

Session Seven – Saturday, June 28, 2014, 1:30 p.m.

The session began and Bishop Pryse called the meeting to order.

Rev. Jeff Smith, Convention Manager, gave some announcements regarding end of convention procedures.

Report of Synod Council (Continued)

Treasurer Keith Myra presented the revised budget for 2014 and the proposed budgets for 2015 and 2016.

ES 14-16 MSC that the 2014 Revised Budget and the 2015-2016 Proposed Budgets be adopted.

Partner Reflection – Evangelical Lutheran Church in Guyana

Rev. Moses Prashad, President of the ELCG, brought greetings from the ELCG, and addressed the assembly with his reflections on the Synod Assembly's work and mission, "Together for the love of the world."

Report of the Committee on Reference and Counsel

Mike Schuster, chairperson of the committee, presented the last items to the delegates.

ES 14-17 MSC that the following motion about poverty reduction strategies be adopted:

That the Eastern Synod and its churches and ministries study, discuss, and take action regarding the issue of poverty in Canada as it relates to their specific communities and this should include coming together at the 2016 Synod Assembly with a focus on poverty reduction strategies.

ES 14-18 MSC that the following motion be referred to the Eastern Synod Director of Public Policy and Service Ministries:

That this synod in Assembly call on the Federal Government to build public and policy support for an expanded system of basic income in Canada.

ES 14-19 MSC that the following motion about families be adopted:

We encourage local congregations in the context of their communities to find ways to support and nurture families.

ES 14-20 MSC that the following motion about the Biennium Reconciliation Initiative be adopted:

Our Eastern Synod Reconciliation Initiative includes:

- **Our Lutheran tradition teaches that reconciliation is a gracious and precious gift from God. We earnestly pray that the Creator will stir our hearts and open our eyes, ears and souls so that we may have the courage to speak truth, the patience to listen, the wisdom to confess and the humility to show respect so that true reconciliation can happen. It is the Creator who calls us to hope for a better future and for a healing journey that will bring us to true community.**

- We acknowledge the injustices of the residential school system on Aboriginal peoples and the past harms and the continuing destructive legacy. With faith and hope in Christ, we will seek to be present for and walk with Indigenous people who are on their healing journeys from the harm done to them at residential schools.
- We call on our Synod Ministry Areas and their congregations, assemblies and members to seek out opportunities to deepen our understanding of indigenous rights, to participate in the ongoing work of Canada's Truth and Reconciliation process, and to renew relationships between indigenous and non-indigenous peoples in our varied contexts.
- We encourage the Synod Ministry Areas, their congregations, assemblies and members to attend local commemorative events hosted by Aboriginal organizations to honour those who attended residential schools.
- That Areas, their congregations, assemblies and other groups initiate one or more activities, events or gestures in the next 24 months that would be consistent with our desire to walk with Aboriginal peoples to find healing and wholeness together as God's people, and to share information about these initiatives with the Director of Public Policy and Service Ministries.
- That Areas and their congregations use resources (such as those posted on our Eastern Synod Website)

<http://www.easternsynod.org/content/biennium-reconciliation-initiative>
(Biennium Reconciliation Initiative)

Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to
what is good; love one another with mutual affection;
outdo one another in showing honor. (Romans 12:9)

In these words we hear
a call to humility,
an invitation to listen,
and a sign of hope for reconciliation.

ES 14-21 MSC that the following motion of thanks be adopted:

That the Assembly express its thanks to the Rev. Jeffrey Smith, Assembly Manager, to the Rev. Guenter Dahle, Assistant Assembly Manager, to the Rev. Susan Climo, Facility Coordinator, Bill Powers, International Plaza Hotel, the Rev. Karen Kuhnert, Reconciliation Initiative work, to the members of the Local Arrangements Committee, to the Registrar and the Registration Team, to the scores of Stewards and Volunteers and to the Synod Office Staff and Technical Staff for the enormous amount of work that has gone into the planning, conduct and warm hospitality of this Assembly;

and that this Assembly expresses its thanks to the Worship Design Team, our musicians, lectors, and all whose love and talent has gone into the planning and carrying out of the Assembly's worship life;

and that this Assembly expresses its thanks to our Bishop, the Rev. Dr. Michael J. Pryse, to his Assistants, the Rev. Riitta Hepomaki and to the Rev. Douglas Reble, and to the Synod Staff, Cathy Caron, Christine Archer, Stephanie Clayton, Sue Heimpel and Liz Zehr for their tireless partnership in ministry.

ES 14-22 MSC that the following motion about any unfinished business be adopted:

That, at the conclusion of this Assembly, any items of unfinished business be referred to the Synod Council for consideration and action.

Rev. Jeff Smith thanked the volunteers and workers for their dedication and assistance.

Debbie Lou Ludolph thanked the Worship Design Team and the many volunteers for their assistance.

Report of the Committee on Registration

Irene Fancy provided the final statistics for registration at Assembly.

Total eligible clergy delegates	<u>295</u>
Total registered clergy delegates	<u>158</u>
Total eligible lay delegates (congregational)	<u>218</u>
Registered youth delegates	<u>7</u>
Registered lay officers and lay Synod council	<u>8</u>
Registered lay delegates (congregational)	<u>95</u>
Total registered lay delegates	<u>110</u>
Total eligible clergy and lay delegates	<u>513</u>
Total registered clergy and lay delegates	<u>268</u>
Required quorum is 1/3 of eligible voters (see MS/02 Art. X Sec. 5)	<u>171</u>
Registered visitors	<u>14</u>
Registered, other non-delegates	<u>9</u>
Registered volunteers	<u>14</u>
Sub-total	<u>37</u>
Grand total attendees at Assembly	<u>305</u>

Report of the Committee on the Report of the Bishop

Rev. Martin Malina, chairperson of the committee, and the committee members offered its affirmation of Bishop Pryse and his ministry and work.

Reconciliation and Right Relationships: Taking It Home

Rev. Karen Kuhnert and Rev. Phil Heinze reminded the Assembly the call we have to be ministers of reconciliation. They offered some resources that will be available on the web to recognize the indigenous areas that each congregation lives upon.

***Eastern Synod Leadership Banquet – International Plaza Hotel
Saturday evening***

Recognition of Service to the Synod

Recognition of service for Synod Council members who finished their term of office: Tara Lantz, Pat Lovell, Rev. Brad Mittleholtz, Rev. Sylvia Poetschke.

Eastern Synod Leadership Award Recipients

Exemplary Service to the Wider Church – Clergy – Rev. Keith Crouse.

Exemplary Service to the Wider Church – Lay – Jerry Hogeveen.

Exemplary Service to the Wider Community – Clergy – Rev. Dr. Kristine Lund.

Exemplary Service to the Wider Community – Lay – Karen Gastmeier.

Recognition of Anniversary of Consecration

Fifty Years

Sister Anne Keffer

Recognition of Anniversaries of Ordination

Twenty-Five Years

Rev. Beth Conroy
Rev. Judith Harris
Rev. Lidvald Haugen-Strand
Rev. James Koellner
Rev. Gilbert N’Senga
Rev. Dan Phannenhour
Rev. Gustav Piir
Rev. Richard Pryce
Rev. Shirley Ruller
Rev. Annette Smith
Rev. Deborah Ann Taylor
Rev. Roy Thakurdyal
Rev. Elisabeth Wagschal
Rev. Mark Wagschal
Rev. David Whynot

Forty Years

Rev. Guenter Dahle
Rev. Stephen Kristenson
Rev. Donald Nevile
Rev. John O’Connor
Rev. Bernard Paetzold

Fifty Years

Rev. James Bindernagel
Rev. Keith Crouse

Rev. Ivars Gaide
Rev. Fred Haak
Rev. Erwin Lange
Rev. Jan Malina
Rev. Melvyn Schroeder
Rev. Wing Fai Tsang
Rev. Kari Valanne
Rev. Algimantas Zilinkas

Sixty Years

Rev. Thomas Ristine

Sunday, June 29, 2014

Synod Council met for breakfast and a brief meeting.

Closing Service with Holy Communion / Installation of Synod Council and Deans

Bishop Michael Pryse presided; National Bishop Susan Johnson preached.

Adjournment of Convention

Bishop Pryse declared the Fifteenth Biennial Assembly concluded.