

## Session Four - Friday, June 22, 2018, 1:30 p.m.

### *Opening Prayer*

The session began in prayer with silence, and then with a video presentation with respect to being inclusive neighbours for the LGBTQIA+ community.

### *Report of the Committee on Elections*

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

Lay:	To be elected	3
	Ballots cast	178
	Spoiled	0
	Valid ballots	178
	Required to elect	90

Elected: Ben Bestvater and David Wilk for the term 2018-2021.

Rostered:	To be elected	6
	Ballots cast	180
	Spoiled	10
	Valid ballots	170
	Required to elect	86

Elected: Rev. Anne Anderson, Rev. Dwight Biggs, Rev. David Malina, Rev. Adam Snook for the term 2018-2021.

The second ballot for Synod Council took place using the display screen and clickers. Delegates voted; balloting was closed.

### *Report of the Committee on Reference and Counsel*

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

ES 18-03 MSDefeated that the following be adopted.

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.

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:

- 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;
- work with mental health agencies or groups within the community to support LGBTQIA+ youth.

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:

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;
  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>).

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,

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](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](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,
5. and, annual reporting occur from the advisory committee to the Director of Public Policy and Service Ministries.

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:

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;
2. individual members, ministry areas and congregations re-affirm their ongoing work of welcoming refugees with the ELCIC Resolution on Welcoming the Stranger (<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](https://www.lutheranworld.org/sites/default/files/Welcoming_the_Stranger.pdf)).

AmendedSDefeated that the lead paragraph read:

We call on the federal government for a timely phase out of the travel loan repayment, while maintaining an option for repayment if the recipient of the loan so chooses, for all refugees who resettle in Canada, asking that:

ES 18-08 MSC that the following be adopted:

That the Eastern Synod Assembly, congregations and individual members: 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.

Bishop Pryse invited Rev. Carla Blakley, Community Relations Director, Canadian Lutheran World Relief, to the dais. She highlighted a few resources available for use in relation to refugee work.

The Secretary announced that the finalized minutes of the sessions are available for review and are found on the Assembly page of the synod web site, in preparation for their adoption and approval later in the assembly.

### *Our Synod Neighbourhood*

Vice-Chairperson Laurie Knott spoke to the delegates about the goals of the synod's Strategic Plan. Assisting her with specific examples of the more highly prioritized goals were: Rev. Katherine Altenburg (Ministry Director of Public Policy and Service), Rev. Christian Ceconi (Dean of Central Toronto Area) and Rev. Joel Crouse (Ministry Director for Property Transformation).

### *Report of the Committee on Elections*

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

Lay: To be elected	1
Ballots cast	178
Spoiled	0
Valid ballots	178
Required to elect	89

Elected: Judy Von Wahl for the term 2018-2021.

Rostered: To be elected	2
Ballots cast	178
Spoiled	0
Valid ballots	178
Required to elect	89

Elected: Rev. Janaki Bandara for the term 2018-2021.

The last ballot for synod council took place; delegates voted; balloting was closed.

### ***Report of Synod Council***

Bishop Pryse led the election process for Treasurer and Secretary of Synod.

ES 18-09 MSC that Keith Myra be elected as Treasurer of Synod for a six year term.

ES 18-10 MSC that Rev. Wendell Grahman be elected as Secretary of Synod for a six year term.

### ***Report of the Committee on Elections***

Iris Schweiger reported on the third ballot election for Synod Council.

Rostered: To be elected	2
Ballots cast	171
Spoiled	0
Valid ballots	171
Required to elect	86

Elected: Rev. Joanna Miller for the term 2018-2021.

### ***Closing Prayer***

Debbie Lou Ludolph and members of the Worship Team led a closing prayer/song, and delegates were adjourned for dinner.