

Session Four - Friday, June 24, 2016, 1:30 p.m.

Opening Prayer

Debbie Lou Ludolph led the assembly in song, and Rev. Matt Anderson and Rev. Nadine Nicholds led in prayer. Rev. Jeff Smith gave some announcements regarding assembly schedules, events and items.

Report of the Committee on Elections

The first ballot for Synod Council took place using the display screen and clickers.

MSC that on the next ballot to elect delegates to the National Convention, those who receive the highest number of votes shall be elected.

Iris Schwieger presented the results of the third ballot for the election of delegates to the ELCIC National Convention.

Lay:	To be elected	18
	Ballots cast	208
	Spoiled	0
	Valid ballots	208
	Required to elect	105

Elected: Anne Drouillard.

Rostered:	To be elected	11
	Ballots cast	208
	Spoiled	4
	Valid ballots	204
	Required to elect	103

There was no election.

Youth:	To be elected	1
	Ballots cast	198
	Spoiled	0
	Valid ballots	198
	Required to elect	100

Elected: Ben Cameron.

Assistive paper ballots were distributed to tables with names eligible for fourth ballot voting. Balloting occurred using the screen display and clickers.

Report of the Committee on Reference and Counsel

Bishop Pryse invited Charlotte Corwin, Chairperson of the Committee on Reference and Counsel, to the dais to present their first report.

ES 16-01 MSC that the following be referred to Synod Council:

That the Bylaws of the Eastern Synod, Part V, Section 3, be amended by adding the following and re-numbering the remaining sections:

- c) Retired rostered ministers whose numbers may constitute up to 10 percent of all eligible rostered voting delegates. Retired rostered ministers will be elected by their peers through a nomination and balloting procedure determined by the Synod Council.

ES 16-02 MSC that the following be adopted:

As followers of Christ called to care for the creation (Genesis 2:15), which the Creator pronounced "good" (Genesis 1), we the Eastern Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada assembled in Toronto, Ontario on June 23-26, 2016, invite the Synod's congregations and each of their members to commit themselves anew to such care and to eco-friendly practices, according to their local circumstances.

Congregations:

1. Acquaint ourselves with the ELCIC Resolution on Climate Justice [<http://www.elcic.ca/Documents/documents/CiimateJusticeMotionFINAL.pdf>] and with the ELCIC Stewardship of Creation initiative [<http://www.elcic.ca/Stewardship/Stewardship-of-Creation/>].
2. Commit ourselves to becoming Stewardship of Creation Accredited Congregation [<http://elcic.ca/Stewardship/Stewardship-of-Creation/default.cfm>], with the goal of becoming carbon neutral by 2030.
3. Regularly include care of the earth in worship
 - Hymns (ELW 730-740), preaching, prayers
 - Fifth Sunday of Easter (Rogate Sunday) include a rite of blessing - children can bring bowls of seeds, soil and water forward
 - Give thanks to all who put food on our table - farmers, transporters, temporary foreign workers, supermarket employees. Invite any such members forward for a blessing.
4. Educate ourselves (all ages) through songs and stories {Bible and other} and learn more about creation, our planet, how to calculate our carbon footprint. Follow the periodic reports of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change for its updates on the rate of climate change. Deepen our understanding of climate change through books such as Naomi Klein's *This Changes Everything* and the film based on it, or the study guide prepared for the ELCIC by Jana Kelly and Harold Remus "Planet in Peril: God's Earth/God's People" [<http://www.elcic.ca/Stewardship/Stewardship of Creation/documents/PianetinPeriiStewardshipofCreationInitiative.pdf>], or the

very recent book by Stephen A. Jurovics, *Hospitable Planet: Faith, Action, and Climate Change*.

5. Monitor local/proposed changes in landscapes, roads, transportation, waste disposal, management of trees and parks. Commission members to communicate concerns to municipal governments that are not environmentally friendly.

Members of Congregations:

1. Educate ourselves (see pt. 4 in Congregations).
2. Do an energy audit of where we live (see pt.2 in Congregations) [<http://www.elcic.ca/Stewardship/Stewardship-of-Creation/Individuals.cfm>]
3. Communicate with members of municipal, provincial and federal governments thanking them for their efforts in reducing greenhouse gas emissions, in converting buildings and transportation and utility vehicles to sustainable energy, and urge them to continue/intensify such efforts to move to sustainable energy entirely.
4. Encourage municipal, provincial and federal governments to assist households to move to sustainable energy by providing tax incentives for installing solar panels and connecting with geothermal energy.
5. Urge provincial and federal legislators to ban microbeads, commonly present in personal care products, that end up in our rivers and lakes and resolve to stop using such products [<http://www.ecojustice.ca/time-to-ban-microbeadsentirely/?gclid=CMXMiJG7xMwCFZCiaQodIpOLZw>]
6. Investigate and sign petitions against trophy hunting, the decimation of rhinos and elephants for their horns, the sheer diversity of wildlife threatened by human habitation, depredation, predation, the effect of human population growth on the survival of wildlife [<http://biodiversitygroup.org/?gclid=COKu1MDj2ssCFQIKaQods30Ajw>] and [<http://www.Populationmedia.org/2011/07/15/the-impact-of-population-growth-on-wildlife/>]
7. Be a partner with the Creator in preserving the creation.

ES 16-03 MSC that the following be adopted:

That this Synod in Assembly, June 23-26, 2016, request the Federal Government in consultation with provincial, territorial, municipal and First Nation governments to develop and fund a National Housing Strategy in order to address the lack of affordable housing in all communities and to reduce homelessness, and that delegates to this Assembly commit to working with their congregations, ministry areas and communities:

- To advocate for such a National Housing Strategy along with funding for same

- To approach their provincial and municipal governments to encourage local and innovative approaches with sufficient funding to increase the supply of affordable housing and reduce homelessness in their communities
- To pray for safe, affordable and adequate housing for all
- To request the Bishop to communicate this motion to all levels of government
- To encourage congregations and Rostered Ministers to communicate this motion to their local elected officials

ES 16-04 MSC that the following be adopted:

Called to love our neighbours as ourselves (Mark 12:31) and to defend the vulnerable in our society (Isaiah 1:17), we the Eastern Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada, assembled in Toronto, Ontario on June 23-26, 2016, call on the Federal Government, in partnership and consultation with provincial, territorial, municipal, First Nations governments, and women's organizations, to develop a coherent, comprehensive National Action Plan on Violence Against Women and that Synod Council take appropriate action.

ES 16-05 MSC that the following be adopted as amended:

That we the Eastern Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada, assembled in Toronto, Ontario, June 23-26, 2016 express our support for:

- a. Women in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Latvia who are now constitutionally barred from applying for ordination,
- b. Current clergy and congregations who cannot accept this constitutional change,
- c. The Latvian Evangelical Lutheran Church Abroad as it seeks to find means of providing alternative ministry and mission opportunities to those in Latvia who follow an inclusive understanding of Christ's call to the world; and

That we the Eastern Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada, assembled in Toronto, Ontario, June 23-26, 2016 ask the Bishop to write to the Archbishop and synodical bishops of the ELCL expressing our concern.

MS Amended to add at the end of paragraph c:

"and ask the bishop to convey this to the Association of Lutheran Women Theologians in Latvia, and the Latvian Evangelical Lutheran Church Abroad."

MS Amended to replace in paragraph a:

the words "barred from applying for" with "excluded from."

Special Order

Youth Assembly delegates made their presentation, called "Wake Up!"

Debbie Lou Ludolph introduced President Rev. Leroy Nicholson from Guyana, "humble servant of God," who offered an impromptu word and song.

Report of the Committee on Elections

Iris Schweiger reported on the first ballot elections for Synod Council.

Lay:	To be elected	3
	Ballots cast	199
	Spoiled	0
	Valid ballots	199
	Required to elect	100

Elected: Margaret Christenson, Bonnie Weppler for the term 2016-2021.

Rostered:	To be elected	3
	Ballots cast	204
	Spoiled	0
	Valid ballots	204
	Required to elect	103

Elected: Deaconess Pamela Harrington, Rev. Rob Wiesner for the term 2016-2018.

The second ballot for elections to Synod Council took place using the clickers.

The results were displayed. Bishop Pryse declared Anne Drouillard elected to Synod Council for the term 2016-2021; and Rev. Rick Brown elected to Synod Council for the term 2016-2018.

Report of Synod Council

Amendment of Synod Bylaws

ES 16-06 MSC that the Eastern Synod Bylaws, Part V be amended by removing Section 4, and re-numbering the remaining sections.

~~Section 4. At least sixty (60) days prior to the opening day of the convention:~~

- ~~a. Each congregation shall submit the name(s) and address(es) of its lay delegates to the synod secretary; and~~
- ~~b. Each rostered minister serving under call or appointment shall submit his/her name and address to the synod secretary.~~

Vision for Mission

ES 16-07 MSC that Our Eastern Synod Vision for Mission be renewed for 2016-2018.

A Strategic Plan for the Eastern Synod

Bishop Pryse invited Sheila Hamilton (who has been invited by the Synod Council to help us devise a Strategic Plan for the synod's future mission) to the dais. Sheila led the delegates in table discussions: Why is the Synod important to your congregation? Sheila

then asked delegates to consider the various areas of support within the synod in light of making potential decisions to reduce spending.

Closing Prayer

Debbie Lou Ludolph invited Sherry Coman to speak about Lutherans Connect (an online resource) and then lead delegates in prayer; the assembly was adjourned for dinner.