



Eastern Synod Assembly 2012
July 5 – 8, 2012
Waterloo, Ontario

Fourteenth Biennial Convention
EASTERN SYNOD of the
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada

Agenda

Wednesday – July 4, 2012

- 12:00 pm Synod Council Lunch – Synod Office
- 1:00 pm Synod Council

Thursday – July 5, 2012

- 9:00 am Delegate Registration Open – Bricker Residence
- 11:00 am Pre-Retirement Seminar – Waterloo Lutheran Seminary
- New Delegate Assembly Orientation – Waterloo Lutheran Seminary
- 12:00 pm **Lunch**

Session One

- 1:30 pm ***Opening Service of Holy Communion/Opening of Assembly***
- 2:30 pm **Break**

- 2:45 pm Report of Committee on Registration
Establishment of Quorum
Delegate Orientation and Procedural Guidelines
Introduction of Special Guests
Requests to Grant Privilege of Vote and/or Voice
Notice of Consent Agenda Items
 Report of Synod Council – Items not requiring action
 Report of the Statistician
 Necrology Report
 Report of the Acting Archivist
 Report of the Auditor
 Reports of the Standing Committees
 Report of Lutheran Planned Giving
 Adoption of Minutes of 2010 Assembly
 Appointment of Assembly Committees
 Reports of the Conferences
Adoption of Agenda
- 3:15 pm Report of the Bishop
- 3:45 pm Report of Synod Council
- Notice of Items Requiring Action
 - Notice of Proposed Amendments to Eastern Synod Constitution
- 4:00 pm **Special Order**
Report of the Treasurer
- 2010 – 2011 Financial Review
 - 2012 - 2014 Budget Overview
- 4:30 pm **Special Order**
The Rev. Dr. Susan C. Johnson
National Bishop, Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada
- 5:00 pm ***Closing Prayer and Adjournment For Supper***

Session Two

- 6:30 pm Report of Nominating Committee
- Synod Council
 - Nominations from the floor
- 6:45 pm Report of the ELCIC Structural Renewal Task Force
- 7:30 pm Delegate and Visitor Registration Closed
- Bible Study
- 8:30 pm Worship
- 9:15 pm Welcome Reception for Delegates and Visitors
Location: The Turrett in the Fred Nichols Building
- 9:15 pm Welcome Reception for Retired Pastors and Spouses
Location: The Turrett in the Fred Nichols Building

Friday – July 6, 2012

- 7:30 am **Breakfast**
- 8:00 am Delegate Registration Open – Athletic Complex

Session Three

- 8:30 am **Worship**
- 9:00 am Report of the Committee on Elections
- **First Ballot – Synod Council**
- 9:20 am Report of Synod Council (Continued)
- 10:30 am **Break**
- 10:45 am Report of the ELCIC Structural Renewal Task Force (Continued)
- 11:45 am Report of the Committee on Reference and Counsel
- 12:00 pm **Closing Prayer and Adjournment For Lunch**
- Lutheran Planned Giving Luncheon – by invitation

Session Four

- 1:30 pm **Opening Prayer**
- 1:45 pm Report of the Committee on Elections
- **Second Ballot – Synod Council**
- 2:15 pm Report of the Committee on Reference and Counsel
- 3:00 pm **Special Order**
Hildy Thiessen
Executive Director, ELCIC Group Services
- 3:15 pm **Break**
- 3:30 pm Bible Study
- 4:15 pm Report of Synod Council (Continued)
Note: All non-germane motions must be in the hands of the Secretary at this time.
- 5:00 pm **Closing Prayer and Adjournment For Dinner**
Rehearsal for Ordination Service
- 7:30 pm **Ordination Service and Reception**

Saturday – July 7, 2012

- 7:30 am **Breakfast**

Session Five

- 8:30 am **Worship**
- 9:00 am Presentation of Pastors, Diaconal Ministers and Congregations received into the Synod since July 1, 2010
- 9:30 am Report of the Committee on Elections
- **Third Ballot – Synod Council**
- 9:45 am Bible Study
- 10:30 am **Break**
- 10:45 am Report of the Committee on Reference and Counsel
- 11:20 am Report of the WLS Board of Governors

12:00 pm ***Closing Prayer and Adjournment For Lunch***

Session Six

- 1:30 pm Report of Synod Council (Continued)
2013 – 2014 Budget
- 2:00 pm Report of the ELCIC Structural Renewal Task Force (Continued)
- 2:30 pm Edgewood Camp and Conference Centre Presentation
- 2:45 pm Partner Reflection – Evangelical Lutheran Church in Guyana
- 3:00 pm Report of the Committee on Reference and Counsel
Report of the Committee on Registration
Report of the Committee on the Report of the Bishop
- 3:30 pm ***Closing Service of Holy Communion/Installation of Synod Council***
Adjournment of Convention Business
- 6:30 pm ***Eastern Synod Banquet – Waterloo Inn and Conference Centre***
6:30 pm - Gathering
7:00 pm - Dinner

Sunday – July 8, 2012

Breakfast

Delegates and Visitors are invited to worship at area churches



Assembly 2012
Fourteenth Biennial Convention
EASTERN SYNOD of the
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada
Wilfrid Laurier University, Waterloo, Ontario
July 5-8, 2012

Minutes
Session One – Thursday, July 5, 2012, 1:30 p.m.

Assembly 2012 began with a blessing and greetings brought by Six Nations representatives Father Norm Casey and Mrs. Leona Moses, followed by a service of Holy Communion including the rite of the Opening of Assembly; Bishop Michael Pryse presided and National Bishop Susan Johnson preached.

Bishop Michael Pryse called to order the Eastern Synod Assembly for 2012.

Report of the Committee on Registration

The Report of the Committee on Registration was presented by Irene Fancy, Registrar. As of 2:00pm:

Total eligible clergy delegates	<u>290</u>
Total registered clergy delegates	<u>141</u>
Total eligible lay delegates (congregational)	<u>235</u>
Registered youth delegates	<u>6</u>
Registered lay officers and lay Synod council	<u>6</u>
Registered diaconal delegates	<u>2</u>
Registered lay delegates (congregational)	<u>107</u>
Total registered lay delegates	<u>121</u>
Total eligible clergy and lay delegates	<u>525</u>
Total registered clergy and lay delegates	<u>262</u>
Required quorum is 1/3 of eligible voters (see MS/02 Art. X Sec. 5)	<u>175</u>

Registered visitors	12
Registered, other non-delegates	34
Registered volunteers	12
Sub-total	58
Grand total attendees at Assembly	320

Establishment of Quorum

The Secretary declared that a quorum was present.

Delegate Orientation and Procedural Guidelines

Bishop Pryse directed delegates’ attention to some procedural guidelines outlined in the Bulletin of Reports. Rev. Jeff Smith, Convention Manager, made some announcements regarding assembly events and items.

Introduction of Special Guests

Bishop Pryse introduced several guests:

- National Bishop Susan Johnson
- Robert “Bob” Granke - CLWR Executive Director
- Tom Brook – CLWR Director of Community Relations
- Rev. Paul Moonu – ELCG President
- Hildy Thiessen – GSI Executive Director
- Trina Gallop – Director of Communications and Stewardship
- Michael Harvey – Bible Study Leader
- Father Norm Casey and Mrs. Leona Moses from Six Nations

Requests to Grant Privilege of Vote and/or Voice

Voice was granted by the Assembly to the Special Guests noted above.

Notice of Consent Agenda Items

Report of the Synod Council – Items not requiring action

Report of the Secretary

Report of the Statistician

Report of the Necrologist

Report of the Acting Archivist

Report of the Auditor

Reports of the Standing Committees

Report of Lutheran Planned Giving

Adoption of Minutes of 2010 Convention

Appointment of Convention Committees

Reports of the Conferences

MSC that the Consent Agenda Items and the Agenda be adopted.

Report of the Bishop

Linda Grainger assumed the chair as Bishop Pryse presented his report. A printed report was distributed following the presentation. The report was referred to the Committee on the Report of the Bishop.

Report of the Synod Council

Notice of Items Requiring Action – Secretary Wendell Grahlman directed the delegates to Appendix A in the Bulletin of Reports, Section 6-17.

Notice of Proposed Amendments to Eastern Synod Constitution – the delegates were directed to Section 6-18.

Special Order: Report of the Treasurer

With Section 8 of the Bulletin of Reports as background, Treasurer Keith Myra provided his report and overview of the financial end of our synodical ministries for 2010-2011. Keith then provided an overview of how benevolence dollars will help extend the ministry of the synod, in part through the 2012-2013-2014 Budgets.

Special Order: Report of the National Bishop

National Bishop Susan Johnson of the ELCIC was introduced by Bishop Pryse and greeted by the Assembly. Bishop Johnson's printed report is in Section 3 of the Bulletin of Reports; she addressed the Assembly with appreciation for the ELCIC Praise Appeal support raised by the Synod. She provided some additional commentary about the ELCIC and its five strategic goals with respect to members being ambassadors in ministry. Under Effective Partnerships, Bishop Johnson introduced Bob Granke, Executive Director of Canadian Lutheran World Relief, and asked him to speak about the work of CLWR. As a part of his report, he introduced Jenn Ardon, working as a CLWR eastern representative in Waterloo, primarily with refugee sponsorship, and Heather Pryse, who is completing an internship with CLWR in Winnipeg. Bob gave brief highlights of work that has taken place and is currently taking place, and of the changing relationships with the federal government with respect to CIDA. Bishop Johnson concluded the CLWR report with a video about the Gifts from the Heart program. She continued with her perspective about the work and renewal of the ELCIC, and concluded with her passionate encouragement for spiritual renewal in the church and lives of members, to be ambassadors among family, friends, congregations, and communities as witnesses of Christ and the mission of God.

The session was adjourned with prayer.

Session Two – Thursday, July 5, 2012, 6:30 p.m.

Bishop Pryse called the meeting to order.

Rev. Jeff Smith gave several announcements regarding convention items and receptions.

Report of the Nominating Committee

The Secretary presented the slate of those who have been nominated for Synod Council for the term 2012-2016 (in Section 2, with biographical information). There were no further nominations from the floor.

Report of the ELCIC Structural Renewal Task Force

Bishop Pryse welcomed Bishop Johnson and Linda Grainger of the National Implementation Team. They reviewed the various recommendations of what structural renewal is intended to accomplish, its goals and timelines. They fielded questions and comments from delegates.

Bible Study

Bishop Pryse introduced Michael Harvey as our Bible study leader for the assembly. Michael Harvey is the initiator of the “Back to Church Sunday,” a movement that has become global. He spoke about Unlocking the Growth, speaking of ways in which we the church are afraid of inviting others to church and how to become an inviting church.

Worship

The session concluded with worship, including a Memorial for clergy and family who have died in the past biennium, and those who have left our synod.

A Welcome Reception was held for Delegates and Visitors, Retired Pastors and Spouses.

Session Three – Friday, July 6, 2012, 8:30 a.m.

The session began with Morning Worship led by Rev. Ralph Dwarika and a message from Rev. Paul Moonu.

Linda Grainger called the meeting to order. Rev. Jeff Smith gave some announcements to do with assembly happenings.

Report of the Committee on Elections

First Ballot – Synod Council. Ballots were distributed. Ballots were marked by delegates and collected; then balloting was declared closed.

Report of Synod Council (Continued)

Second Reading of Constitutional Amendments

ES 12-01 MSC that second reading of the following amendment to the Constitution, Article XV, Section 2 be adopted:

Section 2.

- a. The board of governors of Waterloo Lutheran Seminary, Waterloo, Ontario, shall be appointed by the Synod Council, and shall consist of fourteen members, half of whom shall be clergy including the Bishop of the Eastern Synod, and half of whom shall be laypersons. ~~seven ordained ministers and eight lay persons elected by synod in convention for a term of three years. The bishop of synod shall be ex-officio a member of the board.~~
- b. ~~Three persons of the board of governors shall be nominated to the board by the national church council. Such appointments shall be for terms of three years, spaced that, as nearly as possible, one third of the total membership of the board shall come up for reappointment each year. Those appointed by the national church council shall be ratified by an affirmative vote of election by the synod in convention.~~

~~If the vote on the election of any one of these nominees is negative, an alternative nomination shall be made by the national church council. The synod council shall be empowered to complete such election if it is unfinished at the adjournment of the convention.~~

- c. The board may, ~~in consultation with the national church council~~, propose to the synod **council** an increase or decrease in the number of its members, such increase or decrease to include an equal number of ordained ministers and lay persons. Any proposal for increase or decrease in the number of members of the board must have the approval of the synod **council**.
- d. The term of office for each member of the board shall be three years except in the following cases:
 - i. Where a member is appointed to fill a vacancy, such appointment shall be by the synod council and shall be for the remainder of the term of the predecessor;
 - ii. In the case of the first of any new ~~elections~~ **appointments** in connection with increasing the number of the said board, the terms of office shall be for one, two or three years, so spaced that as nearly as possible one third of the total membership of the board shall come up for ~~election~~ **appointment** each year.
- e. Members of the board shall be eligible to serve not more than two consecutive terms.

And appropriate re-lettering: c, d, and e. become b, c, and d.

Compensation Schedule for 2013 and 2014.

Rev. Stephen Weber, the chairperson of the Professional Leadership Committee, addressed the assembly with a couple of notes about the Schedule.

ES 12-02 MSC that the Compensation Schedule for 2013 and 2014 be adopted.

Referring to section for the Schedule for Interim Pastors:

MS Defeated that the following be changed: 2) The Hourly rate will be \$31.50/hr, beginning the time that the pastor ~~leaves his/her home~~ **arrives at work**.

MSC to call the question.

MS Defeated that the following be changed: 2) The Hourly rate will be \$31.50/hr, ~~beginning the time that the pastor leaves his/her home~~.

MSC to call the question.

Revised Vision for Mission 2012-2014

ES 12-03 MSC that the revised Vision for Mission 2012-2014 be adopted.

Under Mission Priority 2, in the lead paragraph:

MS Amended that: ... We will foster a climate of **invitation**, welcome and hospitality...

Draft Synod Covenant

Jeff Pym addressed the assembly. Delegates offered feedback and comments. The covenant is understood to be a solemn promise, an agreement and pledge for action, yet with no legislative weight. The covenant's objectives are to promote mutual accountability and to help us discover how we are all partners in ministry. A timeline was presented: Synod Council would revise the covenant in Fall 2012; congregations would have the option to discuss this revised document from January to November 2013; and then potentially return a signed copy to synod office by March 2014.

Report of the ELCIC Structural Renewal Task Force (Continued)

Linda Grainger spoke about how the structural task force will affect the Eastern Synod. She referred specifically to the proposed Constitution and Bylaws in the Bulletin of Reports in Section 6. Delegates offered comments and questions on various aspects of the proposed documents.

Report of the Committee on Reference and Counsel

Rev. Ilze Kuplens-Ewart, chairperson of the Committee, addressed the assembly and referred to a sheet distributed to tables, "Terms of Reference for the Committee on Reference and Counsel." She then continued with the first report of the Committee.

ES 12-04 MSC that this synod in Assembly call on all provincial, territorial, federal and municipal governments to develop and/or expand affordable supportive housing strategies that will:

- prevent and alleviate homelessness and address the independent living needs of seniors and others facing challenges to independent living; and
- that delegates to this Assembly encourage their congregations and members to support such housing initiatives in their communities.

ES 12-05 MSC that this synod in Assembly call on the Federal Government to address the issue of poverty facing many Canadians by:

- developing a Federal Anti-poverty strategy enshrined in legislation which includes a commitment for sufficient investment in social security and accountability for results,
- that delegates to this Assembly acquire and study the document *The Dollars and Sense of Solving Poverty* in their congregations, and
- encourage their congregations and members to advocate for poverty reduction initiatives with their respective Provincial governments.

ES 12-06 MSC that, in light of the ongoing work of *The Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada* (TRC) and the ELCIC's commitment to diversity, the Synod Assembly calls on the Eastern Synod to form a volunteer, ad hoc committee that will invite and help shepherd the congregations of the Eastern Synod in:

- confession and repentance of both our current racist attitudes and actions and the part we played in support of the policy of assimilation that denied the integrity of Aboriginal cultures and thereby created and perpetuated the residential school tragedy;
- committing ourselves to working toward reconciliation and decolonizing the dominant culture;
- planning to engage in on-going learning, reflection, and discussion based in scripture, the work of the TRC and related resources in order to uncover attitudes that are still present in our selves, church and society that were at the root of the residential schools;
- after the process of confession, repentance, self-learning, and reflection to humbly respond to invitations from communities that experience the debilitating effects of racism and with communities that live with privilege, to find ways to journey together, confronting the reality of racism.

The tasks of this committee will include:

- to begin to discern the context of the Eastern Synod in relation to diversity, racism, culture, and right relationships with First Nations Peoples;
- to look in depth at the issues of diversity, racism, culture and right relationships;
- to devise and commend processes for this work;
- to engage others in the Synod and beyond in gathering resources (written, experiential, video, workshop, and training);

- to help the Eastern Synod to identify and celebrate the ways this process is life giving and helps us to live our faith.

The assembly was adjourned for lunch.

Lutheran Planned Giving Luncheon – by invitation.

Session Four – Friday, July 6, 2012, 1:30 p.m.

Opening prayer and song were led by Debbie Lou Ludolph.

Report of the Committee on Elections

Rev. Anne Anderson of the Committee of Elections reported the results of the first ballot for synod council. Elected to the term 2012-2016 were Clergy: Rev. Colin Cameron, Rev. Ann Krueger, Rev. Roy Thakurdyal; and Lay: Bonnie Wepler.

Second Ballot – Synod Council. Ballots were distributed; delegates voted and after the ballots were collected, balloting was declared closed.

Report of the Committee on Reference and Counsel

ES 12-07 MSC that the Eastern Synod Assembly declare that, out of respect for all of creation and accepting our responsibility as stewards of creation, call for a vision and policies for the future of our country and our planet that:

- acknowledge that Canada's Environmental Footprint — industrial, institutional, and individual — exceeds the planet's capability to sustain it;
- acknowledge that, according to the vast majority of climate scientists, global warming is caused by humans and is having an increasingly devastating effect on the planet's ecosystem, its flora and fauna, and on vulnerable human populations;
- move us from dependence on oil, gas, and coal to clean, sustainable energy sources such as solar, wind, tidal, and geothermal, in the process creating jobs;
- eliminate the current federal tax subsidies of over \$1 billion annually to oil and gas companies allocating those funds for environmentally responsible policies;
- through public education campaigns and financial incentives encourage conservation of energy by industry, government, public and private institutions, and individuals.

Finally, we direct our Bishop, the Rev. Dr. Michael Pryse, to:

- write to our Prime Minister, conveying these declarations and calls for action;
- write to Eastern Synod congregations encouraging them to continue the greening of their homes, their buildings and their use of the planet's limited resources; and
- through proclamation and education to keep us ever mindful of the care for the creation that the Creator has entrusted to us.

MS that the Eastern Synod encourage its congregations and congregational members to reject violence as a controlling posture in all relationships:

- in domestic life, refusing all violent responses to spousal disagreements and child-rearing, including spanking and hitting;
- in our neighbourhoods and in our communities responding to criminal and other offences by speaking and acting for non-violent resolutions such as those practised through restorative practices;

- in international relations, to support those who serve and those who choose not to serve in the nation's military encouraging our government to find non-violent solutions to international conflicts; and
 - in our stewardship of the creation by a renewed "reverence for life" in all its forms;
- and that the Eastern Synod, through our Bishop Michael Pryse, encourage other synods and the national ELCIC to take similar official action.

MS Amended to change third bullet:

In international relations, ~~refusing to serve~~ **to support those who serve and those who choose not to serve** in the nation's military.

MS Amended to add to the third bullet:

In international relations, to support those who serve and those who choose not to serve in the nation's military **and encouraging our government to find non-violent solutions to international conflicts.**

MS Amended to change the second bullet:

In our neighbourhoods and in our communities responding to criminal and other offences by speaking and acting for non-violent resolutions such as those practised through the ~~Community Justice Initiative~~ **restorative practices.**

MSC to refer to Reference and Counsel.

Reference and Counsel recommended that the following be ruled out of order:

Moved that the Eastern Synod endorse the following motion passed by an overwhelming majority at the synod assembly of Alberta and the Territories on May 25, 2012:

"That the World Missions Committee of the Synod of Alberta and the Territories, in cooperation and consultation with Synod Council and Executive develop a strategy to financially support the work and ministry of the Rev. Brian Rude in El Salvador."

And that the Eastern Synod, in this assembly, direct its Synod Council and Executive to work in close cooperation and consultation with the Synod of Alberta and the Territories to support the work and ministry of the Rev. Brian Rude in El Salvador.

The Chair upheld the recommendation. The Chair was challenged. The assembly voted and upheld the Chair's decision.

ES 12-08 MSC that the following motion be referred to the Synod's Privacy Officer and to Synod Council:

That the Treasurer of this Synod, starting in 2014, provide in the Synod Assembly financial Reports a detailed breakdown of individual Synod Professional Staff remuneration.

Special Order

Bishop Pryse introduced Hildy Thiessen, Executive Director of ELCIC Group Services. Hildy addressed the assembly with information about the pension plan of the ELCIC.

Report of the Committee on Elections

Rev. Anne Anderson of the Committee of Elections reported the results of the second ballot for synod council. Elected to the term 2012-2016 were Lay: Brian Koivu.

Third Ballot – Synod Council. Ballots were distributed; delegates voted and after the ballots were collected, balloting was declared closed.

Bible Study

Michael Harvey was invited forward for his second presentation. His mandate for us: embrace failure. He spoke about forsakenness in relation to the lament Psalm 22. "Truth sets us free – if we are honest about where we are." In relationship to the invitation of people to church: What will keep people? What sends them away? "Lament is impatient insistent protest."

Report of the Committee on Elections

Rev. Anne Anderson of the Committee of Elections reported the results of the third ballot for synod council. Elected to the term 2012-2016 were Lay: Margaret Christenson.

MSC that ballots be destroyed.

Report of Synod Council (Continued)

The draft Synod Covenant was brought forward again for further comments and questions.

ES 12-09 MSC that first reading of the proposed constitution for the Atlantic Great Lakes synod be approved.

MS Amended that Article XVII Section 3 read:

Terms of reference for, and membership on, the Board of Governors of Waterloo Lutheran Seminary shall be defined in the ~~bylaws of this synod or in a policy manual~~ **constitution of Waterloo Lutheran Seminary subject to synod council approval.**

MS that the proposed bylaws for the Atlantic Great Lakes synod be adopted.

MS Defeated that

The thirty (30) lay **which include 6 youth delegates** and the twenty (20) rostered delegates **which include four retirees serving under appointment** receiving the most votes shall be elected.

MS Defeated to add a new section:

f – Six (6) rostered delegates not under call or appointment appointed by synod council.

The session was adjourned; the motion for the proposed bylaws to be completed in a future session.

Ordination Service – Friday evening, June 25, 2010

The Ordination Service took place in the evening at St. John's Lutheran Church in Waterloo at 7:30 p.m.

The Presiding Minister was Bishop Michael J. Pryse. The Preacher was Rev. Dr. David Pfrimmer, Principal-Dean of Waterloo Lutheran Seminary.

Ordained to the ministry of Word and Sacrament were: Timothy Dawkins, Stephen Hoffard, Bruce Thompson, and Ralph Weigold.

Session Five – Saturday, July 7, 2012, 8:30 a.m.

Morning Worship was led in prayer, song and psalm, with Diaconal Minister (Deaconess) Pam Harrington presiding, and the message given by the Rev. Peter Wall, Dean of the Anglican Cathedral (Anglican) in Hamilton.

Presentation of Pastors, Diaconal Ministers and Congregations

Bishop Pryse invited all those who have been received into the Synod since July 1, 2010 to the podium. They introduced themselves to the assembly and delegates warmly welcomed and received them.

Bishop Pryse offered special thanks to The Very Rev. Peter Wall who has acted as co-chair with him on the Joint Anglican Lutheran Commission for several years.

He also thanked the worship leaders, musicians, choristers of assembly sessions, and the assembly offered its thanks and appreciation.

The bishop also thanked the musicians at the ordination service, especially Scott Knarr who arranged much of the music for the service.

Rev. Jeff Smith gave some instructions regarding the conclusion of assembly sessions.

Bible Study

Michael Harvey was welcomed to the podium for his last presentation. At the conclusion of his presentation, Bishop Pryse offered him the thanks and appreciation of the assembly for the work that he has called us to do.

Dorothy Frook, Linda Mittleholtz and Cathy Calvin were invited to the podium. Cathy Calvin, Director of Women's Ministries, addressed the assembly and extended an invitation to women to attend "The Spa" (Sacred Place Away), an event next year for women, May 24-26, 2013 at Seneca College in Toronto.

Bishop Pryse announced that the synod's support of the ELCIC Praise Appeal has topped \$100,414.44!

Report of the Committee on Reference and Counsel

Rev. Ilze Kuplens-Ewart continued with the Committee's reports.

ES 12-10 MSC that the following be referred to the Committee on Professional Leadership:

Moved that the Eastern Synod in Assembly refer to Synod Council the task of preparing for 2014 Eastern Synod Assembly an assessment of Percentage Time Call/Contract Ministry. The assessment will look at the challenges and opportunities within the conferences of the Synod and report on relevant findings, procedures, and/or recommendations.

The following is a substitute motion to replace a similar motion in Session 4.

ES 12-11 MSC Moved that the Eastern Synod in convention declare its support for the historic Lutheran position that, while violence is sometimes tragically necessary in pursuing justice in the world, it is always preferred that non-violent solutions be sought in situations of conflict.

Therefore we commit ourselves:

- To use non-violent communication in our interactions with one another;
- To encourage our communities to pursue restorative practices in instances of violence in social life;
- To encourage governments and those who protest government actions and policies to engage one another honestly and non-violently;
- To encourage the government of Canada and other nations to pursue, non-violent solutions to international conflicts through the United Nations and other multilateral and bilateral organizations.

We also commit ourselves to encourage and support those whose vocation includes the pursuit of justice and peace, mediation, conflict resolution, restorative practices, diplomacy, peace-keeping and peace-making.

We therefore request Synod Council and the Director of Public Policy Advisory and Service Ministries to identify or develop resources to help congregations study and work toward restorative practices and just peace in the world, and to respond to violence in the home, at work and at school, and in that perpetrated against creation.

Report of the WLS Board of Governors

The Principal-Dean of Waterloo Lutheran Seminary, the Rev. Dr. David Pfrimmer, and the Chairperson of the Board of Governors, Marge Watters Knebel, were welcomed for their report. Marge reported on the recent changes in the membership of the Board; the Board's positive and beneficial relationship with Wilfrid Laurier University; the bright outlook of the Seminary's finances; the beginning of an undergraduate program at the Seminary beginning this September; the increased enrollment, up 77% over the past five years, although MDiv enrollment itself has remained relevant flat; the ministry of study tours and the Inshallah choir; its appreciation of the faculty, and especially to Rev. Dr. Bob Kelly who will be teaching for one more year before his retirement; the Women's Auxiliary.

David Pfrimmer addressed the assembly and presented a slide show about the mission plan of the Seminary for the remainder of this century. The plan includes aspects of academics, worship, pastoral care, and a residential program. The timeline has several stages of development taking place over the next few years. David encouraged delegates and members of the synod to support and continue supporting the seminary and its development in the years to come. He included a strong encouragement for rostered ministers to be involved in continuing education in order to maintain standards and credentials for ministry. David concluded with thanks for the partnership of the synod.

The session was adjourned for lunch.

Session Six – Saturday, July 7, 2012, 1:30 p.m.

Report of Synod Council (Continued)

Keith Myra, Synod Treasurer, presented some introductory remarks, and then some further detailed information about the proposed budgets for 2012-2014.

ES 12-12 MSC that the 2012 Revised Budget and 2013-2014 Proposed Budgets be adopted.

Report of the ELCIC Structural Renewal Task Force (Continued)

The motion on the proposed bylaws is completed here from a previous session.

ES 12-13 MSC that the proposed bylaws for the Atlantic Great Lakes synod be adopted.

MS Amended that this addition be added to Part VI, Section 1:

...These additional persons **representing a variety of separate regions** shall be elected by the convention to serve for three (3) years....

MS Defeated for a change to Part V Section 3e:

A youth delegate from each Area ~~Six (6) youth delegates~~ appointed by synod council.

MSC to call the question.

MS Defeated to add another bullet, to Part V Section 2, as b:

All rostered ministers in this synod not otherwise delegates to the convention.

MSC to call the question on the bylaws.

ES 12-14 MSC that action on the name change of the Eastern Synod to the Atlantic Great Lakes Synod be tabled indefinitely.

ES 12-15 MSC that the Synod Council of the Eastern Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada be authorized to take any and all necessary action to implement changes as per the constitution and bylaws presented.

ES 12-16 MSC that the Eastern Synod participate fully in further conversation with the other synods and the ELCIC National Church Council to further develop options for the structure of the Church.

Report of the Committee on Reference and Counsel

ES 12-17 MSC that should the ELCIC synods fail to develop realistic and sustainable proposals for restructuring, and should the National Church Council be unable to bring forward restructuring proposals to their Fall 2013 meeting to maintain the ministry of the national church, NCC be called upon to:

- develop a proposal for an orderly process to wind down the current national structure; and
- appoint an interim secretariat or other means to facilitate the cooperation and collaboration of ELCIC synods in national and international organizations and initiatives in the future.

ES 12-18 MSC that the Eastern Synod Assembly send the following message through our bishop to our sister synods and their bishops:

"We desire to continue as a national church from sea to sea to sea, a national church that relates to the world. Inasmuch as we are anxious and concerned for the future of our common evangelical Lutheran voice and mission in Canada and around the world, we value and respect your intention for Spirit-led discernment. Since 1619 Lutherans have been seeking in adversity for ways to serve God together on the soil and seas we now know as Canada. We desire to continue seeking and struggling together with you."

Edgewood Camp and Conference Centre Presentation

Board members Rev. Bonnie Schelter-Brown and Rev. Nadine Nicholds, and Camp Executive Director Rev. Fred Ludolph gave a brief presentation in word and by slides about Edgewood's ministry and presence. Fred spoke about a dream of new facilities for Edgewood to serve the church and community around it; a price tag of roughly \$1.8 million dollars would see this dream come alive. Fred concluded by thanking the delegates and synod for their continued support.

Partner Reflection – Evangelical Lutheran Church in Guyana

Rev. Paul Moonu, the President of our partner synod, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Guyana, addressed the assembly. He offered reflections about the partnership between our two churches. He called Rev. Roy Thakurdial to speak about the origins of the partnership a dozen years ago. Paul spoke further about the work and ministry in his church which will be able to provide indigenous leadership for their congregations, and at the same time to receive leadership training from resources and people of the Eastern Synod.

Report of the Committee on Registration

Irene Fancy provided the final statistics for registration at Assembly.

Total eligible clergy delegates	290
Total registered clergy delegates	165
Total eligible lay delegates (congregational)	235
Registered youth delegates	6
Registered lay officers and lay Synod council	7
Registered diaconal delegates	2
Registered lay delegates (congregational)	111
Total registered lay delegates	126
Total eligible clergy and lay delegates	525
Total registered clergy and lay delegates	291
Required quorum is 1/3 of eligible voters (see MS/02 Art. X Sec. 5)	175
Registered visitors	14
Registered, other non-delegates	18
Registered volunteers	18
Sub-total	50
Grand total attendees at Assembly	341

Report of the Committee on the Report of the Bishop

Chairperson Rev. Hans Borch presented the report, which was distributed to delegates.

Report of the Committee on Reference and Counsel

ES 12-19 MSC that this synod in assembly direct the bishop to write to the prime minister of Canada and express our concern at the cuts in refugee health coverage announced by the federal government. Further, we ask the National Bishop to explore issuing a public statement together with other faith leaders condemning the federal government's decision and joining those in the medical community and other faith communities to call for the reinstatement of full health care coverage to the refugee claimants. We also encourage congregations and members of the ELCIC to express their concern to their Members of Provincial Parliament and calling for reinstatement of full health coverage to refugee claimants.

ES 12-20 MSC that the Assembly express its thanks to the Rev. Jeff Smith, Convention Manager, to the Rev. Guenter Dahle, Asst. Convention Manager, to the members of the Local Arrangements Committee, to the Registrar and registration team, to the scores of stewards and volunteers, and to the synod office and technical staff, for the enormous amount of work that has gone into the planning, conduct, and warm hospitality of this Assembly;

and that this Assembly expresses its thanks to the Worship Design Team, our musicians, lectors, and all whose love and talent has gone into the planning and carrying out of the Assembly's worship life;

and that this Assembly expresses its thanks to our Bishop, the Rev. Michael Pryse, to his assistants, the Rev. Riitta Hepomaki and the Rev. Mark Harris, and to the synod staff, Cathy Caron, Stephanie Clayton, Christine Archer, and Lynn Becker, for their tireless partnership in ministry.

Rev. Jeff Smith expressed thanks to a number of other significant people, especially the local committee, who have been an important part of the assembly taking shape.

ES 12-21 MSC that, at the conclusion of this Assembly, any items of unfinished business be referred to the Synod Council for consideration and action.

Closing Service of Holy Communion/Installation of Synod Council

Assembly 2012 was concluded and adjourned with a service of Holy Communion, presided by Bishop Michael Pryse, National Bishop Susan Johnson, and the message given by Anglican Indigenous Bishop Mark McDonald.

Saturday Evening, July 7, 2012

The Eastern Synod Banquet was held at the Waterloo Inn and Conference Centre.

Recognition of Service to the Synod

Recognition of service for Synod Council members who finished their term of office: Carol Christensen, Rev. Richard Pryce, Janet Weber.

A presentation was made to Rev. Dr. Mark Harris for his past four years of service as he concludes his call as Assistant to Bishop Pryse.

Eastern Synod Leadership Award Recipients

Exemplary Service to the Wider Church – Clergy – Rev. Stephen Kristenson.

Exemplary Service to the Wider Church – Lay – Tim Schaner.

Exemplary Service to the Wider Community – Clergy – Rev. Lloyd Wiseman.

Exemplary Service to the Wider Community – Lay – Patti Eix.

Recognition of Anniversaries of Ordination

Twenty-Five Years

Rev. Brad Busch
Rev. Eric Dyck
Rev. Ralph Dwarika
Rev. Wendell Grahlman
Rev. Stephen Gross
Rev. Syd Hills
Rev. Samuel King Kabu
Rev. Randy Liedtke
Rev. Peter Lisinski
Rev. Katharina Moeller
Rev. Kyllikki Pitts
Rev. Bonnie Scharf
Rev. Ernest Skujins
Rev. J. Ross Thomson
Rev. Leif Vaage
Rev. Mark Van House
Rev. Barbara Weatherall

Forty Years

Rev. Dr Bart Beglo
Rev. John Boehmer
Rev. Wai-Chui Chan
Rev. Dr. Richard Crossman
Rev. Dr. Jon Fogleman
Rev. James Garey
Rev. Tom Graham
Rev. Mel Janke
Rev. Jouko Jyrkama
Rev. Dr. Bob Kelly
Rev. Ronald Leonard
Rev. Willis Ott
Rev. Ambrose Tsui
Rev. Paul Yap

Fifty Years

Rev. Harold Brill
Rev. Jim Dookram
Rev. Robert Hutchison
Rev. Dr. Eduard Riegert
Rev. George Strack
Rev. Robert Zimmerman

Sixty Years

Rev. Richard Bieber
Rev. Dr. Robert Langen
Rev. Ab Lorch

Sixty-Five Years

Rev. Arthur Conrad