportional transfer of assets and liabilities for its members, the regulators required a full valuation at that date. (Plan Valuations are required every three years unless a plan is funded below 85% on a going concern basis in which case they must be done annually. The LCC plan is more than 85% funded on a going concern basis). Estimates of the plan's funded status were also conducted at the end of 2015 and 2016. These estimates were not filed with the regulator

and do not change the contributions required into the plan. These estimates are used by the BOM to assess the position of the plan, in order that action may be taken early in the event the estimate signals any concerns.

Solvency Valuation

The solvency valuation is an assessment of the funding and liabilities of the Plan assuming it is wound up on the date of valuation. Recent valuations show the following results:

Dec 31,	Solvency Ratio	(Deficiency)
2014	73%	(\$ 25.8 million)
2015*	74%	(\$ 24.3 million)
2016*	82%	(\$ 16.3 million)
*Estimates		

The improvement in the solvency position of the plan from the end of 2014 to the end 2016 was mainly the result of an increase in long-bond yields (interest rates) and contributions going into the plan. Good investment experience to a lesser extent also contributed to the improvement. The increase in bond yields improved our solvency funded position because it reduced the value of plan liabilities. (Bond yields are used to value the liabilities and the lower the expected bond yields the higher the amount of money that must be set aside to fund the benefits.)

Going Concern

On a going concern basis, the valuations done at the end of 2014 to the end of 2016 showed the following:

Dec 31,	Going Concern Ratio	(Deficiency)/Surplus
2014	92 %	(\$ 5.6 million)

2015*	96 %	(\$ 2.3 million)
2016*	104 %	\$ 2.6 million
*Estimates		

As a result of special payments to the plan, increases in interest rates and satisfactory investment returns, our estimates indicate that the plan is fully funded on a going concern basis.

Government Forbearance on Funding

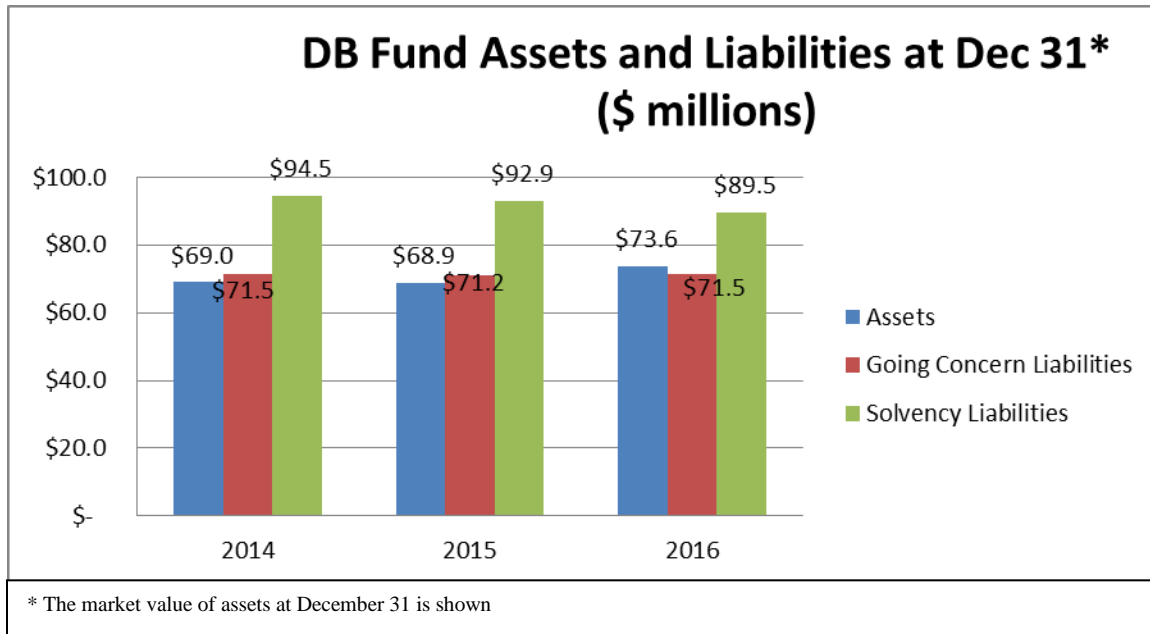
Normally solvency deficits are required to be paid off over five years; however, the Alberta government regulator has extended a great deal of understanding to us and has not required us to make solvency deficiency payments. While the government has not committed to anything specific, their aim is the same as ours: to ensure members receive their full defined benefit pension. This objective, however, needs to be balanced with our employers' capacity to pay for both ongoing pension benefits and pension legacy costs.

DC Plan Investments

The Board of Managers (BOM) monitors the performance of the DC Investment Option on a regular basis. No changes to the DC Plan investments occurred during the 2014 to 2016 period. However, as a result of key personnel changes and concerns with performance the MFS International Fund was put under close scrutiny (on "watch" status) during 2016. This involves more closely monitoring the fund's performance and changes to the funds operations. Subsequently mid-way through 2017 the Board decided to terminate MFS as the international fund manager and replace them with Fiera Capital.

A variety of communication channels have been used to inform members of their DC plan and its investments including workshops, newsletters, informational memos, webinars and demonstrations by Sun Life on how to use their website to access information and make investment decisions.

"The improvement in the solvency position of the plan from the end of 2014 to the end 2016 was mainly the result of an increase in long-bond yields (interest rates) and contributions going into the plan. "



Group Benefit Plans

The flexible benefit plan has operated relatively smoothly since its introduction on January 1, 2008 when it was introduced to provide employees with flexibility in their benefit choices, allowing members to tailor benefits according to individual needs and providing a mechanism for cost sharing of benefit costs between employees and employers. Benefit rates over the period were stable with an overall increase of 1.9% for the 2015 calendar year and a decrease in overall rates of 5.8% for the 2016 calendar year as the result of good experience.

Administration

During the 2014 to 2016 period we fully implemented the administrative outsourcing arrangement we have with Ellement Consulting. This has bought us more cost effective and efficient systems and administration.

Future Changes in 2017 and Beyond

Pension

Over the 2014-2016 periods the BOM evaluated the risks faced by the DB plan- which includes longevity, interest rates and asset volatility. The BOM then considered options for mitigating those risks including asset mix changes and potentially annuitizing a portion of the liabilities with an insurance carrier. As noted above there has already been a change in asset mix over the 2015 to 2016 period. In April 2017 an annuity “buy-in” representing 25% of the liabilities of the plan was completed with a large insurance carrier. An annuity

buy-in involves paying assets to an insurer in exchange for a single annuity contract issued to the pension fund. The insurer pays all the pension payments for members covered by the policy to the pension fund, the value of the annuity contract is held on the balance sheet as an asset and plan members continue to receive pension payments from the pension fund. The advantage of this strategy is that the insurer assumes the liabilities including the longevity risk (members living longer than expected), interest rate risk (small changes in interest rate can create pension liability volatility which can in turn impact funding requirements and cash flow and may result in needing higher contributions) and the asset volatility risk. This is the first step in a longer de-risking strategy and when conditions are right for the plan there may be additional annuity purchases.

The BOM will be reviewing the structure of the pension plan in the year ahead to ensure its registration and administrative functions are appropriate and aligned with the organization goals. Further information on this process will be released in the coming months

Introducing Worker Benefit Services

Over the last number of months the Board of Directors of LCC has been studying the best way for the Board of Managers to do the work of managing the Worker Benefits Plans while at the same time allowing the Board of Directors to focus on ecclesiastical matters. As a result, an independent board is being established called Worker Benefits Services (WBS). The Directors of WBS will be appointed by the Board of Directors of LCC, and will have autonomy managing the group benefit plans

while still serving in an advisory capacity to the Board of Directors on the Defined Pension Plan. The structure will provide the new WBS with legal status which will also enhance the opportunity to recruit prospective directors with expertise in pension administration, investments and employee benefits.

The documents for the establishment of the WBS have been signed, and it is anticipated that the new board will begin to function as of September 1, 2017. More information will be made available to members and employers as the new board takes on its responsibilities.

Pension and Benefit Challenges

The Worker Benefit Plans have been, since inception a series of comprehensive programs designed to protect active and retired members and their families from financial loss as a result of health issues and to provide a source of income in retirement. As a result of financial challenges in recent years we have had to reduce the programs provided to future retirees. However, it is important for all members and employers to understand:

- That all employers own a pro-rata share of the deficit in the defined benefit plan. All employers make supplemental contributions (currently 10% of Payroll) to pay for current and past employees who have defined benefit service. This legacy DB obligation continues to exist even if an employer decides that they will no longer have a full-time pastor. That is the reason employers in vacancy are also asked to continue making this supplemental contribution.
- With the cooperation of all employers, this approach will ensure that all of those employees who have served the participating employer and contributed to the mission of Synod, receive their retirement benefit (Pension).
- Employers are also making contributions to pay for post-retirement benefits for those employees that retired when these benefits were available. We have, however, been requiring retirees to pay more of the premium for these plans over the past few years. This still provides good coverage at

far less cost, than that available in the market place.

We understand the pressures employers are under to reduce costs and we in turn are doing the utmost to reduce our administrative costs and deliver programs competently in the best manner possible.

The BOM recognizes the importance of the pension and benefit programs to members and their families. It also recognizes the concerns of employers regarding increasing costs. We feel that the decisions taken by the BOM over the last few years are fair and balanced. They meet our goal and commitment of

“...all employers own a pro-rata share of the deficit in the defined benefit plan. All employers make supplemental contributions to pay for current and past employees who had defined benefit service.... With the cooperation of all employers this approach should ensure that all of those employees who have served the participating employer and contributed to the mission of the Synod, receive their retirement benefit.”

providing an appropriate pension and benefits program that is valued by members, affordable to employers and members and sustainable over the longer term. This will continue to be our goal when considering future changes.

We thank-you for your understanding and assure you that we will continue to carry out our role prayerfully and conscientiously, asking for God’s wisdom and blessing on our efforts.

RESPECTFULLY submitted,

Dwayne Cleave,
Executive Director,
Worker Benefit Plans

Dr. Dieter Kays,
Chair, Board of
Managers

REPORT 12: Lutheran Church – Canada Financial Ministries
Introduction

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I am pleased to report to the convention on the activities of Lutheran Church-Canada Financial Ministries over the past three years. Carrying out work under the trademark name of Lutheran Foundation Canada, our primary task is to encourage and assist in the development of planned gifts within LCC's membership, but also with current gifts of shares or other assets, all in support of the on-going mission and ministry of the church. Over the last three years, approximately \$20.6 million has been reported in current or planned gifts, including shares, land, oil leases, and cash; of which just under \$5.8 million has already been received and disbursed according to the donor's wishes.

Additionally, over the last three years, using the earnings from our invested endowments, the Foundation made disbursements totaling \$600,079 to the congregations and organizations as originally suggested by the donor, and listed within each of our endowment agreements. These disbursements were as follows: 2014 - \$202,500 2015 - \$150,772
2016 - \$246,807 May God be praised!

Lutheran Foundation Canada Overview

Lutheran Foundation Canada was established as a public, charitable foundation working on behalf of all organizations and congregations affiliated with Lutheran Church-Canada. The Foundation is comprised of four members, including Lutheran Church-Canada and the three Districts. All Foundation activities previously undertaken by the districts are now managed by Lutheran Foundation Canada.

The gift development activities of the Foundation are carried out by Gift Coordinators working within each District. At present there are three full-time gift coordinators: Allen Schellenberg serving within the ABC District (also serving as the Foundation's Executive Director), David Friesen serving within the Central District as of April 2012, and Alfred Feth serving within the East District.

The Foundation's operations have been directly funded by the three Districts, LCC, Lutheran Laymen's League - Canada, CLWR, and our two seminaries. Additionally, the Foundation generates

operating income from fees charged for administration of the endowments (a 1% fee) and custodial funds (a 0.5% fee) held within the Foundation's investment portfolio.

At present, approximately \$12 million is invested in endowments or custodial accounts. Foundation

investments are managed by professional investment firms, overseen by each firm's investment manager and their team of certified investment analysts. The investment managers provide quarterly investment Performance Reports which are then reviewed by the Foundation's Finance Committee. The Finance Committee is comprised of members with significant expertise in the areas of finance and accounting. The Finance Committee's primary responsibility is to insure the investment managers have invested our funds in keeping with our approved "Investment Policy Statement", a document defining the level of risk, investment diversification requirements, and asset allocation restrictions between equity and fixed income investments.

Gift Planning Services

Due to our aging population, over the next 15 years significant wealth, the bounty of God's worldly blessings will transfer from one generation to the next. Planned giving is using a portion of the lifetime accumulation of worldly resources within our estate to meet the needs and expectations of family, while also including a gift for the ongoing mission and ministry of the church. For many, there is great satisfaction in knowing their gift will continue to support ministries important to them for years after they're gone.

The Foundation's Gift Coordinators provide informative seminars on Christian estate planning. Although the Foundation's primary purpose is to speak to individuals on estate stewardship, these seminars may also cover a range of other topics related to estate planning: wills, health care directives, powers of attorney, funeral arrangements, and issues related to the transfer of assets from one generation to the next.

Additionally, the Gift Coordinators provide individual services to our congregational membership, assisting in structuring a gift to the donor's best advantage, providing needed information to the donor's professional advisors, and ensuring the gift is directed to the appropriate organization(s) per the donor's desired use of the funds.

A Range of Gifts

As stated earlier, the majority of gifts are designated from the assets of an estate, usually given from the assets of the surviving spouse's estate. This acknowledges the need to provide for a surviving spouse, with unknown financial needs as the surviving spouse advances in years. For those who are financially wealthy, opportunities exist that provide significant tax savings for use during a donor's lifetime, rather than having the entire tax

credit go to the estate. Gifts can include: insurance policies, RRSP/RRIF investments, stock, real property, vehicles, and of course, cash.

The table below shows the future distribution of the \$50 million developed as planned gifts or already received over the last eight years, allocated per the wishes of the individual donors. Not surprisingly, approximately a third of all gifts are designated for congregations. Without exception, donors are excited the ministries they've supported throughout their lifetime will continue to be supported by their planned gift after they have been called to their heavenly Father's home. It is expected these planned gifts will provide ongoing financial resources to the ministries of LCC for many years to come.

Congregational Gift Acceptance and Use Policy

Based on the eight years of known information shown in the table below, plus the expectation of many gifts of which we are unaware, congregations need to plan now, on how these extraordinary financial gifts will be used. Up until now, few congregations have considered the necessity of creating a gift acceptance policy, much less a gift "use" policy. Yet, many of us have heard stories of congregations who've experienced a significant period of discord due to receiving an unexpected, large monetary gift from a deceased congregational member. Too often there are unyielding and differing opinions on how these types of gifts should be used.

For this reason, the Foundation has developed a "Gift Acceptance and Use Policy" that congregations are encouraged to adapt for their own use now, in anticipation of receiving such gifts in the future. These extraordinary gifts, gifts beyond the congregation's regular Sunday offering, can and should be used to transfer the blessings that God has bestowed upon them. These gifts allow congregations to develop community-based mission driven programs, or to support ministries well beyond their own doors. Congregations are encouraged to adapt and adopt the sample policy for their own use. The Foundation provides additional help and guidance throughout this process. With a clear vision of how gifted funds will be used, congregational members will be more inclined to consider such gifts to their congregation.

Summary

For further information on Lutheran Foundation Canada, or resources to do with estate planning, visit our website at www.lutheranfoundation.ca.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of Lutheran Foundation Canada,

Allen Schellenberg
Executive Director

Lutheran Foundation Canada - 8 Year Gift Summary (2009- 2016)



Lutheran Foundation Canada

REFLECTING GOD'S GRACE

The following table shows how the membership of Lutheran Church - Canada has responded to giving opportunities, either in their estate or as a current gift. (Allocations are based upon the expressed wishes of the donors.) May God be praised!

Beneficiary	2009 Gift Total	2010 Gift Total	2011 Gift Total	2012 Gift Total	2013 Gift Total	2014 Gift Total	2015 Gift Total	2016 Gift Total	8 Year Gift Total	% of Total
ABC Cong's	\$292,270	\$706,010	\$546,424	\$569,867	\$3,201,700	\$546,075	\$221,440	\$368,625	\$6,452,411	12.70%
Central Cong's	\$70,000	\$95,310	\$196,000	\$100,800	\$319,000	\$615,300	\$214,500	\$1,069,010	\$2,679,920	5.27%
East Cong's	\$261,000	\$1,007,568	\$805,383	\$897,825	\$901,360	\$1,660,350	\$636,680	\$1,171,690	\$7,341,856	14.45%
ABC District	\$165,000	\$650,000	\$108,425	\$160,000	\$1,235,500	\$120,400	\$60,000	\$0	\$2,499,325	4.92%
Central District	\$0	\$46,000	\$17,500	\$90,000	\$533,200	\$31,250	\$15,050	\$0	\$733,000	1.44%
East District	\$290,000	\$213,358	\$141,144	\$59,650	\$336,000	\$50,975	\$257,100	\$133,000	\$1,481,227	2.91%
Synod	\$392,100	\$670,000	\$274,100	\$299,125	\$1,188,855	\$137,500	\$431,420	\$140,434	\$3,533,534	6.95%
CLS	\$157,500	\$1,009,025	\$252,773	\$334,766	\$1,383,000	\$665,908	\$511,850	\$1,514,025	\$5,828,847	11.47%
CLTS	\$85,600	\$247,710	\$307,888	\$295,425	\$239,055	\$309,408	\$763,300	\$441,730	\$2,690,116	5.29%
CUCA	\$10,000	\$273,000	\$143,333	\$1,000	\$803,500	\$334	\$0	\$0	\$1,231,167	2.42%
LLL-C	\$38,200	\$778,600	\$273,400	\$445,600	\$814,255	\$393,000	\$498,300	\$303,900	\$3,545,255	6.98%
LWML-C	\$20,000	\$204,360	\$0	\$150,750	\$182,000	\$205,125	\$15,000	\$5,050	\$782,285	1.54%
CLMS	\$40,000	\$86,333	\$333,384	\$98,750	\$259,000	\$331,450	\$262,870	\$273,000	\$1,684,787	3.32%
LSO's	\$160,575	\$248,920	\$174,500	\$95,125	\$433,420	\$608,725	\$596,450	\$110,780	\$2,428,495	4.78%
CLWR	\$20,000	\$1,122,196	\$49,605	\$238,917	\$244,055	\$403,000	\$407,700	\$60,000	\$2,545,473	5.01%
LCCFM	\$280,000	\$200,000	\$147,897	\$218,050	\$118,150	\$480,050	\$2,286,326	\$177,300	\$3,907,773	7.69%
Unspecified	\$20,000	\$0	\$165,000	\$50,000	\$55,000	\$380,000	\$50,000	\$737,300	\$1,457,300	2.87%
Total Gifts	\$2,302,245	\$7,558,390	\$3,936,756	\$4,105,650	\$12,247,050	\$6,938,850	\$7,227,986	\$6,505,844	\$50,822,771	100 %
Total Cash Rec'd Already	\$115,750	\$537,165	\$545,800	\$641,400	\$693,050	\$2,147,850	\$1,512,986	\$2,137,164	\$8,331,165	16.39%

Please contact Allen Schellenberg at 877-711-4438 if you have any questions.

REPORT 13: Council of Presidents

The Council of Presidents (COP) of Lutheran Church-Canada consists of the Synodical President, the three Synodical Vice-Presidents, and the three District Presidents. Currently serving on the COP:

Rev. Dr. Robert Bugbee, Synodical President
 Rev. Nolan Astley (East District), LCC 1st Vice-President
 Rev. Thomas Kruesel (ABC District, LCC 2nd Vice-President (Secretary)
 Rev. Rudy Pastucha (Central District), LCC 3rd Vice-President
 Rev. Dr. Glenn Schaeffer, ABC District President
 Rev. Thomas Prachar, Central District President (Chairman)
 Rev. Paul Zabel, East District President (Vice-Chairman)

At the LCC Convention in 2014, Rev. Mark Smith was elected as the Synodical Vice-President from the Central District. On June 8, 2015 after accepting a call, he was transferred to the East District. The Synod's Board of Directors then appointed Rev. Rudy Pastucha to fill the vacant position. In the aftermath of the ABC District CEF crisis, Rev. Nolan Astley was appointed Interim Pastoral Leader of the ABC District. In the fall of 2016, Rev. Astley completed his term as Pastoral Leader, and President Glenn Schaeffer officially joined the COP.

We truly thank God for all who have served on the COP in the past triennium! Our Lord continues to use the gifts He has given to His people in service to Him and His Church. We especially give praise to our gracious God for our Vice-Presidents who serve part time on the COP, but full time in the Divine Call to their congregations. LCC is truly blessed in that these congregations share their pastors with the Church!

The duties of the COP are listed in the Synodical Handbook:

2.301 Council of Presidents

The president and vice presidents of the Synod and the district presidents shall form the Council of Presidents. The Council shall meet at least annually and in addition at the call of the president or at the request of one third of the Council of Presidents:

- a. to enable the president to advise and counsel his representatives in the districts;
- b. to enable the district presidents in turn to give counsel to the president;

- c. to counsel with one another on matters regarding the doctrine and administration of the Synod and its districts;
- d. to give guidance for inter-church relations;
- e. to edify and support one another in the work they share;
- f. to serve as the Board of Assignments for the first calls to candidates for the pastoral and teaching office, and for other church professions;
- g. to carry out such assignments as the Convention may give to the Council from time to time;
- h. colloquy committees shall report to the Council of Presidents and shall assist the Council in carrying out its responsibilities as the Board of Assignments.

In addition, each member of the COP serves on Synod's Board of Directors. The Synod President and Vice-Presidents are voting members of the Board, while the District Presidents serve as advisory members. In the past triennium, the COP has met face-to-face nine times and conducted six conference calls. Whenever possible the COP and the LCC Board of Directors have met consecutively in order to practice good stewardship.

Church Workers

The COP serves as the Board of Assignments in the placing of pastoral, DPS and teaching candidates, as well as the assignment of vicars and DPS interns every spring. The COP also makes salary recommendations for the DPS interns and vicars. In addition, the COP deals with applications for reinstatement to the synodical roster.

In the past triennium, the Board of Assignments has placed: ten seminary graduates, twelve vicars, two DPS candidates, and one DPS intern. In addition, four men were commended to the LCMS for placement on their clergy roster. The COP also places PAT and colloquy candidates.

When Concordia University Edmonton and LCC parted ways, the COP favoured a proposal from Concordia Lutheran Seminary, Edmonton to take on diaconal training. The seminary continues to work out the logistics of such an arrangement. With CUE no longer connected to LCC, discussions continue as to the status of calls for several rostered workers who serve at CUE.

PAT Program

Approved by LCC at the 2002 convention, the "Pastors with Alternate Training" (PAT) program is a way in which pastors are trained to serve

congregations of a different culture, language or are geographically remote. The COP is responsible for the program and provides oversight and administration through the tireless work of Rev. Dr. Leonardo Neitzel, aided by members of his PAT Committee: Rev. Dr. James Keller, Rev. Dr. James Gimbel, Rev. Dr. Richard Beinert, and Rev. Thomas Prachar.

In the past triennium, two students graduated from the PAT program and were placed by the COP: Eduardo Rodriquez and Joseph Singh.

Other Matters

The COP spent much time during the last triennium discussing and receiving reports on the ABC District's CEF insolvency issue. The proposed restructuring of synod took up our discussion time as well.

We reviewed the calling procedures for pastors and deacons in our church as requested by Resolution 14.1.02. Work on another convention resolution is almost complete as of this writing: Resolution 14.1.04a "To Encourage Deeper Teaching and Pastoral Care on Issues of Human Sexuality."

The COP continues to work with synodical and district administrative assistants on maintaining a data base of congregations, pastors and deacons. Privacy issues of the various provinces are currently being addressed as to what information may be shared.

Every year the COP deals with "Candidate Extensions." These are pastors and deacons who, for a variety of reasons, have stepped aside from their congregation and as a result, have been placed on "Candidate Status." The synodical Handbook states: 5.47 "a. A pastor or deacon who is eligible to perform the duties of the offices of ministry specified in bylaw 5.43 but who is not currently performing those duties and who is not retired may be continued on the roster for a period not to exceed two consecutive years, subject to annual review by the president of the district of which the candidate is a member. For the extension of the candidate status beyond two consecutive years, the Council of Presidents shall require an annual application from the candidate as well as an evaluation by his district president. The Council shall determine by written ballot whether or not the request shall be honoured, in each instance, for an additional year."

Much time at the COP meetings is devoted to hearing reports from the synodical and district presidents. The COP acts as a shepherd to these pastors giving counsel and advice in areas of casuistry, doctrine and practice. Ecclesiastical supervision is often a difficult and thankless task. But with the mutual consolation of the brothers, fortified with the study of God's Word and prayer, our Lord is able to use the Council of Presidents to serve faithfully in His Church.

Peace in Christ,
Rev. Thomas Prachar
Chairman, Council of Presidents

REPORT 14: Alberta-British Columbia District

Let us pray: *"Our Father, who from heav'n above Bids all of us to live in love As members of one family And pray to You in unity, Teach us no thoughtless words to say, But from our inmost hearts to pray." Amen (LSB 766:1)*

The Mission of the ABC District: "To engage with God's people in Jesus' mission and ministry."

The ABC District CEF and DIL Situation

Faced with a funding shortfall, the Alberta-British Columbia District and related entities obtained an initial order from the Court of Queen's Bench of Alberta under the Companies' Creditors Arrangement Act (the CCAA) on January 23, 2015. The Court appointed an external Monitor—Deloitte Restructuring Inc.—to oversee restructuring efforts by the District.

The CCAA stay of proceedings allowed the District to create Plans of Arrangement and Compromise for District Investment Limited and Church Extension Fund so as to maximize returns to creditors while allowing the ABC District to continue operations. During the stay of proceedings, the District Group worked with the Court-appointed Monitor (Deloitte Restructuring Inc.), the Chief Restructuring Officer (Kluane Partners), and the CEF and DIL Creditor's Committees in order to assess options with respect to presenting formal plans of arrangement to their creditors.

ABC District's assets have been sold. Congregational loans/mortgages with CEF and DIL were called with some congregations being able to raise the money internally to pay their debt; others were able to get

loans from lending institutions; while a few churches were unable to pay their loan/mortgage with the result being that their building was sold. In addition, the District staff was reduced to a bare minimum.

The Prince of Peace project was determined to be a core asset. The District (CEF) Plan of Arrangement included the creation of a new company, Sage. Sage was mandated by its shareholders to develop and sell the Prince of Peace assets in order to maximize returns to the creditors.

On January 23, 2016, the depositors of District Investments Ltd. voted in favour of the DIL Plan of Arrangement and Compromise. On June 10, 2016, the depositors of the District Church Extension Fund voted in favour of the District (CEF) Plan. On August 2, the court rendered its decision, sanctioning both plans for implementation following a 21 day appeal period. "I find that the proposed plans are within my jurisdiction to sanction are fair and reasonable in the circumstances and should be sanctioned," Justice B.E. Romaine wrote in her ruling.

Since the adoption of the Plans of Arrangement and Compromise, additional properties have been sold and other creditor claims have been addressed with only a few unresolved matters remaining.

A core aspect of the Plans of Arrangement and Compromise is a Representative Action. The Representative Action allows for the creditors to seek recompense for damages. Two subcommittees, one for CEF and one for DIL, have been formed by the Creditor's Committees to work with lawyers, in order to sue ABC District Directors, Officers, Employees and other parties. Notice has been served that the Representative Action will commence once the ABC District is no longer under the protection of CCAA. At the ABC District Convention in May 2015, Resolution 2015-01-11A, "To Request Lutheran Church-Canada to Provide Interim Ecclesiastical Supervision for Members of Synod in Alberta and British Columbia" was passed by the delegates. The intent of the resolution was to have the newly elected District President focus his energies primarily on the corporate responsibilities of the District with an Interim Pastoral Leader providing ecclesiastical supervision and pastoral care to the congregations and church workers in the ABC District. Rev. Nolan Astley was appointed by Lutheran Church – Canada to serve in this role. Pastor Astley served in this capacity from September 1, 2015 to August 31, 2016. At the same time he continued to serve as Senior Pastor of Holy Cross Lutheran Church in Kitchener. It is with grateful hearts that the ABC District thanks

Pastor Astley, his wife, Susan, and the members of Holy Cross, for his service.

Accompanying the financial challenges related to CEF and DIL is the challenge of rebuilding trust and addressing the hurt and anger that this financial crisis caused. President Schaeffer and Pastor Astley held town hall meetings in every circuit to listen to the concerns of the depositors and to respond to questions. They made personal visits with individual creditors and congregations as requested. Circuit counselors monitored (and continue to monitor) their local circuit congregations to determine if any individuals or congregations require additional assistance. A number of resources have been created by pastors in the ABC District (e.g. sermon series, Bible studies, a devotional booklet) with a focus on confession and absolution (i.e. God's forgiveness). Many congregations have used these resources. Hurt and anger still lingers and needs additional attention, but hopefully, by God's grace, wounds will be healed, trust restored, and relationships reconciled.

A New Board of Directors and New District President

Five months after the news of the District CEF/DIL crisis, the ABC District delegates met in convention (May 22-24, 2015) on the Prince of Peace Lutheran Church and School campus in Calgary. During this convention a new slate of District directors and officers were elected. With President Schiemann retiring, an election for a new District President took place with Rev. Dr. Glenn Schaeffer being elected to serve in that office. Three new Vice-Presidents were also elected – Rev. Roland Kubke (1st Vice President), Rev. Fraser Coltmann (2nd Vice-President) and Rev. Darren Siegle (3rd Vice-President). A new board of directors was elected with many of those elected serving in this capacity for the first time: Mr. Bill Fraser (Chairman), Mr. Dennis Woolsey (Secretary), Mr. Aaron Ball, Mr. Nick Steinke, Rev. Miriam Winstanley, Rev. James Paulgaard, and Rev. Mark Hennig. Mrs. Melanie Kuhn and Mrs. Judith Burns were also elected but have since resigned from their position on the Board. Their positions on the board remain vacant.

The new Board has navigated any number of complex and sensitive issues related to the CCAA process while at the same time working to reestablish trust with the CEF and DIL creditors, the congregations and church workers of the ABC District, and with Lutheran Church – Canada Synodical leadership.

Dedicated Laity and Church Workers

The one hundred and twenty-eight congregations and missions in the ABC District are populated with

dedicated laity, pastors, and deacons who love their congregational family and passionately share Christ's love with each other and the community in which they reside. The level of dedication of many laity people, pastors, and deacons is remarkable.

Pastors continue to preach and teach God's unchanging Word in a world that is not always friendly to God's message. Deacons, using their God-given gifts, assist pastors in their work and oversee congregational ministries focused on children, youth, young adult and family ministry. Teachers, in our Lutheran schools, tell the story of Jesus and his love in their classes on a daily basis. Many lay people, after a full day's work, often participate in a home Bible study group, or attend a congregational committee meeting, or use their gifts to edify their congregational family and the community where they live. Countless retirees dedicate hours of their retirement serving the Lord and His people. Praise be to God for these gifted and faithful servants

!

Laity, pastors, and deacons do their church work in an increasingly challenging context. Satan is ever sowing his seeds of discontent and discord. Beliefs, values, and behaviours advocated by God, in His Word, collide with those of a godless world. People, preoccupied with technology and entertainment, are increasingly deaf or apathetic to God's Word. And yet, the Holy Spirit continues to bring adults and children to faith in the triune God through Holy Baptism and His Word. God's Word continues to be preached, taught, studied, and shared. God's people continue to gather for weekly worship so that they might be fed by the Lord through the Holy Supper, hear His Word of Absolution and a timely sermon related to their lives. God's people pray, they plan, and they go about their callings as "royal priests" who share Jesus' love in their words and deeds.

Lutheran Schools and Pre-Schools

The ABC District has seventeen pre-schools, seven elementary Lutheran Schools, and one high school. These schools are integral to their sponsoring congregation's outreach into the community and their ministry to its own member families.

Some preschools struggle with enrollment because public schools are often home to preschools. Elementary Lutheran schools face the ever-present threat of provincial funding being withdrawn resulting in higher tuition and deal with pressures to conform to the values and practices of a secular school system. Despite these challenges and many others, many of the Lutheran schools are seeing increased enrollment.

Lutheran school administrators, teachers, and staff are passionate about sharing God's Word with the children and their families. Their commitment to Lutheran education often means they are paid significantly less than their colleagues in the public school system. There is a pressing need for Lutheran school teachers to serve in our Lutheran schools. This is especially true in British Columbia where the public school system is in a hiring frenzy.

One of the unfortunate impacts of the financial challenges has been the reduction of District staff, specifically, Mr. Daryl Becker, who was the ABC District staff person who worked in partnership with the Lutheran administrators, teachers, and school boards. One way the LTA is compensating for this loss of personnel is by forging a working partnership with the North West District of the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod who are providing access to their resources and personnel.

Calls & Vacancies

Despite the fact that there is an increased enrollment at Concordia Lutheran Seminary (Edmonton), there continues to be a significant shortage of pastors to serve congregations or to initiate new church starts. A growing number of congregations are finding it difficult to pay for the full-time services of a resident pastor. These congregations often form partnerships with other congregations so that they can share the cost of a resident pastor while others contract the services of an available pastor while others engage the services of a vicar.

At the time of this report, the ABC District has three calling congregations, three congregations engaged in Intentional Interim Ministry, and nineteen non-calling congregation. There are numerous communities where we should be birthing new congregations.

An additional challenge is that there is currently no formal deaconate training program in LCC. It's most unfortunate because our trained deacons are truly gifts to a congregation's ministry and community outreach.

There is also a lack of clarity (and discussion) as to what types of trained deaconate workers we need to support the ministry and mission of a congregation. While congregations continue to need deacons to work in various congregational ministries, there is growing need to identify and train men and women to serve in missionary/evangelist roles. One can only imagine at this point, how a missionary/evangelist, leading, training, and equipping congregational members for outreach might impact a community with Christ's love.

Intentional Interim Ministry (IIM):

When a congregation experiences a change in pastoral leadership, it often benefits from taking time to: analyze who it is; deal with internal relationships; discover and train fresh leadership; focus on definite goals; encourage a unified vision for the future; and prepare itself to receive another pastor.

With these goals in mind, IIM has been initiated in the ABC District. A number of ABC District pastors have been trained through the LCMS IIM program to serve as Intentional Interim Pastors. These trained pastors are contracted by congregations for a period of, up to eighteen months, and they work with local congregational leadership to provide Word and Sacrament ministry while at the same time addressing the goals mentioned above. At least six congregations in the ABC District have benefited, or are benefitting from, their participation in IIM.

Conflict resolution

Conflict is an ever-present reality. As laity and church workers experience the increasing challenges of a declining membership, financial pressures due to decreasing offerings, and an unresponsive, or even angry mission field, they tend to place blame on each other. Unfortunately, church workers find themselves in conflict with one another as well. A significant amount of time and energy on the part of the District President, Vice Presidents and Circuit Counselors is directed to working with congregations and church workers embroiled in conflict. Thankfully, the training and resources provided over the years by Ambassadors of Reconciliation is helpful in addressing these conflicts in a God-pleasing way that often results in reconciliation.

Transforming for Missions (T4M)

Congregations continue to participate in Transforming for Missions (T4M). T4M is an initiative of the ABC District which helps congregations and church workers direct their energies and resources to sharing the Gospel with people who do not yet believe in Jesus as their Saviour while, at the same time, addressing internal congregational issues. At the heart of T4M is the idea that all members are missionaries called to participate in Jesus' mission of seeking and saving lost people. A stated goal of T4M is to train Jesus' disciples so that they can train other followers of Jesus to be His disciples. Since 2010, fifteen congregations have gone through a T4M consultation weekend (with another congregation scheduled for a T4M weekend consultation in November 2017) and well over fifty church workers have been involved in T4M learning communities or events.

Mission and Ministry Among Immigrant Communities

As immigrants come to Canada they are often in search of a Christian congregation who will provide them with a place to worship in their "heart" language and a supportive "family" that will assist them in adjusting to life in Canada. We are privileged to welcome these brothers and sisters in Christ from other lands and have much to learn from them.

Ministry and outreach efforts continue to be done among Cantonese and Mandarin speakers. In addition, ministry and outreach is conducted among Hispanic-speakers, the South Sudanese, and the Oromo people from Ethiopia. More recently, the Spirit of the Lord has opened the door to partnering with some Rwandan Christian brothers and sisters. Many of these congregations are in need of well-trained pastors who help the people mature in their faith. A number of these congregations have spiritually mature men in the Pastors with Alternative Training (PAT) program.

It is heartwarming that there is a growing interest and that, in fact, there is a growing number of ABC District congregations sponsoring refugees. Refugee sponsorship is a meaningful way to put into practice Christ's love and compassion. If your congregation is interested in learning more about refugee sponsorship, please contact Canadian Lutheran World Relief and they will be happy to assist you.

Ministry Efforts Among, and With, First Nation Communities

LAMP and the BC Mission Boat provide opportunities for some members in our congregations to be involved in supporting and/or participating in ministry efforts among Canada's First Nations people. These cross-cultural ministry experiences are often faith-transforming for those who participate in them.

For many years, the ABC District has provided funding to the BC Mission Boat so that this organization can continue to share God's gospel with people who live in remote BC coastal communities. In partnership, the BC Mission Boat has provided learning experiences and mission opportunities for members of our congregations, seminarians, and for students at Concordia University of Edmonton.

Church Worker Support and Care

As pastors, deacons, and their families experience the daily pressures of being church workers they often experience emotional, physical, and spiritually struggles. The District President, working in partnership with the Vice-Presidents and Circuit Counselors, minister to these workers and their families often visiting with them in order to encourage them with God's Word and prayer. The District President also utilizes discretionary funds

that are at his disposal to provide counseling to workers and their families as needed.

Ministry Wives Support

Under the able and dedicated leadership of Mrs. Deanna Hautz, the Ministry Wives Committee has initiated a number of programs that support ministry wives. “Project Elizabeth” has twelve ministry wives in the District committed to connecting with and caring for, supporting and encouraging a number of other ministry wives in the District. There are currently eighty women participating in the Project Elizabeth. A private Facebook page has sixty-two members, and has served as a meeting place for ministry wives to initiate and maintain friendships. Thirty-one women attended retreats in 2016 and twenty-five in 2017. They were able to pray, worship, and share with one another, being strengthened in their faith by God’s Word and the mutual encouragement of their sisters in Christ.

The Ministry Wives Committee welcomes the opportunity to expand this supportive network into the other two Districts in LCC.

ABC District-wide Pastors and Deacons Conference in 2016

“But, not only are we citizens in His kingdom, we are emissaries of the King!” proclaimed President Schaeffer at the Opening Service of the Alberta-British Columbia District Church Workers Conference. “We demonstrate His reign through our acts of mercy and love. We are sent to announce His reign. Of all the people in this world, our King picks us and sends us to harvest the ripe fields!” So, began the ABC District Church Workers’ Conference.

Deacons and pastors of the ABC District gathered at Bethel Lutheran Church (Sherwood Park, AB) from October 17-19, 2016 to be fed and nourished by God’s Word and the mutual encouragement of one another for service as the King’s emissaries. Dr. James Gimbel, President of Concordia Lutheran Seminary (Edmonton), led the gathering through a discussion of the seven churches in Asia Minor in a three part Bible study on Revelation 2-3. Each pastor in attendance received a book, “Mercy in Action: A Guide for Pastors in the Midst of Disaster” and two guest speakers (Staff Sargent Todd Leatherdale of the RCMP and Mr. Scott Cameron, Manager of the Emergency Social Services Network of Alberta) encouraged church leaders and congregations to be prepared for when man-made and natural disasters happen. There was much time designated for the church workers to informally chat with one another, something extremely important in that a conference involving church workers from Alberta and British Columbia only occurs every three years.

Lutheran Historical Institute (LHI)

On May 12, 2015, the Lutheran Historical Institute Board of Governors passed a resolution calling for the ABC District Convention delegates to support the Convention Overture No. 2015-01-02 TO OFFER TO GIVE THE LUTHERAN HISTORICAL INSTITUTE TO LUTHERAN CHURCH-CANADA. The LHI Board of Governors also moved to dissolve itself as of August 31, 2015.

The delegates at the ABC District Convention passed Resolution 2015-01-02A that offered LHI to Lutheran Church – Canada to be the official archives of the national church.

An ad hoc task force consisting of some of the former LHI Board of Governors and President Schaeffer were tasked with: 1. Arranging for, and overseeing, the move of the archival materials to a different storage facility and to decide what to do with some of the holdings; and 2. Working, in consultation with key stakeholders (e.g. LCC, ABC and Central Districts, CLS, CUE, LAMP, LWML, etc.), to determine how the archival material would be stored and made accessible to the public.

District staff, with the help of a number of local volunteers, moved the archival materials to a storage facility. In the meantime, a formal letter from the ABC District Board of Directors has been presented to the LCC Board of Directors transferring the assets of LHI to the Synod, as per the ABC District Convention Resolution. The LCC Synod Board is exploring a number of options as to how make the LHI archival material available to the public.

The Good Samaritan Society’s Decision to Allow Medically-Assisted Death in Their Facilities

Over the years, many of the congregations and pastors of the Alberta-British Columbia District have experienced a mutually-edifying relationship with the Good Samaritan Society. The partnership has been characterized by cooperation and collaboration.

Unfortunately, the Board of Directors of the Good Samaritan Society passed a policy that allows for medically-assisted death in their facilities for their residents. President Schaeffer, on behalf of the ABC District Board of Directors, composed a letter expressing that the BOD found the Good Samaritan Society’s decision “to be troubling, not only because there was no collaboration with us on this important decision, but also because, from our perspective, the decision to allow physician assisted suicide is inconsistent with God’s Word.”

Following this letter, representatives from both Boards met via a conference call to discuss the Good

Samaritan Society's decision. In a follow-up letter to that phone conference, President Schaeffer wrote to the Good Samaritan Society Board,

We are encouraged to hear that the Good Samaritan Society plans to invest additional financial resources and manpower in palliative care so that as residents face their natural death they receive the holistic care (hopefully with a Christ-centered focus) necessary for them to live and die with dignity. We are also encouraged to know that the Good Samaritan Society staff will not be counseling people to end their life prematurely through an assisted death procedure and nor will the staff be personally involved in the assisted suicide act.

While we appreciate the rationale that guided the Good Samaritan Society Board to make its decision, we still respectfully disagree with the decision. To end someone's life deliberately and prematurely is certainly not a compassionate act, especially when the practice violates a basic law of God. God's Word must be the guiding light of our decisions, including our institutional policies, not man-made laws, nor personal feelings, nor acquiescing to humanistic-based philosophies. Adhering to God's Word often places Christians and Christian organizations in predicaments that are out-of-step with the values and practices of mainstream society, but nevertheless we must obey God, not man.

Responding to the Alberta Government's School Guidelines for Diverse Sexual Orientations, Gender Identifies and Gender

Another matter of concern to the Lutheran schools and congregations in Alberta has to do with the NDP government's implementation of "Guidelines for Best Practices: Creating Learning Environments that Respect Diverse Sexual Orientations, Gender Identities, and Gender." It is uncertain what the consequences may be for Lutheran schools that do not implement these guidelines but there is a concern that provincial funding may be stopped or the government will simply force schools to comply with these guidelines.

President Schaeffer shared our concerns with Education Minister Eggen, "These guidelines impose a form of gender identity that is extreme and contrary to natural law. Sexual identity, that is, whether we are male or female, is determined by our Creator; not by us. A person's gonads, along with all other bodily organs, as well as his or her personality, brain, and intellect do not originate in blind chance but are lovingly and deliberately created by God. Surgically altering or removing parts of our bodies does not change the truth of who we were made to be.

Sexual identity is divinely created and ordained. This truth is so absolute that the creation of individuals as male or female was an uncontested universal truth until the late twentieth century. ...

Finally, the Guidelines fail to honour and protect students and their parents who think expressions of the LGBTQ lifestyle are immoral and who are uncomfortable having transgender students in their change rooms, bathrooms, and competing with them on sporting teams. There appears to be little consideration for those who must make accommodations for what they find to be confusing or morally objectionable reasons.

Minister Eggen, we believe there are more constructive approaches to providing students with a safe and caring learning environment which include:

- enforcing anti-bullying laws and policies that exist;
- assuring all children suffering from gender dysphoria or an intersexual condition that they are precious creations of God who empathizes with their condition and who provides medical and psychological reparative therapy through therapists and doctors; and
- providing educational awareness to all students of the internal struggles of children wrestling with an intersexual condition or gender dysphoria.

Responding to the Fort McMurray Fire

On May 3, 2016 a wildfire swept through the northern Alberta city of Fort McMurray. The city was evacuated and thousands of people returned to the city in June to find that their homes had been destroyed or damaged by the fire, including some of the members at Trinity Lutheran Church. They found some consolation in knowing the church building only suffered smoke damage.

The outpouring of concern by Lutherans for the citizens of Fort McMurray was phenomenal. Prayers were offered before the throne of God. A member of a congregation in Calgary loaned his trailer for a month so that pastors could stay on site at the church. Since the congregation was without a serving pastor, a number of pastors volunteered their services devoting a week or a weekend to ministering to members of the congregation and the community. The LCMS Disaster Response Team provided counsel to President Schaeffer as to how to provide meaningful support to those affected by the fire. The LCMS also provided free copies of *Mercy in Action: A Guide for Pastors in the Midst of Disaster* to every congregation in the ABC District so that each congregation might have a resource to help them prepare to respond in a meaningful way when a disaster occurs in their community. The ABC District, the Alberta Synod of the ELCIC, and

Canadian Lutheran World Relief (CLWR) teamed up to work in coordination with one another. Close to \$525,000.00 was donated by Lutherans in Canada and the United States. Some of this money has been used (or will be used) to:

- Send families to Camp Kuriakos for a week long camping experience in a Christian context.
- Pay the expenses (e.g. travel, lodging, food) of LCC pastors who traveled to Fort McMurray to provide pastoral care to members of Trinity Lutheran Church and the community.
- Provide grief support workshops
- Assist people experiencing domestic violence through a local organization called Waypoints
- Provide “Ready-to-Move” homes, a Mennonite Disaster Service (MDS) project, for people who were under-insured or uninsured.

The District Staff

Due to the CEF/DIL situation, the ABC District staff has been reduced significantly. Currently, the staff consists of two full-time workers, President Schaeffer and his Administrative Assistant, Mrs. Janice Ruf. Mrs. Candace Rivet serves in a part-time capacity and Mrs. Amy Thera’s services as a CPA are on a contractual as-needed basis.

Despite the reduction in staff, the District remains committed to serving our church workers, congregations, and schools. We thank God for these dedicated servants.

Communication

We often hear from church workers and congregants that, “The District and Synod need to do a better job of communicating with us.” This is ever the challenge. We continue to communicate with the laity and church workers through a variety of means: 1. The ABC Connect – an electronic weekly newsletter that is emailed to all congregations and those individuals who subscribe to it. 2. The Canadian Lutheran, where the ABC District has a section to highlight congregational events and outreach projects; 3. Email mailings to congregations and church workers; and 4. Personal visits by the District President who often has a Q/A session with members.

Developing a New Governance Model for the ABC District

Prior to January 2015, the ABC District BOD was discussing revamping the District structure and its governance model. In fact, a staff person was assigned the task of developing and proposing a new governance model. A new governance model, adapted from the “Accountable Servant Leadership

Model” was proposed to the Board but then when CEF and DIL became the focus, the implementation of a new District structure and governance model was shelved, with one exception, Resolution 2015-01-08, “TO AMEND THE BYLAWS OF THE ALBERTA-BRITISH COLUMBIA DISTRICT WITH RESPECT TO THE ROLE OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND SOME MINOR CHANGES.” The resolution, which was passed by the convention delegates, essentially made the ABC District Board of Directors a governance board with departments and committees being replaced by circuit focused working groups and some committees tasked with specific functions. A District working group has been formed and this group is currently developing an interactive website where members will be able to “talk” with one another about ministry challenges and share resources. Recognizing that the proposed CCMS LCC restructuring model may not be adopted, the current Board of Directors has resumed the task of developing a new District structure and governance model so that, if needed, it can be presented at the next District Convention.

Some Challenges that Need to Be Addressed

There are a number of serious challenges facing the ABC District (and LCC as a whole) that need focused attention and prayer:

- Elevating biblical literacy among our laity and clergy. The Bible is readily accessible and yet, it is decreasingly read and studied by fewer people, including people who identify themselves as active Christians. Focused attention to this challenge might encourage and assist God’s people to read and study the Bible and to be trained by it so that they are prepared to speak of Jesus.
- Strengthening our identity as a confessional church and as a confessing church in our post-church Canadian context. In our Canadian cultural mosaic, it is critical that we confess and live as confessional Lutherans who stand upon the true Word of God. We want to do so winsomely and unashamedly.
- Discovering ways to communicate the Gospel and minister in meaningful ways to the “baby boomers” and “millennials” who have no connection to Christ and his church so that the Holy Spirit has opportunity to ignite faith in their heart.
- Nurturing healthier relationships between church workers with other church workers and congregations with other congregations in their circuits and neighbouring circuits so that they work together in supporting one another as they experience the emotional and spiritual trauma of dealing with the reality of church closures or transitioning to an urban/rural parish or a multiple-point parish served by a circuit rider.
- Addressing with compassion the despondency and anxiety that members are

experiencing as the general membership of our

- assisting congregations through this transition by: exploring other options (e.g. selling of their building and moving into a rented facility; the development of a senior's home with a chapel; assisting urban congregations to form an "urban parish" or a missional community while assisting rural/small town congregations to consider amalgamation with a local church or forming a multi-point parish)

- developing a way to identify and train local lay leadership to serve as a lay diaconate or clergy, especially in those communities that do not possess the resources to call a full-time resident pastor.

- Creating support systems for our church workers (and their families) as they face a changing work environment that may force them to be bi-

vocational (i.e. worker/priest), a circuit rider, a part-time pastor. These occupational changes impact their pension, housing allowance, living standards, and their spiritual and emotional well-being.

- Identifying the type of church workers needed to support the work of pastors and congregations and developing training programs to equip people for such service. For example: some congregations would benefit significantly if a trained

congregations age and decline in size. This includes:

missionary/evangelist was part of their ministry team. There are many urban areas in the District where a missionary is needed to sow God's life-creating Word.

- Supporting our Lutheran school administrators, teachers, and staff.

The theme for the triennium in the ABC District is "Pray for the harvest." (Luke 10:2) If anything, the trials, tribulations, and opportunities of the past three years, have impressed upon us to be people of prayer and certainly, the challenges before us, move us to pray, "Lord God, You have called Your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go but only that Your hand is leading us and Your love supporting us; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen."

In His Service,
Rev. Dr. Glenn E. Schaeffer, President
Alberta-British Columbia District
Lutheran Church -- Canada

Report 15: Central District

Our Mission

"To support and encourage the congregations, pastors and deacons of the Central District in bringing people to eternal life through the proclaimed message of Christ and Him crucified."

District Convention

Since the last Central District Convention in Saskatoon, April 13-16, 2015, the district has served Christ under the theme: "Lord, Teach Us to Pray" (Lk. 11:1). Guest speaker for the convention was Rev. Dr. James Gimbel, President, Concordia Lutheran Seminary, Edmonton, who encouraged us in our life of prayer.

Who We Are

As of the beginning of 2017, the Central District was comprised of 86 congregations (53 in Saskatchewan, 18 in Manitoba and 15 in Northwestern Ontario). We are served by 57 pastors active on synod's roster, 23 Emeritus, and 2 on Candidate status. We also have 1 deacon on the active roster, 2 Emeritus, and 3 on Candidate status. Statistics for 2016 show our district

to have a baptized membership of 14,999 and a communicant membership of 11,300.

The district staff is composed of one full-time worker: the District President. His Administrative Assistant, Lillian Kozussek is almost full-time, and Mr. Don Paulus, District Treasurer, serves a few hours per week. Mr. Dwayne Cleave is the Executive Director of the Central District Church Extension Fund. Due to a lack of funds, the district does not employ an Assistant to the President with special responsibilities in the area of missions. The District President, along with his five regional Vice Presidents, attempts to cover the more official demands of mission-related issues when needed.

Central District Office

On March 25, 2013 the District Office moved from Regina in with the synodical office staff in Winnipeg. The move was necessitated by the deterioration of the building in Regina. While active archives are kept at the office in Winnipeg, records of congregations that closed before the move in early 2013 were sent to the Lutheran Historical Institute in Edmonton. Unfortunately, these records are currently

inaccessible with the sale of the ABC District Office where they were previously housed. While our archives are being stored in Edmonton, it is hoped that access will be available soon. We receive, on average, a request about every six weeks asking about some kind of information.

Financial Resources

The Central District was able to exceed 2016's budget of \$740,000 by \$37,000. We truly thank the Lord that after years of budget cuts, we have seen some excess funds that can be used to help further our work in proclaiming the Gospel. With the Lord's help, we will hopefully meet our 2017 operating budget of \$750,000 and of that total, \$296,000 has been pledged to assist LCC in their training of church workers and spreading the Gospel in foreign mission fields.

The Central District Church Extension Fund continues to operate under the restraints placed upon it by the Saskatchewan Financial Services Commission. The fund has close to \$4 million in assets with \$3 million of that loaned to congregations and synodical entities.

Missions

Work continues among First Nations' people in La Ronge, SK. Pastor Wayne Olson retired in 2014, but stayed on to supervise Vicar Cody Cooper. Vicar Cooper was then placed at La Ronge Lutheran Fellowship, being ordained in 2015. He and his family have fit very nicely into that northern community. DPS Melissa McNeil, who has worked for a number of years with the La Ronge congregation, has now moved on to a secular position in the community. The congregation is considering their options as to future church worker assistance. The Central District continues to subsidize the work in the La Ronge congregation.

Rev. D. J. Kim is called by the Central District as a chaplain to the Regina Police Services. In the past triennium, he expanded his work on a limited basis to include the Moose Jaw Police Services. He also works in a chaplain capacity at the Regina jail, counseling and providing spiritual care primarily to First Nations' inmates. The Central District is able to pay 80% of his full salary.

The Central District continues to support a Street-Reach Ministry spear-headed by Lutheran Community Care Centre in Thunder Bay. Rev. Neil Otke not only works directly with people who stop by the storefront location for a coffee or just a chat, but he also coordinates special events and congregational volunteers to serve at the storefront.

Multi-cultural work continues in Winnipeg. Rev. Assefa Aredo completed the PAT Program in 2012 and he was subsequently ordained into the ministry of LCC as a District Missionary to lead the Oromo congregation in Winnipeg. Someday we hope to receive the Oromo congregation as a congregation of LCC. They are currently using the facilities of Lutheran Church of the Redeemer, Winnipeg. Also in Winnipeg, Rev. Dr. Richard Beinert serves as a mentor for a PAT candidate for Oboya Ochala. He is of Anuak descent, part of an African group originating from the border region of Ethiopia and Sudan. Many of their numbers are worshipping with Immanuel, Winnipeg, but they are also holding worship services in their own language on Sunday afternoons in Immanuel's building.

Congregational Services

Student aid, by means of "Repayable Awards," continues to be provided for those entering full time church work vocations.

Communication continues to be a challenge for our district. In the past triennium, a new district web site was launched. A weekly electronic newsletter was debuted in the fall of 2016.

Funding has been provided for ministry to the hearing impaired in three district congregations.

Milestones

In the last triennium, four district congregations closed: Peace, Kamsack, SK; Zion, North Southey, SK; St. Luke's, Midale, SK; Redeemer, The Pas, MB. We thank God for the countless people who were able to hear God's Word from those congregations over the years! While it is a sad time when congregations close their doors, we are confident that our gracious Lord will care for remaining members who have transferred to other congregations.

We also thank God that in the last triennium, four of our Central District congregations celebrated 100 years of service to Christ and His church: Zion, Wolseley, SK; St. John's, Humboldt, SK; Lappe Lutheran (Thunder Bay, ON); St. Peter, Oxbow, SK. St. John, Frobisher, SK celebrated their 60th anniversary, and St. Peter's, Estevan, SK celebrated the 50th Anniversary of their (old) building. We humbly thank God for His rich and undeserved blessings!

Our Work Goes On

This year as we celebrate the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation, we in the Central District are acutely aware of the precious heritage that is ours: grace alone, faith alone, Scripture alone. "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore pray

earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest.” (Matt. 9:37-38) We pray that our Lord would use us with our gifts and abilities to proclaim Christ crucified to those within the borders of our district, as well as to those around the

world. To that end, “Lord, teach us to pray,” with joy and confidence in Your promises!

Peace in Christ,
Rev. Thomas E. J. Prachar
President, LCC Central District

REPORT 16: East District

Greetings to you in the name of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. As we meet once again for our Synod’s Eleventh Convention for the purpose of having the opportunity for our church to consider those matters that pertain to the work of God’s Kingdom here on earth that we do together. Our three Districts of Lutheran Church–Canada also report on the activities and work that is being done in each of our Districts in order for the entire church to review, to give an accounting of our meeting our Lord’s mandate to serve Him faithfully, and also to thank God for what He is able to accomplish in His kingdom among us and through us. All the while, as we continue to declare during this 500th Anniversary Year of the Reformation: “Christ Alone, Christ Forever!”

The East District currently consists of 90 Chartered Congregations, 9 Established Missions, and 5 Exploratory Missions, served by 72 Parish Pastors, 1 LSO Executive Pastor, 5 Missionaries-at-Large, 4 Military Chaplains, 2 District Administrative Pastors, 4 Seminary Professors, and 48 Retired Pastors. The mission of the district is, by God’s grace, to provide support and encouragement to its congregations and church workers as they carry out our Lord’s command to make disciples of all nations. To accomplish this mission the district seeks to establish and maintain vibrant and growing congregations that faithfully and joyfully endeavour to reach all with the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Once every three years the district meets in convention to provide an opportunity for worship, nurture, inspiration, fellowship, and the communication of vital information. The district convention is the principle legislative assembly, which approves amendments of its Constitution and Bylaws, considers and takes action on reports and overtures, handles appropriate appeals, establishes positions and policies, provides overall program direction and priorities, and evaluates all such positions, programs, policies, directions and priorities in order to provide responsible service for and on behalf of its members.

The East District gathered in convention during this current Synodical Triennium on May 3-6, 2015 at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Kitchener, Ontario under the theme: “God’s Will for Us: Rejoice Always, Pray Without Ceasing, Give Thanks in All Circumstances” based upon I Thessalonians 5:16-18. During this, the 10th Regular Convention of the East District, the following resolutions were adopted that established the goals for the Board of Directors, the Departments, and the Committees of the District for this triennium:

- 15-1-01 Amend Bylaw 2014 and Regulations 2014 regarding 1) the corporate seal 2) Mission and ministry program 3) Convention minutes 4) District committee on constitutions and membership (Overture 15-1-01)
- 15-1-02 Amend Bylaw 2014 and Regulations 2014 to Use More Consistent Terminology Relating To Rostered Workers (Overture 15-1-02)
- 15-1-03 Support the Lutheran Historical Institute as the Official Archives of Lutheran Church–Canada (Overtures 15-1-03, 15-1-04, 15-1-05)
- 15-1-04 Amend Regulations 2014 Regarding Frequency of Circuit Forums (Overture 15-1-06)
- 15-1-05 Amend Regulations 2014 Regarding Eligibility to Be a Director (Overture 15-1-07)
- 15-1-06 To take no action on Overture 15-1-08
- 15-1-07 Amend Regulations 2014 Regarding the Method of Appointing the LCC East District Representative on the Lutherwood Board of Directors (Overture 15-1-09)
- 15-2-01c To Communicate Our Position on Creation (Overture 15-2-01)
- 15-2-02a That Congregations Utilize Lutheran Hour (LHM) Ministries Resources for Outreach (Overture 15-2-02)

In addition the following motion was brought to the floor and was carried:

- 2015-5-03 To Request the Commission on Constitutional Matters and Structure to Propose Changes to the LCC Structure (Ref. Overture 2015-5-03)

The Board of Directors

The Board of Directors of the East District is composed of nine members. The current members, as elected at the 2015 East District Convention, are: Rev. Paul Zabel, President; Rev. Timothy Teuscher, First Vice President; Rev. Marvin Bublitz, Second Vice-President; Mrs. Lois Griffin, Secretary; and Directors-at-Large Deacon David Faerber, Mr. Robert Klages, Mr. Kent Schappert, Rev. Don Schieman, and Mr. Reg Tiegs. The Board subsequently elected Mr. Reg Tiegs as Board Chairman and Rev. Marvin Bublitz as Board Vice-Chairman and appointed Mr. Ray Taylor as East District Treasurer.

The Board meets four times a year (plus additional conference call meetings as necessary) to exercise its responsibility for the general management and supervision of all business affairs of the District according to the District Handbook.

Special actions that the board took during the current triennium include:

- Approval of changes to our CEF Policies related to investments and surplus redistribution.
- Approval of renovations to the District office building in order to comply with the Provincial Accessibility for Ontarians with Disability Act
- Establishment of an Atlantic Canada Ministry Task Force to review needs in this portion of Canada, and the subsequent call of an Atlantic Canada Circuit Rider to provide Word and Sacrament ministry to various communities in Atlantic Canada.
- Transfer of East District Properties still held by the Ontario District Corporation to the East District Corporation
- Approval of two special donations to Lutheran Church–Canada; one approved at the East District convention in 2015 to assist Synod with its shortfall situation resulting from the problems in the ABC District and the other in 2017 to cover a portion of the cost for the restructuring work of Synod.

Finally, the Board has worked diligently in reviewing the work of the CCMS in restructuring, both at regular Board meetings and at special Board meetings, and preparing a number of position papers and recommendations for the consideration of the CCMS and the Synod Board of Directors. It has also worked diligently to ensure that various resolutions that were approved by the 2014 Synodical Convention were implemented and when necessary, reflected in amendments to the ED Handbook.

Circuit Counsellors/Praesidium

The East District Circuit Counsellors meet three times a year to discuss issues that arise among church workers and congregations in our nine Circuits of the District. During the past triennium a primary focus has been revising and updating the guidelines and

forms being used by the Circuit Counsellors in visiting the congregations within their circuits, reviewing information and proposals regarding the proposed restructuring of synod, and reviewing the participation of the Circuit Counsellor in assisting pastors and congregations in dealing with Calls and Vacancies. In addition, in our Circuit Counsellors' Meetings we have been including a study of a book entitled: "Great Commission, Great Confusion, or Great Confession" by Rev. Lucas A. Woodford regarding the mission of the Holy Christian Church. The Circuit Counsellors have in the past and continue in the present to address the concerns of congregations and pastors within the District which are facing challenges and struggling to maintain Word and Sacrament Ministry amongst God's people within the communities in which they are located.

Department for Outreach

"For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that through endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope. May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus, that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ." (Romans 15:4-6).

"But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, having put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. For God has not destined us for wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us so that whether we are awake or asleep we might live with him. Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing." (I Thess. 5:8-11).

The mission which our Lord Jesus invites us and calls us to engage in with Him flows out of His gifts to us of His Word, which encourages us and gives us hope, and the Sacraments, by which He creates and sustains saving faith in us. The mission of Christ's holy people is to glorify God with one voice. To encourage one another and build one another up. To live in such a way that people see Christ at work in us as we exhibit the joy and hope of salvation and the faith and love in action and then are drawn to Him. With these things in mind, the East District Department for Outreach and the District Mission Encourager, Rev. Ron Mohr, have been encouraging the pastors and people of the East District as we have engaged together in mission and ministry under three descriptive headings: Inter-Cultural Ministries, Remote Ministries, and Ministries in Transition.

1. Inter-Cultural Ministries

In the urban centres of our district we are blessed with pastoral and lay leadership for gospel outreach

to several cultural groups. The large South Asian community in the GTA is being ministered to through opportunities to worship in Urdu/Hindi/Punjabi, through the Masih ki Awaz (Voice of Christ) weekly radio program, and through a weekly food bank (one of the largest in the GTA).

South Asian, as well as Chinese, Arabic, and other communities are hearing the good news of the gospel through sports camps, ESL classes, hospitality ministry and more through WECLO (Windsor Essex County Lutheran Outreach).

The Korean community has the opportunity to worship each week at Korean Lutheran Church, Toronto which has entered into a new inter-cultural dual parish arrangement with Holy Trinity, Bradford. Another opportunity for ministry in the Korean community of the GTA is on the horizon. This would be in cooperation with GTA English District LCMS congregations.

The Sudanese communities in Hamilton, Ottawa, London, and others are being ministered to by Nuer-speaking pastors in conjunction with the pastors and people of the local LCC congregations. In all of these ministries, every effort is being made to connect the people of the various language and cultural groups into the fellowship of the local LCC congregations.

Under the able leadership of Pastor David Somers, the East District's Francophone ministry continues to serve and reach out to the Quebecois and Malagasy communities. Our mission sites include Montreal, St. Jean sur Richelieu, Quebec City, and Sherbrooke.

Although it is sometimes taken for granted, the people of the East District also engage in inter-cultural ministry in German, Spanish, Slovak, Estonian, and Polish.... Thanks be to God for the many opportunities to bring Christ to the nations right in our own backyards.

2. Remote Ministries

The work in Atlantic Canada has grown during this triennium with the addition of a Circuit Rider who serves the mission sites in Nova Scotia, PEI, and recently extending also to Western New Brunswick and Newfoundland. Our congregation in Moncton, NB continues to carry on its long-established ministry, enhanced by reaching its far-flung flock through live-streaming its divine service and by outreach efforts into the French-speaking and university communities.

In Eastern Ontario, our mission in Kingston has established a second mission site in Trenton and

hopes to do the same to the East along the St. Lawrence River.

In the "Near-North" of Ontario, our congregation in Sudbury continues to be a joyful and vibrant gathering of God's people. While our congregations in Timmins and Kirkland Lake are enjoying their new pastor, Rev. Milton Lam and the pastoral care he is serving them with and the new opportunities the Lord is opening up for these congregations through Pastor Lam's abilities with the French and Mandarin Chinese languages.

3. Congregations in Transition

More and more of our congregations are finding it difficult to continue doing ministry "the way we always have done it." As the body of Christ, we (all the people of the East District) are giving financial assistance to these congregations (fellow members of this body of Christ) as we are able, to support them as they seek out ways to be God's people gathered around Word and Sacraments in the community where God has placed them. For some this means seeking to form dual/tri-parishes. For others, it could mean using a "circuit rider" model, becoming a "house church", joining with other congregations and utilizing a "pastoral team" (three or more pastors for four or more congregations, in other words forming a "deanery"), or worshipping in a location other than the church building where they have always been.

4. Partner 2 Partner Project

During this triennium the Departments for Outreach and Finance, along with the East District Mission Encourager and Business Manager have revamped the Partner 2 Partner Project. Through this effort, congregations and individuals can "partner" with specific assisted congregations and ministries through prayer, joint activities, and a financial gift (over and above their regular missions offerings). Further encouraging participation in this project, the East District CEF offers to match each donation up to a total of \$200,000 for the year 2017, drawing on surplus funds accumulated over the years, not from depositor's investments. These donations are applied to the specified congregations district assistance. This project has helped to draw the people of the district together as we encourage and support each other, the stronger helping the struggling.

5. Social Ministry

During this triennium the Social Ministry Committee of the Department for Outreach has made use of a survey done a few years ago to become more aware of the various ways district congregations are engaged in social ministry. One thing that came to the fore was that many congregations are involved in their local food bank programs. Particularly notable

are the Community Cupboard at Historic St. Paul's, Kitchener, and the Food Bank program at Our Saviour, Etobicoke. Both of these programs have helped the congregations have a deeper connection with their communities and provided much needed physical and spiritual support to people in need around them. Another focus of this committee's work has been refugee support. The committee has sought ways to connect congregations who have sponsored refugees in the past with those who would like to do so now. The committee is also making sure congregations are aware of the resources and information provided by CLWR and Philoxenia Hospitality Ministry concerning refugee sponsorship. Greater collaboration and cooperation with the other districts and with LCC with regard to social ministry initiatives continues to be an objective.

6. EvangelFest

Sponsoring EvangelFest is another way the Department for Outreach seeks to encourage God's people in the East District to be engaged in Christ's mission. One such event was held during this triennium in September, 2015. Hosted by Concordia Lutheran Theological Seminary, the two-day conference gathered more than 80 people to hear and discuss how to share the Gospel with an unbelieving world. Rev. Jonathan Fisk (LCMS pastor and renowned speaker on Worldview Everlasting) served as the keynote speaker. With a meticulously thorough yet lively and engaging style, Rev. Fisk led his hearers through the sermons preached in the Acts of the Apostles. The example set by the apostles shows that their message consistently focused on Christ crucified and resurrected. Against the temptations, so prevalent today, he encouraged us to keep the focus of our witness on the good news of God's justifying and life-giving grace to sinners. The East District Mission Encourager, Rev. Ron Mohr, started off the conference with an engaging presentation on the joy of mission, as it is described in the New Testament. Retired professor Dr. William Mundt and Pastor Marvin Bublitz were sectional presenters.

Department for Parish Services

The Department for Parish Services (DPS) assists congregations, pastors, and deacons of the East District as they teach the faith to everyone from children to seniors, supporting them in areas of worship and music; instruction in doctrine; Christian life and vocation; service to their neighbour; and by sharing their gifts for the benefit of the church. The DPS strives to achieve this through the development and provision of resources and events to foster distinctively Lutheran practices for the building up and encouragement of the whole body of Christ.

The Department for Parish Services focus is building relationships, support, fellowship and growth for members of East District congregations. The Department supports events such as Confirmation Retreats, Youth Retreats, Youth Leader Training Conferences, EvangelFests, Worship Workshops, Family Retreats and more. One goal of the DPS, based on the identified key issues within our District, is to recognize, train and encourage our lay people for Congregational, Circuit and District Positions with a focus on ensuring that they are prepared to be 'Boldly Lutheran' in their roles within the congregation, at the circuit and/or the District levels.

During the past triennium the Department for Parish Services has sponsored: A joint Youth/EDLYA Retreat at Holy Cross in Kitchener; EvangelFest held on May 3, 2014 at Peace, Tillsonburg; the Confirmation Camp that is held annually at Camp Pioneer in Angola, NY; an Annual East District Family Camping Event; the LCC National Youth Gathering; and a Seniors' Gathering at First Lutheran Church in Kingsville.

In addition, the Department provides ongoing support, sponsorship and /or oversight to:

- **The Stewardship Program**, "Our Free & Joyous Response" – which helps members grow in discipleship so that, under the Gospel of Jesus Christ, people are empowered to manage time, talent and treasures for the fulfillment of God's purpose in their lives.
- An **Organ Bursary** through the Worship Committee – applications are available on the District Website in the download center - \$500 per applicant is typically awarded to help cover the cost of a year's worth of lessons given by a qualified organ instructor.
- **Student Loans** for students studying for full-time church work. Loan applications are available on the District Website as a downloadable PDF - Applicants are students who "hold communicant membership in a parish within the LCC, East District" and are studying at a synodically approved school such as Concordia Lutheran Theological Seminary.
- **Sponsoring Ads** in Several of the Local Hospital Activity Books for Children – These Activity Books are given to children who are struggling with health issues to help keep them entertained.
- An **Older Adults Gathering** – As the largest growing age group in the church and as the life expectancy for seniors is much higher than it used to be, it is important for seniors to seek opportunities to continue to contribute in helping our churches move forward. An Older Adults Gathering was held in August of 2016 at First Lutheran Church

in Kingsville, Ontario. This gathering was very successful, with over 100 in attendance from as far away as St. Catharines and Burlington and a great time was had by all who attended. The plan is to continue this event every year but to have different Congregational Seniors groups do the hosting. For 2017, Kingsville has graciously agreed to host the second annual event, but will be looking for other groups to step in and take on hosting for 2018.

- **“Engaging the Aging Quarterly”** – The Department for Parish Services has set up a link to the “Engaging the Aging” Quarterly Newsletter on the East District Website. In addition this Quarterly Newsletter can be accessed at <http://www.wheatridge.org/resources/health-ministry-center/engaging-the-aging>

- **Subsidies Fees for Confirmation Camp** – The Department for Parish Services subsidizes the registration fees of any East District Confirmand who wishes to attend the yearly Confirmation Camp at Camp Pioneer in Angola, NY. The DPS provides a \$50 bursary to anyone attending from an East District Congregation. The Confirmation Camp is open to any year Confirmand and another year for alumni. Further information can be accessed at <http://www.pioneercamp.ca/> or info@pioneercamp.org.

- **East District Camping Event** – The Department for Parish Services hosts an East District Camping Event on an annual basis under the Family Life Committee of the Department. This event is open to all members of the District – young or old, single to large families (all ages / all stages). The campground was chosen for its central location and for its ability to accommodate all types of campers (i.e. has cabins to rent in addition to RV and tent sites).

- **EDLYA (East District Lutheran Young Adults)** – The Department for Parish Services is committed to encouraging young adults between the ages of 18-35 to grow in their relationship with God, each other, and all people and provides quarterly retreats or events for those in our District. EDLYA celebrated its 30th anniversary in 2015. More information available on their website: www.edlya.ca

- **East District Lutheran Youth Committee** – This Committee of the Department for Parish Services cultivates, encourages and maintains a Lutheran identity among our youth while helping to build lasting relationships and energize our young people and give them time with other young Lutherans. This is done by arranging and coordinating youth retreats and training conferences including a Spring Youth Retreat, Fall BananaCram Confirmand Retreat and Youth Leader Training Conferences. We are currently rebuilding this committee and are looking for representation from all circuits within the district including youth members

(age 14-18) as well as youth workers and anyone who has a passion for youth work within our district.

- **Parish Nursing** – Another area of interest that has been brought forward in our most recent Department for Parish Services Meetings. Background materials and individuals currently involved in this type of program in local churches and in the LCMS are being sought out in an attempt to share the possibility of the Department for Parish Services assisting congregations to develop and initiate this additional congregational resource.

The past triennium has been one of many changes for the Department for Parish Services. We have spent a lot of time revamping and reorganizing the Department and its mandates, committees and budget to be more efficient and better stewards of our time, talents and treasures in serving the East District, its congregations and members.

Looking to the future, the Department for Parish Services hopes to guide our church away from its focus on “Congregational and District Segregation,” which is the separation of a congregation or the District into specific “age groups,” that tend not to mix with each other and thus view each other in a negative way. We need to learn to reverence our age and experience differences to become the ‘Family’ of God, not the ‘Older Adults’ of God; the ‘Youth’ of God; the ‘Young Adults’ of God; etc. We do this by spending time together rejoicing, praying and giving thanks as one body of Christ - a family, from the youngest to the oldest and everyone in between.

Department for Finance

As per our East District Handbook, the Department for Finance (DFF) is charged with many responsibilities, not the least of which is “to supervise the District finances in order that the gifts of God’s people may be wisely disbursed.” While finances are the means to which our Department for Finance assists the ministry in the work we do together here in the East District, it’s not just about the money. It is true the Department for Finance has a fiduciary responsibility to manage the gifts entrusted to its care, but it is also entrusted with being the best steward of those gifts to maximize the benefit. For example, our Church Extension Fund (CEF) was at one time purely intended to provide “bricks and mortar” for the building of new churches – however with our East District Board of Directors and Convention approval, our Department for Finance has been able to broaden the investment of excess capital beyond the very conservative approach 10 years ago. This does not mean that we have placed these assets in a high risk portfolio. On the contrary, the portfolio is well rounded and well managed. Our East District Board of Directors has approved very

stringent policies and procedures whereby the Church Extension Fund and the Department for Finance oversees and works with our investment partners, Lutheran Foundation Canada Financial Ministries and The RaeLipskie Partnership. The composition of these investments, cash, securities and bonds, is well defined and our investment policies and these investment partners must maintain our portfolios within those policies. This broadened approach to our investments has resulted in an opportunity for our Church Extension Fund and our East District to not only continue supporting our existing mission objectives but also allows our District to address new needs.

This fiduciary responsibility does not end with investments, but also applies to those funds we distribute to East District Congregations, to Lutheran Church–Canada and loan to East District eligible entities. Here too, our Church Extension Fund and Department for Finance is governed by strict lending policies which limit how much capital can be lent to any one borrower – only 5% of the Church Extension Fund’s current assets. Additionally, all loan applications are reviewed thoroughly and not approved until the Church Extension Fund Committee and Department for Finance has completed their due diligence, are satisfied that the loan makes financial sense, and that the borrower is in a financial position to manage the loan payments. Not all loans that are submitted are approved.

Our East District is blessed with many of its Church Extension Fund and Department for Finance members having deep and strong financial experience. Our East District Board of Directors makes every effort and does its due diligence in seeking out qualified individuals with financial backgrounds to serve in this capacity. Through this level of expertise, our Church Extension Fund and East District’s financial position have been strengthened over the years. This expertise, along with clergy members who are also members on the Department for Finance and Church Extension Fund Committee establishes a well-rounded group of individuals with experience and theological support. Does this mean that the Mission and Ministry offerings directly submitted to our East District by our congregations are less important? Absolutely not! These contributions are the mainstay of our East District and without that support we could not do the good work that we do each year. Just as congregations rely on their communicant members to support their church, our East District relies on its member congregations to support the overall work of the District. We pray that our gracious God would continue to bless the members of our congregations and our East District as we work together to do His calling.

Conclusion

In reflecting upon our Lutheran Church–Canada’s Convention Theme, “Christ Alone, Christ Forever” – I was reminded of an article I recently read about the tradition surrounding the edelweiss flower. Tourists in the Swiss Alpine country apparently see much of the edelweiss flower in all of the souvenir and jewelry shops and in the picture galleries of that country. This flower is painted on wooden plates, pins, necklaces, and bracelets. It is engraved on spoons, and it is painted on postcards. Travelers are curious to know more about this flower, because they do not see it actually growing anywhere as they travel throughout the country. And the very few people, who actually do see the edelweiss flower, primarily see it in a dried and pressed form in one of the local tourist and souvenir shops.

If you would speak with one of the shopkeepers regarding the edelweiss flower, you would soon learn the tradition surrounding this simple blossom which has endeared itself to the Swiss. The old story is this: Before a young woman would pick a suitor she wanted proof of his real devotion to her. The evidence of his love, which the young woman asked of her sweetheart, was that he be willing to climb to one of the mountain cliffs where the edelweiss grows. The suitor would search and search until he found the rare blossom for the woman he loved and then he would pick it and bring it down the mountainside to her. It all involved danger, sacrifice, and hardship. But if the suitor really loved the woman, he was willing to pay the price, to show how genuine were his feelings toward her.

While this account is just an old tradition that has endeared itself to the residents of the Alpine countries and to those who travel there – what a wonderful comparison can be made to our God, who has also proved over and over again how much He loves us. For, as the Apostle Paul wrote in the words recorded for us in 1 Timothy 2:5-6: “There is one God, and there is one mediator also between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, who gave himself as a

ransom for all!” The greatest thing our God has ever done – was when He, too, in the person of Jesus, climbed a rocky hill. It was not the Swiss Alps, to be sure, for this mountain was called Calvary. He faced the bitter cold of friends who forsook Him. He felt the sting of swirling storm clouds of the mockery and dissent of those about Him who shouted “Crucify

Him! Crucify Him!” But He climbed that hill for us. “Christ Alone, Christ Forever!”

Respectfully Submitted,
Rev. Paul Zabel
LCC East District President

REPORT 17: Concordia Lutheran Seminary, Edmonton

First, thank you to everyone in LCC who is a partner in support of our mission to “form servants for Jesus’ sake.” Many things have occurred for us in the past 40 months since the 2014 report was written. But the most wonderful news is how God is at work in and through our ministry.

Board of Regents Matters

The BoR provides fiduciary and policy governance for the operation of the seminary. The BoR has spent significant time revisiting the various policy and procedural handbooks of the seminary, and is currently working on a new set of Bylaws.

The elected Board of Regents (BoR) current structure includes three pastors and three laymen, one from East District, two from Central District, and three from ABC District. We are thankful for the service in this past triennium + by outgoing members Chris Klarenbach, ABC (*Vice-Chairman and Finance Comm.*); Rev. Ted Giese, Central (*resigned 2016 to take board position with CLWR*); Karen Gallas, East (*Personnel Comm.*); and potentially, LCC Presidential CoP Appointee Rev. Rudy Pastucha (*Personnel Comm.*); as well as those who continue on: Rev. Daryl Solie, Central (*Chairman and Executive Comm.*); Ian Lande, ABC (*Secretary and Personnel Comm.*); Rev. Scott Lyons, ABC (*Finance Comm.*); and ABC District President Glenn Schaeffer (*Bylaws Comm.*).

Fiscal Picture

The combination of the ABC CEF collapse, a significant downturn in the Alberta (and pan-Canadian) economy, decreases in synodical support, and donor trust issues across LCC led to CLS ending 2015-16 with a \$159,000 operating loss. We have begun a *give25* monthly donation program, and received bequests, donations, and other gifts in 2016-17 to not only end with a balanced budget but we need to actively address and resolve the 2015-16 losses. Again, God has been gracious and motivated His people to respond in support of our mission and ministry.

Our seminary depends upon the broad support of LCC and her districts, especially through congregations and individual donors across the country. Our extremely lean budget puts all resources into the various components allowing us to fulfill our singular mission of forming servants for Jesus’ sake.

Accreditation 2014-2017

Concordia Lutheran Seminary (CLS), along with over 250 other seminaries and theological schools, is accredited with the premiere Association of Theological Schools (ATS) in Pittsburgh. Our accreditation report and visit resulted in an extension for seven years, but included focused work on a Recruitment Plan, Strategic Planning, and Assessment of Students.

All three of these areas have been addressed and have satisfactorily met the ATS expectations. We have also recently received permission to offer unlimited Distance Education coursework (we were previously limited to five courses). A new accreditation process will be introduced in 2018, so work will begin soon on some of the steps to prepare for our *next* accreditation cycle and visit in 2021.

Graduates

CLS has been pleased to return the following seven graduates to service in the church in the last triennium. 2015: Rev. Aaron Astley, Rev. Cody Cooper, Rev. Scott Gamble, and Rev. Eric Moffett. 2016: Rev. Keith Hoveland and Rev. Oleksiy Navrotsky (Partner Church, Ukraine). 2017: Will Rose.

Enrollment

Enrollment was seven students when the last report was filed in Spring, 2014. Since that time, we have grown steadily to the point where we have anticipate having 19 students enrolled full time in 2017-18. This translates into future placement projections of having four vicars in 2016-17, five vicars and one DPS intern in 2017-18, and anticipates five vicars for 2018-19.

Recruitment

Lutheran Church—Canada is on record as being the lead player in Seminary Student Recruitment. Both seminaries encourage congregations to participate in a “Seminaries Sunday” to proclaim our mission, encourage prospective students, and generate donations to support the mission of each school. The seminaries also combined resources to do a poster project in 2015, and in 2017 CLS led the charge to produce materials for a revised RSVP program.

There is still a significant need for fully qualified students whom we can train as “servants for Jesus’ sake.” We ask the Church-at-Large and all members of her to actively encourage and support our recruitment efforts in action and prayer.

Our goal is to provide a steady stream of pastors (and deacons) for service in the Church. Our projections indicate that we should be able to provide between three and five new pastors each year.

Curriculum

The curriculum has been in place for just over eight years; with this assessment process, we are doing continuous improvement adjustments and will continue until a new curriculum is developed *after* 2021. CLS and ATS feedback from congregations and alumni indicates that the program is quite successful in forming Canadian men in a Canadian context for service in Lutheran Church—Canada.

DPS Training

If LCC formally approves, CLS will formally offer the DPS program as an *after degree* (with BA), intending to include DPS diaconal students in as many core courses as possible alongside of MDiv students, but adding a few relevant and distinct DPS-specific courses to their curriculum.

We have enrolled our first DPS student as an intern for 2017-2018. She had received her training at CUE before the program was discontinued. Supervision of her internship will resemble that of a vicar.

Faculty

The Rev. Dr. Ed Kettner retired in May, 2014 after 27 years of active service to CLS. Rev. John Hellwege, Ph.D., joined the faculty in August, 2015, as Systematics Professor and Historian. Rev. Prof. Jonathan Kraemer returned to a parish call in June, 2016. Numerous other faculties have served for short-term or full-term adjunct professors. Rev. Joel Heck, Th.D., was Visiting Professor of Old Testament Theology for Spring Semester, 2017. We

currently have an open position for a faculty member that we hope to fill within the next year.

Relationship with CUE

Concordia University Edmonton has discontinued offering both the Director of Parish Services (DPS) program and the Pre-Seminary studies programme. Furthermore, since becoming an part of the University of Alberta system, CUE has been severing ties with CLS as it establishes itself as a non-Christian university in the U of A system. They have withdrawn participation with us on chapel, and are no longer willing to have any religious event in their public spaces (meaning we can no longer have our Sacred Convocation in their Tegler Centre). We try to maintain healthy relationships with individuals, as well as the Department of Religion and Philosophy, but our relationship is limited.

ABC District Church Extension Fund (CEF) Impact

CLS had roughly 20% of our \$3.2 million endowment invested with ABC CEF. Two term notes were due to mature in January and February 2015. As we began inquiring about pulling money from CEF to consolidate our investment with Lutheran Church—Canada Financial Ministries (LCCFM), we discovered that the fund was insolvent and our assets were frozen in January 2015.

CLS did receive a convenience payment of \$122,000 after some of the ABC properties were sold, but the remainder of our assets were revalued as shares in Sage Properties (the greater Prince of Peace, Calgary, project). In fiscal 2014-15, the CLS auditor wrote down the book value to 50%; values are still uncertain, but with recent Sage action, the property will be divided into three parts: a) undeveloped land; b) Church and School; and c) Retirement Community holdings. The Sage Board of Directors believe that this will allow the sale of (or management of) each of these portions for the highest share value.

In addition to the freezing of our assets and inability to liquidate those portions of our fund available for operations, the broader impact of the CEF failure is that many of our major donors have their CEF assets frozen and are unable to donate at the rate they used to or have left LCC and/or lost confidence in the institutions of LCC (including CLS).

November 2014 Fire

On November 12, 2014, an arsonist started a fire in the basement of our library. Damage was limited to minor structural and book loss, but it required significant smoke and soot cleanup. We upgraded some of the electrical, lighting, paint, library shelving/storage, and carpeting. Our insurance

covered all but \$10,000. God was gracious; no one was hurt. We have added two levels of a security system and enacted new procedures to help protect the property.

Ministry Beyond MDiv and DPS Training

CLS faculty continues to provide “on-call” pulpit supply, and provide services to local congregations. In addition, faculty members provided guiding documents for two questions on the restructuring, and have been involved in PAT committee and teaching roles, CTCR committee and writing tasks, and the Reformation500 schedule.

Faculty has provided presentations at a variety of conferences and workshops and conventions of the church. They also have published in the Canadian Lutheran and Tapestry, in addition to three articles published in scholarly journals.

We have also recently completed hosting our second Pastor’s Sabbatical Week as a resource for pastors in the greater LCC.

Respectfully submitted on Trinity Sunday, 2017

Rev. James R. Gimbel, Ph.D., President

Report 18: Concordia Lutheran Theological Seminary, St. Catharines (CLTS)

History and Purpose

The 1975 convention of the Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod, held in Anaheim, CA, authorized the establishment of a seminary in Eastern Canada. It was to be an extension of the Springfield/Ft. Wayne seminary, and the Ontario District in 1976 was asked to determine its site. From its beginnings in the basement of Resurrection Lutheran Church, CLTS moved in 1984 onto the campus of Brock University. Subsequently, all seminary degrees have been issued by Brock University. In 1989, upon the formation of Lutheran Church–Canada, the seminary was received by the fledgling synod as a gift from her mother.

From the beginning, the purpose of having an LCMS seminary in Canada was twofold: (1) to encourage more Canadian students to enter the ministry by providing local facilities, thereby also keeping Canadian graduates in Canada; and (2) to contextualize their pastoral formation to the unique setting of Canadian Lutheranism. This twofold purpose became even more meaningful when LCC was founded. We believe that this seminary, with its intimate facilities, small student body, and highly qualified faculty, offers a uniquely student-oriented focus, with an emphasis on practical experiences in classroom, chapel, and local congregations.

More broadly speaking, this seminary serves LCC by preparing men for the office of the holy ministry, molding lay men and women for service, and serving as a theological resource to the synod, districts, and congregations. In 1991 the seminary produced a three-page articulation of the seminary’s goals, which included pastoral formation, graduate theological education (the MTS degree), outreach to the Brock community, continuing education in the church, and library resources. Subsequently it was distilled into the following mission statement, summarized as “Preparing Servants for God’s Mission”:

Because GOD would have no one perish but all be saved by grace through faith in Jesus Christ and, in order that we might obtain this faith, has instituted the ministry of teaching the Gospel and administering the Sacraments, therefore CONCORDIA LUTHERAN THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY, St. Catharines, exists to serve God’s mission by preparing servants for the Holy Ministry of Word and Sacrament in order that PEOPLE OF EVERY LAND might be brought to saving faith, be instructed in the divine doctrine, show forth the goodness of God, and be kept safe in faith to eternal life with their LORD.
Graduates and Students

In her 41-year history CLTS has produced 217 graduates. Of these, 17 are men and women (mostly lay) who have attained to the Master of Theological Studies degree. 200 graduates have entered the pastoral ministry through ordination, 198 into a Lutheran Church, and 2 into other confessions. In accord with our history, a minority of our graduates have entered into service in the Missouri Synod. Some serve sister churches and missions abroad. The vast majority serve in LCC—including a significant number of Americans who willingly received a call to a Canadian parish at graduation.

After 41 years, it is natural that many of our graduates would no longer be in active service. Of our 200 pastoral graduates, 144 remain in active ministry, while 32 continue to serve on a part-time basis as emeriti or candidates for the ministry (CRM). The remaining 24 are deceased, resigned, or untraceable.

Active Pastoral Graduates	
<i>ABC District</i>	<i>11</i>
<i>Central District</i>	<i>16</i>
<i>East District</i>	<i>54</i>
LCC total	81
LCMS in Canada	4
LCMS in USA	48
Other Lutheran in NA	4
World Lutheranism	5
Other confessions	2
Inactive Pastoral Graduates	
CRM	13
Retired	19
Resigned	12
Deceased	9
Whereabouts unknown	3
Total	200

We give thanks to God when we observe the role that CLTS has served in the development of LCC, noting that about one third of her active pastors are graduates of St. Catharines. In the East District the proportion is significantly higher. We also note that the current seminary president, an incoming faculty member, and one LCC District President are alumni. The present student enrolment is significantly lower than it reached in the peak years of the 1980s and early '90s. Since 2007 the decline has been steady and worrisome. In the past triennium the size of the student body has been, each year respectively, 14, 15, 19 (compared to an historic average of 34). We are pleased to see it beginning to rebound and pray that this uptick will continue. The most significant support that members of LCC can offer to the seminary is to encourage young men to enter the ministry. Our faculty is in regular contact with some 50 potential students, and vigorously promotes the seminary through public speaking, writing, and broadcasting. The poster campaign featuring actual students and graduates under the theme, "Is the Pastoral Ministry for You? Ponder, Pray, and Talk to Us", has generated considerable interest. Our social media outlets (Facebook, etc.) are active and well subscribed. Most importantly, our two seminaries have engaged the entire synod through the recent revival of the RSVP campaign launched in January 2017. We look forward to contacting the potential candidates identified by pastors and laymen in this campaign.

Throughout her history, CLTS has been particularly international and mission-oriented. Five CLTS

graduates are currently serving abroad, and a sixth has recently returned to Canada after three years in Australia. The current student body includes men capable of serving a variety of multilingual or multi-ethnic ministries (including French, German, Hindi/Urdu, and Korean). The faculties of both LCC seminaries provide the backbone of teaching staff for LCC's mission work abroad (Ukraine, Thailand, Nicaragua, and England), and do so largely at their own expense. Thus, mission and seminary are virtually inseparable. Currently, Rev. Warren Hamp serves as the CLTS-appointed co-ordinator of theological education in Nicaragua, which emeritus professor Roger Humann inaugurated in June 2000. As a seminary of the church, our functions extend far beyond preparing pastors. Firstly we have had a steady stream of male and female students, mostly but not exclusively from within the Lutheran Church, who have studied theology for diaconal service or for the sheer joy of it. The Master of Theological Studies degree is available to qualified students not headed for ordination. We have also held a series of evening classes for laypeople. Secondly, our faculty serve as a significant theological resource to the rest of the church, sitting on the CTCR, lecturing to pastors' conferences and circuit events, teaching at workshops, preaching and serving vacancies, advising church leaders, and writing theological books and articles. The seminary also regularly hosts church, university, and community events, lifting the church's profile in the world.

Faculty and Staff

Since the last LCC convention the faculty and staff at CLTS have undergone significant transition. Dr William Mundt, professor of Systematic theology and missions, retired in 2015 after fifteen years of service. Dr. Wilhelm Torgerson, serving as a nearly full-time adjunct instructor in pastoral theology since 2011, has scaled back to part-time teaching—understandable since he was already retired when he came on board! While the seminary explored options for calling a new Systematics professor, Rev. Esko Murto of Helsinki, Finland, was contracted as a visiting professor. After a two-year call process, the Board of Regents extended a regular call to Rev. Murto to join the faculty. At the same time they called Dr. Harold Ristau, a chaplain in the Canadian Forces, to the faculty. Both are to be installed at the opening service in September 2017. With these men in place, the faculty returns to a minimal full strength of four full-time faculty members (which remains below the optimal five that was in place in the 1990s). The remaining full-time faculty members are Dr. Thomas Winger, who teaches exegetical and liturgical theology in addition to administrative work as President, Academic Dean, and Dean of Chapel; and Dr. John Stephenson, who teaches historical

theology and serves as Registrar and Director of the Library. In addition to Dr. Torgerson, the faculty is supplemented by adjunct professors Rev. Duane Peters (dogmatics), Dr. James Keller (dogmatics), and Rev. Warren Hamp (preaching), as well as guest instructors Rev. David Duke (OT), Dr. Jonathan Grothe (NT), and Dr. Roger Winger (pastoral practice).

The CLTS faculty have a significant international reputation as productive scholars who continue to “punch above their weight” in writing and lecturing. Two faculty members have contributed volumes to the Concordia Commentary series: emeritus professor Dr. John Wilch’s *Ruth* (2006) and Dr. Thomas Winger’s *Ephesians* (2015). Together with Drs. Roger Humann and John Stephenson they also contributed to *The Lutheran Study Bible* (2009). Former president Dr. Jon Grothe produced a major commentary on *Romans* that is now in its second edition (2012). Dr. Winger served on the Lutheran Service Book liturgy committee, and continues to write for the overdue *LSB Pastor’s Desk Edition*. His lay-oriented *Lutheranism 101: Worship* will be published by CPH later this year. Dr. John Stephenson has written two volumes in the *Confessional Dogmatics* series (which he also edited), translated Wilhelm Löhe’s *Aphorisms on the New Testament Offices*, and is working on a Löhe biography. His CV lists over 60 published articles. (Faculty bibliographies are accessible from the seminary’s website.) Dr. Stephenson has been co-editor on two *Festschriften*, in addition to collaboration with Dr. Winger on a collection of essays on Hermann Sasse (1998) and a *Festschrift* for Dr. John Kleinig (2013). In recognition of the 500th anniversary of the Reformation, Drs. Stephenson and Winger published a translation of 16th-century writing and an exegetical essay in the little volume, *The Wittenberg Reformation. The LCC seminaries’ journal, Lutheran Theological Review*, remains a major, respected forum for disseminating our seminaries’ scholarship. *Confessional Lutheran theological scholarship* is thus a unique contribution of CLTS, St. Catharines, to the benefit of her students and world Lutheranism.

The staff of CLTS has also undergone change in the past triennium. Since 2008 CLTS has not had a full-time Development Officer, but recently hired Susan Hamp as a part-time Development Assistant and Bookkeeper. We have also co-ordinated our development work as much as possible with CLS, Edmonton, with whom, for example, we now hold a joint “Seminaries Sunday” with common materials used across synod. In addition, we rely on the staff of the LCC Financial Ministries (particularly Al Feth in the East District), who conduct workshops and visits

on our behalf to encourage and aid members to plan gifts and bequests for seminary work. All CLTS staff work part-time (constituting 2.5 FTE in total), and we are thankful to them for providing a great service to the seminary in limited hours for modest reward. Long-time Librarian Christel Haeck retired in 2015; her duties were assumed by our former Library Technician, Sarah Cavanagh. The remaining staff include Mike Bauer (Business Manager), Linda Lantz (Administrative Assistant), and Deaconess Bonnie Stephenson (Registrar’s Assistant). Janitorial work and IT support is handled by students. In addition we are grateful for a dozen or so volunteers who work in the library, on mailings, and at events.

Major Events in the Past Triennium (2014-17)

In October 2014 CLTS hosted a conference investigating “Militant Secularism” in Canadian society. Including two Lutheran and two Anglican speakers, the conference grew out of ecumenical dialogue between LCC, the LCMS, and the Anglican Church of North America.

In September 2015 the seminary held a conference entitled “Pastoral Perspectives on Paul”, featuring noted Pauline scholar Dr. Stephen Westerholm, as well as local talent. The conference served as a belated presidential inauguration for Dr. Thomas Winger and a celebration of the publication of his *Ephesians* commentary.

In addition to the aforementioned publication, CLTS is celebrating the 500th anniversary of the Reformation by preparing a Rare Book Room in the library to showcase some 300 volumes dating back as far as the 1550s. The room will have its festive opening at a Reformation conference in September 2017, which features speakers from Sweden and Germany in addition to the home team. CLTS faculties are also involved in ecumenical dialogue with the Roman Catholic Church in Canada; as a result, Roman Catholic scholars will participate in the conference as responders, and the local bishop will bring greetings.

Lectures from these conferences have been made available to the wider church through publication in *Lutheran Theological Review* and recordings available on the CLTS website and YouTube channel.

Governance and Accreditation

Serving on the CLTS Board of Regents in the past synodical triennium were: Rev. Robert Krestick, chairman (2017); Rev. Nolan Astley, vice-chairman (2017); Rev. Dan Abraham, secretary (2020); Rev. Cameron Schnarr (2020); Mr. Ivan Boles (2017); Mr. Bruno Korst (2020); Mr. Wayne Timm (2017); and Rev. Paul Zabel (ex officio). Rev. Kurt Reinhardt

served pro tem for Rev. Astley while the latter served as Interim Ecclesiastical Leader in the ABC District. Rev. Dr. Thomas Winger, called as President in 2012, is the board's executive officer.

Concordia's two degrees, MDiv and MTS, are granted by Brock University, of which CLTS is an affiliate graduate college. CLTS is an accredited member of the Association of Theological Schools in the US and Canada. Her accreditation was renewed in June 2014 for five years. In the nature of such things, the faculty is already in the process of preparing for the next visit in January 2019.

At the 2011 LCC convention, CLTS signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Concordia Lutheran Seminary, Edmonton, which over the past six years has guided our joint efforts towards sustainable, efficient theological education in LCC. The MOU continuation committee has reviewed the document annually. Any major revision will sensibly await news of restructuring in LCC as a whole, in light of the proposal that each seminary would prepare an MOU with the synod's Board of Directors. We remain committed to close co-operation with our sister seminary and the leadership of LCC, for whose service the seminaries exist.

Finances

Since elimination of the seminary's accumulated debt in February 2014, the seminary's finances have been stable, thanks be to God. In each year of the past triennium the seminary has recorded a budget surplus. A number of factors have combined to make this possible:

1. The seminary has been blessed with receipt of significant and unexpectedly generous bequests over the past three years. While maintaining reasonable budget surpluses, the Board of Regents have agreed to deposit excess gifts into the seminary's Foundation to increase annual support in leaner years down the road.
2. The Foundation has been well-managed and is again contributing in a significant way to the seminary's operating fund and student aid.
3. Student enrolment has increased slightly, which has led to more healthy tuition fee income, though it remains below historic norms.
4. LCC has continued to provide an annual subsidy, for which we are thankful. Regrettably—and understandably, considering synod's own reduced income—LCC's Board of Directors have cut the subsidy from \$210 000 to \$135 000 per annum over the past decade.
5. The seminary administration have kept expenses as low as possible, abiding by the expense cap agreed to in the MOU (2011). Elimination of the

debt has also eliminated interest payments from our budget.

6. Individual donors in LCC and the LCMS continue to offer generous support in response to regular appeal letters. Unrestricted giving in the past two years has been above average. However, we also note that only a very small portion synod's members donate directly to either seminary. There is much room for growth in financial support.

The seminary's building, erected on the campus of Brock University in 1983, has reached the point where it needed significant maintenance. Thankfully, a substantial gift intended for this purpose enabled us in the past triennium to replace the roof, replace the HVAC units, upgrade the network infrastructure and security system, install energy-efficient lighting, improve handicapped accessibility, and renovate the downstairs washrooms.

Although the seminary's budget will increase slightly in 2017-18 owing to the return to a full complement of faculty, we are committed to fiscal restraint and faithful stewardship of the resources given us by God through His church. It is our intention to continue our co-operative ventures with CLS, Edmonton, to maintain our lean financial operation, and to produce budget surpluses each year. We give thanks to God, and pray that He will continue to bless us through His faithful servants in His Church. We are enormously grateful to LCC and her members for the generous support we receive.

Looking Ahead

Six years ago the two LCC seminaries were emerging from a long period of study and re-evaluation. In the two synodical triennia that followed, the seminaries have had the opportunity to demonstrate their fiscal responsibility and faithful service to the church. While income and enrolment remain somewhat strained, CLTS has been blessed to operate in the black financially, to have completed significant repairs and upgrades to her building, and to return her faculty to full strength.

Looking ahead, the decline in enrolment (at both seminaries) has emerged as a major challenge to LCC. Earlier in this report we noted a number of major efforts undertaken to tackle the "recruitment" problem. But while the seminaries seem to occupy the front-line position, we observe that very few students choose to enter the ministry because a seminary persuaded them. The true front line lies in the congregation and the home where pastors, parents, Sunday School teachers, and youth workers have the opportunity to expose young men to the joys of the pastoral office and encourage them to consider it as their lifelong vocation. We look forward to working with these influential people as we develop

strategies for what we inadequately call “recruitment”. Pray the Lord of the harvest to send workers into His harvest.

There are many other ways in which we are committed to working with our sister seminary in Edmonton and the synodical leadership in Winnipeg to become more efficient in our use of churchly resources. As expressed in the MOU, we continue to investigate joint efforts in fund-raising, financial management, information and educational technology, and joint teaching.

We rejoice that the Lord has sent us two new full-time faculty members. At the same time, we recognize a certain weakness in LCC’s ability to provide faculty members for the future. This is evidenced partly by our decision to look abroad (Finland) to find one of our qualified faculty members. It is vital that we identify men suited to be the next generation of theologians and teachers at our seminaries and provide them with the encouragement

and opportunity to pursue higher degrees appropriate to that vocation.

We are immensely thankful to the members of LCC for their ongoing support of her two seminaries in prayers, good will, labour, and gifts. We pray that we might continue to work together as partners in Christ’s mission. In the midst of our hard work and occasional anxiety, we must not forget that the primary mandate of preparing men for Christ’s office in His Church continues unabated at CLTS. The Word of God is taught and proclaimed. And as it is likewise taught and proclaimed in LCC, we believe that your support for our work will also continue unabated as the Lord gives us all strength for our labour.

Thomas M. Winger
President

Institutional Reports

	CLS Edm	CLTS St Cath
FACULTY		
1. Regular current academic faculty, full-time total	3	4
Male	3	4
Female	0	0
% Professors	2	50%
% Associate Professors	0	
% Assistant Professors	1	
% Instructors	0	50%
% With earned doctorate	3	50%
Average years of service to seminary	7	13.5
2. Part-time faculty	8	6
3. FTE of part-time faculty	2	1.4
4. Number of regular faculty released since last convention	1	1
5. Number of regular faculty added since last convention	1	1
7. Number of support staff (headcount)	4	5
8. FTE of support staff	2.5	2.5

	CLS Edm	CLTS St Cath
CURRENT STUDENTS		
1. Current Student Enrolments (headcount, all programs)	18	19
Current MDiv Student Enrolments (headcount)	16	8
First Year (MDiv)	7	5
Second Year (MDiv)	5	0
Third Year (MDiv)	3	0
Fourth Year (MDiv)	1	3
Non-degree Pastoral Route Enrolments (headcount)	0	3
First Year (Non-degree Pastoral Route)	0	2
Second Year (Non-degree Pastoral Route)	0	0
Third Year (Non-degree Pastoral Route)	0	1
Fourth Year (Non-degree Pastoral Route)	0	0
Current MTS Student Enrolments (headcount)	0	6
Special Programs/Open Studies (Graduate level, headcount)	2	2
% Male	100	79%
Full-Time Equivalent (FTE*) – MDiv	14.9	6.1
Full-Time Equivalent (FTE*) – Non-degree Pastoral Route	0	3
Full-Time Equivalent (FTE*) – MTS	0	2.8
Full-Time Equivalent (FTE*) – Special Programs/Open Studies	0.4	1.7
Total full-time equivalent (FTE*)	15.3	13.6
% Increase or (decrease) from last year in FTE's	+ 20%	+100%
Number of unique Distance Education courses offered since last convention	6	10
Number of students enrolled through Distance Education (headcount)	31	14
Number of Distance Education courses offered with students from other seminary	3	4
2b. Origin of students at seminaries		
% from Concordia University Edmonton	44%	0
% from other Lutheran colleges/universities	0%	5%
% from public colleges/universities	56%	90%
% from other church-related colleges/universities	0%	5%
3. Financial Aid for Students		
Current Tuition cost, per credit hour	\$280.	\$280

	CLS Edm	CLTS St Cath
% of students receiving aid (all forms, including loans)	64%	100%
Average amount per recipient from college/seminary, district and/or Synod	8,281.00	\$7,000
Ratio of this aid to current annual tuition (as a percentage of tuition)	1.10	89%
4. Placement figures since the last synod convention		
Number to parishes	6	7
Number to missions	0	
Placement deferred	0	
Number placed within LCC	6	3
Number placed within other synods	0	4
FINANCES: Figures reported for the 'fiscal triennium' (#1-3) represent the average annual income and expenses for the three fiscal years leading up to the convention.		
1. Average operating income, restricted and unrestricted, for last fiscal triennium in millions to the nearest tenth	\$1.1	\$0.82
% of income supplied by synodical subsidy	19.7	20
% of income in tuition and fees	10.1	11
% of income from development	41.93	55
% of income from endowment fund revenue	28.26**	10
2. Operating expenses for last fiscal triennium (to nearest tenth of a million)	\$1.1	\$0.75
3. Capital expenditures in last fiscal triennium (to nearest tenth of a million)	\$.023	\$0.20
4. Current fund balance (or deficit) over last fiscal triennium to nearest tenth of a million.	\$3.86	\$0.19
5. Current indebtedness (end of last fiscal year, to nearest tenth of a million)		
Capital	0	0
Operating	\$27,470 **	0
6. Current level of endowment funds (end of last fiscal year to nearest tenth of a million)		
Restricted	\$1.97	\$1080
Unrestricted	\$1.89	\$2.61

	CLS Edm	CLTS St Cath
PHYSICAL FACILITIES:		
1. Total hectares of campus (owned and rented/leased)	.4046	0.5
2. Total number of buildings (owned and rented/leased)	1	1
3. Total square metres of buildings (owned and rented/leased)	3600	14,000
4. Current total estimated dollar value of campus land and buildings (to the nearest tenth of a million)	\$2.1	1.4
6. Library holdings (books, in thousands)	22,283	33
ACCREDITATION (Yes or No)		
3. Association of Theological Schools	Yes	Yes
4. Year of most recent accreditation visit	2014	2014
5. Year of next scheduled visit	2021	2019

*Use the ATS formula to calculate FTE

** Calculated without including the 4th quarter Endowment revenue

*** Fiscal figures include unaudited 2016-17 financial information

REPORT 19: International Lutheran Layman's League

Introduction:

The International Lutheran Laymen's League/Lutheran Hour Ministries serves as a grassroots auxiliary of Lutheran Church—Canada and The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod by focusing its energies on a mission of Bringing Christ to the Nations—and the Nations to the Church. The International Lutheran Laymen's League (Int'l LLL) is the corporate name under which the organization does business; Lutheran Hour Ministries (LHM) is the public identity under which it conducts worldwide Gospel outreach.

LHM is a trusted expert in mass media proclamation with a global network of partners. The ministry works in areas where other organizations are not present and uses local missionaries who know the language and culture. Working in conjunction with the Lutheran Laymen's League of Canada, LHM proclaims the Gospel throughout Canada by creating, distributing, and promoting resources through various media while also equipping Christians there for outreach.

As we celebrate our 100th anniversary in 2017 and enter a second century of ministry, God continues to use LHM to bring the changeless Christ to a changing world. While the communication methods may have

shifted, the message of sharing the Good News remains the same. Moving forward, LHM has identified two areas of emphasis for its ministry efforts that currently reach into more than 50 countries on six continents:

- Gospel Proclamation: Proclaim the message of Christ in a way that generates an opportunity for people to respond, encourage people to ask questions or for resources, and/or request more information. The ultimate goal is to connect people to Christian communities.
- Equipping the Church for Evangelistic Activity: Build and strengthen relationships with all constituent groups, including the existing church, to create a new identity where sharing the message of Christ in our communities is a major part of who we are.

God's Blessings upon Lutheran Hour Ministries' Outreach in the Past Triennium:

LHM's significant activities accomplished since our 2014 convention report include:

- Entered the digital mission field by launching a new media project called THRED. The aim of THRED is to create an ecosystem of online material that provides opportunities for authentic, honest, and respectful conversations about life, faith, Jesus, and Christianity. While there is a THRED

website (www.thred.org) and a THRED YouTube channel (www.youtube.com/thred), our primary platform and focus for the initial phase of this project is on Facebook (www.facebook.com/ourTHRED). We also launched a new website, vivenciar.net that connects with individuals throughout Latin America who seek answers to some of today's common issues. Much like THRED, the purpose of Vivenciar is to reach out and digitally connect to the non-believer and non-Christian populations by inviting them to look deeper into topical issues such as marriage and family, anxiety, loneliness, relationships, and much more. We hope this project opens opportunities to start an online relationship between visitors and trained volunteers from our ministry centers in Latin America. Vivenciar has a potential reach of 650 million people throughout 10 Latin American countries.

- Expanded ministry work around the world through new efforts in Indonesia, Mongolia, Turkey, and Laos, while also preparing for additional opportunities throughout the Middle East and North Africa. LHM will soon develop an Arabic-language television program that shines the light of Christ into as many as 15 countries throughout the region. Recent events in the news make crystal clear the challenges that exist in this part of the world, but LHM continues to move forward in faith and prayer because we believe that God sends His people to make known the love of God to all nations.

- Stepped up holistic ministry efforts to share the Gospel with hurting people in many countries, including the following:

- Aided victims of ISIS atrocities, such as Syrian and Iraqi refugees living in camps throughout Lebanon. During frequent visits to the camps, our staff builds one-on-one relationships with the refugee families and large groups of children that allow them to share the Gospel while also providing care for their physical needs that larger refugee-assistance agencies may not realize. To date, LHM has served tens of thousands of refugees in this region with humanitarian assistance and with a personal witness of Christ's love for them. Grants from The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod and the Lutheran Women's Missionary League have helped LHM further expand efforts in these camps.

- Responded to the virulent outbreak of Ebola hemorrhagic fever (EHF) in West Africa that resulted in more than 2,200 people infected and more than 1,100 dead. LHM—Liberia partnered with the government to air public service announcements on its national radio program teaching people the symptoms of the disease, informing them about basic hygiene, and encouraging them to trust the health officials in seeking immediate treatment. The ministry also organized youth sports camps where

participants went into local slums to distribute flyers about Ebola.

- Reacted to flooding and landslides caused by heavy monsoon-season rains and tropical cyclone Komen that displaced people from their homes and disrupted Myanmar's economy. With resources provided by LHM donors and a grant from Disaster Response through the LCMS, LHM—Myanmar supplied food, drinking water, and basic supplies to hundreds of families in isolated areas.

- Produced several new video Bible studies on a variety of topics (the entire collection now totals 43). These free, downloadable resources are written by pastors and other ministry professionals. Each study has a discussion guide expanding the video footage with supporting Scripture, commentary, and other features to maximize the topic.

- Unveiled GodConnects, a video-based course on Christianity comprised of 12 short videos that present key biblical concepts in a style ideal for someone new to the Christian faith, while also benefiting long-time Christians. Accompanying these videos are detailed discussion guides that supply supporting Scriptures, pose questions to consider, and provide additional web resources to review. The 12 sessions can be used in new-member classes, by Bible study groups, for individual study, or even for people to share their faith.

- Partnered with the Bott Radio Network to place The Lutheran Hour into the network's long-running Billy Graham "Hour of Decision" time slot (8 a.m. every Sunday) on Bott's 101 stations in 15 states. This ministry partnership pushes the program's station count to more than 1,700 throughout North America (including 87 in Canada) and its reach to one million listeners per week.

- Created an online training model through a Learning Management System (LMS) that will replace our MISSION U leader-led, witnessing-training workshops this summer. These online modules will be simple, shorter "chunks" that include video clips, journaling, and multiple-choice/open-ended questions for the participant to respond. Once completed, the learner passes the course and continues to the next module.

- Developed several new mobile apps to allow LHM resources to be accessible wherever people go. Apps are now available for The Lutheran Hour, Daily Devotions, video Bible studies, the Project Connect booklet ministry, and LHM events.

- Received the inaugural J2e3 Award for leadership in mission during the first-ever J2e3 Missions Summit at Concordia Lutheran Church in San Antonio, Texas, in May 2015.

The Results of God's Blessings:

- By God's grace, LHM's various outreach programs and resources reach more than 56 million people around the world each week with the Gospel;
- LHM distributes 2.5 million print materials annually as part of its outreach efforts;
- The Lutheran Hour radio program reaches more than 1 million listeners per week;
- More than 750,000 copies of our six pocket-sized children booklets have been shipped to congregations and individuals;
- Outreach through LHM's international programs has, by the power of the Holy Spirit, netted nearly 425,000 responses and 41,500 referrals to congregations this past year;
- Nearly 50,000 individuals participated for the first time in Bible Correspondence Courses to introduce people to Jesus and biblical principles of our faith;
- More than 34,000 people completed a ministry activity last year to more effectively share the Gospel with others;
- More than 4,600 LCC and LCMS churches regularly use LHM materials.

Vision for the Future:

With billions of people still unreached with the Gospel message around the world, our work is not done. Therefore, we will not rest until...

- Every person has the opportunity to hear the Gospel in an understandable way;
- New believers are connected to a faithful Christian community where they can grow in their faith and witness;
- All Christians reach out in love to those who don't yet know the Savior.

We are called to act now! The Lord has given this ministry a unique understanding of how to reach, equip, and minister to individuals. It is crucial that LHM's focus continues to be people who lack the opportunity to learn about Jesus Christ.

Strategic Priorities for the Next Triennium:

- Energize, Equip, and Engage Laity for Outreach.
 - Train individuals/groups of all ages to evangelize to others in their everyday lives.
 - Develop resources lay members can use to address situations in people's lives or answer questions about Christianity and faith.
 - Provide research on how today's culture is evolving and how Christians and congregations can respond to reach their communities with the Gospel.
 - Create a road map of strategies and resources to help congregations connect with the community and follow up with visitors and new believers. This ministry road map will contain the flexibility to be applied at local, regional, and national levels.

- Grow God's Kingdom through Expanded Media Outreach.

- Proclaim Law and Gospel through The Lutheran Hour in fresh, compelling ways, while refreshing the program's format and expanding its reach to a new generation of listeners through additional new initiatives.

- Incorporate additional resources like smartphone apps, podcasts, and social media as well as expanded exposure through the American Forces Network to take The Lutheran Hour to new audiences who can benefit from its life-changing message.

- Bring the Gospel to the Unreached Around the World.

- As LHM expands within geographic regions, it will dramatically increase the use of radio and online media, as well as personal and holistic ministries, to reach many more people with the life-transforming news of Jesus Christ.

- Work in areas where the Gospel is not widespread by focusing on three emphases:

- 1) Unreached people who have little or no possibility of hearing the Gospel.
- 2) Urban areas, which house large concentrations of unreached people.
- 3) The emerging global youth culture, which is identified as another unreached people group.

- Engage Communities in the Digital Mission Field.

- Continue developing optimal web and mobile platforms for reaching targeted audiences with the Gospel. Building on our research, LHM will launch new online programming over social media, web TV, video streaming, and blogs. With the right message, these programs will potentially reach millions instantly.

- Create follow-up tools to use and provide to individuals and congregations to stimulate conversations with the unreached. Ultimately this will facilitate more opportunities for connections into Christian communities.

- Engage the unreached online in three phases:

- 1) Initial Contact: Create programs and initiatives such as advertising, viral concepts, and personal referrals that allow for a first contact.
- 2) Relationship Building: Develop platforms that provide for in-depth discussion and learning opportunities, including issues segments, an Explore Christianity course, and a Christian Apologetics course.
- 3) Real-Time Personal Connections: Take the relationship offline by connecting individuals to Christian communities where their relationships with Christ and church will deepen.

In Conclusion:

Humanity today stands at a crossroads; many people have come to believe that they don't need God or doubt His existence. Those without Christ in their lives aren't even aware of the eternal crisis they are facing, but for Christians the dire stakes for these individuals are all too clear.

The need to boldly proclaim the love of Christ is greater than ever ... and the Lord has placed LHM in a unique position to respond as a leader in sharing the Gospel through whatever media and technology means are most effective to touch lives for Christ. Not only do LHM's media tools and resources help grow and nurture faithful Christians by the power of the Holy Spirit, but they allow the Gospel message to penetrate the expanse of distance, the barriers of prison walls, and the lines of civil unrest or hostile political regimes to reach individuals who have little

or no opportunity to hear the Gospel. They bring a message of forgiveness, love, and hope found only in Jesus Christ to a world that is hungry for the one thing that is sorely needed.

This is a time of great excitement throughout the Lutheran Church as we not only celebrate the historic anniversaries of the Reformation, Int'l LLL, and LWML, but have new opportunities on the horizon to share Christ's love with lost and hurting people around the world. On behalf of all of us at LHM, thank you for your service. May God richly bless your work in the name and for the sake of Jesus!

Phillip Johnson, Chairman
Kurt Buchholz, President & CEO

REPORT 20: Lutheran Layman's League Canada



Dear delegates, officers, directors and guests:

From the graphic at the top of this page you may have already realized that the 50th anniversary of the incorporation of Lutheran Laymen's League of Canada (LLL-C) is one of many anniversaries being marked and celebrated in 2017. Of course this is in addition to the 500th anniversary of Luther's Reformation and the 150th anniversary of the formation of our nation, and the centennial year of the Int'l Lutheran Laymen's League. Canadians have been part of the Int'l LLL since its inception in 1917. This year is a fitting time to pause and give thanks to God our creator, redeemer and sanctifier for his countless blessings. At LLL-C we are thankful for 50 years of His blessings on our work, including the provision of volunteers and resources. We pray that He will continue to guide and bless LLL-C to His glory and the good of His people.

As one of LCC's auxiliary organizations, LLL-C uses various media (Lutheran Hour Ministries –

Canada) to help proclaim the Gospel, and works in partnership with LCC, its congregations and their members to equip Christians for outreach. The Lutheran Hour, our flagship outreach program is now in its 85th season and continues to proclaim a Changeless Christ to a Changing world using radio,

print and digital media. In addition to the regular Lutheran Hour Speakers, Rev. Dr. Greg Seltz and Rev. Ken Klaus, this year we were privileged to have two Canadian pastors serve as guest speakers on The Lutheran Hour in Canada for the programs on July 2, for Canada Day as well as October 8 for Thanksgiving.

Last year we surveyed members of LCC congregations about the work of LLL-C. One of the things that the survey results revealed was a desire for creative outreach resources and vocational or lifestyle witnessing tools. With this in mind, we have developed two new resources. The first, SolasAlive highlights the solas (Grace, Faith, and Scripture) of Luther's reformation using three brief videos intended for social media platforms (i.e. Facebook,

websites twitter, etc.) as well as a website to interest not-yet-Christians in finding out more about Jesus Christ and the Christian faith. We hope that members of the LLL and LCC congregations will share the videos through their own social media accounts.

Serving With Joy is intended to provide individuals with easy to use cards that will guide people that they have served, to a website where we hope to introduce them to Jesus, who is the reason that we serve with joy; and to the basics of our faith in Him. I hope you will take time to find out more about these resources at our display at the convention and will then spread the word about them to others.

In recent years, several hundred people from LCC congregations have received evangelism training at Mission-U seminars conducted by Lutheran Hour

Ministries. Mission-U has been revamped and now offers its training via online e-learning sessions so that individuals or groups can be equipped on their own schedule and at the location of their choosing.

In addition to the work that we do within Canada, we participate in the international aspect of the Int'l LLL through the work we do with LHM-Nicaragua. Our supporters have come to know this as our Amigos en Cristo- Nicaragua (Friends in Christ - Nicaragua).

The Lord provides the financial support for our work through the faithful and generous voluntary donations of individuals, groups and congregations who choose to be part of these Gospel outreach efforts. LLL-C continues its partnership with LCC's Financial Ministries, contributing to and benefitting from the work of Lutheran Foundation Canada's gift planners. Gifts from our donors in the form of bequests continue to be a significant portion of the financial resources that we receive and make it possible to do this work even after these donors have gone to be with our Lord in heaven. As an auxiliary of Lutheran Church we are pleased to annually file our audited financial statements with the synodical office.

The election of a president and two directors took place over the summer months, however at the time this report was written the members of the LLL-C

Board of Directors were: President, Ian Adnams, Richmond, BC; Secretary, Ed Tiefenbach, Regina, SK; Treasurer, Ronald Fischer, Stratford, ON; and Directors Calvin Ulmer, Neudorf, SK and Jim Lang, Vienna, ON. In addition to these Directors – the Lord has blessed us with volunteers at the District, Zone, and congregational levels.

To all of our supporters, volunteers and members we say a heartfelt 'thank you'. To those who have not yet joined us in this work, I invite you to find out more about the resources we have available for yourself and your congregation either on our website www.LLL.ca or by contacting us at the address below. I hope that you will find ours to be the kind of Gospel outreach work that you'd like to participate in.

I pray that God will continue to bless each one of us but especially those of you who are voting delegates at this convention. May He give you wisdom and discernment as you serve and may the work of Synod be done through you, in a way that will give God glory and be of great benefit to His people.

Yours in Christ's service,
Stephen Klinck
Managing Director

REPORT 21: LUTHERAN WOMENS MISSIONARY LEAGUE-CANADA

During the 2015-2018 triennium we continue to work with the mission and vision statements adopted in 2009. The mission of Lutheran Women's Missionary League-Canada is to *Equip, Motivate and Encourage Women to Grow in God's Word; Share God's Son; and Serve God's people*. Our Vision Statement is: *Ignited by the grace of God, members of Lutheran Women's Missionary League-Canada are actively encouraging women in the study of God's Word so they are passionate in sharing the Gospel through word and deed.*

The 2012-2015 triennium has been and continues to be a time in which we have encouraged our members to deepen their personal faith as we work under the theme "Hold Fast to the Word" based on 1 Corinthians 15:2. It is only by embracing God's Word that we have the strength and ability to carry out the mission and service work we have been called to do.

In 2017 a women's retreat resource "Always Called to Serve" was created and presented across

Canada. This retreat (1 day or 1 ½ days for an overnight retreat) is designed to encourage women in their service to God. It has a Bible study and prayer component, a hands on servant project and time for fellowship. Materials including a leader guide are available through our resource centre.

LWML-Canada uses a variety of media to carry out our mission. *Tapestry*, a magazine for today's Christian woman filled with inspirational articles, Bible studies, ideas for service and encouragement. A quarterly newsletter aimed at encouraging and equipping LWMLC leaders, *Staying Connected*, is sent to member societies by email. *LWML-Canada Update* and *LWMLC News*, both online and available at no cost to subscribers, provide news and information in a more timely fashion than print allows. Much information and many resources can be found on the LWML-Canada website, www.lutheranwomen.ca. A page on Face book provides a means of holding conversations of matters of faith with Lutheran women. You can follow us on

Twitter for news, inspirational quotes, and prayer suggestions.

At our convention in 2015 a mission program of \$462,799.00 was adopted. This includes a Mission Grant goal of \$130,000. Mission Grants were selected by the voting body and, as of June 2017, the following have been paid:

Sewing School, Cambodia	\$4,735	\$1,735 paid
LCC National Youth Gathering	5,000	Completed
Evangelist Deaconesses, Nicaragua	9,000	\$5,400 paid
Curriculum Needs, Feeding & Christian Education Program, Nicaragua	7,200	\$4,320 paid
Sister to Sister Seminar, Cambodia	8,532.50	
Evangelist Deaconesses, Cambodia	8,532.50	\$2,565 paid
Technology Upgrade, Concordia Lutheran Seminary, Edmonton	15,000	\$10,401.54 paid
Visiting and Site Pastor, Maritimes	15,000	Completed
Food, clothing and outreach, Community Cupboard, Kitchener, ON	15,000	\$10,000 paid
Canadian Teachers, Concordia Seminary, Odessa Ukraine	16,000	\$9,600 paid
Mission Opportunity Grant	26,000	
Mission Opportunity Grants submitted and paid to date:		
LCC Intercultural Ministry Conference, Etobicoke, ON		\$3,000
Women of Worth Conference, Pelican Narrows, SK		\$1,500
Reformation anniversary Outreach effort in Quebec		\$4,000
Total	\$130,000	
Total Paid to date		\$72, 521.54

In addition to the national mission grants, our four districts met in convention in 2016 and adopted over \$200,000 in mission grant projects. Details of those projects can be found on our district web sites.

The LWML–Canada 10th national convention will be held July 5-8, 2017, under the theme *One in Purpose, One in Spirit based on Philippians 2: 1-2*. This was the theme for our founding convention. It was a fitting theme in 1993 as we moved into uncharted territory as an autonomous Canadian organization. It

is a fitting theme in 2018 as we celebrate our 25th anniversary and consider significant structure changes.

God has blessed LWMLC for many years, as part of LWML in the US for 50 years and for 25 years as the women's auxiliary to Lutheran Church–Canada. We continue to trust in God's wisdom and guidance as we answer His call to serve for many years to come.
Respectfully submitted, Iris Barta, President

REPORT 22: CONCORDIA LUTHERAN MISSION SOCIETY

Our Vision: Empowered by God's own mission to save the world, the mission of Concordia Lutheran Mission Society is to enlist the prayers, gifts and energies of God's people in Lutheran Church–Canada to share the gospel of Jesus Christ wherever God provides opportunity.

*I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your **partnership in the gospel** from the first day until now. (Phil. 1:3-5)*

Partners in the Gospel

For twenty years, Concordia Lutheran Mission Society has had a symbiotic relationship with Lutheran Church–Canada. As an Auxiliary of LCC we exist to aid the Synod by funding programs that extend the ministry of the Synod. Though we are independent, we have no purpose apart from LCC and its mission program. If Synod did not establish missions we would have no LCC missions to support. We are truly in partnership with you.

As financial pressures have grown, CLMS has been working to better align our project selection process with the needs of the Synod. We will continue to shoulder some of the fundraising responsibility related to core mission activities, and we are grateful that these projects are in line with the interest of existing and potential donors.

We have strengthened our integration with the Synod in recent years by shifting the timing of our project selection and adjust our remittance schedule to line up with the quarterly remittances to the mission field by Synod.

Projects

The projects we present to you each year are provided to us by the Committee for Missions and Social Ministry Services through Rev. Dr. Leonardo Neitzel. The following projects were adopted for 2017:

Canada

1701 - South Asian Radio Ministry – \$5,000 (East District)

Cambodia

1702 – Gospel Outreach In Cambodia - \$12,000

Costa Rica

1703 - Cartago Missionary Support - \$25,000

1704 - Children's Christian Education in the communities of Cartago - \$6,500

1705 - Youth Outreach in Cartago- \$1,600

Nicaragua

1706 - Children's Christian Education Materials- \$9,600

1707 - Deaconess Support - \$8,000

1708 - Rancheria Earthquake Relief - \$10,000

1709 - Support for Pastor and Deaconess Morales in Sebaco– \$12,000

1710 - Assistance for Worship and Outreach facilities in Rivas – \$6,400

1711 - Nutrition for the children of Rancheria - \$2,000

1712 - Central America Church Worker Medical Fund - \$7,000

1713 - Music Program for Children and Youth - \$5,000

1714 - Computer Training for Deaconesses and Children - \$2,500

1715 - Motorcycle for Pastor Guillermo's Mission Outreach to Masaya - \$3,000

1716 - Microfinance Program for Church Workers in Central America- \$2,800

Thailand

1717 - Mission and Ministry to Kokkloi, Thailand - \$8,500

Detailed project descriptions can be found on our website at www.concordiamissions.org

Trends in Donations

The CLMS project budget for 2017 is \$141,800. Project receipts were \$176,426 in 2016 and \$120,290 in 2015.

Gifts received from regular donations have been flat to declining over the past decade. We are however beginning to see increases in one-time gifts (e.g. estate gifts) which will lead to increasing variability in year to year receipts.

While this anticipated spike in receipts is a blessing, the underlying cause points to the challenge of replenishing our ranks of donors, and we anticipate a slow decline in regular donations in the years ahead, even while our yearly receipts may grow for a time.

In response to these trends, in 2017 the board is reviewing our Large Gift Policy, to ensure that we are managing these generous one-time gifts in a way that allows for sustainability and predictability in project funding, while maintaining flexibility to nimbly deploy the gifts as the Lord provides opportunity. Beyond that, we are also seeing a trend towards online giving, which we anticipate will continue to grow as a percentage of total receipts.

LCC's Best Kept Secret

Of course, to find new donors, we need to ensure that LCC members are aware of the existence of Concordia Lutheran Mission Society, which after 20 years is still a challenge.

To aid in raising awareness, we have increased our efforts to communicate with existing and potential donors, through email and Facebook. We are also reaching out to congregations with materials (from bulletin board items and brochures to prayer collects) to raise awareness of CLMS and of LCC missions, and to support them in their own fundraising activities.

CLMS Board

The CLMS Board meets annually in person, with additional video conference sessions as needed. This triennium we have held our annual directors meeting in Guelph, ON (2015), Saskatoon, SK (2016) and Surrey, BC (2017). Our sincere thanks to the congregations and pastors who have hosted us, and to our speakers who have shared the news of our Synod's missions and have challenged and encouraged us to support them.

2017 Board of Directors

This year's Board members are Jon Oberholzer of Waterloo, ON (President); Rev. Cody Cooper of La Ronge, SK (Vice-President and Asst. Mission Education); June Barlund of Parkland County, AB (Secretary); Barbara Fooks of Kitchener, ON (Treasurer); Reg Zotzman of New Westminster, BC (Director of Development); Joyce Lobitz of Water Valley, AB (Asst. Director of Development); Lisa Jackson of Waterloo, ON (Director of Mission Education); Rev. Roland Syens of Kitchener, ON (Co-Director of Ministry & Projects); and Marilyn Witte of Edmonton, AB (Co-Director of Ministry & Projects). The Rev. Dr. Ralph Mayan serves as Advisor to the Board.

These Directors form a working board whom, with the some additional volunteer help carry out all the work of the Society. CLMS has no paid staff, and we work hard at keeping our operational costs to a minimum. We do so to ensure that when funds received are designated for a mission project no

deduction is made for operational expenses. The entire donated amount is sent to the specified project. Operational expenses are covered by donations specifically given for operations.

In addition to the challenges of finding new donors, it can also be a challenge to find directors and volunteers with the time and skills to aid CLMS in its work. We have done considerable work in the past several years to simplify and solidify our accounting and donor management functions to allow for a more seamless transition between incoming and outgoing

directors. As we modernize our processes we can direct our energies to new initiatives and move forward.

We are grateful for our partnership with LCC in bringing the Gospel of Jesus Christ to wherever God provides the opportunity, and we earnestly solicit your prayers for both the people who perform and receive the ministry that we fund together.

Respectfully submitted,
Jon Oberholzer, President

REPORT 23: Canadian Lutheran World Relief

Greetings in the name of Christ our Lord.

On behalf of the board, staff and volunteers of Canadian Lutheran World Relief, I wish to thank the leaders, congregations and members of the Lutheran Church–Canada Synod convention. We are thankful for your trust and confidence in CLWR. We value your partnership as we seek to fulfill Christ’s mission together.

CLWR has surpassed 70 years of service, on behalf of Lutherans across Canada. Our vision remains focused on challenging the causes and responding to the consequences of human suffering and poverty so that people may live in peace and dignity and are empowered to achieve their universal rights to basic needs and quality of life.

CLWR made an intentional decision to renew its emphasis on the needs of refugees and forcibly displaced persons. This builds on our experience as an agency with vast knowledge in sustainable development, humanitarian assistance and refugee sponsorship. CLWR understands the full cycle of the refugee experience and is committed to bring about actions that result in better protection, treatment and fulfilment of their human rights.

We are now witnessing the highest levels of displacement on record. An unprecedented 61.3 million people around the world—including refugees and stateless people—have been forced from home. CLWR is acting.

Forced displacement is a global problem that threatens the attainment of all anti-poverty goals. CLWR believes that assistance in protracted refugee situations should aim towards achieving resiliency. It is imperative that adequate resources are invested in linking relief and development work to ensure flexible, relevant assistance that leads to poverty eradication and empowers affected individuals to be agents of change and transformation.

Between 2015 and 2017, we’ve supported and collaborated with Lutheran World Federation (LWF) on three projects in Adjumani, Uganda, funded by CLWR constituents and Global Affairs Canada (GAC). The over \$3.5 million in funding is assisting more than 60,000 South Sudanese refugees and host community members with housing, latrines, non-food items and livelihoods training.

In December 2015, our four-year Improved Learning Environment for Children project in Jordan began with \$6.3 million in funding from GAC, CLWR and some support from Manitoba Council for International Coordination. We’ll be working with LWF Jordan, Jordanian Ministry of Education (MoE) and GAC to rehabilitate classrooms and washrooms in 75 schools in three governorates or provinces in Jordan. We’ll also assist the MoE to train 40 staff in hygiene, movement games and sport, which will support teachers in the 75 schools.

In Iraq, between 2015 and 2017, we’ve received over \$3.1 million in GAC funding to assist Iraqis fleeing ISIS by providing non-food items and psycho-social support, and upgrading the water and sanitation systems in towns hosting internally displaced persons.

In Ethiopia, our membership in Canadian Foodgrains Bank has allowed us to assist thousands of households in the areas of Lalibela and Afar by constructing and maintaining irrigation structures and introducing soil conservation methodologies to improve crop yields. Also with Foodgrains Bank funding we are about to begin a partnership with LWF in the Democratic Republic of Congo. This two-year project will provide malnourished children under five with food and medicine and training local medical staff.

CLWR is responding to increased interest in refugee sponsorship through its regional offices in Waterloo,

ON and New Westminster, BC. In fact, CLWR staff partnered with the staffs of Lutheran Church–Canada and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada to sponsor a family of four Syrians who live in Winnipeg.

The renewed emphasis on refugees and displaced persons has not diminished our traditional development programming. By working with partner organizations, lives are being changed in Nicaragua, Ethiopia, West Bank, East Jerusalem and elsewhere.

CLWR continues its collaboration with LCC and the Iglesia Luterana Sinodo de Nicaragua (ILSN) in support of the ILSN children's education program, as well as services through a health and dental clinic in Chinandega. Hundreds of elementary age children are receiving support in classes within the context of ILSN churches. The children's parents are also becoming engaged with the Church as they have a keen interest in the future of their children's education.

Global Encounter 2016 was a huge success. Members of this church were among the 41 people who visited CLWR programs in Uganda and Ethiopia. The 2018 Global Encounter will travel to Jordan and the Holy Land.

When tragedy strikes, whether it is an earthquake in Nepal, hurricane in Haiti, wildfires in Ft. McMurray or drought in Ethiopia, Canadian Lutherans stand

ready to respond through CLWR with urgency, compassion and generosity.

We celebrate the loving and caring hands that prepare quilts and blankets and fill We Care kits in churches and halls across Canada. Eight shipments valued at nearly \$1 million have been delivered in the past two years.

We are thankful for our LCC board members Rev. Ted Giese, Ms. Lois Griffin (Secretary), Ms. Emily Pritchard, Rev. Dr. Glenn Schaeffer and President Robert Bugbee who serves as advisor to our board. Their insight and gifts of discernment add great value to the board's decisions and governance.

As Christians, we act in love and compassion, reflecting God's love for us. God's word directs us in ways of caring and shows us the source of strength and wisdom for every service we do in God's name.

The board, staff and volunteers of CLWR thank you for your support. We covet your prayers. The need has never been greater.

God bless,

Robert Granke
Executive Director

REPORT 24: BC MISSION BOAT SOCIETY

Vision Statement: Connecting people in coastal British Columbian communities with God's love.

Mission Statement: We seek to do this by carrying out a mission of working together with people from across North America, of all ages, to make God's love in Christ known through serving, building relationships and personal growth.

Contact Information:

Website: www.bcmissionboat.org

Address: 795 Island Hwy W, Parksville, BC, V9P 1B9

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/BCMBBS/>

Phone Number: (250)248-5300

Email: info@bcmissionboat.org

Executive Director: Rhonda Kelman,
rhonda@bcmissionboat.org

BC Mission Boat Society Overview:

Here is a snapshot of the major changes in our organization over time and the direction we are going now:

1999: We were established as the BC Mission Boat Society (BCMBBS) and we travelled into communities by a boat during the summer.

2004: We started to do more year-round ministry by using land teams (travelling by car, ferry, water taxi and/or float planes), in addition to the ministry carried out by the boat in the summer.

2010: We decided to stop chartering a boat during the summer. It started to become 80% of our finances and only 20% of our ministry. By solely going in with land teams, we could respond to the requests of the communities to come more often and to stay in their community longer (with the boat we could only stay 2-4 days because of travel time).

2016: We looked at how we can create sustainability with our finances and with our ministry to these communities. We are looking at different models of funding such as appeals and support raising by staff.

We are also looking at how to use volunteers to give presentations and to become facilitators so we can take more teams and go into the communities more often, and to eventually go into other communities that are inviting us to come! During 2016, we had three staff trips and four volunteer teams join us to share God's love in the communities we serve. We have nine volunteer teams who are joining us during

2017 and at least fourteen (returning and new) volunteer teams planning to join us in 2018!

We see how we are providing ministry to the communities, our teams, and our donors and supporters.

Ministry to Communities:

There are four communities that we are currently serving. Kyuquot, Ehattesaht, Klemtu and Kingcome are four remote First Nations communities where there are no consistent pastors or Christian leadership. We seek to build relationships and encourage people in their faith, and continue to share God's love with those who don't know Him yet! There have been many deaths over this past year that have included suicides, old age, and many people dying from various cancers. During this time of grieving, there are a lot of people searching for peace, love, and comfort. We can share the hope, peace and love that only comes through knowing Christ as our Saviour. Since we have been in these four communities for 18 years, we are starting to see a second generation coming through our children and

youth programs! Children, who were in Kid's Club years ago, now are bringing their own children to Kid's Club! More men and women are asking for more adult ministry as well! As we have more teams that partner with us to share God's love in these communities, we are hoping to be able to go into more communities who are inviting us to come.

Ministry to Teams:

We realize that this is a big part of our ministry! People are partnering with us and coming to do cross cultural ministry in these communities and learning how to build relationships and share God's love with

those around them. Our hope is that not only to teams share God's love during their week with the BCMBS, but that they go back home and they feel equipped and inspired to continue to build relationships and share God's love in their own communities and congregations! We are changing our training into modules for teams to complete prior to coming to Parksville, along with a few modules to help with debriefing as they go back home. We have teams that have been returning each year to continue ministry in a community that has been connected to their church, and we are hoping to have more teams that partner with a mission community.

Ministry to Donors/ Supporters:

Our ministry would not be possible without our supporters and donors!! God has provided many biblical examples of missionaries being supported by churches and other brothers and sisters in Christ. We strive to build stronger relationships with our donors and supporters, and keep them engaged in the ministry that they have partnered with. We are doing more presentations to raise awareness about our organization in hopes to increase our donor and support base.

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I would like to thank you for all your support for our ministry. Over the fourteen years that I have been a part of this ministry, God has opened my heart to the need of sharing His love and making Christ known to His children along the coast of British Columbia!

There has been so much hurt and pain over the years and it is only by His grace that these First Nations communities are inviting us to come and teach their children and youth about God and Christ so that they can build their lives on that foundation! I invite you to join us in our ministry of sharing God's love along the B.C. Coast! If you have any questions or would like to know how to become involved, please feel free to contact me, by phone (250)248-5300, or by email rhonda@bcmmissionboat.org.

Respectfully submitted,



Rhonda Kelman

REPORT 25: Lutheran Association of Missionaries & Pilots

LAMP is...

The official title of our organization is referenced in the Letters Patent, registered with the Deputy Registrar General of Canada, signed and dated in Ottawa on July 9, 1976.

We are L.A.M.P. – LUTHERAN ASSOCIATION OF MISSIONARIES AND PILOTS INC. and L.A.M.P.–L'ASSOCIATION LUTHERIENNE DES MISSIONAIRES ET AVIATEURS INC.

LAMP Ministry Inc. was incorporated in Oshkosh, Wisconsin, USA and received 501(c) 3 from the IRS

in 2003. LAMP and the airplane logo are our registered trademarks in both Canada and the USA.

LAMP's Vision

We anticipate gathering together on the last day, when we will behold

“a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and in front of the Lamb.”
(Revelation 7:9)

LAMP's Mission Statement

LAMP is a cross-cultural ministry sharing Jesus Christ with God's people in remote areas of Canada.

Canadian Board of Directors:

Mr. Keith Bohlken – Condor AB

Mr. Scott Harper – Winnipeg MB

Rev. Harry Huff – Owen Sound ON

Rev. Gery Luck – Fullarton ON

Mrs. Judi Luckhardt – Stony Plain AB

Rev. Marv Ziprick – Sherwood Park AB

U.S. Board of Directors:

Mrs. Sue Folger – Lakeville MN

Mrs. Ellen Kehe – Florissant MO

Mrs. Dana Naumann – Portage MI

Dr. Cory Shea – Columbia MO

Mrs. Stacey Holt – Columbus NE

Mr. David Schneeberger – Fergus Falls MN

Note: Financial statements are available upon request. A pie chart of the breakdown of costs is included within the Annual Report.

Looking back...

In 2016, our ministry went fairly smoothly and as planned. Income and expenditures were on track.

The busy summer ministry season was a great success – all because of you, our donors, our volunteers, and God's continual blessings.

Initially, we were very concerned about our summer when the devastating fire went through Fort McMurray (northern Alberta) in May. Although one fire came close to Easterville, MB, we are very thankful that we didn't have to cancel any VBS' due to natural disaster. The following is a breakdown of where and how many volunteers served with LAMP:

Province Volunteers	Communities Served In 2016
British Columbia	7
61	

Saskatchewan	8
80	
Manitoba	20
173	
Ontario	9
67	
Total	44
381	

There were so many special moments where we saw the Lord using LAMP's volunteer missionaries to share the love of Jesus with the First Nations communities in the North.

The First Nations people welcome our visits because they are encouraged and blessed from the Bible studies, praying together and other outreach ministry provided by LAMP and its volunteers. God's people in these remote and northern communities urgently need reminders of the Father's love, wisdom, and the assurance of His promises to help them through difficult times. They always ask, “When are you coming back?” and are sad to see us leave.

Year-round ministry is becoming significant. Most teams have ongoing contact with people in the communities through social media. A number of mission teams and staff missionaries are also providing ministry in communities throughout the year. I expect their year-round ministry to grow.

An event of significance in the off season has been the Women of Worth (WOW) Conference. We are now seeking to make resources available for more communities to host women's ministry events facilitated by mission teams.

At the top of our agenda was the need to listen to people in the communities we serve, volunteers who serve in communities, and donors who provide financial support. I cordially invite you to contact me to discuss how we at LAMP can better serve you.

Ron Ludke

Executive Director / Missionary Pilot

A brief history...

L.A.M.P. Lutheran Association of Missionaries and Pilots Inc. is a cross-cultural ministry serving in remote communities in northern Canada. This ministry was born as a result of Rev. Les Stahlke recognizing that many Christians in the North were isolated and spiritually unsupported. In addition, there were others who desired to hear of Jesus but had no opportunity to do so. Many of the LAMP-served communities in northern Canada are accessible only by aircraft because there are no roads.

Pastor Stahlke began by visiting remote communities in his small, single-engine aircraft, and the ministry grew from there.

Volunteer missionaries recruited from churches in Canada and the United States teach Vacation Bible Schools in the summer and serve alongside locals in meaningful ways to reach children, youth, and adults. Social media and winter visits has helped our volunteers to foster year-round relationships with the First Nations people they have come to know as family!

Comments from donors...

"As I said during our conversation, all that I have is a loan from God, so it is He who sent you what you received. Thank you for praying for me. To LAMP's heart, from mine...thank you."

Donor from Ontario

"Thanks to all of you that work so diligently to share the love of Jesus with our brothers and sisters in the North."

Donors from Illinois

"I praise God for all that your staff do to share Jesus. You're a blessing to many – including me."

Donors from Washington

"God bless you for your work of going to northern Canada and spreading God's love and message to His people."

Donor from Alberta

"Many thanks for faithfully sending along the weekly prayer requests. I feel drawn into the LAMP family in a more meaningful way." Donor from Ontario

Feedback from communities...

"LAMP's program is looked forward to every year, not only for the children's VBS, but also the women's group which we can see by increased attendance. LAMP impacts the community by sharing God's Word and by establishing friendships and connections to the people here."

Grand Rapids Community, MB

Because of her past history, one mother did not easily trust people and would not allow her children to attend VBS without her. Over the years, she learned to trust the team as a positive and loving community for her kids and herself, and they now look forward to VBS every year. She told the team she is thankful for the message of God's love and forgiveness shared in all the different activities.

As told to Kispiox, BC team by mother of VBS child

"It's the only time in the year all the kids from both churches are together. Lots of teens have been talking about the Bible study you taught them. One of the kids was asked if they liked their new teachers this fall. They said yes, Georgina and Sue (Sue the assistant and Sue who teaches us about Jesus). They remember the team all year."

Red Sucker Lake Community, MB

Testimonies from volunteers...

"After going on mission trips year after year, it's easy for me to wonder if there is a purpose to our going and if we are making a difference at all. When our team arrived in Grandmother's Bay in July, there were no forest fires, water restrictions or power outages; only positive experiences the whole week long.

The community had been preparing for an elder/family gathering and everyone was looking forward to the festivities. Had we known this was happening, we probably would have planned to not come at this time.

At the event, the Chief thanked the 5 women who come from Edmonton every year with LAMP to bring the Word of God. What an incredible affirmation and honour received in front of the entire community!"

Anke, Volunteer Missionary

Grandmother's Bay, SK

"This year marks 5 years of ministry in the community of Wapekeka. The time spent with the children and youth was amazing as they realize we are committed to continuing to visit and share Jesus' love with them each summer. We are beginning to feel like family!"

Jeanne, Volunteer Missionary

Wapekeka, ON

"I loved being there for their Canada Day and the extended time! (See fall LAMPlighter to read more on that story).

I love walking through the community and just talking and listening...We share God's love with them as we walk the miles. It is what I picture Jesus did in His travels!"

Roxanne, Volunteer Missionary

Wollaston Lake, SK

The needs of God's people in the North are many...

- Suicide, drug and alcohol rates are high
- Poverty and social problems have taken a toll
- Very few churches are staffed
- Sunday school and regular church or Christian education programs are rare

- Communities lack infrastructure and resources

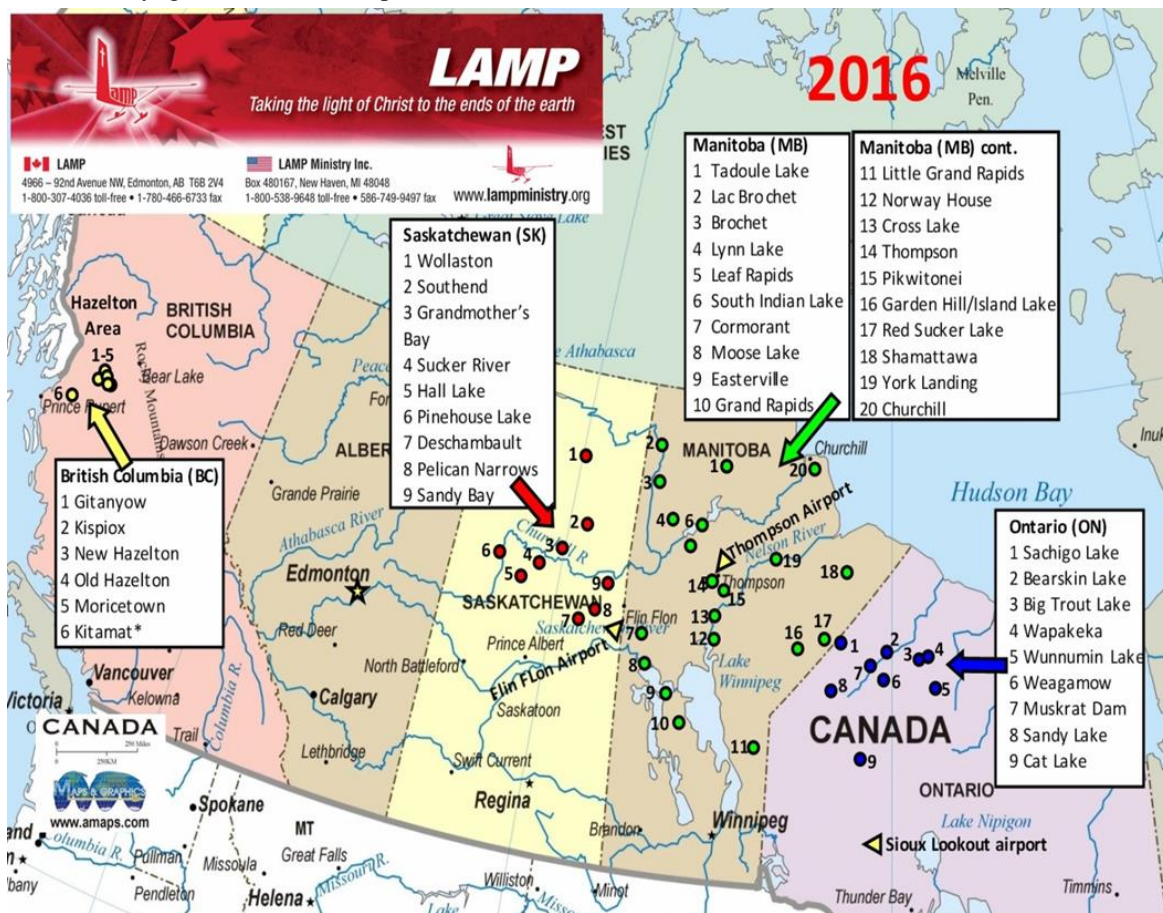
How Your Support Helps...

LAMP has no paid fundraisers. We carefully steward your investment to share Jesus Christ with God's people in remote communities in northern Canada. LAMP ministries' (Canada and USA) yearly expenses include:

- An estimated 50,000+ volunteer hours (in 2016) sacrificially given in order to provide love,

More staff and volunteer missionaries are urgently needed to meet the demand for the ministry of LAMP. We are so grateful that His people in the North are eager to hear the Gospel.

Below is our map of northern communities in Canada that had a Vacation Bible School program during the summer months. Please pray with us asking God to call people to serve with LAMP in the harvest field.



hope and the Gospel

- An estimated \$200,000 that nearly 400 volunteers pay directly (out-of-pocket)
- Over 5000 children, youth and adults are reached with the Gospel (LAMP is often the only Christian witness provided.)
- Lives are being changed as people embrace the Gospel and Christian values
- Year-round ministry is becoming significant through social media, winter visits, and other outreach

"You will honor God through this genuine act of service because of your commitment to spread the Good News of Christ and because of your generosity in sharing with them and everyone else. With deep affection they will pray for you because of the extreme kindness that God has shown you. I thank God for his gift that words cannot describe."

Corinthians 9:13-15

REPORT 26: Lutheran Bible Translators of Canada

LBTC 2017-18 Theme Verse: “Forever, O Lord, your word is firmly fixed in the heavens.” Psalm 119:89

Lutheran Bible Translators of Canada (LBTC) was founded in 1974 by a group of like-minded Lutherans committed to the translation of God’s Holy Word into all of the heart languages of the world’s now 7 billion inhabitants. Some 7,000 languages are known to exist at this time. As a result, the task is not a small one. As of October 2016 some 1,800 languages still need a project to begin, meaning that 160 million persons are waiting for the Word in their mother tongue. LBTC is proud to be a key contributor of the bible translation community, and Lutheran Church Canada.

Missionaries

The strength of LBTC is its missionaries.

Martin and Joan Weber: The Webers have been members of LBTC since 1980 when they were first deployed to Cameroon. In the ensuing years their work among the Kwanja and Dwayo peoples of central Cameroon has borne much fruit, including a translation of the New Testament and a three-year lectionary in Kwanja, and chapters of the bible in print and audio in Dwayo. The Webers have announced their retirement in 2020, and pray that God will bless their efforts to get as much Scripture as possible into Cameroonian hands. We pray for good health and energy for the Webers.

Rev Mike and Kara Kuhn, along with their children, Tobias, Gideon, and Gloria, have been expanding the scope of their activities among the Nizaa people of northern Cameroon of late. They have made some changes to their Nizaa translation team, and are overseeing the construction of a Literature Centre that will house their seconded translation team and a Scripture engagement and literacy training programme for all that require it. Rev Kuhn believes that this new centre will help put more of God’s saving Word into the hands of the Nizaa people, and others who hunger and thirst for His truth.

Long-time LBTCers Eshinee and Rob Veith have announced that they are leaving Botswana in the capable hands of other translators and returning to North America. Eshinee has accepted a position with LBT-USA in their International Service Centre

(Concordia, Missouri) as a consultant and facilitator. We thank God for the skills and dedication the Veiths

have brought to LBTC, and we pray that they will find joy and peace in their new placement and home.

Mackenzie Kure, volunteer missionary deployed to Galim, Cameroon, has completed her term of service and has returned home to Alberta. We thank God for her contributions to the Kuhn ministry and to the cause of bible translation in Cameroon. We are currently engaged in a search that will hopefully identify the next servant to assist the Kuhns in their work.

Ngaoundéré Bible House

In recent months, the Webers and Kuhns determined that the LBTC’s efforts could be augmented by the existence of a “Bible House”, a building located centrally and outfitted to house several project simultaneously. In this way translators could share resources, work collaboratively, and encourage one another in the faith and work. We have been blessed with some generous contributions toward this project, and we pray that more Christian brothers and sisters will be moved to partner with us for the cause of bible translation and literacy.

LBT/C Missionaries’ Retreat

In January 2018, LBT/C, the Kuhns and the Webers will be hosting translators from western Africa for a five-day spiritual retreat at a centre north of the capitol, Yaoundé. Rev Kuhn has invited members of King of Kings Lutheran Church in Dickson, AB, to act as facilitators, as well as ABC District President Rev Dr. Glenn Schaeffer, who will act as spiritual and devotional leader for the retreat. The Alberta team will also be involved in a servant event to assist in the development of a school and library in Galim that will benefit the local Church and the community at large.

2017 has been a busy year for LBTC. Our translation teams are flourishing, and the work is proceeding apace. The people of God in general and LCC in particular, are giving generously to fund our work. And more and more persons are recognizing the necessity of translating the Bible into the heart languages of all persons everywhere. Thanks be to God!

Rev Dr. Jim Keller, Executive Director, LBTC

REPORT 27: Lutheran Hospital Ministry of Northern Alberta

Remembering and Celebrating Anniversaries

In Psalm 105 David directs the faithful to “1...give thanks to the LORD; call upon his name; make known his deeds among the peoples! 2 Sing to him, sing praises to him; tell of all his wondrous works! 3 Glory in his holy name; let the hearts of those who seek the LORD rejoice! 4 Seek the LORD and his strength; seek his presence continually! 5 Remember the wondrous works that he has done, his miracles, and the judgments he uttered.”

With these words David tells believers to remember and celebrate the wondrous works that God has done. “Lest we forget.”

I encourage you to join other Lutherans this year as they remember and celebrate the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation and the wondrous works God did through Martin Luther and the other reformers.

I also invite you to join the LHMNA as we celebrate our 16th anniversary and remember the wondrous things God has done and is still doing among us and through us. We extend a special invitation for you to join us at our annual dinner followed by our AGM That on May 7, 2017, at Peace Lutheran Church in Spruce Grove, AB. The supper will begin at 5 p.m. Come and hear about the great things God has and is doing in our ministry. Please phone or email me to let me know that you are coming so that we can make sure that we have enough food to share with you.

We Remember and Celebrate 18 Board Members

Throughout the last 16 years God has blessed the LHMNA with 4 Pastors and 14 lay members who have served as members of the Board of Directors. An example is Mr. Doug Astley, one of the original three Directors. Doug was a member of the Constitution Committee and spent countless hours helping to draft the original constitution, filing the incorporation papers and making the application to Lutheran Church – Canada so that LHMNA could operate as a Listed Service Organization of LC-C. Doug made presentations promoting the LHMNA to local congregations and served as a founding board member until his failing eye sight forced him to retire. We celebrate the blessing of being served by such a humble and dedicated disciple of Jesus.

We Remember and Celebrate 22 Hospital Visitors

During the last 16 years our volunteer visitors have made 23,334 visits to Lutherans who are patients in

hospitals in the Edmonton area. We celebrate that as a huge miracle. Ray Erickson is an outstanding example. He was our first hospital visitor. Ray always marveled at how God could use him to touch the lives of hospital patients. For 10 years he visited patients in the Royal Alex, the Glenrose and in the Norwood Capital Care Center. He loved how Jesus worked through him so much that he often spent two days a week visiting. In the 10 years he visited for the LHMNA Ray made over 1,850 patient visits. What a joy to celebrate and remember how he loved and served his Lord on your behalf.

We Remember and Celebrate

In addition to training our hospital visitors, we have conducted six hospital visitation trainings for congregations whose members wanted to be better hospital visitors. Those six congregations now have 74 members who are better equipped to visit their fellow members when they wind up in the hospital.

The Lord has also used us to help equip seminary students for ministry. Five Seminary students so far have elected to take our Stephen Ministry Training while attending Concordia Lutheran Seminary in Edmonton. They recognized that doing this, they would be better equipped for making hospital visits in their ministries.

Some Ways You Can Share in This Ministry

Many of you have blessed us with your financial support for which we are eternally grateful. That support is essential for our ministry. So far in 2017 our receipts are considerably lower than in previous years. Please keep us in your prayers and help us with your financial gifts.

We now have three volunteers who are ready to take the visitation training. If you have been thinking about joining us as a hospital visitor, now is the time. You will be amazed at how the Lord can use you to touch the life of others. If the time is now right for you, then think of someone you know who is very loving and caring and would make a good hospital visitor. Call us and tell us who it is so that we can invite them to join us in this rewarding ministry.

We also need new board members who will care for and support our hospital visitors. Our board members have really grown close to each other and are a loving caring group. You will enjoy working with us. Finally we are looking for congregational champions who will make sure that members get our newsletters

and who will be our spokesperson in their congregation. If that sounds like you then give me a call.

So celebrate and rejoice with us as we remember the blessings we have received and the blessings God has made us to others these last 16 years.

Rev. Dr. Harold H. Witte, Chairman
Rev. Ken Rodeman, Chaplain

REPORT 28: LUTHERANS FOR LIFE-CANADA

Greetings in the name of our Lord and Saviour, who experienced life from the womb to the tomb, testifying to its sanctity by His incarnation, death and burial! Lutherans For Life – Canada (LFLC) gives thanks to God that we continue to serve as a Listed Service Organization of Lutheran Church Canada. Using the objects of LFLC as decided upon when we organized in 2004, here is what we have done in the past triennium

To provide an organization through which Lutheran Christians can unite to share dialogue and give common witness within the Church and society to their concern for the value and dignity of all human life;

Much of this has taken place through our Facebook group, moderated by Judith Obelnycki and through our website, lutheransforlife-canada.ca. Although we were founded with the hope of being a pan-Lutheran organization for Canada, Lutheran Church Canada is the only the Lutheran church body that has welcomed us. Individuals from the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada and some of their congregations have supported us, but its leadership to this point has rebuffed any of the attempts to make connections with them.

To strengthen the existing bond of concern by bringing Lutherans of like mind into contact with one another;

This has primarily taken place at our Annual General Meeting (AGM), where most of our time is spent receiving a presentation on a particular life topic followed by questions and discussions. Over this past triennium, we have had presentations from Rev. Dr. Glenn Schaeffer on the Past and Future of Lutherans For Life Canada (2014); Rev. Larry Gajdos on Life Values for the Lutheran Family (2015) and Mr. Alex Schadenberg on Physician Assisted Suicide (2016). By God's grace, Rev. Perry Hart and his wife Tara will give a presentation of the Gift of a Child with Down's syndrome this fall on November 4. More details will be available by the time of the synodical convention. Thus far, all our AGMs have taken place in Ontario. We have considered having them out west, but thus far have not succeeded in doing so. We have been thankful

for, and financial supported, the Love Life Conferences in Edmonton every year.

To gather and share pertinent information with its membership and develop strategies for witness and response;

In addition to our electronic means of communication, we publish a newsletter three times a year that is sent to our membership often specifically addressing life issues within Canada, as well as providing information from around the world.

To develop and distribute educational materials based on the Word of God;

We are very thankful for our mother organization, Lutherans For Life in the United States for all the support they have provided in the past for us and continue to do so. Although we hope to provide more resources of our own creation, they provide most of our resources, which are of exceptional quality. You can discover these resources at lutheransforlife.org.

To identify resource people who can write and speak on behalf of the organization;

This is an area in which we still have much to accomplish.

To monitor public and private action in order to enhance the right to life;

Several members on our Board of Directors regularly monitor various sources of Life News and other media and seek to share this news, particularly through our Facebook group.

To respond to and cooperate with other groups in society which share similar concerns;

Primarily this has taken place as members of our organization and especially members of our Board have taken part in the National March For Life, which takes place in Ottawa every year on the Thursday before Mother's Day.

To examine and correct popular but misleading stereotypes regarding pro-life advocacy;

We find our greatest opportunity for this is as we provide display tables at different gatherings, such as LWMLC conventions or retreats; Synodical and District conventions; youth gatherings; etc. The members of our Board of Directors (all volunteer), as

time allows them, have also spoken at congregations and to groups within congregations.

To operate exclusively for Charitable and educational purposes. It will not participate in political campaign for or against any candidate for public office or devote a substantial part of its activities to influence legislation.

There are many other groups that do an excellent job on informing the public with regard to legislation and candidates at election time. Such groups can readily be found with the help of an internet search engine. We do have auxiliary membership with the National Life Coalition which provides opportunities for us to connect with other pro-life organizations.

Our current Board of Directors consists of: Rev. Richard Juritsch (President), Judith Obelnycki

(Secretary), Alan Schmitt (Treasurer), Linda Welke (Life Ministry Coordinator) and Members at large – Cliff Pyle, Adrian Rhodes, Rev. Greg Palmer and Rev David Mellecke. Our Pastoral Advisor is Rev. Basil Christi.

We give thanks to God for Marian Obeda, who recently retired from our Board; for Judy Balasch who stepped from our Board and had been our newsletter editor; for Mr. Cliff Pyle who recently retired from serving as our President but continues to serve on our Board; and for Rev. James Luke who until recently served as our Pastoral Advisor.

God's richest blessings to Lutheran Church Canada as it gathers in convention.

Respectfully submitted, Rev. Richard Juritsch

REPORT 29: Malabar Mission Society

Malabar Mission Society, formed in 1988, has provided financial support for 28 years to the Gospel Workers for their outreach ministry among the people along the Malabar Coast in Kerala State, India. The Gospel Workers, pastors and evangelists, are part of the India Evangelical Lutheran Church (IELC). The Gospel Workers, along with the churches and mission stations, form the Malabar Mission Circle. In 2011 Dr. Miller wrote, *Two Decades of Service, The Story of the Malabar Mission Society*, a 94 page history of the Malabar Mission Society. "Your Entry to a World of Service," a 32 page booklet, was published to illustrate the work and activity in Malabar and beyond. Both publications are available for distribution. The Malabar Mission Society Newsletter, published 2-3 times a year, highlights the recent activities in Malabar and beyond.

The Malabar Mission Society assists the Gospel Workers in sharing the Good News of Jesus in their communities. The Gospel Workers and Evangelists reach out to the Hindu and Muslim people through the congregations and mission stations, Vacation Bible Schools, Saar Bible Correspondence School, Reading Rooms, and the Christian Welfare Centre and Hospital in Malappuram. Since the IELC has limited funding the Malabar Mission Society provides a small salary subsidy for the Gospel Workers and assists them with outreach activities in their villages. In recent years some funding was provided to repair some church facilities. Recently the Gospel Workers of the Malabar Mission Circle formed the Malabar Gospel Mission Society to "undertake evangelistic work in the Malabar area". Annually a Family Convention is held, as well as

Leadership Seminars for Sunday School Teachers and Evangelism. These seminars equip the Gospel Workers and lay people to share the Gospel in their community.

The opportunities to share the love of Jesus are great! The Open Door (for men), a student library and reading room in Kannur, was established in 2001. Since 2004 the Vanitha (women) Friendship Centre, including a Chapel, Reading Room, residence for staff, Conference Room, literature storage and kitchen, was established in Kannur. Recently the Saar Bible Correspondence School with online and print courses was located at Vanitha. Daily the Friendship Centre provides an opportunity for many college students to visit this centre and learn about Jesus. Staff assist the students to find materials and share their love of Jesus. In 2016 Rev. Titus initiated a mission station in Kannur. An ESL (English as a Spoken Language with accent reduction) was conducted in 2007, 2009, and 2012 at Kannur and in October 2015 at the Otten English School, Wandoor. In April, 2016 there were 19 Vacation Bible Schools held with 890 students (518 Hindus, 72 Muslims and 300 Christians). These children heard the Gospel and experienced God's love.

Anantapur, in Andhra Pradesh State, has seen tremendous growth with many Muslims and Hindus baptized. There were 20 adults baptized at Christmas 2016. The 5 Leaders, 34 Gospel Workers and others regularly visit several hundred villages showing the "Jesus" film and preaching in public meetings, as well as freely distributing many Gospel portions,

tracts and booklets. Support is needed for this powerful work of the Holy Spirit.

The Rev. Dr. Roland Miller, missionary from 1953 to 1976 in Malappuram, Kerala, India, served as Project Officer 1988-2008. Rev. Carlton Riemer, former missionary in India, from Stillwater, Oklahoma served 2008-2016. Currently Lorna Pederson serves as our Project Officer. She communicates regularly with Rev. I. Titus, current

India Agent, who supervises the work and distribution of funds. Annual visits are made to the Gospel Workers and churches of the Malabar Mission Circle. We give thanks for the faithful prayer support and financial support for this outreach ministry in India.

Rev. Howard Ulmer, President
malabarmission@sasktel.net

REPORT 30: BETHANY PIONEER VILLAGE INC.

The mission of Bethany Pioneer Village is to glorify God by providing a welcoming Christian environment and a caring staff to nurture those in need of physical and personal support.

A year ago at this time, Bethany's Board and staff were busy planning celebrations for its 60th Anniversary. Sixty years earlier with the purchase of 124 acres along the shoreline of Lucien Lake and down the road from the village of Middle Lake, the first of many steps in a journey of faith and courage had begun. Pastor Karl Krahenbil, inspired by concern for the many seniors that he encountered living in difficult situations, began visiting Lutheran congregations throughout Manitoba and Saskatchewan seeking funding for the construction of housing suites with the uncommon luxuries of central heating, electricity and running water. Today Bethany is a thriving community for the elderly, offering a continuum of care from Independent Living to Assisted Living and Long Term Care.

At our annual Bethany Day celebration on August 14, 2016 we unveiled Bethany's book, "A History of Caring". Putting the book together meant examining Bethany's past in detail and that process has brought renewed insight and motivation to our Board. Sixty years ago Bethany's Board of Directors were all Pastors from congregations throughout Manitoba and Saskatchewan who met monthly and dealt with all aspects of Bethany's day-to-day operations.

Today, Bethany is a registered charitable non-profit corporation with four separate divisions under its structural umbrella governed by an eleven-member Board of Directors using Les Stahlke's Governance Matters as its governing model.

On October 15, 2016 Bethany officially celebrated its Anniversary with a banquet and program that paid tribute to Karl Krahenbil and those who have given outstanding service to Bethany. Over 2000 names were compiled in a booklet that reflected past and present residents, staff, pastors and board members. Over the years residents have come to Bethany from

115 different communities. Since its incorporation in 1956 Bethany has paid out over \$50,000,000. in salaries and benefits to its staff who live in Middle Lake area and surrounding communities.

One of Pastor Krahenbil's famous sayings when times were tough was, "Have faith, the Lord will provide." Yes indeed, He has provided!

As a governing body, the main focus of Bethany's current board is on strategic planning. The future of Bethany is our motivation. That means balancing present and future needs from the viewpoint of residents and staff with present and future needs of aging facilities, along with satisfying government regulatory requirements and remaining fiscally responsible.

Bethany's three Vision Statements are to:

a) Improve and expand our facilities
During this fiscal year Bethany has reconfigured some rooms in Birch Manor, our Assisted Living facility, by connecting two single rooms to create two 2-room suites with a bedroom and a sitting room. This has proven to be a popular choice for new residents. A year ago we had empty rooms at Birch Manor. We are now full with a waiting list.

We are about to begin a 2-phase building project which will add 2,462 sq ft to Birch Manor. Phase 1 will involve restructuring and expanding the entranceway to Birch and renovating the Doctor's office to create more space for necessary equipment. Phase 2 will add the extra square footage and will include a large community room, a kitchen, 5 individual wheel-chair accessible bathrooms, storage and office space.

Along with these larger projects, there are always on-going renovations and upgrades being completed at our various facilities.

b) Offer new and innovative programs and services

There are two main reasons for our Phase 1 and 2 construction projects.

- Bethany's current health care services provide weekly doctor visits, lab work and prescription delivery to our residents and community members. As soon as Phase 1 is completed we will also provide dental and foot care services.

- The current programs and activities that we offer Bethany residents at Birch Manor (Assisted Living) and to our Independent Living residents are limited because of space issues. Phase 2 will give us the necessary space to offer more creative variations in programs and activities.

c) Create a working relationship with additional community partners in meeting the needs of the people in our area.

Beginning in January, 2017, Bethany has played a leadership role in partnering with other communities and organizations within the R.M. of Three Lakes to create a

Three Lakes Economic Development Region whose mission is to develop co-operative relationships within and among area community organizations and business owners through networking and mutual support. The process of putting this organization together has already helped to establish stronger relationships,

better communication, and resource sharing among community members.

Bethany's Foundation plays a key role in our ability to keep our existing facilities in good working order and, at the same time, consider new building projects. Over the last five years our Foundation Fundraising Committee has raised \$250,000. towards the construction of a Community Room. Through

creative and innovative events our Foundation has received support from local community members and surrounding areas. We are grateful for the wisdom and expertise that David Friesen, from the Lutheran Foundation, has provided to our Finance and Foundation Committees during two recent visits as we gear up for a major campaign to help fund our Phase 1 and 2 construction projects.

As an Affiliate member of the Saskatoon Health Region, we, along with all Canadian Long Term Care Homes were faced with the challenges presented by the court precedents and changes to the criminal code in regards to Doctor assisted suicide. In the fall of 2016 Bethany's Board began to develop a Medical Assistance in Dying Policy in conjunction with Lutheran Church Canada. The policy was reviewed by our legal counsel and approved by the Board. We then notified Saskatoon Health Region that our policy was in place and that we were requesting that Bethany Pioneer Village be added to their list of Affiliate Faith-Based Institutions that do not permit Medical Assistance in Dying within their premises.

Over its sixty-one year history Bethany has gained a reputation as a fiercely determined independent organization. That determination began with Pastor Krahenbil and has endured over the decades. So also has his love and compassion for the elderly and those needing special care.

"Not to us, O Lord, not to us, but to your name give glory because of your mercy and faithfulness." - Psalm 115:1

Sharon Carter
Board Chair
Bethany Pioneer Village

REPORT 31: Lutheran Community Care Centre

The Lutheran Community Care Centre is a social ministry organization of the Lutheran congregations in the Thunder Bay area. We provide social, developmental and spiritual services to people in the northern region of Ontario.

The provincial government has contracted with the Care Centre since 1982 to provide services to adults with a developmental disability. Our case management program supports 225 individuals in the Thunder Bay area and along the north shore of Lake Superior. We are also designated as Developmental Services Ontario for a catchment area that spans from the Manitoba/Ontario border to Sudbury and from the French River to Hudson's Bay. The DSO confirms

eligibility for provincially-funded supports and completes an assessment and application for each individual. Last year 420 assessments were completed.

For this same large area of northern Ontario, we administer a direct funding program called Passports. Passports has grown rapidly in the past three years with 1,508 individuals now receiving \$18,668,570 in funding. We also help youth that are in the care of children's aid societies and have a developmental disability transition to adult life. We are involved with 196 youth between the ages of 14 and 21. These programs are 100% funded by the province. Through

the governance of these programs the Lutheran community is actively enhancing the lives of thousands of individuals and their families.

The two spiritual care services we provide are Pastoral Care to Lutherans in the long term care facilities of Thunder Bay and a street chaplaincy known as Street Reach Ministries.

Our Pastoral Care Worker visits people in seven nursing or retirement homes and occasional hospital and community visits. The latest annual statistics are:

Hospital visits	85
Long term Care visits	942
Community visits	<u>99</u>
	1,126

The Pastoral Care Program coordinates 12 monthly worship services in the facilities. Local Lutheran clergy lead the services and volunteers help with the music and bringing the residents (many in wheel

chairs) to the services. Most of the volunteers are from the Lutheran congregations.

Our Street Reach Ministries in Thunder Bay is directed to those who are on the fringe of society, usually alienated from traditional religious resources, and often dealing with poverty, addiction, mental illness or traumatic events in their lives. Our resource centre on Simpson Street has become their place of refuge, fellowship, acceptance and comfort in the knowledge of God's love for them. Our Street

Chaplain, Rev. Neil Otke, is there for encouragement and prayer and follows people as they spend time in prison, hospital or treatment clinics.

Approximately 140 people come in each month with about 40 of them regular participants. The majority are Indigenous people, many transplanted in Thunder Bay from remote northern communities. Volunteers from the Lutheran congregations work side by side with the street-involved people as donations of clothing come in or new people want to use the laundry facilities or connect with family over the internet through the public access computers.

The local congregations, individual donors, local businesses and Lutheran Church-Canada, Central District are faithful supporters of our Pastoral Care Program and Street Reach Ministries.

Operating since the Lutheran Community Care Centre started in 1979, the Social Services Program works with socially isolated individuals, individuals at risk of homelessness and residents of Luther Court - a supportive housing apartment building. The ages range from young adults to senior citizens. Many do not have natural supports close by to help them with budgeting, accessing the health care system, meeting their obligations as tenants, or arranging support services to prevent premature admission into long term care facilities. In the past year 124 individuals were supported.

Michael Maunula, Executive Director

www.lccctbay.org

REPORT 32: Haiti Lutheran Mission Society

NO REPORT

REPORT 33: Wagner Hills Farm Society

Wagner Hills Farm Society is a Christian recovery center for men and women, based within two fully-functioning farm facilities located in Langley, BC. With accommodations for more than 50 men at the north Langley location, and up to 16 women at the south Langley women's campus, the driving purpose of Wagner Hills is to promote and assist the rehabilitation of people with social, behavioral, and spiritual needs, utilizing a comprehensive one-year, faith-based recovery program.

Wagner Hills was birthed almost 40 years ago when two Lutheran men, Helmut Boehm and Wes Wagner,

responded to God's call on their hearts to reach out to the lost, broken male souls of Vancouver's downtown Eastside. At the start, the "program" was nothing more than Helmut and Wes sharing God's love on the streets in their spare time, and bringing any willing participants for day trips and weekend overnights to Wes Wagner's Langley Farm property for respite from the hardships of addiction and street living. This grew into full-time residence for many of the men, starting with tents and quickly growing into dedicated accommodations, as over time several residences were built on-site.

Over the years, volunteers and staff were added and the recovery program grew, facilitated in 1993 by the building of the New Life Center on the farm site, containing the main kitchen, a dining area, and chapel. By 1999, structure was given to the 'functioning farm' vision of Wagner Hills by striking a partnership with a prosperous, local greenhouse business, resulting in several large greenhouses being built at the site, which still operate as a plant seedling nursery today.

In 2004, wanting to guarantee the long-time existence of all that God had accomplished, Wes Wagner decided to donate the farmland to the ABC District Foundation, also entering into a lease agreement, that guaranteed the now formally established *Wagner Hills Farm Society*, could remain on site. In 2008, Helmut and Wes again responded to God's call, by planning for a women's centre. Soon after this decision was made, a heritage property in south Langley was located, and God miraculously provided the funding to build "Stevenson House", a large multi-function building, dedicated to serving women in need of recovery. Upon the closure of all District Foundations, in 2010 the original farmland and lease were transferred to Lutheran Foundation Canada, who then also agreed to a 50-year renewable lease, guaranteeing the longevity of the program.

Around 2012, management and leadership of the program transitioned from Helmut to Pastor Jason Roberts, an alumnus and success-story of the program from 20 years earlier. The rich Lutheran history of the program continues, with active participation from Lutheran lay people and pastors, serving as volunteers at events, and on the Society's Board of Directors, which requires 50% of the Board membership to be Lutheran.

Today, Wagner Hills Farm is a thriving life-centre for addiction-recovery and rehabilitation for Western Canada, with new affiliations to other recovery programs in BC and Alberta, and with many of the past and current residents being referred from other provinces.

The farm program has continued to grow and expand beyond just the plant nursery, as now blueberry crops, Christmas trees, bee hives, hay production, cattle, chicken, pigs, goats and farm-fresh produce are all being cultivated and managed. Although this work provides a source of income to fund the program, it also provides daily structure for the residents of the program, as they learn to be responsible, and work together for healing and growth. What an eye-opening and hard-working experience for so many who have grown up in an urban, inner-city lifestyle!

At the women's campus, plans are being explored to work with BC Housing and various levels of government to construct new housing to increase capacity, with new and much-needed accommodations. The existing farm infrastructure of the greenhouse plant nursery, cattle herd, hay fields and gardens have been augmented with the addition of "The Market", an amazing one-stop retail workshop where arts and crafts, farm-fresh produce, thrift-store shopping, furniture re-finishing and a petting zoo farm experience are fused into a weekend destination for the family! An on-site custom woodshop/cabinetmaker at the women's campus adds to the utilization of the existing facilities and hands-on experience of the residents of both campuses.

Of most importance to the residents who have attended Wagner Hills for the purpose of recovery, is the life-changing spiritual growth they obtain as they commit to the one-year immersion program. Through prayer, worship, teaching, counselling and mentorship, the residents have the opportunity to allow God to completely restore their lives, their families and their futures. The number of miraculous, inspirational testimonies is a testament to the healing power of the Holy Spirit!

Although the men's and women's program differ according to requirements, along with the daily chores of a working farm, the residents attend daily bible classes, life-skills education, frequent counselling sessions with registered therapists, and weekly worship services at both campus' (Friday morning at men's, Tuesday morning at women's). Not only do residents obtain spiritual guidance and teaching, along with practical skills in working on the many different work programs incorporated into Wagner Hills, but in some cases, a furtherance of education is provided, and several residents have received grants/tuition for additional studies, including Kwantlen courses in horticulture and bee-keeping.

A great testament to the life-changing process of the Wagner Hills Farm program is the alumni involvement, with many current and former staff, volunteers and donors being prior residents themselves. Not only has the program changed the lives of those alumni, but Wagner Hills enjoys huge volunteer and financial support from the friends and families of those alumni.

Through fund-raising efforts like the annual golf tournament, and other fundraising projects by generous community partners, God continues to provide for Wagner Hills operations, which included a complete \$1.5 million renovation of the New Life

Center completed in 2016. Amazingly, through God's provision, the generosity of donors, and the tireless work of community and construction volunteers, this overhaul was recently accomplished and completely paid off with an out-of-pocket cost of only \$900,000! As God continues to use Wagner Hills to change lives, restore families and promote the Christian faith to those seeking restoration, the future is exciting but also a little overwhelming. In this new age of drugs, death and destruction, with an unprecedented number of victims succumbing to horrific new drugs, Wagner Hills continues to stand alongside those organizations in our society who hold Christ up as the answer for this generation. The opportunities are endless, with the potential for growth, new structures and infrastructure, and new relationships both nationally and internationally.

Wagner Hills Farm Society appreciates our strong relationship with Lutheran Church - Canada, and covets all prayers and support as God leads the organization in continuing to provide a place where men and women can find restoration and a life of promise. We truly believe that a loving, supportive environment, in conjunction with the commitment and engagement of the residents, fosters a growth in both individual maturity and a sense of community that truly makes Wagner Hills an exceptional place. For further information, please join us in person during a weekly chapel service at either campus, contact us at the office and/or find us online at **wagnerhills.com**.

With gratitude,
Chairman, for the Board - Kris Sledding

REPORT 34: Philoxenia/Hospitality Ministry

A Bold New Project for Philoxenia / Hospitality Ministry

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

On behalf of the board of directors of Philoxenia/Hospitality Ministry, a listed service organization of Lutheran Church-Canada (LC-C), I bring you greetings and news of an exciting new project we are in the midst of planning.

Philoxenia is a Greek word from the New Testament which means "friendship to strangers" something which is at the heart of the ministry. From her inception in the late 1970s, when Rev. Dr. Ernest Hahn and his wife Greta returned to Canada after 25 years as missionaries to India on behalf of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod (LCMS), our ministry has sought to help LC-C Lutherans witness Christ to their Canadian neighbours who follow other world religions.

The ministry's primary goal is to help LC-C members and congregations understand other world religions, especially Islam, and encourage and equip them to share Christ with their friends, neighbours and co-workers who adhere to these religions.

Admittedly, over the past ten years the ministry has not been very visible or active in the synod. Lord willing, that is about to change. Even as you read this the ministry is in the process of great change. Because the ministry's current name includes a Greek word which most LC-C members do not understand the board of directors is going to choose a new name for the ministry. After the board has chosen a new

name for the ministry we will launch a website for the first time where you will be able to see the results of our work.

This brings me to the exciting part of this report: our new initiative. By God's grace this new initiative is going to be big, bold, and a blessing for the persecuted church-at-large and our congregations in Canada. In short, our new initiative is this: our newly renamed ministry is going to invite LC-C and LCMS congregations in Canada to partner with us for the sake of sponsoring persecuted Christian refugees to Canada. The ministry will offer partnering congregations 90% of the minimum funding required by Immigration Canada for the sponsorship.

Money is often a big obstacle for congregations seeking to make refugee sponsorships and the ministry by God's grace will seek to raise that money and provide it to partnering congregations. How will the ministry obtain this money? We will pray to the Lord and ask all individuals in the LC-C and LCMS to give generously to the ministry for the purpose of sponsoring Christian refugees. As the ministry is a charitable organization under Revenue Canada we can issue a charitable tax receipt to all Canadian donors. Our American donors won't get a tax receipt but they will get the satisfaction of helping refugees, something which many Americans are frustrated about right now.

Who chooses the refugees? The ministry will choose the refugees and assign them to each participating congregation along with the funding, taking into account the size of family the congregation would like to sponsor. The ministry has already received

the names of many persecuted Christian families and individuals given to us by trusted sources.

What else can the ministry do for your congregation other than provide your congregation with financial help for refugee sponsorship? The ministry stands willing to provide information and advice that will help your congregation have a successful refugee sponsorship experience.

As a parish pastor I always say to congregations considering a refugee sponsorship, we don't "own" the Christian refugee family when they arrive. They may or may not choose to worship at your congregation. What you can do is help them out of their suffering and persecution and bring them to this peaceful and prosperous land of Canada. You can listen to their story when they arrive and help them to settle in their new homeland. That is the most important thing you can do for them. If they decide to join your congregation then that would be a beautiful bonus, and even if they do not, the experience of serving and helping persecuted Christian refugees will bless your congregation in many ways. As the Lord said, "It is more blessed to give than to receive." (Acts 20:35)

Once Philoxenia/Hospitality Ministry renames herself and the website is up and running in early 2018 you will be able to give to the ministry through electronic means (credit cards, debit, etc.). The ministry will announce the website's address in the Canadian Lutheran as soon as it is up and running. If this refugee sponsorship project excites you please give generously. For the time being we accept donations by cheque (please make your cheque out to Hospitality Ministry and mail them to: Hospitality Ministry, P.O. Box 516, Waterloo STN Waterloo, Waterloo ON N2J4A9). As a listed-service organization of the synod and a charitable organization we are completely dependent on the donations from individuals like you to fund our work.

Thank you for taking the time to read this report. May God richly bless Lutheran Church-Canada in this convention and may the Lord Jesus bless you and your congregation as you continue to share the good news of Christ our Lord and Saviour.

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. Rob Korsch, S.T.M. President
Philoxenia/Hospitality Ministry,
A Listed Service Organization of LC-C

REPORT 35: The Crew Ministries

It's been a quiet triennium for CREW Ministries. With resources being extremely limited, our visible work has likewise been limited. In terms of ongoing work, CREW Ministries continues to be the administrative arm for The CREW, which continues to tour occasionally in both Canada and the US. (You can find out more about what The CREW guys are up to at www.thecrewguys.com.)

CREW Ministries continues to have a heart for work particularly in the areas of children, youth, and young adults, and in music. We re-released one of our popular children's albums, "The Big Little Album", which was offered both for individuals and in bulk

orders for congregational ministries such as Vacation Bible Schools and Christian day schools. We are developing a project that seeks to connect church musicians with one another for mutual support, encouragement, and resourcing.

You can keep up-to-date with the goings-on at our web site, www.crewministries.com. May God continue to guide LCC and all of its partners in ministry in the upcoming years by His unchanging Word and His unfailing love shown to us in Christ Jesus.

Rev. Michael Schutz

REPORT 36: The Rock Lutheran Inner City Society

LOOKING BACK TWENTY YEARS

The Rock Lutheran Inner City Society was incorporated May 16, 1996. The first President was Monica Gregory and the Executive Director was Rev. Neil Otke. The first weekly community breakfast was held in September 1996 with three guests and twelve volunteers. And, the first Monday Night Kids program was held in November 1996. Although the impetus for the society originated from St Peter's

Lutheran Church, early on and over the years many others have been involved from other churches.

Today the mix of 35 volunteers at the three weekly breakfasts includes many Lutheran volunteers, some from other churches and occasionally some who attend no church. In 2015 the average number of guests increased by 15 % and in 2016 the average increased again by 18%. Monday

Night Kids starts with a hot meal, followed by a variety of activities and ends with a Bible lesson. Since 2011 Bethel Lutheran Church Bethel Lutheran Church has run Monday Night Kids and also presented Vacation Bible School in the inner city in August for several years.

VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION

The Rock's annual volunteer appreciation barbeque was held this past September 24th at which we also celebrated our 20th Anniversary. Volunteers are the backbone of our Community Breakfasts, Monday Night Kids, and other programs. Over the past 20 years we could not have done what we did without the faithful service of scores of volunteers. Thank You!

Oldest Volunteer - Phil Godbout

Earliest Serving Volunteers - Pauline Colquhoun and Esther Eiler

Past President - Gordon Schmaus

Longest Serving - Esther Eiler

LOOKING AHEAD

Looking ahead we plan to continue the Community Breakfasts and Monday Night Kids and add several new programs and ministries. In July 2016 The Rock sponsored a van trip to the Canadian Badlands Passion Play with the outcome of several of the men becoming involved in helping us with our other ministries. In

September The Rock held its first community celebration event, a Corn Roast. Over 200 men, women and children attended. We plan to expand these two successful programs in 2017. Two other initiatives that were started in 2016: a weekly Bible Study and a Friday Evening Drop-in, have evolved into a small men's group and initiatives that encourage the men to give back to the community and others in need. And, we also are encouraging young people to become engaged in inner city ministry as well as open our outreach ministries to other churches in Edmonton and area.

THE ROCK OUTREACH COMMUNITY BREAKFASTS

The Rock has been serving breakfasts to the poor and homeless in Edmonton's inner city since 1996. We have grown from 3 volunteers and 12 guests who come to The Rock one morning a week for toast and coffee to where we are open three mornings a week and serving tens of thousands of breakfasts a year:

Breakfasts served 201431,939

Breakfasts served 201536,730

Breakfasts served 201643,303

On the street we are known as the "Breakfast Club". Now each day we are open, on average 9 to 12 breakfast volunteers serve pancakes, porridge, toast, juice and coffee for mostly over 300 guests.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Currently we are holding two Community Events, a September Corn Roast and a Christmas Breakfast. The Christmas Breakfasts have been held for many years with over 500 being served in recent years. In 2016 we held a Corn roast in September which was also well received by the community. We plan to develop more of these events for families and others living in the surrounding neighborhoods.

MONDAY NIGHT KIDS

For the youth of the inner city a children's program, called Monday Night Kids is held once a week from September to May. Each session starts off with a hearty meal for both the kids and adults and is followed with fun and faith components. Parents or grandparents bring their children, up to age twelve, to the planned activities.

SMALL GROUPS

The great majority of people coming to the breakfasts are men. Last year, in July we arranged a van to take six men to the Canadian Badlands Passion Play in Drumheller. Subsequently, several of the men wanted to meet and the result is that a Rock Men's Group was formed. They recently started meeting two Saturday mornings each month to explore faith issues. In addition to the Passion Play we are always looking for paid activities for them to participate in.

Les Westwood

info@therockedm.ca

REPORT 37: Seminary Joint MOU Committee

NO REPORT

REPORT 38: LUTHERAN COUNCIL IN CANADA

Dear friends in Christ Jesus,

A few of you with very long memories may recall the days when the Lutheran Council in Canada (LCIC) was a large and active agency, complete with its own suite of offices on Hargrave Street in Winnipeg, and including also a Director of Theological Studies. Into the mid-1970's, the Council seemed to give visible expression to the hopes of many people ultimately to form one Lutheran church body in Canada to replace the three in operation at that time: the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Canada (ELCC), Lutheran Church in America—Canada Section (LCA-CS), and Lutheran Church—Canada (LCC). Of those three, only the ELCC was truly self-governing in Canada; LCA-CS and LCC were federations of Canadian parishes which still belonged to their “parent church” in the United States.

After the pan-Lutheran merger was not realized due to differences in theology and practice, the Council did continue in a more modest configuration following the ELCIC merger (1986) and LCC autonomy (1988). These two participating church bodies meet annually as a Council to focus on specified areas of common work: Lutheran military chaplaincy in the Canadian Forces, federal prison chaplaincy, and facilitating involvement of Lutheran congregations in the scouting movement. The Council is currently conducting research to ascertain the extent to which Lutheran churches in Canada wish to remain actively involved in scouting.

The Council also receives reports from its member churches about their own activities, and the challenges recent years have brought. Most Council members live and work in the Winnipeg area, which reduces the cost of meetings and travel. Although the Council has no plans to sponsor pan-Lutheran events to commemorate the 500th Anniversary of Luther's Reformation, Council members have received reports of the plans each member church has devised for its own observance, as well as for observances it will carry out as part of its world-wide association. In the case of the ELCIC, this involves activities of the Lutheran World Federation (LWF); while LCC is tied to the International Lutheran Council (ILC).

Lutheran Church-Canada is represented on the LCIC by The Rev. Cameron Schnarr (Beautiful Savior, Winnipeg, MB); by LCC Treasurer Dwayne Cleave, and by me. I currently serve as the LCIC President, while ELCIC Bishop Susan Johnson is the Vice-President. Rev. Dr. Leon Gilbertson (ELCIC) is our long-serving Secretary, and Dwayne Cleave provides service as Council treasurer.

In the name of our Council, I greet all of you very warmly and ask the Lord to make your assembly into rich time well spent.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Rev. Dr. Robert Bugbee, President
Lutheran Council in Canada

REPORT 39: International Lutheran Council

NO REPORT

REPORT 40: North American Lutheran Church

Dear President Bugbee and all who have gathered for the Eleventh Lutheran Church-Canada convention:

Grace, mercy and peace to you from God our Father and our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ!

As we, together, observe the 500th anniversary of the Reformation this year of our Lord 2017, I bring you heartfelt greetings on behalf of your brothers and sisters in Christ in the North American Lutheran Church. It is no little thing to be living and serving in this anniversary year, and the theme of your convention is a fitting reminder and call: “Christ Alone, Christ Forever.”

Although we are two distinct Lutheran bodies with our own histories and differences, we are united in our confession of Jesus Christ who is alone the way, the truth and the life (John 14:6)—the same “yesterday and today and forever” (Hebrews 13:8). We have been blessed to see how the Lutheran Church—Canada has remained faithful to our Lord and this confession, in the midst of challenge, struggle and change. We pray for strength and steadfastness as you address needed transition and restructuring, assured that “He who began a good work in you will bring it to completion,” (Philippians 1:6) now and at the day of Jesus Christ!

As we seek to proclaim Christ alone and Christ forever in Canada and throughout North America, we give thanks for your witness in the world and your participation with us in our inter-Lutheran consultation, together with the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. As we live and move and have our being in a context that is increasingly secular and opposed to God’s Word and the saving life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, we are compelled to do all that we can together for the sake of our common confession that Jesus Christ is Lord, that we are saved by grace through faith in Him, and that we are commissioned, together, to “go, make disciples, baptizing, teaching all that our Lord has commanded us.” We know that there is much that we can accomplish together with the guidance and blessing of our one God, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. May God grant you every blessing during your days in convention!

In Christ,

The Rev. John Bradosky, Bishop

The North American Lutheran Church

OVERTURE 1.01 TO ESTABLISH JOINT DISTRICT AND SYNOD CONVENTIONS

WHEREAS significant time, energy and resources are required to plan and implement conventions; and

WHEREAS Lutheran Church—Canada is a relatively small national church body; and

WHEREAS there is a need for more frequent contact between laity and clergy nationally to help foster unity in Lutheran Church—Canada; and

WHEREAS at present time only each circuit, and not each congregation or parish, is represented by pastor and lay delegates at a Synod convention; and

WHEREAS holding the Synod and district conventions together would, aside from the financial savings, foster greater unity in the Synod; and

WHEREAS the business of district conventions could be accomplished during sectional times at a Synod convention;

Therefore be it

RESOLVED that Article XII of the Constitution be amended to read “*16. The regular conventions of the districts shall be held during the Synod convention*”; and be it further

RESOLVED that, provided such is approved by the congregations of the Synod in accordance with Article XIV 4. of the Constitution, voting representation at Synod conventions would consist of pastor and lay delegates from each congregation or parish of the Synod, as is currently the case with district conventions; and be it further

RESOLVED that, provided such is approved by the congregations of the Synod in accordance with Article XIV 4. of the Constitution, such would be implemented beginning with the Synod Convention in 2020; and be it further

RESOLVED that, provided such is approved by the congregations of the Synod in accordance with Article XIV 4. of the Constitution, the CCMS review the Handbook of Synod to make appropriate changes and to bring appropriate amendments to the 2020 Synod convention to reflect joint Synod and district conventions; and be it finally

RESOLVED that, provided such is approved by the congregations of the Synod in accordance with Article XIV 4. of the Constitution, that the three districts of Synod be directed to amend their Handbook (constitution, bylaws, regulations, etc.) at their conventions in 2018 to reflect a joint convention cycle.

LCC East District Board of Directors

Reg Tiegs, chair

Lois Griffin, secretary

OVERTURE 1.02 TO ESTABLISH JOINT DISTRICT AND SYNOD CONVENTIONS

WHEREAS significant time, energy and resources are required to plan and implement conventions; and

WHEREAS Lutheran Church—Canada is a relatively small national church body; and

WHEREAS there is a need for more frequent contact between laity and clergy nationally to help foster unity in Lutheran Church—Canada; and

WHEREAS at present time only each circuit, and not each congregation, is represented by pastor and lay delegates at a Synod convention; and

WHEREAS holding the Synod and district conventions together would, aside from the financial savings, foster greater unity in the Synod; and

WHEREAS the business of district conventions could be accomplished during sectional times at a Synod convention;

Therefore be it

RESOLVED that the Constitution and Bylaws be amended as follows:

CONSTITUTION

Article V Membership

~~.... Congregations shall meet as a circuit forum and shall elect an equal number of pastoral and lay voting delegates (and their alternates) to represent them at Conventions, as provided in the Synodical Bylaws.~~

Article XII Districts and Their Regulation

10. District conventions shall be comprised of voting representatives of congregations and advisory members to districts. Every congregation is entitled to two voting representatives at district conventions, one to be ~~one of~~ its *senior pastor* ~~pastors~~ and the other to be its elected lay delegate, provided however, that if congregations have associated together as a parish, then such voting rights shall be exercised by representatives of the parish.

16. The regular conventions of the districts shall be held ~~in the year immediately following the triennial~~ *during the regular* Convention of the Synod. Only a Convention of the Synod has the right to make an exception to this rule.

SYNODICAL BYLAWS

2.03 Voting Delegates

Voting delegates to a Convention shall consist of ~~at least one pastor and one layperson from each circuit congregation. Those circuits which exceed 1500 communicant members shall elect an additional pastor and layperson for every additional 1300 communicant members or fraction thereof. Exceptions to these requirements and limitations can be made only by the president upon request of a district board of directors.~~

2.05 Election of Delegates

- a. Each congregation shall elect a lay person to be its delegate at the synodical convention. To be eligible for election as a lay delegate a person must be at least 18 years of age and a communicant member in good standing of their member congregation.
- b. This delegate shall represent the *congregation* ~~congregation's interests~~ and shall exercise the vote of the member congregation at convention. By January 31st in each convention year a member congregation shall elect a lay person to be its delegate.
- c. At the same time as it elects a lay person to be its delegate, the congregation shall elect another lay person as alternate delegate. In the event of the inability or incapacity of the lay person elected as delegate, the person elected as alternate delegate shall be entitled to vote on behalf of the member congregation.
- d. The congregation shall forthwith notify the Secretary of the Synod of the name and address of each person elected as delegate and alternate delegate. The person certified as the elected delegate is the person entitled to vote at the convention. The member congregation has the right to amend or replace a delegate during the year but must notify the Secretary in writing of the name and address of the person so elected as its replacement delegate.

- e. This delegate shall also serve as the district delegate. However, where two or more congregations have joined together as a parish sharing pastor support, then such voting rights for the district convention shall be exercised by one of the lay delegates as chosen by the parish.
 - f. The called pastor serving a congregation shall serve as the pastoral delegate for synod and district conventions.
 - g. If more than one pastor are serving a congregation, the senior pastor shall serve as pastoral delegate.
 - h. If a pastor is serving more than one congregation, he shall have only one vote at convention. However, each congregation is entitled to a lay delegate at synodical convention.
- a. ~~Each circuit shall meet at the call of the circuit counsellor to elect its delegates not later than seven months prior to the opening day of the Convention. The election shall be by written ballot. All pastors who are not advisory members under Article IX of the Constitution shall be eligible for election. The privilege of voting shall be exercised by one pastor and one layperson from each member congregation of the circuit, both of whom shall have been selected in the manner prescribed by the congregation. A parish shall be entitled to a lay vote from each congregation. Prior to the meeting of the circuit, each congregation may nominate one lay person, who must consent in writing, either from its congregation or from the circuit. These names must be submitted to the circuit counsellor prior to the day of the circuit meeting and shall constitute the slate of candidates. All congregational nominees shall be eligible for election. Each person entitled to vote may write in the names of as many from the slate of candidates as there are lay delegates to be elected from the circuit. A nominee whose total vote equals or exceeds a majority of the number of persons voting shall be declared elected as a lay delegate. If more nominees received a majority than the number of lay delegates to be elected, those receiving the greatest number of votes shall be declared elected as a lay delegate. If not all lay delegates have been elected in such voting, the candidate(s) receiving the least number of votes shall be eliminated so that two candidates remain for each lay delegate remaining to be elected. Another vote shall then be taken and this procedure followed until all lay delegates have been chosen. The congregation represented by an elected lay delegate shall be removed from consideration for supplying a pastoral delegate for that particular convention.~~
 - b. ~~Each person thus entitled to vote may write in the names of as many pastors from the circuit as there are pastoral delegates to be elected from the circuit. A pastor whose total vote equals or exceeds a majority of the number of persons voting shall be declared elected as a pastoral delegate. If more pastors received a majority than the number of pastoral delegates to be elected, those receiving the greatest number of votes shall be declared elected. If not all pastoral delegates have been elected in such voting, the candidate(s) receiving the least number of votes shall be eliminated so that two candidates remain for each pastoral delegate remaining to be elected. Another vote shall then be taken and this procedure followed until all pastoral delegates have been chosen.~~
 - c. ~~Election of alternate lay delegates shall follow the same procedure as in paragraph "a" above. Where circumstances permit, the alternates shall be chosen from congregations other than those who have already supplied pastoral or lay delegates. Alternates shall serve as needed, beginning with those receiving the greatest number of votes.~~
 - d. ~~Election of alternate pastoral delegates shall follow the same procedure as in paragraph "c" above.~~
 - e. ~~All four persons elected shall come from four different congregations where circumstances permit.~~
 - f. ~~The counsellor shall report the results of the election to the secretary of the district in writing immediately after said election. If neither the delegate(s) nor the alternate(s) (pastoral or lay) can serve, the vacancy shall be filled by the district president in consultation with the respective circuit counsellor.~~

2.07 Responsibilities of Delegates

Congregations shall not require their delegates to vote in accordance with specific instructions, but every delegate shall be permitted to vote according to his or her own conviction. Delegates are nevertheless responsible to their ~~circuits, whom they represent,~~ congregations, and shall attempt to discover the sentiment of the communicant members thereof.

3.21 Rules of Order

The conventions of the districts shall be governed by these Bylaws for its convention, insofar as these may be applicable. Each district may adopt any other regulations, provided these are not contrary to the Constitution and these Bylaws. The president of the district shall conduct the sessions according to accepted parliamentary rules and shall so arrange the schedule of business that the sessions ~~do not extend beyond six business days. shall take place during the time allotted during the synodical convention.~~

3.29 Synodical Representation

~~The president or his representative shall report on the condition and affairs of the Synod and shall also deliver the sermon at the opening service of the district convention.~~

4.35 Election of Convention Delegates

~~It is the circuit forum which triennially shall elect the pastoral and lay delegates, and their alternates, to the general Convention of the Synod according to the regulations of the Synod. The lay delegate shall upon his election serve a term of three years as a voting member of the circuit forum. ;~~

and be it further

RESOLVED that, provided such is approved by the congregations of the Synod in accordance with Article XIV 4. of the Constitution, such would be implemented beginning with the Synod Convention in 2021;

and be it finally

RESOLVED that, provided such is approved by the congregations of the Synod in accordance with Article XIV 4. of the Constitution, that the three districts of Synod be directed to amend their Handbook (constitution, bylaws, regulations, etc.) at their conventions in 2018 to reflect a joint convention cycle.

Mr. Reg Tiegs, chair
Lois Griffin, secretary
LCC East District Board of Directors

OVERTURE 1.03 TO ESTABLISH A FOUR-YEAR CONVENTION CYCLE

WHEREAS significant time, energy and resources are required to plan and implement a convention;

WHEREAS Lutheran Church—Canada currently operates on a three-year convention cycle; and

WHEREAS in a 12-year period, with the current three-year cycle, congregations must fund four district and four Synod conventions; and

WHEREAS a four-year convention cycle, besides financial savings to the Synod, districts and congregations, would provide greater stability for the service of elected officers, boards and committees;

Therefore be it

RESOLVED that Article VIII of the Constitution be amended to read “*1. Lutheran Church-Canada convenes every four years for its regular convention*”; and be it further

RESOLVED that, provided such is approved by the congregations of the Synod in accordance with Article XIV 4. of the Constitution, a four-year convention cycle would begin with the Synod Convention in 2020; and be it further

RESOLVED that, provided such is approved by the congregations of the Synod in accordance with Article XIV 4. of the Constitution, the CCMS review the Handbook of Synod to make appropriate changes and to bring appropriate amendments to the 2020 Synod convention to reflect a four-year convention cycle (terms of office, etc.); and be it finally

RESOLVED that, provided such is approved by the congregations of the Synod in accordance with Article XIV 4. of the Constitution, that the three districts of Synod be directed to amend their Handbook (constitution, bylaws, regulations, etc.) at their conventions in 2018 to reflect a four-year convention cycle.

LCC East District Board of Directors
Reg Tiegs, chair
Lois Griffin, secretary

OVERTURE 1.04 TO ESTABLISH A FOUR-YEAR CONVENTION CYCLE

WHEREAS significant time, energy and resources are required to plan and implement a convention;
And

WHEREAS Lutheran Church—Canada currently operates on a three-year convention cycle; and
WHEREAS in a 12-year period, with the current three-year cycle, congregations must fund four district and four Synod conventions; and

WHEREAS a four-year convention cycle, besides financial savings to the Synod, districts and congregations, would provide greater stability for the service of elected officers, boards and committees;

Therefore be it

RESOLVED that Article IX of the STATUTORY BYLAWS be amended as follows:

Article IX Conventions

9.01 A Convention shall be called and held ~~triennially~~ *every four years* in the manner and at a time and place as provided for in the Constitution and Synodical Bylaws.

9.02 The delegates in attendance at a ~~triennial~~ regular Convention shall receive a report from the president and from the Board; shall appoint auditors; and shall elect officers, directors, and members of such commissions as may be established and prescribed from time to time in the Synodical Bylaws; and shall transact such other business as may properly come before the Convention.

and be it further

RESOLVED that Article VIII of the Constitution be amended as follows:

Article VIII Conventions

A. TIME AND LEGALITY OF CONVENTIONS

1. Lutheran Church-Canada convenes every ~~three~~ four years for its regular Convention.

And be it further

RESOLVED that, provided such Constitutional amendment is approved by the congregations of the Synod in accordance with Article XIV 4. of the Constitution, a four-year convention cycle would begin with the next Synod Convention in 2021;

And be it further

RESOLVED that, provided such Constitutional amendment is approved by the congregations of the Synod in accordance with Article XIV 4. of the Constitution, the terms of office shall be changed to reflect the four year cycle as follows:

STATUTORY BYLAWS

Article X Officers of LCC

10.03 The president and the vice-presidents shall be elected at a Convention in accordance with the procedures set out in the Synodical Bylaws. The term of office of such officers shall be ~~three (3)~~ *four (4)* years until their successor takes office, commencing on the first day of September after such election. An incumbent whose term of office is about to expire is eligible for re-election.

SYNODICAL BYLAWS

2.03 Voting Delegates

..... Voting delegates shall serve a ~~three~~ four-year term, beginning with the Convention...

2.07 Responsibilities of Delegates

.... Voting delegates shall serve a ~~three~~ four -year term beginning with the Convention...

2.61 Term of Office

- a. The term of office of members of boards and commissions shall be ~~six~~ eight years commencing on September 1 following the Convention.
- b. The term of office of members of a Board of Regents shall be ~~six~~ eight years, commencing in accordance with the provisions of the bylaws governing the educational institution.
- c. All ~~six~~ eight year terms of office shall be staggered, with approximately 50% of the members of each board or commission being elected at or appointed following each Convention.

2.63 Successive Terms

- a. All members of all synodical boards and commissions shall be ineligible for reelection or reappointment to the same board or commission after serving a total of two successive ~~six~~ eight -year elected terms or three successive appointed ~~three~~ four-year terms, unless otherwise provided in these Bylaws. They may become eligible again for election or appointment to the same board or commission after an interval of ~~three~~ four or more years. One-half or more of a term shall be regarded as a full term under limited tenure rules.

2.101 Membership

The Commission on Constitutional Matters and Structure shall consist of five voting members. The Board of Directors shall appoint two rostered workers, at least one of whom must be a pastor, and two laypersons, for ~~six~~ eight-year terms, renewable once. The Commission shall include a lawyer as a member. The secretary of the Synod shall serve as the fifth member and secretary of the Commission.

2.231 Board of Managers

The term of office shall be ~~three (3)~~ four (4) years. A member, with the exception of the treasurer, cannot serve beyond three (3) successive ~~three-~~ four-year terms. Appointments shall be staggered, at the determination of the Board of Directors.

3.125 Term and Tenure

- a. Terms of office shall be as follows:
 1. elected officers - ~~three~~ four years;
 2. elected board and commission members ~~three~~ four years; however, districts may adopt bylaws setting such terms at ~~six~~ eight years instead of ~~three~~ four years;
 3. appointed boards and commissions - ~~three~~ four years.

7.53 Budget Adoption Procedure

- a. By November 30 of each year every commission of the Synod shall submit to the Board of Directors its proposed spending budget for the next fiscal year together with its proposed work program for the following ~~three~~ four years. The request shall be submitted on a current dollar basis in the format and under the timetable prescribed by the Board of Directors. All programs shall show total costs and each agency's total financial support, including local, synodical, and any other support.
- b. By February 15 of each year each district president or his designated representative shall confirm to the Board of Directors the adjusted district commitment to the Synod for the next district fiscal year. He will also report the estimated total income from congregations and other sources to be available for district and synodical ministry for each of the next ~~three~~ four-years. At the same time each district will also inform the Board of Directors of the amount and percent designated for ministry within the district and that which will be available for ministry at the synodical level for the same ~~three~~ four-year period. A report in which the district forecasts continuous and new work for the ~~three~~ four-year period is to be shared with the Board of Directors in order that the Board of Directors may coordinate and plan for a more effective program of ministry.

8.21 Reconciliation Committees

b. Appointment and Term of Office

The term of office for each district reconciliation committee shall be ~~six-eight~~ years. For the first term three members shall be appointed for the ~~six~~ eight-year term, and two for ~~three~~ four years. Thereafter all appointments shall be made for ~~six~~ eight years, so that the terms are staggered. Appointments are to be made following each convention of the district.

8.37 Membership

b. Terms of Office

Terms of office shall be ~~six-eight~~ years in length and shall otherwise be in accordance with Bylaws 2.61 and 2.63.

10.05 Personnel and Appointment

b. Reviewers shall be appointed for renewable ~~three~~ four-year terms. An appointment may be terminated prior to the completion of the appointed term if the reviewer is unable or unwilling to carry out the reviewing tasks assigned. In the event of such termination, the president shall appoint another reviewer to complete the unexpired term.

And be it finally

RESOLVED that, provided such is approved by the congregations of the Synod in accordance with Article XIV 4. of the Constitution, that the three districts of Synod be directed to amend their Handbook (constitution, bylaws, regulations, etc.) at their conventions in 2018 to reflect a four-year convention cycle.

Mr. Reg Tiegs, chair

Lois Griffin, secretary

LCC East District Board of Directors

OVERTURE 1.05**TO SHOW PROPER STEWARDSHIP AND CARE OF THE
FINANCIAL RESOURCES OF VARIOUS ENTITIES IN LCC**

WHEREAS The Lord of the Church has blessed the members of Lutheran Church Canada with financial and other resources to carry out the proclamation of the Gospel; and

WHEREAS currently there are ongoing legal actions in and against the Synod (Lutheran Church – Canada); and

WHEREAS if all the District corporations dissolve and merge all the available assets into one, there is a real danger those assets would be lost in the pending legal actions;

Therefore be it

RESOLVED that any proposed merger or dissolution of Synod or District Corporations be postponed until such legal actions are resolved.

Redeemer Lutheran Church

Sudbury, ON

Pastor: Rev. David Smilek

Chairman: Peter Boscariol

Secretary (at the meeting): Wendy Boscariol

Identical Resolutions submitted by

Christ Lutheran Church

Timmons, ON

Robert Schuehlele Chairman

Monika Schuehlein Secretary
Rev. Milton Lam

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
Moncton, NS
Reese Currie President

**OVERTURE 1.06 TO POSTPONE RESTRUCTURING UNTIL AN EVERY
MEMBER CONVENTION**

WHEREAS The arguments put forward for restructuring are compelling and may be of benefit to the Church;
and

WHEREAS The CCMS has spent significant effort in formulating and preparing the proposed Bylaw; and

WHEREAS The proposed Bylaw is not merely an amendment of the current Constitution and Bylaws to reflect a single administrating structure, but rather a complete re-imagining of the Handbook and of the Synod itself; and

WHEREAS the Synod is constituted of its members, who become members by their signing the Constitution,
and

WHEREAS there is no provision in the current Constitution to do away with the Constitution, and amendments are only possible that do not conflict with Articles II and VI, (which then presupposes that Articles II and VI will never cease to exist); and

WHEREAS The founding convention of LCC was an every-member convention; and

WHEREAS the present convention will be attended by no more than 1/5 of the members of Synod, 2/3 of which must carry the day for the new Handbook to be approved; and

WHEREAS 2/15 of the membership is no true expression of the Synod's will on a change of this magnitude;
and

WHEREAS in order to foster unity, all members should be present to be able to participate and respond to the evolving conversation at convention;

Therefore be it

RESOLVED that Lutheran Church-Canada acknowledge the significant effort of the CCMS in formulating and preparing the Handbook proposal, and receive the work of the Commission with thanks; and be it further

RESOLVED .that the proposed handbook of Synod be referred back to the CCMS for improvement, taking into consideration the amendments and concerns presented by various individuals and the present convention; and be it further

RESOLVED that the CCMS present the results for consideration at the next every-member convention of LCC.

Redeemer Lutheran Church Sudbury, Ontario
Pastor: Rev. David Smilek
Chairman: Peter Boscariol
Secretary (at the meeting): Wendy Boscariol

Identical Resolutions submitted by
Christ Lutheran Church Timmons, ON

Robert Schuehle Chairmen
 Monika Schuehle Secretary
 Rev. Milton Lam

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
 Moncton, NS
 Reese Currie President

OVERTURE 1.07

TO SAFEGUARD THE WORD OF GOD AS THE PRIMARY AUTHORITY WITHIN LUTHERAN CHURCH – CANADA

WHEREAS the proposed Bylaw 1.1.2, Limitations on Authority declares: *"Members of Synod may not individually or collectively violate the: a. Laws of God, Canada, and legal jurisdictions in which members reside and work."* and

WHEREAS without Article II of the current constitution it is unclear which laws of God must not be violated (or even which God); and

WHEREAS increasingly the laws of men are contrary to the Laws of our God; and

WHEREAS after declaring that the corporate authority of LCC comes from the Queen, proposed Bylaw 1.1.1.2 reads, *"The primary source of authority within Lutheran Church-Canada is the voting membership of Lutheran Church-Canada."* and

WHEREAS the current Constitution states in Article IV: *"A Convention shall be the paramount decision-making authority of Lutheran Church-Canada, subject to the provisions set out in the Statutory Bylaws, the Constitution, and the Synodical Bylaws."* and

WHEREAS Article II of the current Constitution ensures that not just the members but the Synod is bound to 1. *the Scriptures of the Old and the New Testament as the written Word of God and the only rule and norm of faith and of practice;* and

WHEREAS The primary source of authority within Lutheran Church-Canada is and must remain the Word of God, for the Bible teaches that *"We must obey God rather than men."* (*Acts 5:29*); and

WHEREAS the removal of the Constitution from the proposed Bylaw leaves the Synod without a confession or statement of faith and without a confessional standard for subsequent amendments to the Bylaw; and

WHEREAS the use of the worldly notion of "values" in the preamble to the Bylaw is not the same as beliefs;

Therefore be it

RESOLVED that the proposed Bylaw of Synod be referred back to the CCMS for improvement, and be it further

RESOLVED that the current Constitution be retained with those changes necessary under the proposed single administrative structure; and be it finally

RESOLVED that the CCMS present the results for consideration at the next every-member convention of LCC.

Redeemer Lutheran Church Sudbury, ON
 Pastor: Rev. David Smilek
 Chairman: Peter Boscariol
 Secretary (at the meeting): Wendy Boscariol

Identical Resolutions submitted by
 Christ Lutheran Church Timmons, ON
 Robert Schuehle, Chairman
 Monika Schuehle, Secretary
 Rev. Milton Lam

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church Moncton, NS
 Reese Currie, President

**OVERTURE 1.08 TO RETAIN THE CONSTITUTION OF LCC WITH OUR
 CONFESSION OF FAITH.**

WHEREAS the current Constitution of Lutheran Church – Canada states in *Article XIV Amendments to the Constitution 1. Amendments to the Constitution may be made provided they do not conflict with the provisions laid down in the Act or Statutory Bylaws, or in Article II and in Article VI.* and,

WHEREAS the proposed structure of Synod removes the Constitution altogether, and

WHEREAS it is very important that we clearly retain Article II and VI as distinct and separate Articles of our Confession;

Therefore be it

RESOLVED that the proposed Bylaw of Synod be referred back to the CCMS for improvement, and be it further

RESOLVED that the current Constitution be retained with those changes necessary under the proposed single administrative structure; and be it finally

RESOLVED that the CCMS present the results for consideration at the next every-member convention of LCC.

Redeemer Lutheran Church Sudbury, Ontario.
 Pastor: Rev. David Smilek
 Chairman: Peter Boscariol
 Secretary (at the meeting): Wendy Boscariol

Identical Resolutions submitted by
 Christ Lutheran Church Timmons, ON
 Robert Schuehle, Chairman
 Monika Schuehle, Secretary
 Rev. Milton Lam

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church Moncton, NS
 Reese Currie, President

**OVERTURE 1.09 TO RETAIN THE SYNODICAL PRESIDENT AS THE PROPER
 HEAD OF THE SYNOD.**

WHEREAS presently the Synodical President has the responsibility to see that all synodical resolutions are carried out (Constitution Article XI President paragraph 4); and

WHEREAS In the proposed Bylaws: 8.1.4 Expectations of Responsibilities [of the Synodical President], j. *ensure that the resolutions of a Convention are carried out;* and

WHEREAS the administrator of synod is responsible for implementing various aspects of the day to day business of synod (which is driven by synodical resolutions);

Therefore be it

RESOLVED that The Synodical Administrator, in respect to lines of authority, be under the leadership of the Synodical President.

Redeemer Lutheran Church Sudbury, Ontario.

Pastor: Rev. David Smilek

Chairman: Peter Boscariol

Secretary (at the meeting): Wendy Boscariol

Identical Resolutions submitted by

Christ Lutheran Church Timmons, ON

Robert Schuehleln Chairman

Monika Schuehleln Secretary

Rev. Milton Lam

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church Moncton, NS

Reese Currie, President

OVERTURE 1.10 TO ENSURE THAT WE UNDERTAKE THIS TASK "WITH ALL HUMILITY AND GENTLENESS, WITH PATIENCE, BEARING WITH ONE ANOTHER IN LOVE, EAGER TO MAINTAIN THE UNITY OF THE SPIRIT IN THE BOND OF PEACE" (EPHESIANS 4:2,3)

WHEREAS The arguments put forward for restructuring are compelling and may be of benefit to the Church; and

WHEREAS The CCMS has spent significant effort in formulating and preparing the proposed Handbook; and

WHEREAS the timeframe to which the CCMS was bound has proved inadequate to allow the committee to adequately incorporate a significant amount of the feedback received throughout the process; and

WHEREAS many aspects of the proposal including the final draft of the Bylaws and detailed financials were not available until past the deadline for overtures, not allowing for adequate consideration and valuable amendments and corrections; and

WHEREAS there are still aspects of the new structure that remain as yet unspecified; and

WHEREAS a significant number of members of Synod have voiced significant practical and theological reservations with the current proposal; and

WHEREAS the present timeline has created a sense of undue pressure on delegates; and

WHEREAS it would be better to take another three years to address concerns and work out more of the details in order to avoid unintended consequences (that could take decades to resolve);

Therefore be it

1 RESOLVED that Lutheran Church-Canada acknowledge the significant effort of the CCMS in formulating and
2 preparing the Handbook proposal, and receive the work of the Commission with thanks; and be it
3 further
4

5 RESOLVED that the proposed handbook of Synod be referred back to the CCMS for improvement taking into
6 consideration the amendments and concerns presented at the present convention; and be it finally
7

8 RESOLVED that the CCMS present the results for consideration at the next every-member convention of LCC.
9

10 Redeemer Lutheran Church
11 Sudbury, Ontario.
12 Pastor: Rev. David Smilek
13 Chairman: Peter Boscariol
14 Secretary (at the meeting): Wendy Boscariol
15

16 *Identical resolutions submitted by*
17 Christ Lutheran Church Timmins, ON
18 Robert Schuehleln Chairman
19 Monika Schuehleln Secretary
20 Rev. Milton Lam
21
22

23 **OVERTURE 1.11 TO TAKE TIME TO PROPERLY DEAL WITH THE QUESTIONS**
24 **AND CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH.**
25

26 WHEREAS The process of restructuring the Synod has from the beginning been presented as a grassroots
27 process; and
28

29 WHEREAS the vote to approve the proposed Bylaw and restructuring of Synod cannot meaningfully take
30 place until sufficient and open discussion has taken place among those assembled in convention to
31 make the decision;
32

33 Therefore be it
34

35 RESOLVED that the vote regarding the adoption of the new Bylaw be postponed until: the resolutions
36 corresponding to the overtures expressing amendments, concerns, and other dissent have been
37 dealt with.
38
39

40 Redeemer Lutheran Church
41 Sudbury, Ontario.
42 Pastor: Rev. David Smilek
43 Chairman: Peter Boscariol
44 Secretary (at the meeting): Wendy Boscariol
45

46 *Identical Resolutions submitted by*
47 Christ Lutheran Church
48 Timmons ON
49 Robert Schuehleln chairman
50 Monika Schuehleln Secretary
51 Rev. Milton Lam
52

53 Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
54 Moncton, NS
55 Reese Currie, President

**OVERTURE 1.12 TO MOVE TO ONE EVERY-MEMBER CONVENTION ON A
FOUR-YEAR CONVECTION CYCLE, STARTING IN THREE
YEARS.**

- WHEREAS Part of the current restructuring proposal involves LCC moving to one every-member convention occurring on a four-year cycle; and
- WHEREAS if necessary, District conventions can be included during the days of the Synod convention; and
- WHEREAS an every-member convention would be beneficial to foster unity among members of Synod;
- Therefore be it
- RESOLVED that LCC move to one every-member convention on a 4 year cycle, beginning in three years.

Redeemer Lutheran Church
Sudbury, Ontario.
Pastor: Rev. David Smilek
Chairman: Peter Boscariol
Secretary (at the meeting): Wendy Boscariol

Identical Resolutions submitted by
Christ Lutheran Church
Timmons, ON
Robert Schuehleln Chairman
Monika Schuehleln Secretary
Rev. Milton Lam

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
Moncton, NS
Reese Currie, President

**OVERTURE 1.13 TO FULLY INFORM THE DELEGATES REGARDING THE
PARTS OF THE CURRENT CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS
NOT IN THE PROPOSED BYLAW**

- WHEREAS it has been reported at many presentations regarding the proposed Bylaw that some of the current Constitution and Bylaws will be in MOUs and a new Governance Manual; and
- WHEREAS those MOUs and the Governance Manual are not currently available to the delegates; and
- WHEREAS such information is crucial for the delegates to make an informed decision regarding the current content that will not be in the proposed Bylaw; and
- WHEREAS until those MOUs and the Governance Manual are presented, the delegates cannot undertake a proper consideration of amendments they may wish to make concerning such omitted content in the proposed Bylaw;
- Therefore be it
- RESOLVED that the voting on the proposed Bylaw be held off until those documents are provided.

Redeemer Lutheran Church
Sudbury, Ontario.
Pastor: Rev. David Smilek
Chairman: Peter Boscariol
Secretary (at the meeting): Wendy Boscariol

**OVERTURE 1.14 TO REFER THE HANDBOOK PROPOSAL BACK TO THE
CCMS IN CONSULTATION WITH THE BOARD OF
DIRECTORS AND THE SEMINARY FACULTIES IN ACCORD
WITH ARTICLE II OF THE PRESENT CONSTITUTION**

WHEREAS Lutheran Church-Canada early in its history identified the need to restructure according to a model different from the one inherited from the LC-MS and established a Task Force to evaluate our structure and recommend changes; and

WHEREAS many of recommendations of 1996 Task Force Report were approved by the Synod in 1999 and implemented in 2002, but its proposal and specific model for a single administrative structure were rejected by the Board of Directors of LCC and the Synod in convention; and

WHEREAS the Synod in convention in 2002 and 2011 rejected a revisiting of the 1996 Task Force recommendations and in 2005 and 2008 also rejected a change in convention cycle and reduction in the number of separate conventions; and

WHEREAS the arguments for restructuring put forward by the 1996 Task Force, the 2015 District resolutions, and current Synodical officers are compelling; and

WHEREAS the recognized need for restructuring had not been met by previous appeals to the Synod so that the three Districts of LCC appealed directly to the CCMS *“to begin immediately the work of developing and presenting a new structure with applicable bylaw and handbook changes . . . and to present that specific structure to the 2017 Synodical Convention for approval and subsequent implementation”*; and

WHEREAS the CCMS began its work with the support of the Board of Directors of Synod and, after much dedicated labour, has provided the Synod with a Handbook proposal for consideration; and

WHEREAS the heart of the CCMS proposal is the reconfiguration of the Synod into one administrative structure, extending out to 8 regions administered by Regional Pastors, which governance model may prove much more effective in serving the needs of the members of Synod; and

WHEREAS these are matters neither commanded nor forbidden, so long as the confession of the one true Faith, the evangelical freedom of congregations, and the furthering of the Kingdom of God by the preaching of the pure Gospel and the administration of the Sacraments of Christ, are maintained; and

WHEREAS the Word of God must inform and shape every aspect of who we say we are, what we are about, and how we will do things, so that the LCC Handbook must be confessional through and through, even where it describes our legal or corporate nature; and

WHEREAS the CCMS proposal, according to the declarations of the CCMS itself, has not been developed from the Word of God and out of the Synod's confession so that the specific phraseology and nomenclature of the Handbook proposal are not derived from our heritage, but from secular jurisprudence; and

-
- 1 WHEREAS the proposal is no longer the Handbook of and for the members of Lutheran Church-Canada and
 2 no longer the members' pledge and promise to each other, for the Constitution has been removed;
 3 and
 4
- 5 WHEREAS the Synod is constituted of its members, who become members by their signing the Constitution,
 6 there is no provision in the current Constitution to do away with the Constitution, and amendments
 7 are only possible that do not conflict with Articles II and VI, which then presupposes that Articles
 8 II and VI will never cease to exist; and
- 9 WHEREAS the Synod has previously recognized and declared “*the importance of the Constitution which now
 10 reflects those matters which are of utmost significance to LCC, namely the Confession and
 11 Objectives of LCC; the primacy of Conventions; the commitment involved in and consequences
 12 of membership in LCC; the ecclesiastical responsibility of the President; and the fundamental
 13 principles to be adhered to by the Districts (Resolution 2011.3.03)*”; and
 14
- 15 WHEREAS the Handbook proposal introduces elements that are in error theologically, and includes worldly
 16 notions in conflict with Article II of the LCC Constitution; and
 17
- 18 WHEREAS the Handbook proposal no longer contains a declaration of the Synod’s confession or statement of
 19 faith, establishes no standard against which all Handbook changes must be judged, and provides
 20 for the amendment even of the qualifications for membership in Synod by 2/3 majority; and
 21
- 22 WHEREAS members of Synod are not free to accept the CCMS Handbook proposal precisely because they
 23 have previously signed the present Constitution of Lutheran Church-Canada, but are bound by the
 24 Word of God and conscience;
 25
- 26 Therefore be it
 27
- 28 RESOLVED that Lutheran Church-Canada acknowledge the significant effort of the CCMS in formulating and
 29 preparing the Handbook proposal, and receive the work of the Commission with thanks; and be it
 30 further
 31
- 32 RESOLVED .to refer the Handbook proposal back to the CCMS for improvement in consultation with the
 33 Board of Directors and the seminary faculties and in accord with Article II of the present
 34 Constitution of LCC; and be it further
 35
- 36 RESOLVED that the handbook proposal preserve the current Constitution with those changes necessary under
 37 the proposed single administrative structure and model of governance, and be it finally
 38
- 39 RESOLVED that the CCMS present the results for acceptance at the 2020 Convention of LCC.
 40

41 Holy Trinity, A.D. 2017
 42 Christ Lutheran Church
 43 Harrow, Ontario
 44
 45

46 **OVERTURE 1.15** **TO ESTABLISH ONE CORPORATE STRUCTURE IN**
 47 **LUTHERAN CHURCH CANADA**
 48

- 49 WHEREAS the CCMS has proposed that LCC be administered by one corporate
 50 structure; and
 51
- 52 WHEREAS they have shown how one structure could better make use of limited
 53 resources; and
 54
- 55 WHEREAS currently each district is required to be separately incorporated; and

WHEREAS there are currently legal actions pending against LC-C; and

WHEREAS if the districts dissolved the assets of their corporations could be exposed in the legal actions; and

WHEREAS to show proper fiduciary responsibility to their corporations and stewardship of the assets entrusted to them, the district boards will need time to explore the best time and method to wind down their corporation; and

WHEREAS in the meantime we can choose to make every effort to work under one structure not by mandate, but in submission to each other as unto the Lord for the good of the church; and

WHEREAS removing the mandate that each district be incorporated from our Constitution and Bylaws would allow the districts to wind down on their individual time table taking into consideration their unique situation and the pending legal actions.

Therefore be it

RESOLVED that the following amendments be made to the Statutory Bylaws, Constitution and Synodical Bylaws as follows:

Statutory Bylaws

Article XVII Districts

17.02 Each district ~~shall be incorporated and~~ shall adopt the Constitution as its constitution and shall otherwise operate in a manner consistent with the provisions of the Constitution and the Synodical Bylaws.

Constitution

Article XII Districts and Their Regulation

13. The districts ~~shall be legally incorporated,~~ may *operate* with a board of directors. ~~which shall include the president, the secretary, and the treasurer of the district.~~

Synodical Bylaws

3.07 Relationship between the Synod and Districts

c. A district shall ~~incorporate~~ *operate* under the civil laws ~~under of the region in which it~~ the district carries on its activities. The form *in which it chooses to do so* ~~of incorporation~~ and any subsequent proposed change thereof shall be submitted to the Commission on Constitutional Matters and Structure for review and approval before adoption by the district and before presentation to the proper civil authorities.

Reg Tiegs, chair

Lois Griffin, secretary

LCC East District Board of Directors

OVERTURE 1.16

**TO IMPLEMENT WHAT IS MOST IMMEDIATELY
BENEFICIAL FROM THE CCMS RECOMMENDATIONS
WHILE CONTINUING TO REFINES THE REMAINING FOR
FUTURE APPROVAL.**

Preamble and Rationale:

1 In 2015 all three districts in Lutheran Church Canada made a request of the CCMS to review the structure and come
2 to the 2017 convention with a proposed new structure. This was not the first time there had been voices calling for
3 restructuring. However, likely due to the events in the ABC District, it was the first time that there was a united
4 timing to these voices. There was also a growing realization that we should be acting as one synod rather than a
5 federation of three districts and that we need to find ways to fulfill our church's mission and ministry with reduced
6 financial resources.

7
8 The task given to the CCMS, to accomplish in two years what our Synod had been talking about since the founding
9 convention of LCC, was, in hindsight, unfair in many respects. While there have been many discussions with the
10 people of LCC, the hurried timeframe has meant that not everyone has had the time desired to hear, contemplate,
11 pray about and respond to proposals. In spite of this short timing, the CCMS has worked hard and arrived at many
12 laudable suggestions. However, other suggestions would benefit greatly from more time for discussion, prayer and
13 response.

14
15 The East District Board of Directors is not opposed to restructuring. We simply desire that it be done in the best way
16 possible for the work of the Lord. It, like a marriage, should not be entered into inadvisedly, lightly or with undue
17 haste, but reverently, deliberately and in accordance with the purposes for which the Church was created by God.

18
19 The following are recommendations from the CCMS that would be of immediate benefit to the church:

20 **1) A four year convention cycle.** This would enable us to be better stewards of the resources our Lord has
21 entrusted to us. It would also allow the elected Directors time to actually work on matters rather than simply
22 end one convention and within a short time start gearing up for the next.

23
24 **2) Conventions with every congregation and her called pastor in attendance.** This would serve to
25 strengthen unity and the bond of peace among us as we interact face to face with our brothers and sisters
26 across this great land. It would also provide opportunity to hear of the joys and the trials the body of Christ is
27 experiencing in other areas. If the district conventions were also held during the synodical convention,
28 bringing everyone together would not create additional costs and most of the CCMS projected cost savings
29 would be retained.

30
31 There should also be further consideration of the CCMS proposal for one corporate structure. This will provide for
32 a unified theme, message and strategy. This will work to strengthen the ecclesiastical bond among us. It will reduce
33 time, energy and resources (both financial and personnel) necessary to carry out the corporate side of the Synod.
34 However, the dissolving of district corporations should not be rushed. Given the legal proceedings against LCC, it
35 would only be prudent that the directors of the district corporations fulfill their fiduciary responsibilities to protect
36 the assets of their corporations. In the meantime, we should start operating more as one administrative structure.
37 The corporations should remain for a time as the legal issues get settled. This would also allow for time to evaluate
38 a new structure without the districts relinquishing their charitable status. During that time, we could make every
39 effort to work under one structure not by mandate, but in submission to each other as unto the Lord for the good of
40 the church. It would also allow the district boards time to explore the most cost efficient and beneficial way to wind
41 down. Another rushed mandate is not what the church needs. If it is rushed, much higher legal costs will be
42 incurred.

43
44 If necessary, MOUs could be created between the synod corporation and each district corporation. This would
45 address the concerns of the underwriters of directors and officers insurance. The districts could also increase their
46 insurance coverage.

47
48 During the time between the 2017 convention and the (4 year) 2021 convention, each district and circuit should
49 begin exploring ways to implement the regional model and structure, thus allowing for a hands on, real life
50 evaluation of its effectiveness and usefulness. Feedback from those grass roots would then be used to ascertain how
51 many regions should be created and in what form. This could be done without dissolving the district corporations;
52 then during this time there would be the stability of the church behind it with the districts in place. We might also
53 benefit from a rethinking of our current circuit structure. Perhaps we will find that we need larger circuits since
54 many have multi point parishes. Or perhaps there may be a benefit to realignments. During those four years, the
55 Synod Board would take a leadership role in advising and supporting this local hands on endeavor. In the end, this

will provide a much better real analysis than any survey ever could. It will also serve to create ownership in not only the process but also in the end result making it more likely to succeed. It will also bring us together as we work to solve our situation as opposed to having a solution handed to us. During that time the Synod President and Vice-Presidents could initiate a study and education of what it really means to be church and how we might better structure ourselves to carry out our Lord's desire for His Church.

Things which need more discussion and evaluation therefore include: the number and size of regions and the adequate funding of Canadian missions and congregations in need.

There are also other things that have stirred questions and concerns across the Synod. To ignore them would be a grave mistake. To do so would divide what we are trying to unify. These things include: dividing the President/administrator; the elimination of the Constitution as a separate section in the proposed Bylaw. The reason for forming Synod appears to no longer be by confession of faith but by what we choose to do; and delegates are being asked to eliminate 60% of the current Constitution and Bylaws which require a 2/3 majority to change with the promise that most of that 60% will appear in MOUs or the new governance manual. These MOUs and the governance manual will not be produced for some time and can be changed by the Board of Directors without convention. How can the delegates, in clear conscience, eliminate 60% of what we have agreed upon over the years in the hope that it will appear somewhere at some time in the future?

More time and effort must be directed to making the Bylaw a bylaw for our Synod taking into consideration her theology, history and practice. Any new proposed bylaw must not only go to lawyers to ensure we properly address legal and corporate concerns, but it must also go to the CTCR to ensure we properly address theological and ecclesiastical concerns.

With these thoughts in mind we place before the delegates the following overture.

WHEREAS each District has requested the CCMS undertake a study and present a proposal for restructuring;
And

WHEREAS the CCMS has endeavored to carry out this mandate in a limited timeline; and

WHEREAS many profitable suggestions have been put forth; and

WHEREAS the work of Synod would benefit by implementing some of them; and

WHEREAS some require more prayer, thought, discussion and rework before implementation as set forth in the preamble and rationale above;

Therefore be it

RESOLVED that LCC in convention express its thanks to the CCMS for their diligent work; and be it further

RESOLVED that LCC in convention adopt a four year convention cycle; and be it further

RESOLVED that every congregation and her called pastor shall be in attendance; and be it further

RESOLVED that the convention also include time for the Districts to have their conventions; and be it further

RESOLVED that during the time between the 2017 convention and the 2021 convention, each district and circuit, under the leadership of the Board of Directors, should begin exploring ways to evaluate and implement the regional model and structure; and be it further

RESOLVED that the Synodical President ensure that during those four years careful study is made on the nature and purpose of the Church; and be it further

RESOLVED the CCMS make the necessary changes to the Handbook to incorporate the above changes in

convention time and that the terms of those elected reflect a four year cycle; and be it further

RESOLVED that the CCMS prepare a new Constitution and Bylaw taking into consideration the above preamble and rationale as well as input from the people of LCC as they evaluate the regional model in their midst; and be it further

RESOLVED that the proposed Constitution and Bylaw be submitted to legal counsel and the CTCR to ensure both corporate and ecclesiastical concerns are properly covered; and be it finally

RESOLVED that the CCMS present that revised Constitution and Bylaw to the 2021 convention.

Mr. Reg Tiegs, chair
Lois Griffin secretary
East District BOD

OVERTURE 1.17 TO PROVIDE FOR JOINT CONVENTIONS IF RESTRUCTURING IS NOT ADOPTED

PREAMBLE following the presentation of the CCMS's proposed handbook, the central district board of directors is concerned there will not be sufficient consensus among the members of the synod to adopt the proposed restructuring. recognizing and supporting the spirit of change sought by the members of Lutheran Church Canada, and desiring such impetus for change not be lost, the central district board of directors proposes the following:

WHEREAS fiscal savings can be made by holding one national Convention every three years for both Synod and districts; and

WHEREAS all parishes would be represented, providing a greater opportunity to achieve our goals as Synod thus allowing new structures to develop naturally; and

WHEREAS by every member walking together our unity will be strengthened; therefore be it

Therefore be it

RESOLVED that 2.03 of the Synod's Bylaws be changed to state (ref. Article XII [10] of the Constitution) that every congregation is entitled to two voting representatives at Synod convention, one to be one of its pastors and the other to be its elected lay delegate, provided however, that if congregations have associated together as a parish, then such voting rights shall be exercised by representatives of the parish; and be it further

RESOLVED that Synod meet in convention every three years; and be it further

RESOLVED that each district be given time to caucus in order to carry out the business of their constituencies at said convention; and be it finally

RESOLVED that this new convention structure be implemented in 2020.

Central District Board of Directors
Mr. Daryl Walter, Secretary

OVERTURE 2.01 TO DIRECT THE SYNOD BOARD OF DIRECTORS TO IMPLEMENT RESOLUTION 11.2.03

-
- 1 WHEREAS The Synod in convention (2011) passed resolution 11.02.03; and
 2
 3 WHEREAS Resolution 11.2.03 reads ‘that the Board of Directors affirm the recommendations of the Vicarage
 4 Task Force, including the development and implementation of a synodical system of subsidizing
 5 vicarages whereby congregations, by a yearly assessment, contribute to a “Vicarage Placement
 6 Fund.”; and
 7
 8 WHEREAS such an assessment and fund would allow for more beneficial placement of vicars; and
 9
 10 WHEREAS the Board reported to the 2014 convention that ‘11.2.03 To Implement the Recommendations of
 11 the Vicarage Task Force Report required further work to develop a funding model’
 12
 13 Therefore be it
 14
 15 RESOLVED that LCC in convention direct the Board of Directors to expedite the implementation of this
 16 resolution.
 17

18 LCC East District Board of Directors
 19 Reg Tiegs, Chair
 20 Lois Griffin, Secretary
 21
 22

23 **OVERTURE 2.02** **TO ADDRESS THE NEED FOR MORE ORDAINED PASTORS**

- 24
 25 WHEREAS our Lord nourishes His People through Word and Sacrament ministry;
 26
 27 WHEREAS our Lord has established the pastoral office for the purpose of carrying out Word and Sacrament
 28 ministry;
 29
 30 WHEREAS congregations are increasingly finding it more difficult to have a resident pastor serve them due to
 31 distance, lack of pastors, inability to pay a full-time pastor, and son on;
 32
 33 WHEREAS there is a need for called and ordained pastors to serve congregations and to equip the saints for
 34 local ministry and outreach;
 35
 36 WHEREAS individuals and congregations may experience decline or stagnation without the regular presence
 37 and activity of pastoral ministry;
 38
 39 WHEREAS the two LCC seminaries are not producing enough pastors to address the congregational needs nor
 40 to initiate new churches in growing urban areas;
 41
 42 WHEREAS the COP and not the seminaries are in charge of administering the Pastors with Alternate Training
 43 program;
 44
 45 WHEREAS there are godly men who could serve as pastors in their respective congregation and who for a
 46 number of reasons (e.g. financial, family, lack of Bachelor degree) may not be able to enroll in one
 47 of the residential seminary programs in Edmonton or St. Catharines;
 48
 49 Therefore be it
 50
 51 RESOLVED that, the COP work with the seminaries to either further develop and expand who can enroll in the
 52 Pastors with Alternative Training (PAT) or develop, or adopt a distance education program,
 53 similar to the Specific Ministry Program developed by the LCMS that instructs and ordains men
 54 for a specific ministry context; be it further
 55

RESOLVED that congregations be encouraged to identify candidates to serve in a PAT or SMP capacity.

Board of Directors ABC District

Dennis Woolsey, Secretary

William Fraser, Chairman.

OVERTURE 2.03 TO ENSURE THE CONTINUATION OF A DIACONAL TRAINING PROGRAM

WHEREAS Lutheran Church-Canada in convention recognized the need “for a Church work program in addition to the pastoral and teacher Church work programs already in existence”. (Resolution 90:2.11 “*To Encourage Concordia College to Develop Church Work Program*”), and

WHEREAS The “Task Force to Study Diaconal Ministry” reported to the 1996 Lutheran Church-Canada Convention “*The time would appear to be ripe for this young church to introduce the office of the diaconate.....the diaconate can also serve as an impetus to renewed commitment to the ministry of love and service that is so necessary in the current society. Reaching out in love to those around will undoubtedly sow seeds for evangelism, the telling of the good news, which, more than anything else, must be the task of the Christian church as she reaches out to the world at the turn of the millennium.*” , and

WHEREAS Lutheran Church-Canada in convention adopted Resolution 99:2.01 “To Establish an Order of Diaconal Ministry” and directed that Concordia University College of Alberta provide a training program for this ministry, and

WHEREAS The diaconate has faithfully served, strengthening and enriching the mission and ministry of our congregations and synod, and

WHEREAS Concordia University College of Alberta (now Concordia University of Edmonton) no longer offers a program to train the diaconate, and

WHEREAS Concordia Lutheran Seminary, Edmonton, has indicated a willingness to offer a program for training the diaconate and has a tentative program in place;

Therefore be it

RESOLVED That Lutheran Church-Canada, in this convention direct the Board of Directors of Lutheran Church-Canada to coordinate plans with Concordia Lutheran Seminary, Edmonton, to establish a diaconal training program, and be it further

RESOLVED That the Board of Directors of Lutheran Church-Canada provide the financial resources to carry out the program.

Bethel Lutheran Church

Sherwood Park, AB

Rev. Marv Ziprick

OVERTURE 2.04 TO ESTABLISH A POLICY CONCERNING RETIRED PASTORS

WHEREAS according to the Augsburg Confession, “*Our churches teach that no one should publicly teach in the Church, or administer the Sacraments, without a rightly ordered call.*” (Article XIV); and

-
- 1
2 WHEREAS retired clergy normally do not have a call to serve a specific congregation; and
3
4 WHEREAS the question has been raised from time to time as to the right of retired pastors to continue to
5 preach and administer the sacraments; and
6
7 WHEREAS the Synodical Bylaw 5.45 only states: *“A pastor or deacon who has retired after reaching the age*
8 *of 55 or for reasons of total and permanent disability shall be eligible for retention on the roster*
9 *as emeritus. Any unusual case shall be decided by the Council of Presidents”*; and
10
11 WHEREAS there is no policy in place as to how this status is to be granted; or what rights, privileges or
12 responsibilities it confers; or what are the requirements for remaining on the clergy roster as a
13 retired pastor; and
14
15 WHEREAS the CTCR produced a report in 2008 entitled, “The Role of Retired Clergy in Lutheran Church—
16 Canada,” as advice to the Council of Presidents, and which was subsequently published in the
17 Lutheran Theological Review, Vol. 21; and
18
19 WHEREAS for the sake of unity of practice on the part of both clergy (whether actively serving or retired) and
20 congregations, it would be most beneficial if such a policy was established
21
22 Therefore be it
23
24 RESOLVED that the Council of Presidents be directed to formulate a policy concerning retired pastors;
25 and be it finally
26
27 RESOLVED that such policy be brought before the next convention of the Synod for approval.
28
29

30 LCC East District Board of Directors
31 Reg Tiegs, chair
32 Lois Griffin, secretary
33
34

35 **OVERTURE 2.05** **TO ESTABLISH UNIFIED PROCEDURES FOR CALLING**
36 **PASTORS**
37

- 38 WHEREAS a congregation is in the need of a pastor to be their shepherd and to fulfill all of the duties in
39 service to our Lord for His flock; and
40
41 WHEREAS Scripture clearly teaches and instructs us regarding such a pastor as in 1 Tim. 2:11-14, 1 Cor.
42 14:33-40, and in other passages; and
43
44 WHEREAS the calling of a pastor is a solemn act into a solemn position; and
45
46 WHEREAS all of our congregations are to be unified in both doctrine and practice; and
47
48 WHEREAS our congregations are in need of instruction as per the unified procedure for the calling of a pastor;
49 and
50
51 WHEREAS many influences and practices exist as per differing procedures regarding such a solemn call; and
52 WHEREAS our prayers, guidance, and direction in a calling process must be lead to God, our Holy Spirit and
53 not through the directions of man; and
54
55 WHEREAS we pray for God’s blessings on our decisions of the pastors and the congregations of such a call;

Therefore be it

RESOLVED that a procedure of the calling of a pastor to a congregation be established that would be in accordance with God's will, seeking God's blessings, and unifying all congregations and pastors in the act of issuing a solemn call to a shepherd in service to them and to the Lord.

Lutheran Church–Canada,
East District Board of Directors

Identical resolution submitted by
East District, Circuit Counsellors

OVERTURE 2.06 TO REQUEST THE COUNCIL OF PRESIDENTS TO PROVIDE STANDARD FORMS AND PRACTICES

WHEREAS As Synod we are to be walking together; and

WHEREAS currently there are not standard forms such as SEF, Circuit Counsellor Visitation forms, etc.; and

WHEREAS the process at call meetings is not always consistent across the Synod;

Therefore be it

RESOLVED that LCC in convention request the President and the Council of Presidents to develop such standard forms and practices; and be it further

RESOLVED that all districts, pastors and congregations be encouraged to use such forms and practices.

LCC East District Board of Directors
Reg Tiegs, Chair
Lois Griffin, Secretary

OVERTURE 2.07 TO RESTATE EXPECTATIONS REGARDING CONTINUING EDUCATION

WHEREAS the training of the Church's ordained and consecrated servants should be understood, similarly to the catechesis of all the baptised, as an ongoing, even lifetime process:

Therefore be it

RESOLVED that the CoP be asked to restate its expectations in the matter of the continuing education of pastors and other church workers and to give appropriate guidance and counsel to the congregations, pastors, deacons, and seminaries of Synod.

Concordia Lutheran Theological Seminary
Rev Esko Murto, secretary

OVERTURE 2.08 TO ESTABLISH CONTINUING EDUCATION EXPECTATIONS FOR ALL CHURCH WORKERS

-
- 1 WHEREAS the Council of Presidents for many years oversaw a robust synod-wide program of continuing
 2 education for pastors and other professional church-workers, which was supported both by
 3 parishes and by pastors and deacons themselves (ref.: COP Manual 4.5); and
 4
- 5 WHEREAS Lutheran Church-Canada (LCC) has previously decided in convention to establish a Pastoral
 6 Mentoring Program (2008 Convention, Resolution 08.2.03), which reflected a similar recognition
 7 of the need for continuing and lifelong education, and
 8
- 9 WHEREAS pastors are called to “preach the word; be ready in season and out of season, reprove, rebuke, and
 10 exhort, with complete patience and teaching” (2 Tim. 4:2) and to “continue in what you have
 11 learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it ...” (2 Tim. 3:14); and
 12
- 13 WHEREAS the many demands of the pastorate and related church work vocations make it difficult for
 14 educational institutions to provide all of the knowledge and skills necessary for ministry, and
 15
- 16 WHEREAS our culture and society having become increasingly secularized and hostile to the faith, our full-
 17 time church workers need to be engaged in a process of lifelong education to be best prepared to
 18 disciple people for Christ by teaching the faithful, reaching the lost, and sharing Christ’s love
 19 through care and acts of mercy for this generation and generations to come; and
 20
- 21 WHEREAS the changing culture in any country requires a pastor or deacon to adjust to new circumstances and
 22 to present the unchanging Word of God to a changing culture, and
 23 Whereas, church workers need regularly to recharge their batteries for a multi-faceted and
 24 complex ministry, and
 25
- 26 WHEREAS LCC and its partner churches have highly trained individuals capable of providing encouragement
 27 and instruction in a wide variety of areas from missions to preaching to meeting community needs,
 28
 29 Therefore be it
 30
- 31 RESOLVED That the Council of Presidents review and re-establish continuing-education expectations for all
 32 church workers, and recommendations for the appropriate support of the same, including both
 33 time and financial support from parishes and other entities that employ professional church-
 34 workers; and be it finally
 35
- 36 RESOLVED that the Council of Presidents present these expectations and recommendations to the next
 37 synodical convention for adoption and implementation.
 38

39 Concordia Lutheran Seminary
 40 Edmonton, Alberta
 41 Rev. John Hellwege, Jr., Ph.D.
 42 Faculty Secretary,
 43
 44

45 **OVERTURE 3.01** **TO CHANGE THE METHOD OF ELECTING CIRCUIT**
 46 **COUNSELLORS**
 47

- 48 WHEREAS the current method of nominating and electing circuit counsellors is rather confusing, does not
 49 initially allow the pastors of the circuit to participate in the election process itself, and does not
 50 permit pastors, other than retired pastors, on the clergy roster of the Synod within the circuit to be
 51 eligible to serve as circuit counsellors;
 52

53 Therefore be it
 54

1 RESOLVED that Article 4.11 of the Synodical Bylaws be amended to read: *“The Circuit Counsellor shall be*
 2 *elected at conventions of the district by the pastor and lay delegates from each circuit*
 3 *congregation or parish. All pastors of congregations in the circuit or retired pastors or other*
 4 *members on the clergy roster of the Synod who hold membership in one of the congregations of*
 5 *the circuit are eligible for election. The district convention shall then ratify such elections of*
 6 *circuit counsellors. The district president shall fill any vacancies for circuit counsellor.”*

7
 8 LCC East District Board of Directors

9 Reg Tiegs, chair

10 Lois Griffin, secretary

11
 12
 13 **OVERTURE 3.02 TO CHANGE NOMINATION PROCEDURES**

14
 15 WHEREAS the nomination of individuals for elected offices, aside from the President and Vice-Presidents, is
 16 actually made by the Synodical Committee on Convention Nominations and not by each voting
 17 congregation and each of its called Pastors; and

18
 19 WHEREAS the Synodical Committee on Convention Nominations only solicits from congregations and
 20 pastors names of potential candidates for various offices, other than President and Vice-Presidents,
 21 and secures their consent to let their name stand for such offices; and

22
 23 WHEREAS such consent, however, does not constitute being nominated for an office since it is the
 24 Synodical Committee on Convention Nominations and not the congregations and Pastors who do
 25 the actual nominating and the placing before the delegates of a synodical convention of at least
 26 two candidates for each position; and

27
 28 WHEREAS under our present procedure consenting to let one’s name stand in nomination for an office does
 29 not mean that the individual will even appear on the slate since the Synodical Committee on
 30 Convention Nominations is the entity that decides who will be on the ballot, regardless of the
 31 number of nominations an individual may have received; and

32
 33 WHEREAS the current procedure removes the right to nominate from the very members of the Synod, the
 34 Districts, the congregations and Pastors, and places this right in the hands of a committee of six
 35 persons; and

36
 37 WHEREAS the real and final authority of the Synod, including the election of individuals to various offices, is
 38 to be vested in the voting delegates of a convention and not decided by a committee which may
 39 place before the voting delegates only two candidates for each position; and

40
 41 WHEREAS such a nomination procedure as currently exists can be abused and misused and is prone to party
 42 spirit and personal agendas; and

43
 44 WHEREAS one or two districts names could be excluded in such nomination by the Synodical Committee on
 45 Convention Nominations; therefore be it

46
 47 Therefore be it

48
 49 RESOLVED that the Bylaw 2.527 d. of the Synod Handbook, and other pertinent parts of the Handbook, be
 50 amended to reflect the following fundamental changes: that each voting congregation and each of
 51 its called pastors who are members of Synod may nominate, and not simply propose for
 52 nomination, one candidate for each elected office; and that the slate of candidates for all offices
 53 shall consist of all who consent to their nomination; and therefore be it

54

1 RESOLVED that the Bylaw 2.527 d. of the Synod Handbook be amended to read, “That at least two candidates
2 shall be nominated for each position”
3

4 LCC East District Board of Directors
5 Reg Tiegs, chair
6 Lois Griffin, secretary
7
8

9 **OVERTURE 3.03 TO DEAL WITH THE UNFUNDED LIABILITIES IN THE LCC**
10 **PENSION PLAN**
11

12 WHEREAS the Lutheran Church-Canada Pension Plan has significant unfunded liabilities for its “defined
13 benefit” pension plan, and that the participating employers, i.e. LCC congregations, may be
14 responsible for these unfunded liabilities;
15

16 Therefore be it
17

18 RESOLVED that Lutheran Church-Canada in convention instruct the Board of Managers of the LCC Worker
19 Benefit Plan to diligently study this matter, and to present a plan to address this concern to all the
20 congregations of synod by September 1, 2018.
21

22 Calgary Circuit Forum
23 Rev. Mark Lobitz, Circuit Counsellor
24 Rev. David Bode, Secretary
25
26

27 **OVERTURE 3.04 TO CHANGE GUIDELINES FOR SYNODICAL RESOLUTIONS**
28 **COMMITTEES**
29

30 WHEREAS it has happened that the voice of some has not been heard at conventions because either their
31 overtures never made it out of the floor committee or were significantly changed by the
32 committee; and
33

34 WHEREAS The East District addressed this concern by putting in place guidelines {7.22.A and 7.22.B in their
35 Regulations} for its resolution committees:
36

37 7.22 The Resolutions Committees

38 A. In order to expedite the transaction of business, the President shall refer all overtures submitted
39 to the convention to Resolutions Committees. The purpose of the Resolutions Committees is to
40 organize the overtures received and present them as resolutions to the convention. It is not the
41 purpose of the Resolutions Committees to change the intent of the overtures submitted. They can,
42 however, combine overtures on a similar topic into one resolution. They can also recommend to
43 decline an overture.

44 B. The Resolutions Committees shall not create or present resolutions that do not originate from
45 properly submitted overtures.
46

47 WHEREAS this was done in order to encourage grass roots participation and to give congregations the
48 confidence that their voice will be heard;
49

50 Therefore be it
51

52 RESOLVED that the Synod adopt this wording and practice of the East District for floor committees of LCC.
53

54 Redeemer Lutheran Church
55 Sudbury, Ontario.

Pastor: Rev. David Smilek
 Chairman: Peter Boscariol
 Secretary (at the meeting): Wendy Boscariol

Identical Resolutions submitted by

Christ Lutheran Church
 Timmons, ON
 Robert Schuehle Chairmen
 Monika Schuehle Secretary
 Rev. Milton Lam

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
 Moncton, NS
 Reese Currie President

**OVERTURE 3.05 TO PROVIDE FOR VERBAL REPORTS FROM DISTRICT
 PRESIDENTS AT SYNOD CONVENTIONS**

WHEREAS the Synod is divided into Districts; and

WHEREAS the Synod at large may have questions for a given District; and

WHEREAS a time at convention for the District Presidents to give a report regarding the work carried out in their respective Districts would be beneficial to promoting a sense of unity of purpose; and

WHEREAS the delegates from across Synod may have questions regarding such work within the Districts;

Therefore be it

RESOLVED that District Presidents give verbal reports at convention; and be it further

RESOLVED that opportunity be provided for the delegates to ask questions of the District Presidents..

Redeemer Lutheran Church
 Sudbury, Ontario.
 Pastor: Rev. David Smilek
 Chairman: Peter Boscariol
 Secretary (at the meeting): Wendy Boscariol

**OVERTURE 3.06 TO PROHIBIT CERTAIN ABC DISTRICT LEADERS FROM
 HOLDING SYNODICAL OFFICE UNTIL 2021**

WHEREAS Lutheran Church Canada will be holding a National Convention in Kitchener, ON

WHEREAS A major portion of this convention will be focused on the restructuring of Lutheran Church Canada

WHEREAS one of the reasons for restructuring is the financial situation of the ABC District

WHEREAS many legal issues still remain and are ongoing in the ABC District

WHEREAS the legal issues and financial difficulties are hindering the work of the Lord in the ABC District

1 WHEREAS it would be advisable to separate the old leadership from the new structure moving forward

2
3 Therefore be it

4
5 RESOLVED that Lutheran Church Canada not consider any current or past Presidents, Vice Presidents,
6 Members of the Board of Directors, any ABC staff or managers at Prince of Peace at the time of
7 the Church Extension Fund and District Investments Ltd. from holding any office in the revised
8 Lutheran Church Canada organization until the next convention four years later (2021).
9

10 RATIONALE The deep rooted effect of this financial disaster has left scars, personal hurts and animosity among
11 members both those affected and not. As we restructure the integrity of the Church should be
12 important and we believe this would be an important step.
13

14 Immanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church
15 Rocky Mountain House, AB
16 Archie Richardson, Executive Director

17 **OVERTURE 3.07 TO COMMUNICATE A REPORT ON CEF DETAILS AND**
18 **PROVIDE VERBAL DISCUSSION TIME**
19

20 REFERENCE Large Catechism 7th Commandment; ABC District Review Task Force Report; LCC Handbook
21 Synodical Bylaws II E 1 Lutheran Church Canada Financial Ministries pg 27-8 & Appendix B
22 pg85 “Scriptural Theses on Conflict Resolution”
23

24 WHEREAS the ABC District of LCC has a “cash flow shortage, meaning we are unable to continue honouring
25 withdrawals” as communicated January 5, 2015, and
26

27 WHEREAS members in the East & Central Districts may be largely unaware of the details of the “cash flow
28 shortage”,
29

30 Therefore be it
31

32 RESOLVED that the Convention communicate to the Synod a summary report of the details to date, such as:
33 (please correct these figures to the nearest Million where necessary)
34 Church Extension Fund (CEF): \$98 Million in deposits; \$17 Million repaid = 17 cents on the
35 dollar
36 District Investments Limited (DIL) RRSPs, RRIFs, TFSAs: \$40 Million in investments; \$24
37 Million repaid = 61 cents on the dollar.
38 In total, the “cash flow shortage” is approximately \$100,000,000.00 (ONE HUNDRED MILLION
39 DOLLARS), mostly from the retirement & life-savings of senior citizens of ABC District
40 congregations, and be it finally
41

42 RESOLVED that the Convention allow apply Agenda time for a Q & A session on this “cash flow shortage.”
43

44 Grace/Southampton
45 Kincardine/Southampton, ON
46 Susan Ottoman Secretary
47

48 *Identical Resolutions submitted by*
49 First St. Matthews
50 Hanover, ON
51 Marie Bolton Secretary
52