



The Eastern Synod Lutheran Assembly Edition



Dear Reader,

- Bishop Pryse declared Assembly 2018 in session with the following words: "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."
- The theme of the 17th Biennial Convention was "Liberated by God's grace...to be neighbour".
- From now on Synod Assembly gathers every third year.

This Assembly Edition is brought to you by the Synod office. If you were present at the Assembly, we hope that this helps you in reporting back to your congregation. For those of you who couldn't be present this gives a snapshot of what happened at the Convention.

Here we have gathered worship materials, bible studies, presentations, reports, elections and motions.

The Synod Conven-

tion is not just a one-time event. It is a meeting where we, together as a synod, establish the guiding principals for the Synod for the coming years, adopt bylaws and policies to enable us to function in this era of the church and elect leaders to guide us in achieving our common goals. In other words, most of the work is ahead.

We encourage you to follow closely through the synod

communication how the adopted motions will be acted on, explore and use the worship materials in your congregations and fill your newsletters with assembly news when possible. Furthermore, keep the newly elected leaders, council members and national delegates in your prayers.

With grateful thanks to all who worked one way or the other for this Convention!

Ruth



Worship

This year's synod assembly focused on the freedom we have been given in Christ to love our neighbour. The themed sessions were an exercise in contextual theology as we listened closely to our neighbours inside and outside the church, set within our times of praise and prayer. (Debbie Lou Ludolph)

Worship missals, bible studies and prayers can be found on our [website](#). Feel free to use them. When using, please credit the original authors.

Thursday June 21, 2018:
Opening Worship.

Bishop Michael Pryse with Rev. Rosalyn

Kantlah^nta'Elm presided. National Bishop Susan Johnson preached.

Thursday evening:
To be Neighbour 1 Bible Study by Rev. Dr. Allen Jorgenson. Good Samaritan.

Friday June 22, 2018 Morning:
LGBTQIA+ neighbours Missal.

Friday evening:
To be Neighbour 2 Bible study Dr. Joy Philip. Naaman's Leprosy Healed.

Evening leaders Pat Lovell and Rev. Joanna Miller, Programming Racial Justice Taskforce. Music: Inshallah.

Saturday June 23, 2018 Morning:

To be Neighbour 3 Bible Study Dr. Joy Philip and Rev. Dr. Allen Jorgenson. The Widow's Offering. Guest Speaker Rafi Aaron, Interfaith Coalition to Fight for Homelessness.

Sunday June 24, 2018: Closing Worship Bishop Susan Johnson presided, Bishop Michael Pryse preached.

Worship Planning Team:
Debbie Lou Ludolph, Jonah Bruce, Sherry Coman, Rev. Steve Hoffard, Brad Moggach, Cherub Philip, Kathryn Smith, Robb Wilson

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Elections



“The Eastern Synod has been blessed with an abundance of gifted, talented, and inspired leaders,” says Bishop Michael.

The following elections took place at the Assembly:

Officers were elected for the term of 2018-2024:

Rev. Dr. Michael Pryse: Bishop of the Eastern Synod.

Ms. Laurie Knott: Vice Chair of the Synod.

Mr. Keith Myra: Treasurer of the Synod.

Rev. Wendell Grahlman: Secretary of the Synod.

Synod Council members:

Lay: Ben Bestvater, David Wilk and Judy Von Wahl.

Rostered: Anne Anderson, Janaki Bandara, Dwight Biggs, David Malina, Joanna Miller and

Adam Snook.

Delegates to the ELCIC National Convention:

Lay: Gail Bennie, Nancy Cook, Denise Dennis, Susan Dupuis, Edward Evans, Carol Fairbrother, Karen Field, Dorothy Froom, 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: 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: Ben Cameron, Megan Famme and Julia Wirth.

Committee on Elections:

Rev. Hans Borch, Rev. Riitta Hepomaki (Advisory), Peggy Read, Rev. Laura Sauder, Iris Schweiger (Chairperson), Rev. Heather Spencer-Stoltz, Randy Zimmerling



Bishop installs newly elected Synod Council, Ministry Directors and Area Deans. (Photo: Carter Brooks-ELCIC)

Minutes of the Assembly

Assembly session minutes can be found on the [Synod web-site](#).

[Session 1](#)

[Session 2](#)

[Session 3](#)

[Session 4](#)

[Session 5](#)

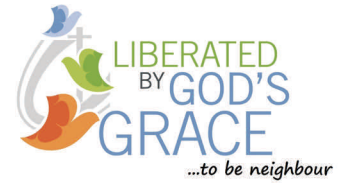
[Session 6](#)

[Session 7](#)

Committee on Minutes:

Rev. Wendell Grahlman (Advisory), Rev. Richard Kwiatkowski, Judy Lindeman (Chairperson), Lawrence Lupton, Rev. Sylvia Swiatoschick

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Motions

The Committee on Reference and Counsel brought 18 motions to the assembly. 16 of them were adopted. In addition, there were five motions from the Synod Council. A summary of all the adopted motions can be found here: [Motions from Assembly 2018](#).

A list of the adopted motions from the Committee of Reference and Counsel:

- ♦ [Loving our LGBTQIA+ Neighbour](#)
- ♦ [A Timely Phasing Out of Fossil Fuel Subsidies by the Government of Canada](#)
- ♦ [Confronting & Dismantling Racism](#)

- ♦ [Closing the Funding Gap Between Physical & Mental Health](#)
- ♦ [Biennium Reconciliation Advisory Committee](#)
- ♦ [Phasing Out Travel Loan Repayment for Refugees](#)
- ♦ [Plastics Consumption](#)
- ♦ [Name Change of WLS](#)
- ♦ [Clean Energy Initiatives](#)
- ♦ [Loving our LGBTQIA+ and National Church](#)
- ♦ [Deeming Congregations Defunct](#)
- ♦ [Seminary Updates to National Assembly](#)
- ♦ [Sale of Camp Edgewood and](#)

[Division of Proceeds](#)

- ♦ [Paper Waste and Consumption](#)
- ♦ [Geographical Imbalance of Synod Council](#)
- ♦ [Thanks](#)
- ♦ [Unfinished Business](#)

Committee on Reference and Counsel:

Rev. Anne Anderson, Bruce Cook, Charlotte Corwin, Rev. Tuula Van Gasbeek, Rev. Dr. Mark Harris, Rev. Douglas Reble (Advisory), Tim Schaner, Rev. Adam Snook (Chairperson), Julia Wirth.

The delegates came prepared to stand up and voice their concerns. 23 motions were brought to the Assembly.



Presentations

[Report of the Bishop](#) to Eastern Synod Assembly 2018.

[Our Synod Neighbourhood](#) by Laurie Knott, the Vice Chair of the Synod.

[Report about our work in the Central Toronto Ministry Area](#) by Rev. Christian Ceconi, the Dean of the Central Toronto

Ministry Area.

[Identify, Encourage, & Support Congregations at a Crossroads](#) by Rev. Joel Crouse.

Katherine Altenburg's presentation (will be posted at later time).

[Report of the National Bishop](#)

[WLS Report to the Eastern Synod Assembly](#)

[Report of the Treasurer](#)

[2018 Budget Presentation](#)

You can find more photos on the website www.easternsynod.org

Check out Twitter hashtag #ESconv2018 to see tweets and photos from the Assembly.

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Leadership Awards

In November of 2001, the Synod Council established the Eastern Synod Leadership Awards as a means of honouring individuals who have provided exemplary service to the synod and to the wider community. The Council decided that at each Synod Assembly, four such awards would be presented; one each to a clergy person and a lay person for outstanding service to the *synod*; and also to a clergy person and a lay person for outstanding service to the wider *community*.



The actual award is a custom designed sculpture that has been hand-crafted by Canadian artist Kelly Lowe. The crystal flame symbolizes the light of Christ which emanates through the witness of all Christian people, while also representing the gifts of the Holy Spirit as they have been expressed within the lives of the individual award recipients.



Rev. Brian Wilker and Mr. Bruce Cook received awards for exemplary service to the wider church.



Ms. Sherry Coman and Rev. John Polacok received awards for exemplary service to the wider community.



Thank you!

Rev. Richard Brown, Valerie Getson, Deacon Pamela Harrington, Jordan Smith, Rev. Robert Wiesner and Norine Gullons were recognized for their service as they completed their term on Synod Council.

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60 years



40 years



50 years



Anniversary Celebrants



25 years



Rev. Conrad Plummer, President of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Guyana.



Bishop Michael Pryse, Rev. Rosalyn Kantlah^nta'Elm, Bishop Susan Johnson and Cherub Philip.



Multifaith panellists Zhi Hong Chen, Sarah Shafiq, Chatter Ahuja, Rev. Dr. Brice Balmer and Bishop Michael Pryse.



Rafi Aaron from Interfaith Coalition to Fight Homelessness was Saturday morning's guest speaker.



Cherub Philip and Diaconal Minister Scott Knarr.



On Friday evening the delegates made promises to themselves as well as suggestions to the synod on how to become a non-racist society.



Open Mic sessions on Friday and Saturday attracted a large crowd of people who wanted to share their ministry stories.



[The Treasurer's report](#) is one of the most liked presentations year after year. This year, delegates engaged in lively discussion on the [budget](#) priorities.



Top: Jonathan Hopkins, the Chair of the YAYA committee speaking to the assembly.

Bottom: Rev. Mavis Fung



A moment was taken to recognize and appreciate the amazing synod assembly volunteers.



Convention managers Rev. Susan Climo and Rev. Jeff Smith.



Pastors Charles Nolting and Randy Liedtke were recruited as camera men upon arrival but quickly mastered the job.