

Motions from Assembly 2018

The following motions are a listing of only those substantive motions which were adopted and are to be forwarded to their appropriate jurisdiction for action.

Action Agent

<p>ES 18-01 that the Eastern Synod Constitution, Article VI Section 9 be amended (first reading):</p>	<p>Secretary</p>
<p><u>Should a</u> A congregation which has ceased to exist or whose membership has so diminished in numbers as to render it impossible or impractical for the congregation to function according to its constitution and bylaws shall, <u>the bishop of the synod shall arrange a</u> after consultation with any remaining members, <u>after which the synod council may deem the congregation be</u> deemed by this synod to be defunct. This synod through <u>If the congregation is deemed to be defunct, the</u> synod council shall appoint trustees, including where feasible former members of the <u>former</u> congregation, who shall take charge and control of the property of said congregation to hold, manage and convey the same on behalf of <u>the former congregation</u> this synod.</p>	<p>Forward to Assembly 2021</p>
<p>ES 18-02 that the Eastern Synod Bylaws, Part V Section 12b be amended by removing the following:</p>	<p>Secretary</p>
<p>b. The Committee on Nominations shall provide the following information for each nominee: address, occupation, area, church/community involvement and vision for the church.</p>	
<p>ES 18-04 MSC that the following be adopted: That the Eastern Synod urges congregations to take seriously the commandment to love our neighbour by:</p>	<p>Synod Council</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • finding ways to build relationships with and affirm members of the LGBTQIA+ community; • develop and implement a process for reconciliation with those same members as well as those who have left the church; • gather and provide resources for educating our members as well as sponsoring educational events, and inviting speakers to adult and continuing education events; • speak out against instances of hatred and discrimination and advocate for LGBTQIA+ persons within our communities; and, • work with mental health agencies or groups within the community to support LGBTQIA+ youth. 	<p>Ministry Areas Teams Bishop forward to congregations</p>

<p>ES 18-05 MSC that the following be adopted: We urge the Government of Canada to phase out fossil fuel subsidies and to “commit to undertaking a fossil fuel subsidy review under the G20 process, so that Canadians will finally have a transparent, public-facing, globally-available document that highlights the seriousness of Canada’s commitment to transitioning away from subsidized fossil fuel energy, and indicates how this will happen.” We ask:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. that the Bishop of the Eastern Synod, ELCIC, write to the Prime Minister of Canada before the G20 meetings in Buenos Aires, Argentina (November-December 2018) and the COP24 (Conference of Parties) meetings in Katowice, Poland (December 2018) encouraging Canada’s role as a Climate Change leader by setting a clear, transparent timeline for the phasing out of fossil fuel subsidies; 2. that congregations, ministry areas and individual members continue to pray for the Earth, our common home; 3. that congregations, ministry areas, and individual members re-acquaint themselves with the ELCIC’s Resolution on Climate Justice http://elcic.ca/Documents/documents/ClimateJusticeMotionFINAL.pdf; 4. that congregations, ministry areas, and individual members are encouraged to write to their MP’s, MPP’s, MNA’s and MLA’s calling for an end to government fossil fuel subsidies and urging the transition to a low carbon economy; and, 5. that congregations, ministry areas, and individual members continue their efforts of reducing their own carbon footprints (see link for resources http://elcic.ca/stewardship/stewardship-of-creation/default.cfm). 	<p>Bishop MD for Public Policy Deans and Ministry Areas Teams Bishop forward to congregations</p>
<p>ES 18-06 MSC that the following be adopted: We commit ourselves to the ongoing tasks of reconciliation and right relationships and move that the Biennium Reconciliation Initiative Task Force and its mandate become an Advisory Committee (to be named) under the portfolio of the Director of Public Policy and Service Ministries, Eastern Synod, and that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. representation come from across our Synod, using available technologies to bridge distance, and includes Indigenous partners; 2. the Truth and Reconciliation Commission 94 Calls to Action http://www.trc.ca/websites/trcinstitution/File/2015/Findings/Calls_to_Action_English2.pdf the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unpfii/documents/DRIPS_en.pdf and the ELCIC’s Resolution on the Doctrine of Discovery http://elcic.ca/Documents/documents/DoctrineofDiscoveryMotionFINAL.pdf be guiding frameworks in our ongoing work; 3. a budget of \$1,000.00 annually be set for education and resources; 4. resources and information from the advisory committee be regularly posted to the Eastern Synod website and other media, via the Director of Public Policy; and 5. annual reporting occur from the advisory committee to the Director of Public Policy and Service Ministries. 	<p>MD for Public Policy</p>

<p>ES 18-07 MSC that the following be adopted: We call on the federal government for a timely phase out of the travel loan repayment for all refugees who resettle in Canada, asking that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. the Bishop of the Eastern Synod write to the Honourable Ahmed D. Hussen, Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada urging the phasing out of travel loan repayment; and 2. individual members, ministry areas and congregations re-affirm their ongoing work of welcoming refugees with the ELCIC <u>Resolution on Welcoming the Stranger</u> (http://elcic.ca/Public-Policy/documents/WelcomingtheStrangerMotionFINAL.pdf) and the Lutheran World Federation's document Welcoming the Stranger: Affirmations for Faith Leaders (https://www.lutheranworld.org/sites/default/files/Welcoming_the_Stranger.pdf). 	<p>Bishop MD for Public Policy</p>
<p>ES 18-08 MSC that the following be adopted: That the Eastern Synod Assembly, congregations and individual members:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) consider the damages created by our ever increasing plastic consumption; b) determine how to best mitigate these damages in their own contexts; and, c) encourage the ELCIC to do likewise. 	<p>MD for Public Policy Ministry Areas Teams Bishop forward to congregations</p>
<p>ES 18-11 MSC that the following be adopted: We, as Synod, ministry areas, congregations, and individual members, commit to the vital and urgent work of confronting the sin of racism and to the dismantling of racist and colonial attitudes present in ourselves, our church, and our society by upholding Eastern Synod Assembly Motion ES 12-06 (http://www.easternsynod.org/sites/default/files/content/assembly_2012_motion_1.3_0.pdf), and the Statement on Inclusiveness and Diversity: Gifts of God and our commitment to right relationships with Indigenous peoples (http://elcic.ca/CompassionateJustice/IndigenousRightsandRelationships.cfm). We commit ourselves to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. in depth self-reflection and learning with respect to the issues of racism, privilege, diversity, and right relationships; 2. individual and corporate confession of racism as a structural sin which exists in our churches and communities; 3. "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;" 4. reacquainting and recommitting ourselves with the ELCIC's Statement on Inclusiveness and Diversity, the ELCIC's Resolution on the Doctrine of Discovery (http://elcic.ca/Public-Policy/documents/DoctrineofDiscoveryMotionFINAL.pdf), using them, among others, as tools in the work of dismantling racism; 5. using specially marked times, such as Black History month (February), or the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (March 21), National Indigenous Peoples Day (June 21), among others, to corporately focus our work on diversity and inclusiveness; 	<p>MD for Public Policy Deans and Ministry Areas Teams Bishop forward to congregations</p>

<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 6. establishing a Racial Justice Advisory Committee under the portfolio of the Director of Public Policy and Service Ministries to provide resources (written, experiential, video, etc.) for the continued work of dismantling racism and privilege; and 7. for ministry area representatives to report and provide feedback annually to the Director of Public Policy and Service Ministries on learning, steps, and actions taken on the issues of racism, diversity, culture, and right relationships. 	
<p>ES 18-12 MSC that the following be adopted:</p> <p>Recognizing that the federal government has increased its funding and set targeted amounts for mental health and addictions within the Canada Health Transfer, we call on all governments within our jurisdiction to continue to push to erase the difference in funding between physical health and mental health spending, ensuring community-based settings and an evidence-based approach to mental health and addictions. Advocacy continues to be necessary and ongoing by:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. praying for those who suffer with mental health issues and addictions, and those who work with them; 2. learning as ministry areas, congregations and individual members about mental health and addictions, including, but not limited to, training and obtaining naloxone kits for emergency congregational use; 3. understanding Bill C-37 (An Act to amend the Controlled Drugs and Substances Act and to make related amendments to other Acts) and supporting safe injection sites where identified and needed in our neighbourhoods, recognizing that patient, staff and people's safety is required; and 4. asking the Bishop of the Eastern Synod to write to Prime Minister Trudeau and the Minister of Health, Ginette Petitpas Taylor, thanking them in their efforts thus far and urging them to continue to erase the difference between physical health funding and mental health funding. 	<p>Bishop</p> <p>Ministry Areas Teams</p> <p>Bishop forward to congregations</p>
<p>ES 18-13 MSC that the following be adopted:</p> <p>That the Bishop write to the government at various levels to request a commitment towards the increased implementation of means of production of clean energy.</p>	Bishop
<p>ES 18-14 MSC that the following be adopted:</p> <p>That the Eastern Synod bring a motion, similar to Assembly motion ES 18-04, to the National Church, and that synod council consult with the indigenous community as to appropriate language.</p>	<p>Secretary</p> <p>Forward to NCC</p>
<p>ES 18-15 MSC that the following be adopted:</p> <p>That the Eastern Synod in this coming triennial embraces what it means to be congregational neighbours to one another.</p> <p>That the Eastern Synod, through the office of the Bishop and Ministry Area Deans proactively identify those congregations that may be on a trajectory that would render them unviable and engage those congregations in a process of renewal and revival in an effort to pre-empt the need for engaging in the process of declaring a congregation defunct.</p>	<p>Bishop</p> <p>Assistants</p> <p>Deans</p>
<p>ES 18-16 MSC that the 2018 Revised Budget and 2019-2021 Proposed Budgets be adopted.</p>	Synod Council

<p>ES 18-17 MSC that the following be adopted: That any and all appropriate references in the Eastern Synod Constitution and Bylaws of "Waterloo Lutheran Seminary" be changed to "Martin Luther University College."</p>	<p>Secretary Forward Constit to Assembly 2021</p>
<p>ES 18-19 MSC that the following be referred to Synod Council: With the sale of Edgewood Camp & Conference Centre, we ask that the Synod divide the proceeds between Lutheran Camp Mush-A-Mush and Lutherlyn Camp & Conference Centre equally for the purpose of supporting capital and/or projects on both sites as a program tribute to the legacy of Edgewood Camp.</p>	<p>Synod Council</p>
<p>ES 18-20 MSC that the following be adopted: That the Eastern Synod Assembly, Synod Council, Congregations and individual members:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. consider the effects of paper waste produced by the Eastern Synod on the environment; 2. determine ways to further reduce our carbon footprint by limiting the use of paper photocopies, bulletins, and ballots where possible at the synod assembly and in congregations across the synod, for example, distributing materials during the assembly by email or via the synod website, with paper copies available on request; and 3. encourage the ELCIC assemblies to do the same. 	<p>MD for Public Policy</p> <p>Synod Council</p> <p>Bishop forward to congregations</p>
<p>ES 18-21 MSC that the following be referred to Synod Council: That the matter of geographical imbalance of Synod Council members be recognized, and that the principal of more equitable representation be considered in future elections.</p>	<p>Synod Council</p>