

# Reference and Counsel – Motion 1.1

## MOTION 1.1

**RELATING TO:** Revitalization of the Training of Congregational Leadership of the Eastern Synod in Necessary Ministries

**SUBMITTED BY:** St Luke's, Kitchener

### MOTION:

1. That the Leadership Team of participating Eastern Synod Ministry Areas appoint two Retired Clergy and/or gifted Laypersons, designate them "Teaching Elders" (T.E's), and require them to attend the regular meetings of the Leadership Team in order to be made aware of congregational needs in the areas of Evangelism, Stewardship, and other needs to advance congregational ministries.
2. That these T.E.'s, under the guidance of the Area Leadership Team, and the Synodical Program Directors and being supplied with available resource materials in the various congregational ministries develop processes, messages and activities to meet to congregational priority needs in our current context, for approval by their Area Leadership Team and the Synod Staff.
3. That each Area T.E., after approval of a particular program, arrange dates for workshops in her/his area, to be attended by congregational members who have declared an interest and commitment to serve their congregation in that particular ministry. The T.E. may if necessary be requested to attend follow-up meetings to further encourage implementation.
4. Synod staff, Ministry Directors, Deans and Pastors under call to these congregations shall evaluate the congregation's implementation for internal and external results at six months intervals.
5. Bishop Dr. Pryse is requested to provide funding for travel only at the rate of \$0.15/km to compensate for fuel purchase. There shall be no salary or stipend paid to the Teaching Elders.

### RATIONALE:

We, the members of our congregation, have come to realize that we are lacking in the skills, deficient in the spirit and in commitment, as Disciples of Christ, in the witness functions of the gospel, the task of being committed stewards of God's generous gifts to his faithful people, the needs of our congregation's organization and the service function to our community.

We believe that God commissions us to "Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to honour everything I have commanded you." (Matthew 28:19)

We wish to serve God in this place by growing in ministry and respond to the One who says: "The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest therefore to send workers into the harvest field." (Matthew 9:38)

At the same time we are aware of the large contingent of our retired pastors and capable and gifted laypeople who have the knowledge and skills to teach and guide us in the activities of Evangelism and Stewardship.

We also recognize that the re-organisation of the Synod into Ministry Areas affords an easy and affordable opportunity for learning and acquiring these necessary skills.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Defeat