

Section 9 – Reports of the Evangelical Lutheran Foundation of Eastern Canada (ELFEC)

Executive Director
Jeff Pym

Mandate and Ministry

ELFEC is a charitable foundation that serves the church, even though we are not part of the structure of the church. The organization was established in response to a resolution passed by the Eastern Synod Assembly in 2006.

As a separately incorporated body and with our own board of directors, ELFEC operates at arm's length from the Eastern Synod. However, our corporate objects state that we exist "to support and further the life, work and mission of the Eastern Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada, its congregations and affiliated institutions". At the end of 2007 the Eastern Synod transferred most of its invested assets over to ELFEC.

Within this broad mandate, we have identified the following priority areas:

- Church renewal
- Youth and young adult ministry
- Social justice
- Leadership development
- Effective partnerships
- Generous giving

Services

1. To congregations

a. Lutheran Planned Giving (LPG)

LPG offers consultation to congregations on how to establish local planned giving programs. Sometimes this includes advice on creating a congregation Mission Endowment Fund.

b. Investment

ELFEC manages investments, both our own and those belonging to other charities. Our partnerships with congregations and other church-related institutions enable us to look after their assets while they look after their ministry. The investment income we generate and grants that we make provide greater resources to carry out God's mission in the world.

c. Gift processing

Gifts of appreciated securities (shares and mutual funds) are a tax-efficient way for individuals to make a charitable gift. Most congregations do not have the type of investment account that allows them to accept these gifts directly. ELFEC acts as an intermediary, accepting the securities and sending the cash proceeds to the designated charitable beneficiary.

2. To individuals

a. LPG

Since 1997, Lutheran Planned Giving has assisted and encouraged people to make planned gifts to the church in all its expressions. We will also accept planned gifts (for example, bequests) and disburse gifts to multiple charitable beneficiaries under the terms of a distribution agreement with the donor.

b. Endowment Funds

Individuals can establish a permanent fund with income to be disbursed annually in one of our six priority areas.

c. Donor Advised Funds

Donors can create a fund by making donations during their lifetime. They can then offer advice to the ELFEC board on which charities will receive annual grants of investment income. These funds offer most of the advantages of a family foundation without the significant expense of establishing and maintaining a separate charitable entity.

Achievements

1. Charitable grants

In our first four years of operations, ELFEC has disbursed more than \$3.3 million to various charitable beneficiaries. Most of the grants to other charities were the result of directed donations of appreciated securities to one or more congregations. Synod camps also benefited.

Year	Grants to Synod	Grants to Investment Partners	Grants to Other Charities	Total
2008	770,358	N/A	265,738	1,036,096
2009	803,130	16,871	76,615	896,616
2010	435,809	28,428	3,692	467,929
2011	673,414	68,869	185,603	927,886
Total	2,682,711	114,168	531,648	3,328,527

2. Planned gifts

LPG has conducted more than one hundred and fifty seminars and meetings for Eastern Synod congregations since 1997. During that period 300 people (individuals and couples) have identified themselves as donors of a planned gift to some expression of the church.

Collectively, planned gift donors have arranged 530 gift expectancies with a nominal value of \$8.5 million. Of this amount, \$4.86 million has already been received by congregations, institutions and expressions of the wider church. It is impossible to know the true value of bequests which are expressed as a percentage of the donor's estate, but we estimate that the 369 gifts still to come may be worth as much as \$7.8 million.

Half of all the gifts LPG has recorded are destined for congregations.

Future Directions

Over the next few years ELFEC will direct its energies as follows:

1. Responsible Investment

- a. Increased screening of securities
- b. More engagement with companies
- c. Consideration of community-based alternative investments

2. Investment Partnerships

Providing asset management for more congregational partners.

3. Services to Individuals

More focused appeals to individuals, couples and families offering opportunities to invest in creative ministry.

Contact

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