

Assembly 2018 Biennial Year Book

Seventeenth Biennial Convention



June 21-24, 2018

Delta Hotels by Marriott Toronto Airport & Conference Centre, Toronto, Ontario

We acknowledge the Ancestral Traditional Territories of the Ojibway, the Anishnabe, and, in particular, the Mississaugas of the New Credit whose territory we gather on.

This territory is covered by the Upper Canada Treaties.

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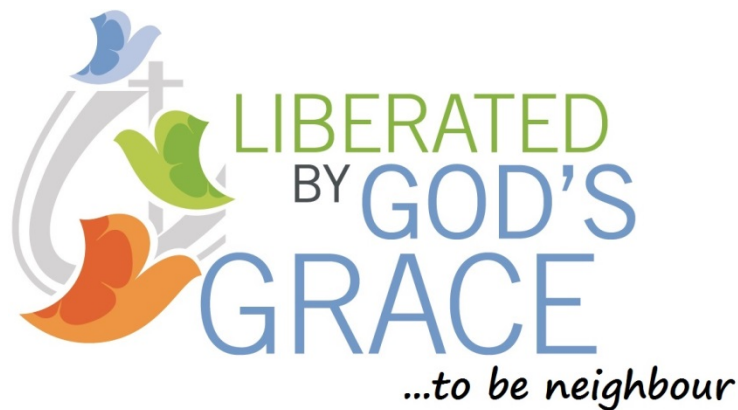
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Section 1

Assembly Proceedings

-  **Agenda**
-  **Glossary of Terms and Acronyms**
-  **Appendix A – House Rules**
-  **Minutes**



AGENDA

Wednesday - June 20, 2018

12:00 pm Synod Council Lunch

1:00 pm Synod Council

Thursday - June 21, 2018

9:00 am Delegate Check-in Open - Delta Hotel

11:00 am *First Time Delegate Assembly Orientation*
Vice-Chairperson - Laurie Knott
Location: Delta Hotel (Halton Room)

12:00 pm *Lunch (on your own)*

SESSION ONE

1:30 pm *Opening Service of Holy Communion / Opening of Assembly*

2:30 pm Break

2:45 pm Registration Report

Establishment of Quorum

Introduction of Special Guests

Requests to Grant Privilege of Vote and/or Voice

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 2016 Assembly
- Appointment of Assembly Committees
- Reports of the Ministry Area Deans

Adoption of Agenda

3:15 pm Report of the Bishop

3:45 pm Report of Synod Council

- Notice of Items Requiring Action
- Notice of Proposed Amendments to Eastern Synod Constitution

4:00 pm **Special Order**

Report of the Treasurer

- 2016 - 2017 Financial Review
- 2018 - 2021 Budget Overview

4:30 pm Report of Nominating Committee

- Synod Council
- Nominations from the floor
- First Ballot - Election of Officers
- Introduction - Election of Delegates to ELCIC National Convention

5:00 pm *Closing Prayer and Adjournment For Supper (on your own)*

The Rev. Rosalyn Kantlah[^]nta' Elm
Parish of Six Nations and Her Majesty's Royal Chapel of the
Mohawks, Anglican Church of Canada

SESSION TWO

- 6:30 pm **Special Order**
The Rev. Susan C. Johnson
National Bishop, Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada
- 7:00 pm **Report of Canadian Lutheran World Relief**
Rev. Dr. Karin Achtelstetter
Executive Director, CLWR
- 7:15 pm **Report of the Committee on Elections**
- Second Ballot - Election of Officers
 - First Ballot - Election of Delegates to ELCIC National Convention
- 7:30 pm **...to be neighbour I**
- 9:15 pm **Welcome Reception for Delegates and Visitors**
Location: Delta Hotel

Friday - June 22, 2018

- 7:30 am *ELFEC Breakfast*
- 8:00 am Delegate Check-in Open - Delta Hotel

SESSION THREE

- 8:30 am *Worship*
- 9:00 am **Report of the Committee on Elections**
- Third Ballot - Election of Officers (if required)
 - First Ballot - Synod Council
 - Second Ballot - Election of Delegates to ELCIC National Convention (if required)
- 9:30 am **Report of Synod Council (Continued)**
- 10:15 am **Partner Greetings**
The Rev. Conrad Plummer
President, Evangelical Lutheran Church in Guyana
- 10:30 am **Break**
- 10:45 am **Open Mic Sharing:**
New Mission Initiatives/Congregations at a Crossroad
- 11:45 am **Report of the Committee on Reference and Counsel**

12:00 pm *Closing Prayer and Adjournment For Lunch (on your own)*
Lutheran Planned Giving Luncheon (by invitation)
GSI Lunch and Learn Session (by pre-registration)

SESSION FOUR

1:30 pm *Opening Prayer*

1:45 pm Report of the Committee on Elections

- Second Ballot - Synod Council

2:00 pm Report of the Committee on Reference and Counsel

3:15 pm **Break**

3:30 pm **Our Synod Neighbourhood**
Vice-Chairperson - Laurie Knott

4:15 pm Report of Synod Council (Continued)
Note: All non-germane motions must be in the hands of the Secretary at this time.

5:00 pm *Closing Prayer and Adjournment For Dinner (on your own)*

SESSION FIVE

6:30 pm ...to be neighbour II

Saturday - June 23, 2018

SESSION SIX

8:30 am ...to be neighbour III

10:30 am **Break**

10:45 am Report of the Committee on Elections

- Third Ballot - Synod Council (if required)

10:50 am Report of the Committee on Reference and Counsel

11:20 am Report of the WLS Board of Governors

12:00 pm *Closing Prayer and Adjournment for Lunch (on your own)*
GSI Lunch and Learn Session (by pre-registration)

SESSION SEVEN

- 1:30 pm Report of Synod Council (Continued)
2018 - 2021 Budget
- 2:00 pm Report of the Committee on Reference and Counsel
- 2:30 pm Break
- 3:00 pm Presentation of Rostered Ministers received into the Synod since July 1, 2016
- 3:30 pm Reflections from the Youth Assembly
- 3:45 pm Reflections from our Companion Synod
The Rev. Conrad Plummer
President, Evangelical Lutheran Church in Guyana
- 4:00 pm Open Mic Sharing:
What will we take home from this Assembly?
- 4:30 pm Adjournment of Convention Business
- 6:30 pm *Eastern Synod Leadership Banquet - Delta Hotel*
6:30 pm - Gathering
7:00 pm - Dinner

Sunday - June 24, 2018

- 10:00 a.m. *Closing Service with Holy Communion / Installation of Synod Council, Deans and Ministry Directors*

EASTERN SYNOD of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada

Glossary of Terms and Acronyms

ACC - The Anglican Church in Canada

Agenda

The listing of proceedings for Assembly. It is adopted as one of the first orders of business of Assembly. Once the agenda has been approved, it may only be revised with the consent of the assembly, either by adopting a motion from the floor, or agreeing to a recommendation from Reference and Counsel or the Chair.

Bishop

The leader and counsellor to congregations, rostered ministers and Ministry Areas of the Eastern Synod. Our current Bishop is Rev. Dr. Michael Pryse. The Bishop also presides over the business of the Assembly, and the Synod Council between Assemblies.

Bourinot's Rules of Order

A distinctly Canadian rule of order used in the House of Commons. The ELCIC has chosen to use this set of rules for our guide. The Synod Assembly relies on Bourinot for a simple, basic framework on which to structure our deliberations. See House Rules for a brief summary of the main thrust of Bourinot.

BR - Bulletin of Reports

The compilation of committee and Ministry Area reports, statistics, financial reports and the reports of the Officers of Synod and the Bishop which is provided to each delegate and registered visitor to the Assembly for perusal, information and action.

CCC - Canadian Council of Churches

An organization that is made up of Christian denominations in Canada for co-operation in matters of common interest, including the annual Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. The ELCIC is a member of the CCC.

CCOM - Candidacy Committee

CECF - Church Extension Capital Fund

An ELCIC administered fund that provides financial resources via the synods to support mission and outreach initiatives on their territory.

CLAY - Canadian Lutheran Anglican Youth

Every two years, the ELCIC and the Anglican Church of Canada host a national gathering of youth and their leaders.

CLWR - Canadian Lutheran World Relief

The agency that assists both the ELCIC and the Lutheran Church-Canada (LCC) in our joint relief and development work around the world.

COGS - Council of General Synod

This is the executive body of General Synod (in the Anglican Church of Canada). Between sessions of General Synod, COGS administers the affairs of the ACC.

Consent Agenda

An Assembly procedural process whereby the Assembly delegates consent to accepting the printed reports of certain designated Synodical personnel and committees without discussion or debate. Once adopted, the delegates can bring an item from the Consent Agenda to the floor for discussion only if ten or more delegates present a signed request to the chair. The request would be forwarded to Reference and Counsel.

Dean

A Rostered Minister appointed by the Bishop to provide administrative, pastoral and missional leadership in one of the synod's Ministry Areas and in partnership with an Area Leadership Team.

ELCA - Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Our sister church in the United States of America. Synods and the national church (ELCIC) work co-operatively with the ELCA from time-to-time.

ELCG - Evangelical Lutheran Church in Guyana

Our international Companion Synod.

ELCIC - Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada

The national denomination to which the Eastern Synod belongs. The office is located in Winnipeg, Manitoba. The National Bishop is Rev. Dr. Susan Johnson. There are four other Synods in the ELCIC - British Columbia (BC), Alberta & the Territories (ABT), Saskatchewan (SK) and Manitoba-Northwestern Ontario (MNO).

ELCJHL - Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land

A companionship agreement was signed between the Eastern Synod and the ELCJHL in 2013. The purpose of our partnership is: to strengthen Christian unity, and deepen the communion between the two churches; to strengthen the identity of the local church as part of the universal Church; and to promote the mission of our churches in their respective societies.

ELFEC - Evangelical Lutheran Foundation of Eastern Canada

The Foundation's mission is threefold: 1) encouraging generous giving; 2) prudently investing money entrusted to the Foundation; and 3) granting money to charities that respond creatively and effectively to God's call to Ministry.

ES - Eastern Synod

The geographical area under the jurisdiction and pastoral care of the Synodical Bishop. The Eastern Synod is one of five Synods that make up the ELCIC in Canada. It covers the province of Ontario, east of 86 degrees longitude (just west of Sault Ste. Marie) and the provinces of

Quebec, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia. There are currently 185 congregations and close to 300 rostered ministers.

ESC - Eastern Synod Council

ES-S - Eastern Synod Staff

ES-YAYA - Eastern Synod Youth and Young Adults Ministry Committee

The mandate for this committee is to promote and help develop youth and young adult ministries within the Eastern Synod.

House Rules

A set of rules that governs the proceedings of the Assembly - see Appendix A.

JALC - Joint Anglican-Lutheran Commission

A body of Lutherans and Anglicans, clergy and laity, which oversees the various aspects of the implementation of full communion between the ELCIC and the ACC (Anglican Church in Canada).

KAIROS

An ecumenical partnership that works to promote international human rights, global economic justice, ecological justice, Canadian social development, Aboriginal and indigenous rights, global partnerships and education.

LCC - Lutheran Church-Canada

Another denominational grouping of Lutherans in Canada with whom the Eastern Synod and the ELCIC occasionally work co-operatively, especially in Canadian Lutheran World Relief (CLWR) and certain chaplaincies.

LPG - Lutheran Planned Giving

Directed by Jeff Pym, this ELFEC program assists the church, congregations and individuals make wise and generous decisions about the use of their assets. Pivotal to this work is encouraging and assisting individuals to make planned gifts to the church.

LWF - Lutheran World Federation

The international organizations of Lutheran national churches to which the ELCIC belongs. The headquarters are in Geneva, Switzerland.

Ministry Area

A geographic grouping of congregations within the Synod. There are seventeen Ministry Areas in the Eastern Synod: Atlantic, Central Toronto, Georgian, GTA East, GTA West, Huronia, Grand River, Montreal, Niagara, Nith Valley, Northern, Ottawa, Ottawa Valley, Seaway, Thames, The Bay, Two Rivers.

Motion

A formal proposal brought forward to the Assembly for its consideration. Motions require a mover and seconder and are decided by a vote after a period of debate. Motions come from congregations and delegates through the Committee of Reference and Counsel. There are

various types of motions that may be brought before the Assembly for consideration. (see Synod Speak folder on each table).

MSC

Moved, seconded, carried (as it relates to a motion).

NCC - National Church Council

The body responsible for overseeing the work of the ELCIC between Conventions. It is made up of representatives of the five Synods, both rostered ministers and lay, as well as the five Synod Bishops and the presiding Bishop.

Synod Assembly/Synod Convention

This is the gathering of lay and rostered delegates who meet in Assembly every two years to make decisions on matters of policy, finance and management of the Synod. It is also responsible for the election of the Officers of Synod and Synod Council. Between Assemblies, the Synod Council is responsible for the work of the Synod. The constitution of our church refers to this gathering as the Synod Convention but we have used the term Synod Assembly as a way of broadening our perception of what it means to gather in this way as a Synodical community.

Synod Assembly Committees

These groups of individuals function throughout the convention to assist the work of the assembly. The committees are: Nominations, Elections, Reference and Counsel, and Minutes.

Synod Council

This group of 12 people, together with the Officers of Synod, provides leadership to the Synod between Assemblies. There is an even number of rostered members and laypersons elected to serve for three-year terms.

The Eastern Synod Lutheran - TESL

This is the Eastern Synod's "newsletter."

WLS - Waterloo Lutheran Seminary

One of the two seminaries operated by the ELCIC. This Eastern Synod institution was founded in 1911 and offers opportunities for individuals to pursue academic and theological training in preparation for a wide variety of services in the church and society.

Appendix A - House Rules -A set of rules that governs the proceedings of the Assembly

- | | |
|-----------------------------|--|
| <i>Agenda</i> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Special Orders shall have precedence over other matters on the agenda. 2. Once the agenda has been approved, items designated as consent agenda items can only be brought to the floor upon recommendation of the Committee for Reference and Counsel, as requested by ten (10) or more delegates. 3. No motion or amendment shall be considered as before the Synod (except such as proposed by Synod Council or a committee) unless seconded and submitted in writing to the chairperson. 4. An address from the Bishop shall be in order at any time. |
| <i>Speaking to a Motion</i> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. When any delegate is about to speak, the delegate shall rise and address the chair. 6. Delegates placing a motion before the Assembly shall do so prior to speaking. A motion may not be made at the conclusion of a speech or a series of rationales or "whereas." 7. No delegate, save the mover of a motion or amendment, shall speak more than once on the same question. The mover may begin and/or end speaking to the motion. 8. When a delegate is speaking, no other delegate shall interrupt except to raise a point of order. 9. The chair shall decide all questions of order without debate. Ruling of the chair can, however, be over-ruled by a majority vote of the Assembly. 10. Any delegate may request, at any period of the debate, that the motion under discussion be read for his/her information. |
| <i>Amendments</i> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 11. No more than one amendment to a proposed amendment to a motion shall be in order. However, a substitute for the whole matter may be proposed and received, provided it deals with the subject at hand. Both the substitute and the main motion may be amended to the second degree. The Assembly then chooses which shall stand as the choice for final action. 12. An amendment to an amendment can be presented. If defeated, then other amendments to the original amendment may be made until one is accepted, or all defeated. At such time the original amendment shall be put to vote. |
| <i>Subsidiary motions</i> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 13. When a question is under consideration, no other motion shall be received except to adjourn the Synod, to move the previous question, to table, to postpone to a certain time, to postpone indefinitely, to refer, to consider (clause-by-clause), to amend, to divide, or substitute. Motions, for any of these purposes, shall have precedence in the order here named. |

14. Motions to postpone or table, whether to a specified time or indefinitely, shall be admissible according to the following understanding:
 - (a) A motion to postpone indefinitely may have two purposes:
 - i. to cancel a motion without a determinative vote;
 - ii. to take a “straw” poll to determine the strength of support for the motion;
 - (b) A motion to table without reference to a recall time may cancel a motion;
 - (c) Motions to postpone or table are debatable.

Voting

15. When any question is about to be put to vote, delegates shall continue in their seats, and shall not retire until such motion is disposed of.
16. Motions of the previous question, when adopted, effectively end debate on a question, placing the matter pending before the Assembly. When a motion of the previous question is lost, debate on the matter before the Assembly may resume immediately. A motion of the previous question is debatable and carried by a simple majority.

Suspending Rules

17. These Rules of Order may be suspended by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the delegates present and voting.



**Seventeenth Biennial Convention
EASTERN SYNOD of the
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada**

Eastern Synod Assembly 2018

June 21 - 24, 2018

Delta Hotels by Marriott Toronto Airport & Conference Centre
Toronto, Ontario

Minutes

Session One - Thursday, June 21, 2018, 1:30 p.m.

Opening of Assembly

Assembly 2018 began with a service of Holy Communion with Bishop Michael Pryse presiding, and National Bishop Susan Johnson preaching. At the conclusion of the service, Bishop Pryse declared Assembly 2018 in session.

We acknowledge the Ancestral Traditional Territories of the Ojibway, the Anishnabe, and, in particular, the Mississaugas of the New Credit whose territory we are gathering on. This territory is covered by the Upper Canada Treaties.

Bishop Michael Pryse called to order the Eastern Synod Assembly for 2018.

Registration Report

The registration report was presented by Stephanie Clayton and Irene Fancy. As of 1:30pm:

Total registered rostered delegates	88
Registered youth delegates	7
Registered lay officers and lay Synod Council	10
Registered lay delegates (congregational)	76
Total registered lay delegates	93
TOTAL REGISTERED DELEGATES	181
Required quorum is 1/3 of registered convention delegates (see Bylaws Part V Section 5)	60
Registered visitors	13
Registered, other non-delegates	14
Registered volunteers	26
Sub-total	53
GRAND TOTAL ATTENDEES AT ASSEMBLY	234

Establishment of Quorum

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

The delegates were led in an exercise of clicker orientation to practice for voting.

Introduction of Special Guests

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

- The Rev. Rosalyn Kantlah^{nta'} Elm, Parish of Six Nations and Her Majesty's Royal Chapel of the Mohawks, Anglican Church of Canada
- Rev. Dr. Susan C. Johnson, National Bishop, ELCIC
- The Rev. Dr. Karin Achtelstetter, Executive Director, CLWR
- The Rev. Carla Blakley, Community Relations Director, CLWR
- Rev. Conrad Plummer, President, Evangelical Lutheran Church in Guyana
- Ms. Lisa Thiessen, Executive Director, ELCIC Group Services, Inc.
- Mr. John Wolff, President, ELCIC Group Services Inc.
- Mr. Carter Brooks, ELCIC Communications Specialist
- Dr. Mary (Joy) Philip, Waterloo Lutheran Seminary
- Ms. Krista Kuehnbaum, Evangelical Lutheran Foundation of Eastern Canada (ELFEC)
- Ms. Cindy Preece, Wilfrid Laurier University Archives
- The Rev. Dr. Brice Balmer, Waterloo Lutheran Seminary

- Mr. Chattar Ahuja
- Dr. Sarah Shafiq
- Dr. Sarah Chen
- Mr. Rafi Aaron, Interfaith Coalition to Fight Homelessness
- Rev. Dr. Allen Jorgenson, Waterloo Lutheran Seminary

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 2016 Assembly
- Appointment of Assembly Committees
- Reports of the Ministry Area Deans

Adoption of Agendas

MSC that the Consent Agenda items and the Agenda be adopted.

Report of the Bishop

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

Bishop Pryse addressed the Assembly with his report, and outlined three significant challenges and opportunities that the church faces in this day. He concluded his report with thanks for the people he serves with in synodical leadership. Following his presentation, his report was distributed to delegates.

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

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 of the Synod. He also noted a number of resources and financial plans for the Synod and for congregations in anticipation of future ministry opportunities.

- 2016 - 2017 Financial Review
- 2018 - 2021 Budget Overview

Report of Nominating Committee

Secretary Wendell Grahlman presented the report of the Nominating Committee for Synod Council. Further nominations from the floor were invited: there were none.

- Nominations for Synod Council, Section 2-1 to 2-4

The Secretary then outlined the procedure for the election of synodical delegates to the 2019 ELCIC National Convention. Delegates were referred to the nominee names and biographical forms (BR Section 2-9 to 2-67) and to the handouts distributed to the tables.

The election and procedure for the election of a Bishop for the Synod was led and reviewed by National Bishop Susan Johnson (cf BR Section 11-19 and Section 11-21-22).

- First Ballot - Election of Officer - Bishop. The ballot was distributed; Bishop Johnson led in prayer; delegates voted, the ballots were collected, and balloting was declared closed.

Closing Prayer

The Rev. Rosalyn Kantlah[^]nta' Elm, Parish of Six Nations and Her Majesty's Royal Chapel of the Mohawks, Anglican Church of Canada, led the Assembly in prayer on this National Indigenous Peoples Day.

Rev. Jeff Smith, Assembly Manager, gave some announcements and the delegates were adjourned for supper.

Session Two - Thursday, June 21, 2018, 6:30 p.m.

Rev. Jeff Smith gave a couple of announcements.

Special Order

The Rev. Dr. Susan C. Johnson, ELCIC National Bishop, addressed the Assembly (cf BR Section 3-1 ff). She recalled the past years' commemoration of the Reformation, the Reformation Challenge, and offered appreciation to the synod for its witness and work.

Bishop Johnson spoke of the national church's strategic plan. She noted the pastoral letter she sent to the Prime Minister's office regarding the treatment of refugees and minors. She related a story of one of our partner churches in Peru as an example of the global work that the Synod and ELCIC supports. She offered thanks for the many partnerships in the synod and church and for the common work and witness in the church's mission.

Report of Canadian Lutheran World Relief

The Rev. Dr. Karin Achtelstetter was introduced in her new role as Executive Director of Canadian Lutheran World Relief (CLWR). She offered her thanks for the support by the Synod to CLWR, and focused specifically on the state of refugees in the world and in Canada, and our stand #withrefugees.

Report of the Committee on Elections

Bishop Johnson assumed the chair for the report. Iris Schweiger, Chairperson for the Committee on Elections, presented the results of the first ballot for the election of Bishop.

Ballots cast	189
Spoiled	6
Valid ballots	183
Required to elect	138

Bishop Johnson declared Rev. Dr. Michael Pryse to be elected as Bishop of the Eastern Synod, for the term of 2018-2024.

- First Ballot - Election of Officer - Vice-Chairperson. The ballot was distributed; Bishop Johnson led in prayer; delegates voted, the ballots were collected, and balloting was declared closed.

The first ballot for the election of delegates to the ELCIC National Convention in 2019 took place using the clickers and the large screens as ballots.

...to be Neighbour I

Neighbours from diverse religious traditions.

With the parable of the Good Samaritan, Luke 10:25-39, as background for being neighbour, the assembly was led in reflection by song, prayer and video.

Rev. Dr. Allen Jorgenson offered a few points of biblical and exegetical interpretation of neighbour with respect to the parable of the Good Samaritan, and asked delegates to discuss at their tables questions related to how we speak of and to our neighbours.

Bishop Pryse introduced a round table panel discussion with Mr. Chattar Ahuja, Dr. Sarah Shafiq, and Dr. Sarah Chen, with moderator Rev. Dr. Brice Balmer. Each of the guests spoke of neighbour from their own perspective and experience. The evening concluded in prayer, song and scriptural readings from all our traditions.

Welcome Reception

A welcome reception was held at the end of the day for Delegates and Visitors to Assembly.

Session Three - Friday, June 22, 2018, 8:30 a.m.

Worship

Worship began the day for delegates and visitors.

Report of the Committee on Elections

Bishop Pryse invited Iris Schweiger, Chairperson for the Committee on Elections, to the dais for the presentation of the results of the first ballot for the election of Vice-Chairperson.

Ballots cast	183
Spoiled	42
Valid ballots	141
Required to elect	106

Bishop Pryse declared Laurie Knott elected as the Vice-chairperson of the Eastern Synod, for the term of 2018-2024.

MSC that the ballots be destroyed.

Iris Schweiger, Chairperson for the Committee on Elections, presented the results of the first ballot for the election of delegates to the ELCIC National Convention:

Lay:	To be elected	24
	Ballots cast	185
	Spoiled	0
	Valid ballots	185
	Required to elect	75

Elected were: Gail Bennie, Nancy Cook, Denise Dennis, Susan Dupuis, Edward Evans, Carol Fairbrother, Karen Field, Dorothy Frook, Brenda Grebinski, Jan Hansen, Brian Janzen, E. Joanne Klein, Laurie Knott, Jim Krats, Uli Kuebler, Miriam Lapp, Janelle

Lightbourne, Lawrence Lupton, Fred Nolting, Marilyn Raaflaub, Peggy Read, Ron Roeder, Susan Seifert and Ingrid Sladeczek.

Rostered:	To be elected	17
	Ballots cast	185
	Spoiled	2
	Valid ballots	183
	Required to elect	110

Elected were: Hans Borch, Christian Ceconi, Steve Hoffard, Jennifer Hoover, Scott Knarr, Ann Krueger, Karen Kuhnert, JoAnne Lam, Mike Lees, Martin Malina, Kimberlynn McNabb, Daniela Mertz, Joanna Miller, Laura Sauder, James Slack, Annette Smith and Adam Snook.

Youth:	To be elected	3
	Ballots cast	184
	Spoiled	0
	Valid ballots	184
	Required to elect	96

Elected were: Ben Cameron, Megan Famme and Julia Wirth.

The first ballot for synod council, lay and rostered positions, took place using the clickers. Delegates cast their votes, and balloting was closed.

Report of Synod Council

Secretary Wendell Grahlman led the assembly for amendments to the Synod Constitution and Bylaws.

ES 18-01 that the Eastern Synod Constitution, Article VI Section 9 be amended (first reading):

Should a congregation which has ceased to exist or whose membership has so diminished in numbers as to render it impossible or impractical for the congregation to function according to its constitution and bylaws shall, the bishop of the synod shall arrange a after consultation with any remaining members, after which the synod council may deem the congregation be deemed by this synod to be defunct. This synod through If the congregation is deemed to be defunct, the synod council shall appoint trustees, including where feasible former members of the former congregation, who shall take charge and control of the property of said

congregation to hold, manage and convey the same on behalf of the former congregation ~~this synod~~.

ES 18-02 that the Eastern Synod Bylaws, Part V Section 12b be amended by removing the following:

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

Partner Greetings

Bishop Pryse welcomed The Rev. Conrad Plummer, President of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Guyana. President Plummer greeted the assembly and offered thanks for the partnership between our churches. He spoke of his own background and the background of the Lutheran Church in Guyana with respect to being neighbour in a multicultural context.

Rev. Jeff Smith, Assembly Manager, gave a few announcements, and delegates took a break.

Open Mic Sharing

New Mission Initiatives/Congregations at a Crossroad: Many delegates related stories of inspiring and innovation mission and ministry initiatives taking place in their congregations.

Closing Prayer

Cherub Philip and some members of the Worship Team led the Assembly in song/prayer; delegates were adjourned for lunch (including by invitation, Lutheran Planned Giving Luncheon; and by pre-registration, GSI Lunch and Learn Session).

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
the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples 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).

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. Dr. 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	90

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	90

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 Grahlman 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.

Session Five - Friday, June 22, 2018, 6:30 p.m.

...to be Neighbour II

Delegates gathered Friday evening for an interactive program on racial justice.

Inshallah (a community of singers from Waterloo Region sponsored by Waterloo Lutheran Seminary) led off the evening with songs of justice and community.

Prayers and readings were led by Pat Lovell and Rev. Joanna Miller and members of the Racial Justice Task Force.

Dr. Mary (Joy) Philip (Waterloo Lutheran Seminary), led a Bible study using 2 Kings 5:1-15 (the Cleansing of the Leper). Table groups and exercises were used for discussion. The interpretation of the story includes the ability to be in touch with those that might otherwise be deemed insignificant, sensitive to the touch of another.

Session Six, Saturday, June 23, 2018, 8:30 a.m.

...to be Neighbour III

The Homeless as Neighbour

Worship began the day and included a memorial for synodical leaders and family members who have died as well as congregations and camps who have closed in the past biennium.

Mark 12:41-44 (the widow's offering)

Allen Jorgenson and Joy Philip offering some insight and interpretation with respect to homelessness, poverty, and economic systems, and invited the assembled to discuss posture, needs and lament.

Rafi Aaron was introduced as the guest speaker. An award winning poet, he has worked with the homeless and Out of the Cold shelters in Toronto, and represents the Interfaith Coalition to Fight Homelessness. He challenged people to use their power to speak on behalf of the homeless, especially the present crisis of people dying due to no shelter and space being available, and safe injection sites.

Report of the Committee on Reference and Counsel

Rev. Adam Snook, chairperson of the committee, presented the next report.

ES 18-11 MSC that the following be adopted:

We, as Synod, ministry areas, congregations, and individual members, commit to the vital and urgent work of confronting the sin of racism and to the dismantling of racist and colonial attitudes present in ourselves, our church, and our society by upholding Eastern Synod Assembly Motion ES 12-06

(http://www.easternsynod.org/sites/default/files/content/assembly_2012_motion_1.3_0.pdf), the Statement on Inclusiveness and Diversity: Gifts of God and our commitment to right relationships with Indigenous peoples (<http://elcic.ca/CompassionateJustice/IndigenousRightsandRelationships.cfm>).

We commit ourselves to:

1. in depth self-reflection and learning with respect to the issues of racism, privilege, diversity, and right relationships;
2. individual and corporate confession of racism as a structural sin which exists in our churches and communities;
3. "after the process of confession, repentance, self-learning, and reflection to humbly respond to invitations from communities that experience the debilitating effects of racism and with communities that live with privilege, to find ways to journey together, confronting the reality of racism;"

4. reacquainting and recommitting ourselves with the ELCIC's Statement on Inclusiveness and Diversity, the ELCIC's Resolution on the Doctrine of Discovery (see <http://elcic.ca/Public-Policy/documents/DoctrineofDiscoveryMotionFINAL.pdf>), using them, among others, as tools in the work of dismantling racism;
5. using specially marked times, such as Black History month (February), or the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (March 21), National Indigenous Peoples Day (June 21), among others, to corporately focus our work on diversity and inclusiveness;
6. establishing a Racial Justice Advisory Committee under the portfolio of the Director of Public Policy and Service Ministries to provide resources (written, experiential, video, etc.) for the continued work of dismantling racism and privilege; and
7. and, for ministry area representatives to report and provide feedback annually to the Director of Public Policy and Service Ministries on learning, steps, and actions taken on the issues of racism, diversity, culture, and right relationships.

ES 18-12 MSC that the following be adopted:

Recognizing that the federal government has increased its funding and set targeted amounts for mental health and addictions within the Canada Health Transfer, we call on all governments within our jurisdiction to continue to push to erase the difference in funding between physical health and mental health spending, ensuring community-based settings and an evidence-based approach to mental health and addictions. Advocacy continues to be necessary and ongoing by:

1. praying for those who suffer with mental health issues and addictions, and those who work with them;
2. learning as ministry areas, congregations and individual members about mental health and addictions, including, but not limited to, training and obtaining naloxone kits for emergency congregational use;
3. understanding Bill C-37 (An Act to amend the Controlled Drugs and Substances Act and to make related amendments to other Acts) and supporting safe injection sites where identified and needed in our neighbourhoods, recognizing that patient, staff and people's safety is required; and
4. asking the Bishop of the Eastern Synod to write to Prime Minister Trudeau and the Minister of Health, Ginette Petitpas Taylor, thanking them in their efforts thus far and urging them to continue to erase the difference between physical health funding and mental health funding.

ES 18-13 MSC that the following be adopted:

That the Bishop write to the government at various levels to request a commitment towards the increased implementation of means of production of clean energy.

ES 18-14 MSC that the following be adopted:

That the Eastern Synod bring a motion, similar to Assembly motion ES 18-04, to the National Church, and that synod council consult with the indigenous community as to appropriate language.

ES 18-15 MSC that the following be adopted:

That the Eastern Synod in this coming triennial embrace what it means to be congregational neighbours to one another.

That the Eastern Synod, through the office of the Bishop and Ministry Area Deans proactively identify those congregations that may be on a trajectory that would render them unviable and engage those congregations in a process of renewal and revival in an effort to pre-empt the need for engaging in the process of declaring a congregation defunct.

Report of the WLS Board of Governors

Jim Philips, Chairperson of the Board, addressed the assembly with the report of the Board's work and of seminary life (cf BR Section 10). Rev. Dr. Mark Harris, Principal-Dean of the Seminary, introduced a video presentation highlighting some of the seminary's program in relation to the strategic goals of the Synod. He also noted a number of items with respect to the facility, administration and enrollment of the institution, with an emphasis to remind people of the capital redevelopment needs (accompanied by very recent pictures). Mark also announced the new name change of the institution, as of this moment: Martin Luther University College, and unveiled the new logo.

Closing Prayer

Debbie Lou Ludolph led the assembly in song/prayer. The delegates were adjourned for lunch, including the GSI Lunch and Learn Session (by pre-registration).

Session Seven, Saturday, June 23, 2018, 1:30 p.m.

Report of Synod Council

Treasurer of Synod Keith Myra presented the 2018 - 2021 Budget, relating it to the Synod's Strategic Plan.

ES 18-16 MSC that the 2018 Revised Budget and 2019-2021 Proposed Budgets be adopted.

Report of the Committee on Reference and Counsel

Adam Snook presented the final report of the committee.

ES 18-17 MSC that the following be adopted:

That any and all appropriate references in the Eastern Synod Constitution and Bylaws of "Waterloo Lutheran Seminary" be changed to "Martin Luther University College."

ES 18-18 MSDefeated that the following be adopted:

That the Eastern Synod Assembly 2018 encourage National Church Council to create a permanent agenda item for all future National Assemblies for reports from the seminaries of this church.

ES 18-19 MSC that the following be referred to Synod Council:

With the sale of Edgewood Camp & Conference Centre, we ask that the Synod divide the proceeds between Lutheran Camp Mush-A-Mush and Lutherlyn Camp & Conference Centre equally for the purpose of supporting capital and/or projects on both sites as a program tribute to the legacy of Edgewood Camp.

ES 18-20 MSC that the following be adopted:

That the Eastern Synod Assembly, Synod Council, Congregations and individual members:

1. Consider the effects of paper waste produced by the Eastern Synod on the environment;
2. Determine ways to further reduce our carbon footprint by limiting the use of paper photocopies, bulletins, and ballots where possible at the synod assembly and in congregations across the synod, for example, distributing materials during the assembly by email or via the synod website, with paper copies available on request;
3. Encourage the ELCIC assemblies to do the same.

ES 18-21 MSC that the following be referred to Synod Council:

That the matter of geographical imbalance of Synod Council members be recognized, and that the principal of more equitable representation be considered in future elections.

ES 18-22 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.

Presentation of Rostered Ministers and Congregations received into the Synod since July 1, 2016

Bishop Pryse invited all the rostered ministers who have been received into the Synod since the last synod assembly to come to the dais, and each briefly introduced themselves to the delegates and visitors. In addition, the new congregation of All Saints Lutheran Anglican, Guelph was welcomed and received onto the roster of the church.

Reflections from the Youth Assembly

Youth delegates presented an interpretation of the parable of the Good Samaritan and what it means to be neighbour. They also spoke of what it means to be church from their generation's experience and hopes.

Reflections from our Companion Synod

Rev. Conrad Plummer, the President of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Guyana, was invited to speak and offer reflections as a partner and companion of our Eastern Synod, and guest of this Assembly.

Open Mic Sharing

Bishop Pryse invited delegates to come to the microphones to speak of "what will we take home from this Assembly?".

Jeff Smith gave a few announcements as assembly ended.

Report of the Committee on Reference and Counsel

ES 18-23 MSC that the following be adopted:

That the Assembly express its thanks to the Rev. Jeffrey Smith, Assembly Manager, to the Rev. Susan Climo, Assistant Assembly Manager, and 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 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 express its thanks to Debbie Lou Ludolph and the Worship Planning 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 express its thanks to those who reminded us to be a neighbour is as much a verb as it is a noun. They are: Dr. Mary (Joy) Philip and Rev. Dr. Allen Jorgenson, who led the Bible Study, presenters Rev. Dr. Brice Balmer, Mr. Chatter Ahuja, Dr. Sarah Shafiq, Dr. Sarah Chen, Mr. Rafi Aaron and our Eastern Synod family, who led the Friday workshop on racial justice;

And that this Assembly express its thanks to the Rev. Conrad Plummer, President of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Guyana, who reminded us that God is good all the time;

And that this Assembly express its thanks to our National Bishop, the Rev. Dr. Susan Johnson, the Rev. Dr. Karin Achtelstetter, and to Rev. Carla Blakely, who reminded us that the church is bigger than our congregation 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. Riitta Hepomaki and to the Rev. Douglas Reble, to the Secretary of Synod, the Rev. Wendell Grahlman, to the Synod Vice-Chairperson, Laurie Knott, to the Synod Treasurer, Keith Myra, and to the Synod Office Staff, Cathy Caron, Liz Zehr, Stephanie Clayton, Sue Heimpel, and Karen Cross for their tireless partnership in ministry;

And finally, a second thank you to our Bishop Michael: his grace, wisdom, courage, humour and commitment to serve is a witness to us all.

Adjournment of Convention Business

Debbie Lou Ludolph led the assembly in prayer and song.

MSC to adjourn Synod Assembly 2018.

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

Eastern Synod Leadership Banquet, Saturday evening, June 23, 2018

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

Rev. Richard Brown
Jordan Smith
Valerie Getson
Rev. Norine Gullons
Deaconess Pam Harrington
Rev. Rob Wiesner

Eastern Synod Leadership Award Recipients

Exemplary Service to the Wider Church - Clergy - Rev. Brian Wilker
Exemplary Service to the Wider Church - Lay - Bruce Cook
Exemplary Service to the Wider Community - Clergy - Rev. John Polačok
Exemplary Service to the Wider Community - Lay - Sherry Coman

Pastors/Rostered Ministers Celebrating Anniversaries of Ordination/Consecration

Twenty-Five Years

Rev. Claudine Carlson
Rev. Rasma Caune
Rev. Virginia Cookman
Rev. Friedrich Demke
Rev. Sonja Free
Rev. Davis Kaneps
Rev. David Maginley
Rev. Doreen McFarlane
Rev. Jonathan Schmidt
Rev. Christian Schweter
Rev. Gregory Smith
Rev. David Tin
Rev. Glenn Widdis

Forty Years

Rev. Jacob Dressler
Rev. Ted Guthrie
Rev. Beverley Nitschke
Rev. Dr. David Pfrimmer
Rev. Glenn Sellick
Rev. William Shafer
Rev. Paul Sodtke

Fifty Years

Rev. Walter Philip Heinze
Rev. Theodore Heinze
Rev. Carl Kappes
Rev. Maris Kirsons
Rev. Everett Mossman
Rev. Tonis Nommik
Rev. Clinton Rohr
Rev. Gordon Schmidt

Sixty Years

Rev. Vernon Cronmiller
Rev. Charles Dechert
Rev. Dr. William D. Huras (Bishop - Ret.)
Rev. Barry Lang
Rev. Joachim Von Schmeling
Rev. Eric Weber

Sixty-five Years

Rev. Thomas Ristine

Seventy Years

Rev. Arthur Conrad

Sunday, June 24, 2018

Closing Service with Holy Communion
Installation of Synod Council, Ministry Directors, and Ministry Area Deans
Bishop Michael Pryse preached; National Bishop Susan Johnson presided.