

## **Session Four – Friday, June 27 2014, 1:30 p.m.**

Opening prayer and song were led by Debbie Lou Ludolph.

Rev. Jeff Smith, Convention Manager, gave some announcements.

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

The first ballot for synod council took place using the clickers.

### ***Report of the Committee on Reference and Counsel (cont'd)***

Mike Schuster, chairperson of Reference and Counsel, directed the Assembly to the first report of the Committee.

**ES 14-09 MSC that the following motion to address environmental concerns be adopted:**

**We reaffirm the position taken at the previous synod convention in ES 12-07.**

**We encourage members of congregations of the Eastern Synod to:**

- **Participate at the local level in their municipalities to support local efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions through public transit, waste reduction, green space protection, agriculture, etc.;**
- **Contact their federal, provincial and municipal government representatives to affirm their support for policies that reduce greenhouse gas emissions and promote environmental sustainability; and**
- **Find out the environmental impact of their lifestyle by determining their carbon footprint and prayerfully consider ways of reducing their personal energy consumption.**

**We encourage congregations of the Eastern Synod to:**

- **Carry out an energy audit of congregational plant and facilities and use the results to educate members and reduce energy use wherever possible;**
- **Include environmental themes and the stewardship of creation in educational programmes for children, youth and adults; and**
- **Join with other faith groups and community organizations to promote environmental sustainability at the municipal level, which controls nearly 45 per cent of the total national greenhouse gas emissions in Canada.**

**Finally, we encourage our Bishop and Synod Council to:**

- **Write to our Prime Minister and the Premiers of the provinces in our Synod, conveying these declarations and calls for action;**
- **Write to Eastern Synod congregations encouraging them to continue the greening of their homes, their buildings and their use of the planet's limited resources; and**
- **Remind us of our vocation as stewards of creation through proclamation and education.**

**ES 14-10 MSC that the following motion to address resource extraction be adopted:**

**The Eastern Synod of the ELCIC resolves over the next biennium, within our congregations and area ministries, to learn more about the contemporary economic, environmental, and social issues related to:**

1. Fracking as a technique for oil and gas extraction;
2. Resource extraction on the territory of Canada’s indigenous peoples and the right to free, prior, and informed consent (FPIC) for our First Nations people in Canada;
3. The need for an independent extractive sector ombudsman to help negotiate national and international conflict resolution involving Canadian mining and resource extraction companies;
4. The need for Canada to create a legal framework for resolving international mining disputes in the Canadian justice system; and,

The Eastern Synod of the ELCIC directs our bishop to write to the Prime Minister of Canada encouraging our Prime Minister to: 1) Establish a new and independent position of an extractive sector ombudsman with a specific mandate to negotiate national and international conflict resolution involving Canadian mining and resource extraction companies; 2) Bring forward legislation to create a legal framework for resolving international mining disputes in the Canadian justice system.

ES 14-11 MSC that the following motion regarding the care of veterans be adopted:

**That the Eastern Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada petition the Prime Minister and the Minister of Veterans Affairs to adopt the recommendations of the Veterans Ombudsman as set out in the June 2013 report, “Improving the New Veterans Charter.”**

**In addition we urge the Prime Minister and the Minister of National Defence to ensure the training of all Canadian Armed Forces chaplains in suicide intervention training such as the Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training (ASIST).**

***Special Order***

Bishop Pryse introduced Robert Granke, Executive Director of Canadian Lutheran World Relief (CLWR). Bob addressed the assembly, acknowledging the support of Eastern Synod people who have served on the Board and in its office. He outlined the work of CLWR, noting the ways in which it continues to discern its purpose and work, with a recent and specific focus on helping refugees.

***Youth Assembly Presentation***

The youth delegates made a presentation to the Assembly called the “Bystander Story.”

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

Results for the first ballot for synod council were announced:

Lay Persons (Three to be elected) Term 2014-2018

Total Ballots cast:	241
Needed to elect:	121

Anne Droulliard	(L)	84
Franklin Famme	(L)	107
Valerie Getson	(A)	151

Jordan Smith	(T)	124
Judy von Wahl	(A)	82
David Wilk	(K/W)	99

Elected for the term 2014-2018 are: Valerie Getson, Jordan Smith.

Clergy (Three to be elected) Term 2014-2018

Total Ballots cast:	248
Needed to elect:	125

Dwight Biggs	(GB)	169
Rick Brown	(L)	91
Ralph Dwarika	(GB)	80
Norine Gullons	(O/StL)	110
David Malina	(K/W)	140
Joanna Miller	(K/W)	96

Elected for the term 2014-2018 are: Dwight Biggs, David Malina.

### ***Bible Study (The Rev. Douglas Reble)***

Doug led the first of two bible studies, with the focus upon Gospel Based Discipleship.

*24 From there he set out and went away to the region of Tyre. He entered a house and did not want anyone to know he was there. Yet he could not escape notice,<sup>25</sup> but a woman whose little daughter had an unclean spirit immediately heard about him, and she came and bowed down at his feet.<sup>26</sup> Now the woman was a Gentile, of Syrophenician origin. She begged him to cast the demon out of her daughter.<sup>27</sup> He said to her, "Let the children be fed first, for it is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs."<sup>28</sup> But she answered him, "Sir, even the dogs under the table eat the children's crumbs."<sup>29</sup> Then he said to her, "For saying that, you may go—the demon has left your daughter."<sup>30</sup> So she went home, found the child lying on the bed, and the demon gone.*

Mark 7:24-30, NRSV

What word(s), idea(s), or sentence(s) stand out for you in this Gospel reading?

What is Jesus (the Gospel) saying to you?

What is Jesus (the Gospel) calling you to do?

### ***Report of Synod Council (Continued)***

**ES 14-12 MSC that Keith Myra be elected to serve as Treasurer of synod, 2014-2018.**

The document "Our Eastern Synod Vision for Mission 2014-2016" was presented to the Assembly for some conversation in preparation for adoption on Saturday.

Rev. Karen Kuhnert gave the Assembly some directions in preparation for the evening session.

A closing prayer was led by Karen, blessing gifts to be given to our special guests in the evening, and Debbie Lou Ludolph led in song. Delegates adjourned for dinner.