



LET THERE BE GREENING
Eastern Synod Assembly 2024 - Toronto ON

Nineteenth Convention
EASTERN SYNOD of the
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada

Eastern Synod Assembly 2024
June 20 – 22, 2024
Delta Hotels by Marriott Toronto Airport & Conference Centre
Toronto, Ontario

Minutes

Session One – Thursday, June 20, 2024, 1:30 p.m.

Opening of Assembly

Assembly 2024 began with Opening Worship with Bishop Michael Pryse presiding, National Bishop Susan Johnson preaching, and many who offered their time and talents as worship leaders.

At the conclusion of the service, Bishop Pryse acknowledged: with hearts of thanksgiving, respect, friendship, and solidarity, we acknowledge that the land on which we gather is the Treaty and Traditional Territory of the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation, The Haudenosaunee Confederacy, Anishnabeg and The Huron-Wendat and Wyandot Nations, and we acknowledge that we are all Treaty people who share responsibility for action in the spirit of reconciliation.

Bishop Pryse declared Assembly 2024 in session.

Registration Report

Bishop Michael Pryse called the Eastern Synod Assembly for 2024 to order.

Mandi Walker, Manager of Finance and Administration at the synod office welcomed the delegates and made announcements. She presented the registration report. As of 2:30 pm:

| | |
|---|------------|
| Total registered rostered delegates | 96 |
| Registered youth delegates | 7 |
| Registered lay officers, lay Synod Council, lay ministry directors | 10 |
| Registered lay delegates (congregational) | 76 |
| Total registered lay delegates | 93 |
| TOTAL REGISTERED DELEGATES | 189 |
| Required quorum is 1/3 of registered convention delegates (see Bylaws Part V Section 5) | 63 |
| Registered visitors | 21 |
| Registered volunteers | 24 |
| Sub-total | 45 |
| GRAND TOTAL ATTENDEES AT ASSEMBLY | 234 |

Establishment of Quorum

The Secretary of Synod, Rev. Wendell Caron Grahlman, declared that a quorum was present.

Introduction of Special Guests

Bishop Pryse introduced the following persons attending as guests at Assembly:

- The Rev. Dr. Susan C. Johnson, National Bishop
- Ms. Trina Gallop Blank, Assistant to the National Bishop
- Ms. Lisa Thiessen, Executive Director ELCIC Group Services Inc.
- Mr. John Wolff, ELCIC Group Services, President

- Rev. Dr. Karin Achtelstetter, Chief Executive Officer, Canadian Lutheran World Relief
- Ms. Katherine Smith, Giving Advisor, Charitus
- The Rev. Canon Martha Tatarnic, Chaplain to our Assembly

Requests to Grant Privilege of Vote and/or Voice

MSC to grant privilege of voice to the Assembly's special guests.

Notice of Consent Agenda Items

- Report of Synod Council – Items not requiring action
- Report of the Statistician
- Necrology Report
- Report of the Archivist
- Report of the Auditor
- Reports of the Standing Committees
- Adoption of Minutes of 2021 Assembly
- Appointment of Assembly Committees
- Reports of the Ministry Area Deans

Adoption of Agenda

MSC that the agenda be adopted, as revised.

**Amended and seconded to switch the items on Friday morning, Report of the Committee on Elections at 10:45 am and Report of the Committee on Reference and Counsel at 11:15 am.
Carried.**

Report of the Bishop

Vice-Chairperson Laurie Knott assumed the chair for Bishop Pryse to present his report.

Bishop Pryse addressed the Assembly. He acknowledged this as his last report as bishop. He spoke of the ways in which our synod is and needs to continue to be greening. He reminded the assembly of and outlined the election processes for the officers at this convention. He concluded with acknowledgements and gratitude for the synod staff and leadership who have worked with him, and finally for the people of the synod itself.

Report of Synod Council

The Secretary of Synod directed delegates to the Bulletin of Reports for:

- Notice of Items Requiring Action, BR Section 6-3
- Notice of Proposed Amendments to the Eastern Synod Constitution and Bylaws, BR Section 6-4 and 6-6

Report of Nominating Committee

Secretary Wendell Caron Grahlman presented the report of the Nominating Committee for Synod Council.

- Nominations for Synod Council, Section 2-1 to 2-12

The following were nominated from the floor: Alicia Becker.

First Ballot – Election of Officers – First Ballot Election of the Bishop. Bishop Pryse called upon National Bishop Susan Johnson for instructions. The ballot was distributed. Rev. Canon Martha Tatarncic led the assembly in prayer. Voting delegates wrote a name on their ballot and subsequently the ballot was declared closed. The ballots were collected by the stewards.

The Secretary outlined the nominations of synodical delegates to the 2025 ELCIC National Convention. Delegates were referred to the nominee names and biographical forms (BR Section 2-19 to 2-43).

Special Order: Report of the Treasurer

The Treasurer of Synod, Keith Myra, presented his report (cf. Section 8-1 ff) with a slide presentation outlining the financial stewardship of the Synod, as related to the Strategic Plan and the number of ministries in place throughout the synod. He concluded with a quick comment of the budget for the next few years.

- 2021 – 2023 Financial Review
- 2024 – 2027 Budget Overview and Introductory Comments

Closing Prayer

Mandi Walker delivered announcements.

Rev. Canon Martha Tatarncic led the Assembly in prayer and the Assembly adjourned for supper.

Session Two – Thursday, June 20, 2024, 6:30 p.m.

Special Order

Bishop Pryse welcomed the Rev. Dr. Susan C. Johnson, ELCIC National Bishop, to the Assembly (cf BR Section 3-1 ff). Bishop Johnson addressed the Assembly and spoke about the work of the ELCIC in the past few years, some of the work through national conventions. Trina Gallop Blank, Assistant to the Bishop, Communications and Resource Generation, spoke about the new logo and vision statement and how it reflects the hope and priorities of the church. Susan concluded with a round of thanks for Bishop Michael, Eastern Synod members of the National Church Council, and all who have been involved in synodical and congregational leadership.

Report of Canadian Lutheran World Relief

Bishop Pryse welcomed the Rev. Dr. Karin Achtelstetter to the Assembly, the Chief Executive Officer of Canadian Lutheran World Relief (CLWR). She spoke of the work of CLWR as work on behalf of our church and our synod. She expressed appreciation for synod support throughout the pandemic, and the transition of the We Care program. She concluded with an example of inspiration and support from one single congregation for the Canadian Foodgrains Bank.

Report of ELCIC Group Services Inc.

Bishop Pryse welcomed and introduced Lisa Thiessen, Executive Director, ELCIC Groups Services Inc. (GSI) and John Wolff, chairperson of the GSI Board. John spoke of the purpose and goals of GSI, the pension and benefits plan.

Report of the Committee on Elections

Pat Lovell, chairperson of the Committee on Elections, reported on the first ballot results for bishop:

| | |
|-------------------|-----|
| Ballots cast | 194 |
| Spoiled | 6 |
| Valid ballots | 188 |
| Required to elect | 141 |

Those receiving votes were:

| | |
|-----------------------|----|
| Adam Snook | 73 |
| Carla Blakley | 41 |
| Katherine Gohm | 28 |
| Jennifer Hoover | 20 |
| Bonnie Schelter-Brown | 10 |

| | |
|--------------------------|---|
| Susan Climo | 2 |
| Mark Ehlebracht | 2 |
| Janaki Bandara | 1 |
| Joel Crouse | 1 |
| Mavis Fung | 1 |
| Allen Jorgenson | 1 |
| Chung Yan Lam | 1 |
| David Malina | 1 |
| Martin Malina | 1 |
| Sebastian Meadows-Helmer | 1 |
| Christie Morrow-Wolfe | 1 |
| Bethan Riehle-Johns | 1 |
| David Tin | 1 |
| Tanya Varner | 1 |

There was no election. (It was noted that additional people had registered since the initial registration report, hence the increase in ballots cast as compared to those registered early Thursday afternoon.)

Bishop Johnson addressed the assembly with the instructions for the second ballot. The second ballot for bishop was distributed. Martha Tatarnic prayed with the assembly. Delegates were asked to complete their ballot, and subsequently they were collected by the stewards. The ballot was declared closed.

Election of Delegates to the ELCIC National Convention

MSC that the list of delegates previously introduced to the assembly as nominees to the ELCIC National Convention be approved.

Elected are:

Lay: Selina Broadshaw, Geoff Crewe, Dorothy Emmerson, Jan Hansen, Anthony Koobeer, Christopher Mertz, Bianca Nolting-Tessier, Judy von Wahl, Kim Webb, Daniel Whittal, Judith Wile.

Rostered: Susan Climo, Joel Crouse, Steve Hoffard, Karen Kuhnert, Peter Kuhnert, David Malina, Martin Malina, Joanna Miller, Brad Mittleholtz, Scott Schellenberger, Jordan Smith, Tanya Varner.

Report of Martin Luther University College Board of Governors

Rev. Dr. Kristine Lund, Principal-Dean of Martin Luther University College (MLUC) and Board Chair Ms. Penny Smiley were welcomed to speak about Martin Luther University College and the work of the Board (cf Section 10). Penny spoke briefly about the mission, vision and strategic imperatives of the Board. Kristine then spoke about the convocation, degrees, and enrollment of the college, also noting events taking place in the remainder of the year. Thanks were offered by both speakers to Bishop Pryse and to all for support of MLUC.

Recognition of Rostered Ministers Received into Synod

Bishop Pryse welcomed the rostered ministers received into Synod since Assembly 2018, and invited them to greet the assembly and introduce themselves.

Closing of Session

Mandi Walker gave announcements.

Rev. Canon Martha Tatarncic led the assembly in a reflection, prayer and song to conclude the session and day.

The session was adjourned.

Session Three – Friday, June 21, 2024, 8:30 a.m.

Worship

The day’s first session began with Rev. Martha Tatarnic and the Worship Team. Prayers included a memorial to those identified in Section 5 of the Bulletin of Reports who have died and congregations who have closed in the past triennium.

Mandi Walker gave some announcements and an update on registration:

| | |
|---|-----|
| Rostered delegates | 107 |
| Youth delegates | 6 |
| Registered Lay Officers and Lay Synod Council | 9 |
| Registered Lay Delegates | 79 |
| Total Registered Voting Delegates | 201 |

Report of the Committee on Elections

Pat Lovell, chairperson of the Committee on Elections, reported the results of the second ballot for bishop:

| | |
|-------------------|-----|
| Ballots cast | 195 |
| Spoiled | 0 |
| Valid ballots | 195 |
| Required to elect | 131 |

Those voting results were:

| | |
|-----------------------|----|
| Adam Snook | 81 |
| Carla Blakley | 54 |
| Katherine Gohm | 36 |
| Jennifer Hoover | 14 |
| Bonnie Schelter-Brown | 5 |
| Susan Climo | 1 |
| Mark Ehlebracht | 1 |
| Allen Jorgenson | 1 |
| David Tin | 1 |
| Tanya Varner | 1 |
| Janaki Bandara | 0 |
| Joel Crouse | 0 |

| | |
|--------------------------|---|
| Mavis Fung | 0 |
| Chung Yan Lam | 0 |
| David Malina | 0 |
| Martin Malina | 0 |
| Sebastian Meadows-Helmer | 0 |
| Christie Morrow-Wolfe | 0 |
| Bethan Riehle-Johns | 0 |

There was no election.

The third ballot for bishop contains the top four names from the second ballot with the most votes, and will be done using the clickers to vote. Before voting, Martha Tatarnic led in prayer.

The first ballot for Synod Council took place; delegates voted; balloting was closed.

Report of Synod Council (continued)

Secretary Rev. Wendell Caron Grahlman introduced the constitutional and bylaw amendments for Assembly action (cf. Section 6-3, and Section 6-4 to 6-6).

ES 24-01 MSC that the Eastern Synod Constitution, Article VI Section 3 be amended (first reading):

Every congregation of this synod shall choose a delegate or delegates to represent it at conventions of this synod and at meetings of the ministry area to which the congregation is assigned in accordance with procedures as defined in the bylaws of this synod.

ES 24-02 MSC that the Eastern Synod Constitution, Article XI Section 1 and Section 2 be amended (first reading):

Ministry Areas

Section 1. This synod shall be organized into ministry areas whose number and boundaries shall be determined by Synod Council.

Section 2. The role of the ministry areas shall be defined in the bylaws of this synod.

ES 24-03 MSC that the Eastern Synod Constitution, Article XIX Section 2 be amended (first reading):

d. Ten convention delegates, representing at least four ministry areas.

ES 24-04 MSC that the Synod Bylaw Part II Section 3 and Section 4 be amended:

Section 3. **Ministry** Areas

a. **Ministry** areas are groups of congregations that work together in mission ~~led by an Area Leadership Team.~~

Section 4. **Ministry** Area Leadership Teams

- a. The bishop, ~~in consultation with synod council,~~ shall appoint **a ministry area dean who may, in turn, designate an ministry** area leadership team ~~for each area.~~
- b. The role of the **dean and ministry** area leadership team is to:
- i. ~~Assist~~ **Encourage** congregations and ministries within the area to plan, promote and implement the mission of this church;
 - ii. Maintain contact with the synod bishop **and staff**;
 - iii. Serve as the bishop's representative, as requested, at installations, assisting with the call process, and conducting exit interviews;
 - iv. ~~Maintain contact with Synod Mission staff;~~
 - v. ~~Work with congregational leaders to create mission strategies;~~
 - iv. **Arrange for continuing education opportunities for rostered and lay leaders to support and encourage area mission strategies;**
 - v. **Encourage networking and mutual support among rostered and lay leaders;**
 - vi. Provide pastoral support to area rostered leaders as ~~required~~ **requested**.
- c. **Ministry** area **deans** Leadership Teams shall report to the bishop annually and at other times as requested ~~by the bishop.~~
- d. Area Leadership Team members shall be appointed for three year terms and are eligible for reappointment. In the event an Area Leadership Team member is unable or unwilling to serve the full term, the bishop may appoint a replacement to complete the term.
- e. The appointment of an Area Leadership Team member may be rescinded mid-term only upon resolution of synod council.

ES 24-05 MSC that Synod Bylaw Part V Section 12 be amended:

- b. The Committee on Nominations shall provide the following information for each nominee:
ministry area, church/community involvement and vision for the church.

ES 24-06 MSC that Synod Bylaw Part VII Section 1 be amended:

- a. Provide pastoral leadership and counsel to ~~ordained and diaconal~~ **rostered** ministers, congregations, synodically recognized ministries and **ministry** areas of this synod;

ES 24-07 MSC that Synod Bylaw Part VIII Sections 1 and 2 be amended:

Part VIII ~~Standing~~ **Program** Committees

Section 1.

- a. ~~Standing~~ **Program** Committees of this synod will have continued existence, formed to do their assigned work on an ongoing basis.
- b. No person shall be a member of more than one ~~standing~~ **program** committee at the same time.
- c. ~~Standing~~ **Program** Committees shall be accountable to synod council and shall report to council through the office of the Bishop.
- d. Synod Council shall establish or conclude committees and task forces from time to time as related to the ministry of the synod.**
- e. Committee members, who normally shall be a member of an Eastern Synod congregation, shall be appointed by synod council. Synod council may also appoint advisory persons who will be not members of the committee but shall have voice.**
- f. Terms of reference for each program committee shall be approved by synod council and kept in a Committee Policy Manual.**

Section 2.

- a. Synod Council Committees will be maintained as needed for the ongoing work of the council.**
- b. Terms of reference for each committee shall be approved by synod council and kept in the Committee Policy Manual.**

ES 24-08 MSC that Synod Bylaw Part IX Section 2 be deleted:

~~Financial support for Martin Luther University College shall be determined by a process of consultation between the board of governors and synod council.~~

and re-number Section 3 to Section 2.

ES 24-09 MSC that Synod Bylaw Part X Section 4 and 5 be deleted:

~~Section 4: There shall be an operating reserve, determined by the synod council, of no more than 15% of the following year's budget.~~

~~Section 5: Representatives of synod council shall meet with representatives appointed by National Church Council to agree upon the synod's commitment goal for support of the budget of this church during the next fiscal year. These representatives shall recommend for approval by Synod Council and National Church Council the amount of support to be transmitted through this synod to this church.~~

and re-number Sections 6 and 7 as Sections 4 and 5.

Synod Council Recommendation re: an amendment to Constitution Article XV Section 5 (cf Section 2, Page 2-17)

ES 24-10 MS Defeated that the following be referred to Synod Council:

That Article XV (Office of the Bishop) Section 5 of the Constitution of the Eastern Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada (2021) be amended to read. “The bishop shall be elected by this synod in convention for a term of six years, **with a 2-term limitation**, according to the procedures established in the bylaws of this synod.”

Greetings from our Global Mission Companions

Bishop Pryse welcomed, via video, The Rev. Sandra Kurtzious, President of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Guyana. She sent greetings to the synod and offered thanks for our partnership relationship. The bishop invited Rev. Dr. Peter Kuhnert and Rev. Dr. Philip Mathai to respond; both Peter and Philip have been recent ambassadors from the synod to the ELCG.

Report of the Committee on Reference and Counsel

Sheila Hamilton, chairperson of the committee, presented its report.

ES 24-11 MSC that following the third ballot each of the three remaining nominees for the position of the Bishop of the Eastern Synod be given up to five minutes to address the Assembly.

Report of the Committee on Elections

Pat Lovell reported the results of the third ballot for bishop:

| | |
|-------------------|-----|
| Ballots cast | 192 |
| Spoiled | 0 |
| Valid ballots | 192 |
| Required to elect | 97 |

Those voting results were:

| | |
|-----------------|----|
| Adam Snook | 90 |
| Carla Blakley | 70 |
| Katherine Gohm | 25 |
| Jennifer Hoover | 7 |

There was no election.

The first ballot results for Synod Council, lay:

| | |
|-------------------|-----|
| Ballots cast | 189 |
| Spoiled | 0 |
| Valid ballots | 189 |
| Required to elect | 96 |

Lay

| | |
|-----------------|----|
| Alicia Becker | 96 |
| Etienne Eason | 92 |
| Rachel Schwarz | 88 |
| Analisa Chand | 65 |
| Nancy Cook | 58 |
| Greg Gust | 55 |
| Bob Swiatoschik | 53 |

For the term 2024-2030, lay people, Bishop Pryse declared elected: Alicia Becker.

The second ballot for Synod Council, lay took place, with four names. The assembly voted and balloting was then declared closed.

The first ballot results for Synod Council, rostered:

| | |
|-------------------|-----|
| Ballots cast | 192 |
| Spoiled | 0 |
| Valid ballots | 192 |
| Required to elect | 97 |

Rostered

| | |
|--------------------------|-----|
| Rev. Laura Sauder | 105 |
| Rev. Bethan Riehle-Johns | 99 |
| Rev. Lori Pilatzke | 97 |
| Rev. Jason Ashby | 79 |
| Rev. Nadine Nicholds | 74 |
| Rev. Leanne Darlington | 67 |

For the term 2024-2030, rostered people, Bishop Pryse declared elected: Laura Sauder, Bethan Riehle-Johns, and Lori Pilatzke.

The ballot for Synod Council, rostered, is concluded.

Report of the Committee on Reference and Counsel

Sheila Hamilton presented the next report of Reference and Counsel.

ES 24-12 MS that the following be adopted:

That the Eastern Synod request the ELCIC National Church Council to include a new provision in the employment agreement templates requiring all Church employees to undergo mandatory anti-racism/anti-bias training no less than once every 3 years.

Moved and seconded to postpone to Reference & Counsel. Defeated.

That the Eastern Synod request the ELCIC National Church Council to include a new provision in the employment agreement templates requiring all Church employees to undergo mandatory anti-racism/anti-bias training no less than once every 3 years.

ES 24-12 Carried.

ES 24-13 MSC that the following be adopted:

That the Eastern Synod recommit to the creation of a climate task force as adopted at Synod Assembly 2021 to assist the ELCIC Carbon Neutrality Task Force, and to assist the Director of Public Policy and Service Ministries in the Climate Justice Portfolio; and
That the Synod provide adequate funding for the development of this task force and for climate justice resources; and
That the Synod create and continually manage lawful protest resources that congregations may use to start or support climate action.

ES 24-14 MSC that the following be adopted:

That the Eastern Synod reacquaint ourselves with the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's 94 Calls to Action, and the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, and that the Eastern Synod reaffirm our commitment to the work of Truth and Reconciliation and deepening our relationship with our Indigenous neighbours.

Closing Prayer and Adjournment for Lunch

Martha Tatarnic gave a prayer to conclude the session, and the session was adjourned.

Session Four – Friday, June 21, 2024, 1:30 p.m.

Opening Prayer

Cherub Matthai and Rev. Dr. Philip Matthai and the members of the Racial Justice Committee opened the session with prayer, lament and song.

Candidates for Bishop Addressing Assembly

The three remaining candidates for bishop addressed the assembly in turn: Rev. Carla Blakley, Rev. Katherine Gohm, and Rev. Adam Snook.

The fourth ballot for bishop contains the foregoing three names and will be done using the clickers to vote. Before voting, Martha Tatarnic led in prayer.

Report of the Committee on Elections

The second ballot results for Synod Council were.

| | |
|-------------------|-----|
| Ballots cast | 193 |
| Spoiled | 0 |
| Valid ballots | 193 |
| Required to elect | 97 |

| | |
|----------------|-----|
| Lay | |
| Etienne Eason | 120 |
| Rachel Schwarz | 98 |
| Analisa Chand | 73 |
| Nancy Cook | 68 |

For the term 2024-2030, Synod Council, lay people, Bishop Pryse declared elected: Etienne Eason and Rachel Schwarz.

This concludes the elections for Synod Council.

Report of the Committee on Reference and Counsel

Sheila Hamilton, chairperson, presented the report of the Committee.

ES 24-15 MS Defeated the following:

That Article XV (Office of the Bishop) Section 5 of the Constitution of the Eastern Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada (2021) be amended to read: “The bishop shall be elected by this synod in convention for a term of six years, with a 2-term limitation, according to the procedures established in the bylaws of this synod.”

ES 24-16 MSC that the following be referred to Synod Council.

That the Eastern Synod in Assembly reanimate the Professional Leadership Committee of the Eastern Synod.

ES 24-17 MSC that the following be defeated:

Synod Council extend a Call to Specialized Ministry for these pastors (retired pastors providing pulpit supply) so that they can have voice and vote at future Synod assemblies.

Report of the Committee on Elections

Pat Lovell, Committee on Elections, reported on the fourth ballot for bishop:

| | |
|-------------------|-----|
| Ballots cast | 199 |
| Spoiled | 0 |
| Valid ballots | 199 |
| Required to elect | 100 |

Those voting results were:

| | |
|----------------|----|
| Adam Snook | 84 |
| Carla Blakley | 73 |
| Katherine Gohm | 42 |

There is no election. The next ballot will contain the names of Adam Snook and Carla Blakley.

The fifth ballot took place, preceded by a prayer by Martha Tatarnic. Voting took place, and balloting was closed.

Those voting results were:

| | |
|-------------------|-----|
| Ballots cast | 197 |
| Spoiled | 0 |
| Valid ballots | 197 |
| Required to elect | 99 |

| | |
|---------------|----|
| Carla Blakley | 99 |
| Adam Snook | 98 |

Rev. Carla Blakley was declared the bishop-elect of the Eastern Synod, for the term 2024-2030. The assembly rose and acclaimed the bishop-elect.

Martha Tatarnic led the assembly in prayer for the new bishop. Bishop-elect Carla Blakley addressed the assembly.

The first ballot for vice-chairperson took place. Ballots were distributed to delegates. Martha Tatarnic led the assembly in prayer. Delegates marked their ballots, ballots were collected and balloting was declared closed.

Presentation of Eastern Synod Leadership Awards

Bishop Pryse introduced the presentations to this year’s recipients of the synod’s leadership awards. Each recipient addressed the Assembly with their thanks and gratitude.

- Exemplary Service to the Wider Church – Rostered – Rev. Chung Yan Lam
- Exemplary Service to the Wider Church – Lay – Jeff Pym
- Exemplary Service to the Wider Church – Youth – James Suknundun
- Exemplary Service to the Wider Community – Rostered – Rev. Deacon Scott Knarr
- Exemplary Service to the Wider Community – Lay – Debbie Lou Ludolph
- Exemplary Service to the Wider Community – Youth – Etienne Eason

Report of the Committee on Elections

Pat Lovell reported the results of the first ballot election for vice-chairperson.

| | |
|-------------------|-----|
| Ballots cast | 198 |
| Spoiled | 15 |
| Valid ballots | 183 |
| Required to elect | 138 |

Results of ballot:

| | |
|----------------------------|----|
| Sara Whynot | 60 |
| Kathryn Smith | 58 |
| Rev. Adam Snook | 11 |
| Rev. Susan Climo | 5 |
| Rev. Katherine Gohm | 5 |
| Rev. David Tin | 4 |
| Linda Grainger | 3 |
| Rev Jennifer Hoover | 3 |
| Rev Peter Kuhnert | 2 |
| Rev Brad Mittleholtz | 2 |
| Rev David Malina | 2 |
| Rev Brian Wilker | 2 |
| Selina Broadshaw | 1 |
| Rev Janaki Bandara | 1 |
| Analisa Chand | 1 |
| Rev Joel Crouse | 1 |
| Susan Dupuis | 1 |
| Rev Steve Hoffard | 1 |
| Sheila Hamilton | 1 |
| Jan Hansen | 1 |
| Rev Allen Jorgenson | 1 |
| Rev Karen Kuhnert | 1 |
| Pat Lovell | 1 |
| Rev Chung Yan Lam | 1 |
| Debbie Lou Ludolph | 1 |
| Rev Martin Malina | 1 |
| Rev Philip Mattai | 1 |
| Rev Nadine Nicholds | 1 |
| Rev Bethan Riehle-Johns | 1 |
| Rev Laura Sauder | 1 |
| Rev Bonnie Shelter-Brown | 1 |
| Rev Nadine Schroeder-Kranz | 1 |
| Iris Schweiger | 1 |
| Susan Seifert | 1 |
| Rev Annette Smith | 1 |

| | |
|------------------|---|
| Rev Jordan Smith | 1 |
| Heidi Van Schaik | 1 |
| Rev David Wirt | 1 |

There was no election. The second ballot for vice-chairperson was distributed. Martha Tatarnic led the assembly in prayer. Delegates marked their ballots which were then collected by the stewards. Balloting was declared closed.

Report of Synod Council (continued)

Secretary Rev. Wendell Caron Grahlman presented the synod council nominees for secretary and treasurer. Vice-chairperson Laurie Knott outlined the process which led to the nominations.

ES 24-18 MSC that Christine Hulan be elected as Secretary of Synod for a six year term.

ES 24-19 MSC that Frederick Mertz be elected as Treasurer of Synod for a six year term.

Closing Prayer

Mandi Walker gave announcements.

Rev. Martha Tatarnic led the Assembly in prayer to close the session. The assembly adjourned and continued in the evening with the banquet.

Session Five – Friday, June 21, 2024, 6:30 p.m.

Eastern Synod Leadership Banquet, Friday evening, June 21, 2024

Rev. Christie Morrow-Wolfe and Rev. Adam Snook emceed the banquet.

Recognition of service for Synod Council members who finished their term of office:

Rev. Anne Anderson
Rev. Jordan Smith
Susan Dupuis
Rev. Katherine Gohm
Robert Murphy
Judy von Wahl

Recognition of Those Celebrating Significant Anniversaries of Ordination

Bishop Pryse greeted and offered congratulations to all those who have celebrated anniversaries of ordination in the past triennium.

Rostered Ministers Celebrating Anniversaries of Ordination

Twenty-Five Years

Rev. Hannes Aasa (1997)
Rev. Colin Cameron (1997)
Rev. Joel Crouse (1997)
Rev. David Hammer (1997)
Rev. Martin Malina (1997)
Rev. Moses Prashad (1997)
Rev. Maria Scharffenberg (1997)
Rev. Helen Toman (1997)
Rev. Brian Wilker (1997)
Rev. Kalle Kadakas (1998)
Rev. Terri- Ann Mattiasson (1998)
Rev. Kimberlynn McNabb (1998)
Rev. Enzo Pellini (1998)
Rev. Eric Schultz (1998)
Rev. Dwight Biggs (1998)
Rev. Dawn Hutchings (1998)
Rev. Nadine Schroeder- Kranz (1998)

Forty Years

Rev. Alan Cook (1982)
Rev. John Goldsworthy (1982)
Rev. Jim Goos (1982)
Rev. Cindy Halmarson (1982)
Rev. Marilyn Haugen- Strand (1982)
Rev. Svante Olson (1982)
Rev. Joachim Barkley- Probst (1983)
Rev. Ilze Kuplens- Ewart (1983)
Rev. Jeff Laustsen (1983)
Rev. Thomas Zumbrock (1983)
Rev. Dennis Becker (1984)
Rev. Fred Ludolph (1984)
Rev. Olaf Poulsen (1984)
Rev. Douglas Reble (1984)
Rev. Paul Roellchen- Pfohl (1984)
Rev. Jeff Smith (1984)

Fifty Years

Rev. John Boehmer (1972)
Rev. Wai- Chui Chan (1972)
Rev. James Garey (1972)
Rev. Tom Graham (1972)
Rev. Bob Kelly (1972)
Rev. Ron Leonard (1972)
Rev. Ambrose Tsui (1972)
Rev. Guenter Dahle (1973)
Rev. John O'Connor (1973)
Rev. Donald Nevile (1974)

Sixty Years

Rev. George Strack (1962)
Rev. Keith Crouse (1963)
Rev. Ivars Gaide (1963)
Rev. Wing Fai Tsang (1963)
Rev. Algimantas Zilinskas (1963)
Rev. Jim Bindernagel (1964)
Rev. Mike Schroeder (1964)
Rev. Kari Valanne (1964)

Seventy Years

Rev. Tom Ristine (1953)

Recognition of service for Officers who finished their term of office:

Laurie Knott (Vice-chairperson, elected 1990)

Rev. Wendell Caron Grahlman (Secretary, elected 2002)

Keith Myra (Treasurer, elected 2016)

Recognition of service for Bishop Pryse who has finished his term of office:

Bishop Michael Pryse was recognized for his 26 years as bishop of the Eastern Synod.

Session Six – Saturday, June 22, 2024, 8:30 a.m.

Opening Prayer/Worship

Martha Tatarnic and some members of the worship team led morning prayers with song, a reading and reflection.

Report of the Committee on Elections

Pat Lovell reported the results of the second ballot for vice-chairperson.

| | |
|-------------------|-----|
| Ballots cast | 196 |
| Spoiled | 1 |
| Valid ballots | 195 |
| Required to elect | 130 |

Results of ballot:

| | |
|--------------------------|----|
| Sara Whynot | 70 |
| Kathryn Smith | 63 |
| Rev. Adam Snook | 21 |
| Rev. Susan Climo | 8 |
| Rev. Katherine Gohm | 5 |
| Linda Grainger | 5 |
| Rev. David Tin | 4 |
| Rev Janaki Bandara | 2 |
| Rev Joel Crouse | 2 |
| Rev Jennifer Hoover | 2 |
| Rev Brad Mittleholtz | 2 |
| Heidi Van Schaik | 2 |
| Jan Hansen | 1 |
| Rev Chung Yan Lam | 1 |
| Debbie Lou Ludolph | 1 |
| Rev Martin Malina | 1 |
| Rev Nadine Nicholds | 1 |
| Rev Bethan Riehle-Johns | 1 |
| Iris Schweiger | 1 |
| Susan Seifert | 1 |
| Rev Bonnie Shelter-Brown | 1 |
| Selina Broadshaw | 0 |
| Analisa Chand | 0 |
| Susan Dupuis | 0 |
| Rev Steve Hoffard | 0 |
| Sheila Hamilton | 0 |

| | |
|----------------------------|---|
| Rev Allen Jorgenson | 0 |
| Rev Karen Kuhnert | 0 |
| Rev Peter Kuhnert | 0 |
| Pat Lovell | 0 |
| Rev Philip Mathai | 0 |
| Rev David Malina | 0 |
| Rev Laura Sauder | 0 |
| Rev Nadine Schroeder-Kranz | 0 |
| Rev Annette Smith | 0 |
| Rev Jordan Smith | 0 |
| Rev Brian Wilker | 0 |
| Rev David Wirt | 0 |

There was no election. The third ballot for vice-chairperson was distributed. Martha Tatarnic led the assembly in prayer. Delegates used clickers to vote. Balloting was declared closed.

Report of Synod Council (continued)

Keith Myra presented the budget for 2024 to 2027. (cf Section 8, pages 8-34 to 8-43)

ES 24-20 MSC that the 2024 Revised Budget and 2025-2027 Proposed Budgets be adopted.

Report of the Committee on Elections

Pat Lovell reported the results of the third ballot for vice-chairperson.

| | |
|-------------------|-----|
| Ballots cast | 182 |
| Spoiled | 0 |
| Valid ballots | 182 |
| Required to elect | 92 |

Results of ballot:

| | |
|------------------|----|
| Sara Whynot | 70 |
| Kathryn Smith | 58 |
| Rev. Adam Snook | 39 |
| Rev. Susan Climo | 15 |

There was no election. The fourth ballot for vice-chairperson was distributed. Martha Tatarnic led the assembly in prayer. Delegates used clickers to vote. Balloting was declared closed.

Report of the Committee on Reference and Counsel

Sheila Hamilton presented the report.

ES 24-21 MSC that the following be adopted:

That the Assembly express its thanks to Assembly Manager Mandi Walker, to the Rev. Susan Climo who chairs the Local Arrangement Committee and all her committee members, to Selina Broadshaw; the Volunteer Coordinator, to Linda Grainger the Head Steward, to all the stewards and volunteers for the enormous amount of work that has gone into the planning, conduct, and warm hospitality of this Assembly;

And that this Assembly express its thanks to the Technical Team and Communication Team who helped to save more than a few trees and who helped to keep us informed;

And that this Assembly express its thanks to the Rev. Jordan Smith, Rev. Janaki Bandara, Rev. Brooklynn Lane, Trevor Hicks and our musicians, lectors, and all whose love and talent has gone into the planning and carrying out of the Assembly's worship life;

And this Assembly thank all those who let their name stand for elected positions in our Eastern Synod;

And that this Assembly express its thanks to the Rev. Canon Martha Tatarnic of the Anglican Church of Canada who blessed us with her prayerful accompaniment;

And that this Assembly thank Nancy Hilborn who facilitated the Youth Assembly;

And that this Assembly thank the Rev. Sandra Kurtzious, President of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Guyana and the Rev. Bishop Ibrahim Sani Azar, Bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land for taking the time to inspire us through their video greetings;

And that this Assembly express its thanks to our National Bishop, the Rev. Dr. Susan Johnson, Trina Gallop Blank, ELCIC Assistant to Bishop, Communications and Resource Generation, the Rev. Karin Achtelstetter of Canadian Lutheran World Relief, Lisa Thiessen and John Wolff of ELCIC Group Services Inc, who all reminded us that the church is bigger than our congregations and Eastern Synod and that no one is anyone without everyone;

And that this Assembly express its thanks to our Bishop, the Rev. Dr. Michael J. Pryse, to his Assistants, the Rev. Christie Morrow-Wolfe, the Rev. Douglas Reble, and the Rev. Adam Snook, to Congregational Redevelopment Advisor, the Rev. Jennifer Hoover, to the Director of Public Policy, Rafael Rodriguez, to the Secretary of Synod, the Rev. Wendell Caron Grahlman, to the Synod Vice-Chairperson, Laurie Knott, to the Synod Treasurer, Keith Myra, and to the Synod Office Staff Mandi Walker, Liz Zehr, Cindy Stubbs, and Danielle Arsenault for their tireless partnership in ministry;

And, finally, a second thank you to our Bishop Michael: his grace, wisdom, courage, humour and commitment to service. He will be missed!

ES 24-22 MSC that the following be adopted:

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

Report of the Committee on Elections

Pat Lovell reported the results of the fourth ballot for vice-chairperson.

| | |
|-------------------|-----|
| Ballots cast | 181 |
| Spoiled | 0 |
| Valid ballots | 181 |
| Required to elect | 91 |

| | |
|--------------------|----|
| Results of ballot: | |
| Sara Whynot | 95 |
| Kathryn Smith | 81 |
| Rev. Adam Snook | 5 |

Bishop Pryse declared Sara Whynot elected as the vice-chairperson of the Eastern Synod, for the term 2024-2030. The assembly rose and acclaimed the new vice-chairperson. Sara addressed the assembly, thanking and asking them for their affirmation and support.

MSC to destroy the paper ballots.

Global Mission Companion Greetings

The Rev. Bishop Ibrahim Sani Azar, Bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land, greeted the assembly via a video message. Bishop Susan Johnson offered reflections on her recent visit and support for Bishop Azar and the people of the ELCJHL.

Concluding Comments

Mandi Walker gave final announcements.

MSC to adjourn.

Closing Worship

The closing service of Holy Communion took place, with National Bishop Susan Johnson presiding, and Bishop Michael Pryse preaching. At the service, the installation included the three new officers, the new synod council, and the ministry area deans.

Adjournment of Synod Assembly 2024

Bishop Pryse declared the Nineteenth Assembly of the Eastern Synod, ELCIC to be concluded. Amen.