



COLOSSIANS 3:17

**Eighth Convention
June 5–9, 2008
Winnipeg, Manitoba**

PROCEEDINGS


LUTHERAN CHURCH-CANADA
ÉGLISE LUTHÉRIENNE du CANADA

FOREWORD

The official *Proceedings* to the Synod of the Eighth Synodical Convention of Lutheran Church–Canada are provided as the official record of the decisions, elections and activities of the Convention. I encourage all members of the Synod who receive these *Proceedings* to make them available to the members of their respective congregations and others so that the information contained herein may reach as many as possible regarding the theological positions of the Synod and the directions to be taken in the future ministry of the Synod as they have been adopted.

Under the theme *Give Jesus Glory: His Calling – Our Praise* Lutheran Church-Canada met in convention in Winnipeg, MB, June 5-9, 2008. Dr. Gene Veith served as the convention essayist and spoke on the doctrine of vocation: definition and application, and related that to the convention theme. We thank Dr. Veith for his compelling and timely essay. Rev. Jan Pastucha, convention chaplain, opened and closed each session with devotion and prayer.

This was one of those rare occasions in the history of LCC when there was a change made in the office of the President of Synod. The Rev. Dr. Ralph Mayan previously announced his retirement, and Rev. Robert Bugbee of Holy Cross Lutheran Church, Kitchener, ON was elected president on the first ballot. We give thanks to God for the work of President Mayan over these past 12 years. We pray for God’s grace to be given in abundance to Rev. Bugbee as he begins the adjustment to his new position. May God grant us all grace and patience for the tasks that lie ahead.

Special thanks should be given to the office staff who so ably assisted the secretary in his duties. Ian Adnams, Sylvia Klarenbach, and Janice Wiltshire deserve special thanks for putting up with my questions and providing sound answers. Rev. Bill Ney served as assistant to the secretary. His quick skill corrected several errors and prevented others from being made. I would also thank those members of the office staff who worked so hard to prepare these *Proceedings*.

We ask for the continued blessing of God not only on the work of Lutheran Church–Canada but on all those who were elected to offices, boards and commissions of the Synod. May He guide us in putting into action those decisions that were made and bless their completion.

May the Almighty God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit continue to strengthen Lutheran Church–Canada through Word and Sacrament so that we may carry out our theme to *Give Jesus Glory: His Calling – Our Praise* proclaiming to all that “**Jesus Christ is Lord**” to the glory of God the Father and may all come to know the peace, love, and forgiveness of sins that is found only in Jesus Christ.

In His Service,

Rev. Dennis J. Putzman
Secretary

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CONVENTION DELEGATES

Alberta-British Columbia District

Clergy

Amison, Brian Lethbridge
 Chiang, Mark Vancouver
 Docekal, Rich..... Edmonton
 Dressler, David Calgary
 Govaski, Edivar..... Fraser Valley
 Haberstock, Cliff..... Edmonton
 Haberstock, Harold Kootenay
 Hautz, Laverne Calgary
 Hennig, Don..... Wetaskiwin
 Hennig, Mark Stony Plain
 Kihn, David..... Elk Island
 Kruesel, Tom..... Vancouver Island
 Kubke, Roland Stony Plain
 Lunderby, Wayne..... Fraser Valley
 Morris, Vic Okanagan
 Rinas, Jody..... Cariboo
 Smith, Noel Peace River
 Stern, Neil Edmonton
 Tabbert, Ron Calgary
 White, Roy Okanagan

Lay

Astley, Doug Edmonton
 Bohlken, Keith Wetaskiwin
 Boles, Ivan Stony Plain
 Clements, Gary Peace River
 Hessel, Roman Okanagan
 Jenrossek, Georg Fraser Valley
 Klarenbach, Christopher Calgary
 Klaszus, Laila..... Edmonton
 Lyons, Karen..... Edmonton
 McKellar, Linda..... Stony Plain
 McKie, Bill Lethbridge
 Nachtigall, Walter Vancouver Island
 Niblock, Doug Fraser Valley
 Novakowski, Ed..... Cariboo
 Schoepp, Gordon..... Elk Island
 Taman, Francis..... Calgary
 Thomas, Wes..... Calgary
 Wheeler, Grant..... Okanagan
 Wildeman, Ken Kootenay
 Zotzman, Reg..... Vancouver

Advisory

Heinemann, Rev. Herb.... district clergy advisory
 Threinen, Rev. Norman... district clergy advisory
 Gillingham, Deacon Michael
 district diaconate advisory

Schiemann, Deacon Michael diaconate advisory
 Kentel, Jim..... district BOD advisory
 Robinson, Kurt..... district office advisory

Central District

Clergy

Anderson, Gerald..... Ontario
 Buck, Rod Red River
 Chimirri-Russell, James..... Wascana
 Dennis, Lowell..... Katepwa
 Dressler, Mark Saskatoon
 Gust, Arron Ontario
 Haberstock, David Ontario
 Hasselstrom, Robert..... Assiniboine
 Heintz, Luther Cypress Hills
 Julien, Brad..... Northland
 Kim, Dong-Joo Qu=Appelle
 Kim, Kyung-Hyun Assiniboine
 Klages, Alex Portage
 Scholz, James..... Red River
 Schultz, Jason Moose Mountain
 Stever, Glen Wascana

Lay

Biesenthal, Herb Qu' Appelle
 Bittner, Carl Red River
 Buck, David..... Cypress Hills
 Clark, Derek..... Saskatoon
 Ford, Brian..... Wascana
 Haberstock, Harvey Moose Mountain
 Kendel, Mervin..... Assiniboine
 Koch, Dennis Katepwa
 Kunz, Francis..... Northland
 Maunula, Michael..... Ontario
 Niemi, Sam Ontario
 Toole, Gordon..... Red River
 Viddal, Charlie..... Ontario
 Vogt, Ben..... Portage
 Wagner, Murray..... Assiniboine
 Zwack, Andy Wascana

Advisory

Koslowsky, Rev. Karl.... district clergy advisory
 Arndt, Deacon Ralph . district diaconate advisory
 Keith, Rev. Michael..... district BOD advisory
 Van Maanen, Rev. Sye district office advisory
 Timm, David..... district youth advisory
 Vaage, Aaron district youth advisory

East District**Clergy**

Bode, David London
 Bublitz, Marvin Stratford
 Bugbee, Robert Kitchener
 Flor, Gerson Toronto
 Frey, Rick Kitchener
 Gajdos, Larry Hamilton
 Hamp, David Niagara
 Kuenzel, Gary Hamilton
 Kuhl, Joel Ottawa
 Lockstadt, Richard Ottawa
 Pakrul, Peter Toronto
 Schallhorn, Paul Windsor
 Schroth, Andy Kitchener
 Stefanik, Darryl Niagara
 Teuscher, Timothy Stratford
 Toms, Adrian Toronto
 Voege, Kenneth London
 Williams, Paul Kitchener
 Zabel, Paul Hanover

Lay

Brown, Bud Kitchener
 Carson, Anne Toronto
 Coe, Albert Hamilton
 Couture, Pierre Ottawa
 Famme, Howard Stratford
 Griffin, Tony Toronto
 Huehnergard, Mark Kitchener
 Israel, Patricia Kitchener
 Jacques, Brett Niagara
 Johnson, Frank Windsor
 Keller, Earl Stratford
 Klassen, Freda Kitchener
 Kontrimas, Kaia Hanover
 Millard, Don Hamilton
 Mulligan, James Toronto
 Putzman, Daniel Niagara
 Schroeder, Derick Ottawa
 Thiessler, Martin London
 Zakel, David London

Advisory

Mellecke, Rev. Mayo district clergy advisory
 Ryan, Deacon Brenda district diaconate advisory
 Currie, Dr. Ken district BOD advisory
 Hartburg, Rev. Mark district office advisory
 Danielson, Rachael district youth advisory
 Verlinden, Paul district youth advisory

OTHER ADVISORY DELEGATES

President Rev. Dr. Ralph Mayan
President Emeritus Rev. Dr. Edwin Lehman
Vice-presidents Rev. Nolan D. Astley
 Rev. Daryl M. Solie
 Rev. Robert C. Krestick
Secretary Rev. Dennis Putzman
Treasurer Dwayne Cleave
District Presidents Rev. Donald Schiemann
 Rev. Thomas Prachar
 Rev. Allen Maleske

Board of Directors

Rev. Nolan D. Astley, Ron Fischer, Lynn Gergens, Rev. Dr. Karl W. Keller, Dorothea Korcok, Rev. Robert C. Krestick, Larry Lutz, Rev. Ralph Mayan, Rev. Dennis Putzman, Rev. Daryl M. Solie, Randy Stefan, Gordon Sylvester

Missions and Social Ministry Services

Rev. Dr. Karl Keller

Committee for Communication and Technology

Dorothea Korcok

Committee for Cultural Property and Archives

Larry Lutz

Committee for Worship and Music

Rev. Jan Pastucha

Commission on Adjudication

Rev. Karl Koslowsky

Commission on Constitutional Matters and Structure

Herb Doering, Gary Gilmour, Rev William Ney, Rev. Dennis Putzman, Rev. John Trembulak III
Commission on Theology and Church Relations
 Rev. Dr. Edward Kettner, Rev. Colin Liske, Rev. Duane Peters, Eloise Schaan, Allen Schellenberg, Rev. Donald A. Schieman, Rev. Dr. Thomas Winger

Lutheran Church–Canada Financial Ministries

Allan Schmidt

Board of Managers–Worker Benefit Plans

Ted Holtby, Inge Schroeder

Board of Regents, CUCA, Edmonton AB

Susan Beiderwieden, Dr. Gerald Krispen

Board of Regents, CLS, Edmonton AB

Rhonda Buck, Dr. Manfred Zeuch

Board of Regents, CLTS, St. Catharines ON

Rev. James Heinbuch, Dr. Thomas Winger

CONVENTION APPOINTMENTS

Convention Manager

Ian Adnams

Convention Working Group

Rev. Jan Pastucha, Debra Bomback, Bert Bowman, Judy Fraser, Sherman Fraser, Margaret Klatt, Karl Klatt, Agnes Luciw, Fred Luciw, Judy Miller, Mark Reisdorf

Assistant to the Secretary

Rev. William Ney

Worship Committee

Rev. Jan Pastucha, and members of the Red River Circuit.

Convention Chaplain

Rev. Jan Pastucha

Convention Parliamentarian

Rev. James Fritsche

Committee on Registrations

Darryl Becker

Committee on Nominations

Walter Heinemann, chair; Rev. Harold Borchardt, secretary; Rev. Mark Lobitz, Eloise Schaan; Walter Seehagel; Rev. Timothy Teuscher.

Committee on Elections

Rev. Sye Van Maanen, Deacon Brenda Ryan, Deacon Michael Schiemann

Resolution Committee 1 (Theology/Missions)

Rev. Don Schiemann (chair), Rev. Marvin Bublitz, Rev. Rod Buck, Freda Klassen, Murray Wagner, Reg Zotzman.

Resolution Committee 2 (Parish Services/Higher Education)

Rev. Tom Prachar (chair), Rev. Paul Zabel, Rev. Wayne Lunderby, Gordon Toole, James Mulligan, Karen Lyons.

Resolution Committee 3

(Administration/Constitution)

Rev. Al Maleske (chair), Rev. Mark Dressler, Rev. Vic Morris, Howard Famme, Francis Taman, Michael Maunula.

Resolution Committee 4

(Financial/Miscellaneous)

Rev. James Scholz (chair), Rev. Gary Kuenzel, Rev. Roland Kubke, Mark Huehnergard, Walter Nachtigall.

REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT

Part II

Grace and peace to you, delegates and guests to the Eighth Convention of Lutheran Church–Canada

The report of the president consists of two parts. Part One has already been shared with the Synod and is printed on pages E1 through E7 of the Convention Workbook. That report fulfills the handbook requirements as it sets forth the state of the Synod and outlines for the members of the Synod the various actions and activities carried out by the president in fulfillment of the responsibilities laid upon him.

Part II is now presented to the Synod in convention. In this part and in this anniversary convention, I would have you join me briefly in celebrating the blessings our faithful God has bestowed upon our beloved Synod, in reflecting upon the challenges that we face and in pledging in this anniversary year to reconsecrate ourselves as we move forward into the future under God's grace and mercy.

These twenty years – It's been quite a journey. At the founding convention, our then newly elected president, Dr. Edwin Lehman, made some impromptu comments in which he compared what we were doing then with what the children of Israel did as they prepared to enter the Promised Land. He quoted these words from Joshua 3 -

when you see the ark of the covenant of the Lord, your God, and the priests carrying it, you are to move out from your positions and follow it. Then you will know which way to go since you have never passed this way before. . . Consecrate yourselves, for tomorrow the Lord will do amazing things among you.

And then by way of application he added:

We have not passed this way before. We enter an unknown future with all kinds of hidden challenges, but also with the confidence that God is both calling us and sending us. Therefore we need to heed the advice of Joshua. Joshua did not say to his troops, "Organize yourselves." He did not say, "Mobilize yourselves." He said, "Consecrate yourselves. What we are facing today is not a constitutional exercise, it is not an organizational task, it's not a cosmetic change to the appearance of the church in Canada. What we are facing here above all else is a spiritual journey.

These twenty years – It's been quite a journey, quite a spiritual journey. Accompanying us on the journey has been our Good Shepherd. He has led us and He has fed us; Through Word and Sacrament, He has nurtured and strengthened us for the assigned task He gives to His church. And He has been faithful to His promise by blessing us far more abundantly than all that we ask or think. Our cup overflows. Last night in our opening worship, we paused to *Give Jesus Glory* as we reflected upon those blessings – far more than all that we ask or think

We are thankful for 20 years of Word and Sacrament ministry in our 315 plus congregations. What gracious and powerful gifts are these means of grace. Through these means of grace sinners are saved, the dead are raised to new life and Christ's church is built. *Give Jesus Glory!*

We are grateful that our gracious Lord continues to raise up in our midst under-shepherds who are committed to the Holy Scriptures and the Lutheran Confessions and have a passion for “proclaiming His faithfulness.” *Give Jesus Glory!*

In a time when confessional integrity is passe we rejoice that God enables us to remain a confessional church. By God’s grace, we are not simply a collection of congregations, pastors and deacons who do as we please, individually deciding what we will teach and confess. What binds us together as a Synod is our confession. We are congregations, pastors and deacons subject to the discipline of our confessional loyalty. In the words of our past convention theme verse, “What we have received, we proclaim” No additions, No subtractions. We Proclaim His Faithfulness. *Give Jesus Glory!*

And praise God, He continues to engender in our Synod a heart for mission at every level. We don’t just share in the Gospel and its blessings in Lutheran Church–Canada. By God’s grace, we also know and understand that we are called to share it too, to share it with others! We will be talking about this sharing at this convention - missions as been the theme at every LCC convention. At this convention considering how our individual vocations serve as arenas for sharing the faith in word and deed.

Praise God for the blessings of our “Open House” program; Praise Him for the leadership of our district mission executives and Ian Adnams as they continue to promote and expand this avenue for outreach throughout our Synod. I am excited about their new initiative to assist the individual congregational member to become more and more comfortable in sharing the faith one on one.

Praise God for those individuals, congregations and agencies of the Synod eager and anxious to take on special projects in support of the mission we do together both here and abroad. Over one half of our budget for missions comes from these sources. They come over and above the funding received through the regular congregational offering.

Praise God for the teams of volunteers, both young and old, who travel to our areas of mission to encourage and support new believers, who work side by side with them in a variety of projects, building, teaching and providing expertise. What gifts of God to the church they are. The experience changes them; It gives them a clearer vision of their own mission at home. And God uses them by making them a blessing in their own congregations; an added blessing! And let’s not forget to praise God for those faithful congregational members who Sunday after Sunday return a portion of their blessings to the Lord in their offerings. Those gifts given by God’s faithful people enable the congregation, the Synod and district to carry out the mission and ministry of Christ’s church. *Give Jesus Glory!*

It’s been quite a journey! From its beginning twenty years ago to this very day, we have been participants in the story of a faithful God and Shepherd who has led us on our journey and blessed us far more abundantly than all that we ask or think. . . . or deserve.

When the journey began, there was a lot of excitement and anticipation. The vehicle, our Synod was new; It’s various accessories, our institutions and agencies, were novel. There was a lot of excitement and anticipation!

But with time, the new and the novel lost its sparkle and the initial excitement began to wane. Our vehicle had dents and scratches and we began to see them; its accessories didn’t always meet our expectations and the road – certainly not a newly minted four lane causeway.

We discovered that the journey could be difficult; the challenges burdensome, the work –just plain hard! Like the children of Israel who on their journey would complain, so it became easy for us to complain as well. And Satan was there; He was there to discourage and create discontent, to undermine faith and trust in the One shepherding the journey. The result: Tasks not accomplished; ventures, unfulfilled. O Lord, forgive!

And then there were those other traveling companions. Coming to know one another, we discovered that not all our traveling companions were exactly like us. They didn't always verbalize the faith the way we did; they didn't always think the way we thought; They didn't always do things the way we did them. But rather than talking to the traveling companion to air the concern, to strive for reconciliation and concord in our walk together, the temptation was to talk about them. And we did and Satan was there, Satan, the real enemy, to create new fears, to promote impatience and frustration, discord and party spirit and so side track us on the journey! O Lord, have mercy!

But in spite of Satan and his attacks. . . In spite of our sins, our weaknesses and our failures, our gracious and forgiving God did not desert or abandon us. While we could be faithless, as St. Paul says, "He remains faithful for he cannot deny himself." And His blessings continued – far more abundantly than all that we ask or think . . . or deserve.

Brothers and Sisters. Hear this! Note this well! Write it upon your forehead and your heart! He still remains faithful! He forgives our sin. He strengthens us in our weaknesses and He even uses our failures to accomplish His purposes. And mark this. He has and He will continue to use us to build His church. He remains faithful and that faithfulness, cemented at the cross and the empty tomb, will surely enable and empower us, in spite of our sin, to move forward on our journey.

But remember, it's a spiritual journey and we have not been this way before. Lutheran Church–Canada is again at a time of transition. At this convention we will be electing a new president and other servant-leaders. We will be considering a number of significant resolutions that may well impact our journey together; how we prepare pastors and deacons, how we deal with conflict on the journey, how and when we pause in convention to reflect upon God's blessings, to pray and conduct the business of the church.

But remember, it's a spiritual journey. We have not traveled this road before. It's a road filled with unique challenges. If there ever was a time when there was a need for a strong unified confessional church in this country and in our world, it is now. In the pluralism of our society, a society that has all but lost its moral ground what is needed is the clear winsome voice of proclamation proclaiming the Word of the Lord and announcing the grace of God for all in Jesus Christ. In a country where we shall see over the next decade a realignment within the Christian Community, (there is no one here that is not aware of what is already happening within the worldwide Anglican and Lutheran Communities), Lutheran Church–Canada has the challenge and opportunity to serve as a beacon, presenting a unified and winsome proclamation which stands unabashedly on the Holy Scriptures as God's inerrant and infallible Word and on the Lutheran Confessions as a correct exposition of that Word; that has a passion for reaching out to the lost and a heart for all people and especially those who are of the household of faith.

At such a time as this, aware of the challenges set before us and having the assurance of our Lord's presence and faithfulness, I believe it is appropriate that before we take up the journey again, we should do what old Israel did in preparing for their journey, that we should do what those present at the constituting convention of LCC did as they prepared to take up that journey –

that we should again heed the call of our faithful Lord when he says: "Consecrate yourselves! Consecrate yourselves, for tomorrow the Lord will do amazing things among you."

Each one of us can begin by remembering who we are. We have been called by God. It is "His Calling" He has called us to live in relationship with Him. He made that possible by bridging the chasm created by sin through the death and resurrection of His only begotten Son; He made it a reality for each of us as He called us to faith through His means of grace "for in Christ Jesus you are all sons and daughters of God, through faith. For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ." That's who you are! Your identity comes from your relationship with Jesus Christ. Consecrate yourself - acknowledge that relationship, grasp it, live in it and when He calls, die in it too. Consecrate yourself - for you are His child! It's His calling - "so that you might be His own and live under Him in His kingdom and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence and blessedness." You are now his "mask" through whom He continues to do His work in the world - through whom He works to renew creation and get the neighbour loved. It's your vocation - right where you are! You are His "instrument" as you, given opportunity in your multitude of vocations "give reason for the hope that is within you." That's your mission - right where you are. Consecrate yourselves.

As a Synod, we too can "consecrate ourselves." We too are His calling! It is God who "calls, gathers, enlightens and sanctifies the whole Christian church on earth and keeps it with Jesus Christ in the one true faith" In forming this Synod, Lutheran Church-Canada, we were convinced that it was God's will that we should unite around this "one true faith," our common confession in order that we might conserve and promote the unity of the true faith, and facilitate our witness to the Gospel of Jesus Christ in our country and throughout the world.

As a Synod, we consecrate ourselves by remembering who we are and what we are about. We are Christ's church on Christ's mission! It's *His Calling* and it results in *Our praise*. "But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for His own possession that you may declare the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light." Consecrate yourselves for tomorrow the Lord will do amazing things among you.

It's been quite a journey, quite a spiritual journey these 20 years! And it will continue to be such a journey because the Lord is not through doing "amazing things among us." Yes, we'll be traveling where we have not traveled before, but we are not traveling alone. Our Good Shepherd is our Guide! And He remains faithful! And He will continue to bless His church far more than all that we ask or think or deserve! It's for that reason and for this time that

I bow my knees before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named, that according to the riches of his glory he may grant you to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith - that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God!

And now to Him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, to Him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations - forever and ever Amen!

**LUTHERAN CHURCH–CANADA
EIGHTH CONVENTION
MINUTES**

Thursday, June 5, 2008

The Opening Convention Service with Holy Communion was held at St. Mary's Roman Catholic Cathedral. The Convention delegates were installed. The service was followed by a fellowship gathering in the parish hall.

**Friday, June 6, 2008
Session 1**

The Chairman called the first session to order at 8:16 a.m.

Opening Devotion: Pastor Brad Schollenberg, Peace, Winnipeg led the opening devotion.

Essay: Dr. Gene Veith

Dr. Gerald Krispin introduced the essayist.

Dr. Veith's essay would deal with the convention theme using the concept of "vocation". Vocation is the key to life. His essay would center around the Doctrine of Vocation: definition and application.

Our daily bread is given us through the application of vocation. God gives his gifts through people doing ordinary things. The Lutheran emphasis on vocation is on what God does, contrary to the Reformed emphasis on what "we" do.

Luther spoke of vocation as "a mask of God" in which God works through others to accomplish his ends. He hides himself in vocation. Pastors represent the very presence of God in a special, unique way. We are also "masks of God". He works through us to give his gifts to others.

Vocations are multiple. But vocation is more than just a job. There are 4 basic vocations:

- A) A calling in the church. Called by the Gospel into faith. God calls laymen to different functions in the church just as pastors are called to a special vocation in the church. Laymen may be "called" to be chairman of the congregation or even to set up chairs.
- B) There is a calling within the family. This too can be a multiple calling.
- C) There is a calling in our work.
- D) There is a calling as citizens for service to and loving one's neighbor. Luther's approach to vocation is service not to God but to other human beings. His teachings about morality are neighbor centered.

Welcome and Introductions

Representatives of Partner Churches were introduced.

Guests and Advisory delegates were introduced.

Greetings:

Central District President Thomas Prachar welcomed the delegates to Winnipeg. He also noted that written greetings had been received from Prime Minister Harper as well as Mayor Sam Katz of Winnipeg.

Orientation:

The chairman directed the delegates to Section I for orientation. Basic Parliamentary Procedure was explained using Section H4.

Standing Rules:

The chairman read through the Standing Rules (A4).

Moved/Seconded to accept the Standing Rules. **Adopted**

Adoption of Agenda:

Moved/Seconded to accept the Agenda as presented. **Adopted**

Report of Committee on Registration:

Voting Delegates: 109

Clergy: 54

Lay: 55

Advisory Delegates: 52

Registered Guests: 25

Other Guests: 19

Total: 205

Committee 4 presented the following resolutions¹

Resolution 08.4.01 **To Receive Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church, Salmon Arm British Columbia into Membership in Lutheran Church–Canada**

Action: **Adopted**

Resolution 08.4.09 **To Receive Église Luthérienne de l'Ascension, Montréal, Quebec into Membership in Lutheran Church–Canada**

Action: **Adopted**

The assembly joined in singing *Jesus Shall Reign* in response.

Nominations/Elections

Chairman Walter Heinemann introduced the committee.

The slate for nomination for President of Lutheran Church–Canada was presented.

Rev. Nolan D. Astley, Rev. David Bode, Rev. Robert Bugbee, Rev. Bryan King, Rev. Robert Krestick.

There were no amendments to the slate.

The slate was moved and seconded. **Adopted**

¹ The resolutions are not printed as part of the minutes, but are located in another part of the *Proceedings*.

Elections Committee:

The chairman explained the procedure.
The chaplain offered prayer for the election.
The ballots were distributed and collected.

President's Report

President Mayan presented the second part of his report, the full text of which will appear in the *Proceedings*.

The Elections Committee reported on the first ballot for President.
108 Ballots cast 55 Needed to elect

Rev. Nolan Astley 37
Rev. Robert Bugbee 59
Rev. David Bode 8
Rev. Bryan King 3
Rev. Robert Krestick 1

The Chairman declared Rev. Robert Bugbee elected President of Lutheran Church–Canada.

The Nominations Committee presented the slate for Vice-Presidents:

ABC: Rev. Nolan Astley
Rev. Alan Visser
Rev. Kenneth Eifert
Central: Rev. Daryl Solie
East: Rev. David Bode
Rev. Robert Krestick
Rev. Timothy Teuscher

The Chairman called for amendments to the slate. There were none forthcoming.
Moved and seconded to adopt the slate as presented. **Adopted**

Greetings: Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis, Missouri

Ian Adnams introduced President Bruce Hintz and Vice President Jonathon Schultz of Concordia Publishing House. Mr. Hintz spoke of the respect for the calling CPH has to the Church. He announced that CPH effective June 6, 2008 will work directly with the congregations of LCC to meet their needs. Changes are being made. The new website www.canada.cph.org will serve the needs of Canadian congregations.

A gift of a painting of Jesus the Good Shepherd for the LCC offices was presented. Dr. Mayan was given a personal gift of a leather bound edition of *Concordia*, the reader's edition of the Lutheran Confessions.

The Elections Committee presented the first ballot for the offices of Vice President for distribution.

The Chaplain led the assembly in prayer for the election of President elect Bugbee and for the election of the Vice Presidents. The ballots were distributed and collected.

Floor Committee 1**Resolution 08.1.01 To Declare Altar and Pulpit Fellowship with ILSN and Adopt the Protocol Agreement between LCC and ILSN****Action: Adopted**

The assembly rose in thanks to God and sang *O Sing to the Lord*.

Rev. Sandor Arguello and Rev. Claudio Rivas came to the podium for the signing of the Protocol Agreement.

Rev. Rivas gave thanks for the establishment of the new Church body in Nicaragua. He thanked LCC and for the professors sent for training. CC is referred to in Nicaragua as “Mother Church”. The church in Nicaragua prays for a continuing relationship with LCC. That relationship is based and continues on the Word of God. He gave thanks for those who were instrumental in bringing the Word of God to Nicaragua: President Mayan, Dr. Harms, and Rev. Arguello.

The session was closed with prayer at 12:00 p.m.

Information Sessions were held in the early afternoon.

SESSION 2

Call to Order Session 2 was called to order by President Mayan at 3:30 p.m.

The Chaplain opened the session with prayer.

The Elections Committee reported on the results of the Vice Presidential first ballot.

109 Ballots were cast 55 Needed to elect

ABC: Rev. Nolan Astley 81
Rev. Alan Visser 9
Rev. Kenneth Eifert 10

Central: Rev. Daryl Solie 106

East: Rev. David Bode 32
Rev. Robert Krestick 40
Rev. Timothy Teuscher 35

The Chair declared Rev. Nolan Astley and Rev. Daryl Solie elected.

A second ballot was presented for the Vice President representing the East District.
Rev. Robert Krestick
Rev. Timothy Teuscher

The Chaplain offered prayer for the election and the ballot was distributed and collected.

Greetings:

A video greeting from the Rev. Dr. Michael Semmler, Lutheran Church of Australia was presented.

Floor Committee 1 (Theology/Missions)**Resolution 08.1.02 To Commend the CTCR Document “The Public Reading of Scripture in the Divine Service” for Study and Response**

An amendment was moved and seconded to change the word “Commend(ed)” in both the title and the resolved to “referred”.

Amendment Adopted

Action: Adopted as Amended

The Elections Committee reported on the second ballot for Vice President East District.
99Ballots cast 49 Needed to elect

Rev. Robert Krestick 58
Rev. Timothy Teuscher 40

The Chair declared Rev. Robert Krestick elected.

Floor Committee 1**Resolution 08.1.04 To Decline Overture 1.04 (“To Ordain Vicars”)**

Action: Adopted

The Elections Committee distributed the ballot for the ranking of Vice Presidents.
The Nominations Committee presented the following slate

Board of Directors

Clergy:	Rev. Alvin Borchardt (Central)	Rev. Gerhard Maag (East)
Lay:	Gordon Sylvester (Central)	Anne Taylor (East)
	Lorne Wirth (Central)	Dorothea Korcok (East)

Moved and seconded to add the name Rev. Karl Keller.

Slate adopted.

Commission on Adjudication

Clergy:	Rev. Arron Gust (Central)	Rev. Richard Juritsch (East)
	Rev. Don Koch (Central)	Rev. Walter Hambrock (East)
Lay:	Greg Giese (ABC)	Trudy Schafer (ABC)

Slate Adopted**Commission on Theology and Church Relations**

Clergy:	Rev. Alex Klages (Central)	Rev. Colin Liske (ABC)
	Rev. Duane Peters (East)	

Lay: Peter Dobias (East) Clifford G. Pyle (Central)
 Moved and seconded to add the name Rev. William Ney.

Slate Adopted

Board of Regents – Concordia Lutheran Seminary, Edmonton AB

Clergy: Rev. Mark Dressler (Central) Rev. Richard Klein (Central)
 Rev. Jeffrey Koenig (ABC) Rev. Robert Mohns (ABC)
 Rev. Vern Vansteenburgh (ABC)
 Lay: Jonathan Mayan (ABC) Marilyn Schultz (Central)

Slate Adopted

Board of Regents – Concordia Lutheran Theological Seminary, St. Catharines ON

Clergy: Rev. Harold Borchardt (Central) Rev. Brian Dunlop (East)
 Rev. André Schroth (East)
 Lay: Peter Dobias (East) Howard Famme (East)
 Steele Pruden (Central) Darcy Wershler (Central)

Moved and seconded to add the name Rev. James Scholz.

Slate Adopted

Board of Regents – Concordia University College of Alberta, Edmonton AB

Clergy: Rev. Mark Danielson (East) Rev. Mark Hennig (ABC)
 Rev. Philip Washeim (ABC) Rev. Nick Wasylowich (ABC)
 Lay: Curtis Schafer (East) Angela Honey (East)

Slate Adopted.

Floor Committee 2 (Parish Services/Higher Education)

Resolution 08.2.01 To Encourage the Ongoing Work of the French Hymnal Project

Action: Adopted.

RESOLUTION 08.2.04a To Decline Overture 2.08

Action: Adopted

RESOLUTION 08.02.02a To Establish a Chaplaincy Service for the Care of Church Workers and Their Families

Time was called on Floor Committee 2. Remaining at the microphones were Karen Lyons and Rev. Dwayne Peters.

Elections Committee reported on the Vice-President Ranking ballot
 107 Ballots cast 54 Needed to elect

Rev. Nolan Astley 68
 Rev. Robert Krestick 11
 Rev Daryl Solie 28

The Chair declared Rev. Nolan Astley elected First Vice President

The second ballot for ranking of remaining Vice Presidents was distributed and collected. The Session was closed with prayer at 5:06 p.m.

SESSION 3

The Chairman called the session to order at 7:00 p.m.

The Chaplain opened the session with prayer.

A video was shown by the Communications Department reflecting the convention theme.

The **Elections Committee** reported on the Vice Presidential ranking:
107 Ballots cast 54 Needed to elect

Rev. Robert Krestick 36
Rev. Daryl Solie 71

The Chair declared Rev. Daryl Solie elected as Second Vice President and Rev. Robert Krestick elected as Third Vice President.

The Elections Committee presented the first ballot for the Board of Directors.
Four to be elected: 1 pastor serving a congregation; 2 lay from the East District; 1 lay from the Central District

The ballots were distributed.

The Chairman of the Nominations Committee spoke re: Angela Honey and her eligibility. She is eligible for the slate of Concordia University College of Alberta Board of Regents.

A motion to reconsider adopting the slate for CUCA Board was made and seconded. **Adopted**

It was moved and seconded to reinstate Angela Honey to the slate for CUCA. **Adopted**

Greetings

Dr. Edwin and Mrs. Marge Lehman were introduced to the convention. Dr. Lehman addressed the convention. He spoke of the faithfulness and zeal of President Mayan in his exercise of the office. Dr. Lehman spoke of the graciousness of God during the 20 years of the existence of Lutheran Church–Canada. He stated that LCC is never as good as it should be but better than we deserve. He encouraged President elect Bugbee.

Vice President Astley was called on to introduce the representatives of our Listed Service Organizations.

Floor Committee 3 (Administration/Constitution)

Resolution 08.3.02 To Amend Chapter VIII

Rev. Nolan Astley, representing the Task Force, spoke to the convention explaining the theory behind and the work done on the revision of Chapter 8. The new Chapter 8 has as its goals reconciliation, restoration and adjudication. He went on to call to the attention of the convention many of the important changes in Chapter 8.

Action: Adopted

Resolution 08.3.01 To Move Bylaw 8.43(a) to Bylaw 5.51

Action: Adopted

The **Elections Committee** reported the results of the election for the Board of Directors:
106 Ballots cast 54 Needed to elect

Clergy: Rev. Alvin Borchardt 28

Rev. Gerhard Maag 25

Rev. Karl Keller 51

Lay: Gordon Sylvester 44

Anne Taylor 100

Lorne Wirth 58

Dorothea Korcok 102

The Chair declared Anne Taylor, Lorne Wirth, and Dorothea Korcok elected to the Board of Directors.

The Elections Committee distributed a second ballot for the Board of Directors.

Floor Committee Number 3

Resolution 08.3.06 To Waive LSO Charitable Status Requirements for Lutherans for Life-Canada

Action: Adopted

Resolution 08.3.09 To Establish a Task Force on Cultural Properties and Archives

It was moved to amend the resolution to include as the 3rd resolve.

“that funding for this task force come from a \$500 assessment from each of: the Synod office, three district offices, two seminaries and the university college; and be it further resolved”

Amendment Adopted

Action: Adopted as amended.

Elections Committee reported on the Board of Directors

107 Ballots cast 54 Needed to elect

Rev. Alvin Borchardt 42

Rev. Dr. Karl Keller 63

The Chair declared Rev. Dr. Karl Keller elected.

Floor Committee 4 (Financial/Miscellaneous)

The Floor Committee was introduced and presented

Resolution 08.4.02 To Decline Overture 4.01, 4.02 and 4.03 in regard to Synodical Website

Action: Adopted.

Resolution 08.4.04 To Amalgamate Lutheran Church–Canada, Central District Church Extension Fund with Lutheran Church–Canada Financial Ministries

Action: Adopted

Resolution 08.4.03 To Celebrate the Silver Anniversary of LCC Founding in 2013

It was moved and seconded to split the resolution and treat the third resolve as a separate resolution

Motion defeated.

It was moved and seconded to postpone the resolution definitely until the last appearance of Floor Committee 4. **Motion defeated.**

Action: Adopted

Resolution 08.4.05 To Receive the Three Year Work Program – Years Ending January 31, 2009, January 31, 2010 and January 31, 2011

Action: Adopted

The CCMS has given direction to the Elections Committee to remove the name of Angela Honey from the ballot for Board of Regents for CLS. Angela was contacted and withdrew her name from consideration.

The ballot for the Board of Regents of Concordia Lutheran Seminary, Edmonton was distributed. The Chaplain offered prayer for the election.

The Session was closed with prayer at 9:00 p.m.

**Saturday, June 7, 2008
Session 4**

The Chairman called the session to order at 8:15 a.m.

The Convention Chaplain led the assembly in opening devotions.

Essay: Dr. Gene Veith presented the second part of his essay.

Sometimes the humblest of professions and vocations serve our neighbour in a more fruitful way than others. For Luther “holy orders” were more than priesthood or other church work areas, but lay in the realm of husband/wife, child/parent, etc. God equips his people for vocation in different dimensions. Our station is where God puts us, and he puts our neighbours into our lives to carry out the purpose of our vocation.

And who is my neighbour? Dr. Veith explained at length the many dimensions of neighbour and vocation as they relate.

The **Elections Committee** reported the results of the ballot for the Board of Regents, CLS
108 Ballots cast 55 Needed to elect 28 Spoiled ballots

Clergy: Rev. Mark Dressler 50
Rev. Richard Klein 14
Rev. Jeffrey Koenig 41
Rev. Robert Mohns 43
Rev. Vern Vansteenburgh 12

Lay: Jonathan Mayan 64
Marilyn Schultz 16

The Chair declared Jonathan Mayan elected.

A second ballot was distributed.
The Chaplain led the assembly in prayer.

Greetings:

Dr. Viktor Graefenstein from Ukraine addressed the convention with President Elect Bugbee translating.

He spoke of the organization and work of the Lutheran Church in Ukraine. He thanked LCC for all its contributions to the life of the Lutheran Church in Ukraine.

The **Elections Committee** reported on the second ballot for the Board of Regents, Concordia Lutheran Seminary.

106 Ballots cast. 54 needed to elect 0 spoiled ballots

Rev. Mark Dressler 105
Rev. Jeffrey Koenig 47
Rev. Robert Mohns 57

The Chair declared Rev. Mark Dressler and Rev. Robert Mohns elected.

The ballot for the Board of Regents Concordia Lutheran Theological Seminary, St. Catharines were distributed.

The Chaplain offered prayer.

Floor Committee 1

Resolution 08.1.03a To Encourage Christian Forgiveness and Greater Use of Individual Confession and Absolution.

An Amendment was moved and seconded that in the 3rd resolved the words “in the Canadian Lutheran and” be added after “the” and before “seminary journals”. **Amendment adopted.**

Action: Adopted as amended

Resolution 08.1.05a To Decline Overture 1.05

A substitute motion, Overture 1.05 Workbook F.2 was moved and seconded.

OVERTURE 1.05 To Uphold the Practice of Vicars Abstaining from Administering the Sacrament of the Altar in Every Circumstance

WHEREAS Scripture in 1 Corinthians 4:1 and the Lutheran Confessions (Augsburg Confession XIV) teach that those holding the pastoral office are alone given the privilege and burden to administer the Sacrament of the Altar; and

WHEREAS vicars as students of the seminary are still in the process of being instructed and evaluated for certification for the Holy Ministry, and thus do not yet hold the pastoral office; and

WHEREAS the administration of Holy Communion involves pastoral oversight charged alone to those holding the pastoral office; and

WHEREAS the Lutheran Confessions allows exceptions in an emergency for any Christian to administer Holy Baptism and Absolution, but no such exception is granted for the Sacrament of the Altar; and

WHEREAS the Commission on Theology and Church Relations' document entitled, "Closed Communion in Contemporary Context," states: "Churches without a pastor or without a pastor in the vicinity may have to go without the Sacrament during the times when an ordained pastor cannot be present. Though Luther noted that in an emergency any Christian can baptize, since Baptism brings one into the church, he never conceded the possibility that a layman might celebrate the Lord's Supper (p.22)"; and

WHEREAS the manual of the Council of Presidents states, "Vicars will not be placed in settings where they are expected to celebrate the Eucharist" (Vicarage, Placement, 9.3.1); therefore, be it

RESOLVED that for the sake of unity in the synod, Lutheran Church–Canada, in convention urge both her seminaries to insure that all vicars abstain in every circumstance from administering the Lord's Supper; and be it finally

RESOLVED to beseech vicarage supervisors to refrain from asking their vicars to celebrate Holy Communion.

The substitute motion was put before the convention. Shall the substitute resolution be substituted for the pending resolution? The chairman called for a division of the house. The standing count indicated that the motion to substitute was **Adopted**.

It was moved and seconded to refer the resolution to Committee. **Motion to refer: Adopted.**

Greetings:

Robert Granke, Chair of CLWR, was introduced and addressed the convention.

The **Elections Committee** reported on the first ballot for Concordia Lutheran Theological Seminary, St. Catharines.

108 ballots cast 55 needed to elect 8 spoiled ballots

Clergy: Rev. Harold Borchardt 19
Rev. Brian Dunlop 74
Rev. André Schroth 49
Rev. James Scholz 57

Lay: Peter Dobias 42
Howard Famme 33
Steele Pruden 9
Darcy Wershler 15

The Chair declared Rev. Brian Dunlop and Rev. James Scholz elected.

A second ballot was distributed.
The Chaplain offered prayer.

Floor Committee 2

Continued with discussion of Resolution 08.2.02a

RESOLUTION 08.02.02a To Establish a Chaplaincy Service for the Care of Church Workers and Their Families

Discussion continued with those who were at the microphones speaking first.

An amendment was moved and seconded to the last resolved to strike the words following “and their Families,” replacing them with

establish an effective means of providing specific, necessary care, guided by a “Family Systems” approach, so that our church workers and their families may indeed be encouraged, strengthened and supported “so that their work will be a joy, not a burden.” (Heb. 13:17).

Discussion was interrupted for the Elections Committee

The **Elections Committee** reported on the ballot for CLTS.
98 ballots cast 50 needed to elect 3 spoiled ballots

Peter Dobias 56
Howard Famme 38

The Chair declared Peter Dobias elected.

The first ballot for the Board of Regents of CUCA was distributed.
The Chaplain offered prayer.

Discussion continued on the proposed amendment to Res. 08.02.02a
The amendment was put before the assembly. **Adopted**

Action: Adopted as amended.

Resolution 08.2.06 To Strengthen the Diaconal Colloquy Process

An amendment was moved and seconded to strike the word “ministry” and add the word “service” in line 21. **Amendment adopted.**

An amendment to add the words “be encouraged to” was moved and seconded.

Amendment Adopted

An amendment was moved and seconded to strike the words “in ministry” in line 10. A division of the house was called: **Amendment Adopted.**

Action: Adopted as Amended.

Resolution 08.2.07 To Support the Synodical Training of Deacons

Action: Adopted

The **Elections Committee** reported the results of the first ballot for CUCA
106 ballots cast 54 needed to elect 0 spoiled ballots

Clergy: Rev. Mark Danielson 59
Rev. Mark Hennig 77
Rev. Philip Washheim 42
Rev. Nick Wasylowich 33

Lay: Angela Honey 44
Curtis Schafer 62

The Chair declared Rev. Mark Danielson, Rev. Mark Hennig, and Curtis Schafer elected.

The first ballot for the Commission on Adjudication was distributed.
The Chaplain offered prayer.

Ian Adnams made announcements

The Session was closed with Prayer at 12:00 noon

Workshops were held in the afternoon.

Saturday evening was a free evening with options including:
“On the Streets” Winnipeg social ministry experience
Meet the International Guests
“In Conversation” with Gene Vieth

Sunday, June 8, 2008

There were no sessions Sunday morning. All delegates were able to participate in worship in area congregations.

SESSION 5

The Chairman called the session to order at 1:45 p.m.

The Opening Devotion was led by Pastor Alex Klages. His meditation was based on Romans 5:1- 5. We concluded with Responsive Prayer.

The **Elections Committee** reported on the ballot for the Commission on Adjudication.
109 ballots cast 55 needed to elect

Clergy: Rev. Aaron Gust 66
Rev. Don Koch 42
Rev. Richard Juritsch 49
Rev. Walter Hambrock 57

Lay: Greg Geise 51
Trudy Schafer 57

The Chair declared Rev. Aaron Gust, Rev. Walter Hambrock, and Trudy Schafer elected.

The **Elections Committee** distributed the first ballot for the Commission on Theology and Church Relations.

President elect Robert Bugbee addressed the assembly. His address will be placed in the proceedings. Mrs. Gail Bugbee was introduced to the assembly.

Floor Committee 3 presented with a preface

Resolution 08.3.04 To Implement a Cost Efficient Seminary Program for Lutheran Church–Canada

Action: Adopted.

Resolution 08.3.03 To Support, Encourage and Assist Concordia Lutheran Theological Seminary (“CLTS”), St. Catharines

It was moved and seconded to postpone the resolution indefinitely. **Defeated**

Discussion continued on the original resolution.

Action: Adopted

The **Elections Committee** presented the results of the ballot for the Commission on Theology and Church Relations.

101 ballots cast 51 needed to elect 1 spoiled ballot

Clergy: Rev. Alex Klages 21
Rev. Colin Liske 9
Rev. William Ney 49
Rev. Dwayne Peters 21

Lay: Clifford Pyle 100

The Chair declared Clifford Pyle elected.

Second ballot for clergy representation on the CTCR was distributed.

The Chaplain offered prayer.

Greetings

Dr. Gerald Kieschnick, President of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod addressed the convention.

The Chair called upon representatives of our Auxiliaries to address the convention.

Mrs. Judy Grande, President of Lutheran Women's Missionary League-Canada, addressed the assembly. Dr. Norman Threinen, Concordia Lutheran Mission Society, addressed the assembly. There was no representative available from the International Lutheran Laymen's League.

The **Elections Committee** presented the results of CTCR election
97 ballots cast 49 needed to elect 1 spoiled ballot

Rev. Alex Klages 10

Rev. William Ney 66

Rev. Duane Peters 20

The Chair declared Rev. William Ney elected.

Floor Committee 3

Resolution 08.3.05 To Approve Appropriate Technologies for Conducting the Business of Synod

An amendment to the first resolved that the phrase "other than conventions" following the word "entity". The amendment was seconded. **Amendment Adopted.**

Action: Adopted as Amended.

Resolution 08.3.08 To Establish Joint District and Synodical Conventions

An amendment was moved and seconded to strike the 3rd whereas. **Amendment Adopted.**

Action: Defeated.

Resolution 08.3.07 To Decline Overture 3.08 ("To Establish a Four-Year Convention Cycle")

Action: Adopted.

Greetings:

Miss Lynn Gergens addressed the convention and introduced the Youth Representatives.

Dr. Dieter Kays, CEO, brought greetings from FaithLife Financial.

President Mayan turned the Chair over to V.P Robert Krestick.

Floor Committee 4

Resolution 08.4.08 To Give Thanks to God for the Leadership of Dr. Ralph Mayan**Action: Adopted.**

The Chairman called on Randy Stefan to present to Dr. Mayan a plaque affirming his service to Lutheran Church–Canada, and his Emeritus status.

Chairman Krestick made a presentation to Dr. Mayan from the Rev. Dr. Mike Semmler and the Lutheran Church of Australia.

Chairman Krestick presented an international book of greetings to Dr. Mayan.

Chairman called Randy Stefan and Mrs. Linda Mayan to the stage. Mr. Stefan presented a plaque to Mrs. Mayan in appreciation for her support and presence.

Mr. Stefan made a presentation from the Board of Directors to Dr. Mayan of two antique clocks.

President Mayan responded to the presentations thanking those who have been a part of his presidency for 12 years. He introduced his oldest granddaughter who had been at the 1996 convention as a baby. He introduced his father Rev. Ernest Mayan.

Ian Adnams provided announcements.

The Session was closed with prayer at 4:30 p.m.

**Monday, June 9, 2008
Session 6**

The Chairman called the session to order at 8:15 a.m.

Rev. James Fritsche opened the session with devotions.

Essay: Dr. Veith continued with the third segment of his convention essay concentrating on vocation. Vocation is not self-chosen. It is to be seen as something that God leads us into. To think in terms of vocation is to think in terms of God leading. The “calling” is in the here and now. Vocation deals with the priesthood of all believers theologically. Not everyone has to be a pastor. We may not all be pastors, but we are all priests. Vocation is where evangelism happens. Vocation is where sanctification happens. It is where one finds holiness. It is where the action is; where spiritual growth happens.

Dr. Veith offered time for questions from the floor.

President Mayan thanked Dr. Veith for his presentation.

President Mayan reminded the convention of the remaining resolutions. He suggested that each committee be allowed one half hour to complete its work and perhaps close the convention earlier.

Floor committee 1 presented Resolution 08.1.05b.

President Mayan reviewed the progress made in debating the original resolution and substitute resolution concluding with the amended resolution (substitute) being referred to committee. The Committee then explained the process that the floor committee followed which concluded in the presentation of a new resolution.

Resolution 08.1.05b To Request a Study and Opinion from the CTCR on Whether A Vicar May Celebrate The Lord's Supper in An Emergency Situation

An amendment was moved and seconded that the words "for adoption" be removed and replaced with "for consideration" in the second resolve. **Amendment Adopted**

The chairman of the CTCR questioned the use of the word "opinion".

The Floor Committee agreed to the removal of the words "and opinion". This was done by unanimous consent.

Action: Adopted as Amended.

Resolution 08.1.06 To Establish a Task Force to Review the Vicarage Program.

An amendment was moved and seconded to add in the second resolved following "Council of Presidents" the phrase ", recent pastoral graduates of our Canadian seminaries". **Amendment Adopted.**

Action: Adopted.

Floor Committee 1 was dismissed with thanks having completed their work.

Floor Committee 2

Resolution 08.2.05 To Provide Biblically-Based Materials and Resources on Christian Discipleship.

Action: Adopted.

Resolution 08.2.03 To Establish a Pastoral Mentoring Program

Action: Defeated.

Resolution 08.2.08 To Decline Overture 2.07 ("To Review Guidelines for Diaconal Colloquy")

Action: Adopted.

Floor Committee 2 was dismissed with thanks at the completion of its work.

Floor Committee 3

Resolution 08.3.12 To Decline Overture 3.07 ("To Permit Emeritus Pastors Serving as Vacancy Pastors to Serve as Delegates")

Action: Adopted.

Resolution 08.3.11 To Decline Overture 3.10 (“To Allow for More Effective Representation of Deacons at Synodical Conventions”)

Action: Adopted.

Resolution 08.3.10a To Define the Role of Deacons in the Synodical Handbook.

An amendment was moved and seconded to change “female” to “person”. **Amendment Defeated.**

Action: Adopted.

Floor Committee 3 was dismissed with thanks having completed its work.

Floor Committee 4

Resolution 08.4.06 To Decline Overture 4.04 (“To Provide Equality in Pastoral Salaries and Remuneration”)

It was moved and seconded to amend by striking the 3rd whereas. **Amendment Adopted.**

Action: Adopted as Amended.

Resolution 08.4.07 To Decline Overture 4.05 (“To Establish A Synod Wide Moving Fund”)

Action: Adopted.

Floor Committee 4 was dismissed with thanks having completed its work.

The final report of the **Registration Committee:**

Voting delegates:

Clergy: 54

Lay: 56

Advisory: 52

Registered Visitors: 27

Guest: 45

Exhibitors: 16

Total Convention: 250

The minutes from Friday through Sunday were accepted as printed in “Action Plan”.
Moved, Seconded. **Adopted.**

Moved, seconded to destroy the ballots. **Adopted.**

The Elections Committee was dismissed with thanks.

The assembly thanked Ian Adnams for his work and efforts surrounding the convention.

The Chairman recognized the service of Ron Fisher to the Board of Directors for two terms with a plaque.

Ian Adnams thanked those who assisted him in his work at the convention in the local committees.

The Chairman expressed thanks to the secretary and assistant secretary.

The assembly thanked Dr. Veith for his essay.

The Chaplain, Rev. Jan Pastucha was thanked for his leadership.

The Chairman thanked the delegates for their attention and work.

The Chaplain led the assembly in closing devotions.

Adjournment The Eighth Convention of Lutheran Church–Canada was declared closed at 11:02 a.m. with the benediction of the Lord.

Soli Deo Gloria

SUMMARY OF ELECTIONS**President**

Rev. Robert Bugbee

Vice-Presidents

First Vice-President	Rev. Nolan Astley
Second Vice-President	Rev. Daryl Solie
Third Vice-President	Rev. Robert Krestick

Board of Directors

Rev. Karl Keller
Dorothea Korcok
Anne Taylor
Lorne Wirth

Board of Regents, Concordia Lutheran Seminary, Edmonton Alberta

Rev. Mark Dressler
Rev. Robert Mohns
Jonathan Mayan

Board of Regents, Concordia Lutheran Theological Seminary, St. Catharines, Ontario

Rev. Brian Dunlop
Rev. James Scholz
Peter Dobias

Board of Regents, Concordia University College of Alberta, Edmonton, Alberta

Rev. Mark Danielson
Rev. Mark Hennig
Curtis Schafer

Commission on Adjudication

Rev. Aaron Gust
Rev. Walter Hambrock
Trudy Schafer

Commission on Theology and Church Relations

Rev. William Ney
Clifford Pyle

ELECTION RESULTS

Ballot A.1 President	Votes Received	Result
Astley, Rev. Nolan	37	
Bugbee, Rev. Robert	59	Elected
Bode, Rev. David	8	
King, Rev. Brian	3	
Krestick, Rev. Robert	1	

Ballot B.1 Vice President	Votes Received	Result
Astley, Rev Nolan	81	Elected
Visser, Rev. Alan	9	
Eifert, Rev. Kenneth	10	
Solie, Rev Daryl	106	Elected
Bode, Rev. David	32	
Krestick, Rev. Robert	40	
Teucher, Rev. Timothy	35	

Ballot B.2 Vice President	Votes Received	Result
Krestick, Rev. Robert	58	Elected
Teuscher, Rev. Timothy	40	

Ballot D.1 Ranking of V.P	Votes Received	Result
Astley, Rev. Nolan	68	Elect 1 st Vice President
Krestick, Rev. Robert	11	
Solie, Rev. Daryl	28	

Ballot D.2 Ranking of V.P.	Votes Received	Result
Krestick, Rev. Robert	36	Elected 3 rd Vice President
Solie, Rev. Daryl	71	Elected 2 nd Vice President

Ballot C.1 Board of Directors	Votes Received	Result
Borchardt, Rev. Alvin (C)	28	
Keller, Rev. Karl (ABC)	51	
Maag, Rev. Gerhard (E)	25	
Korcok, Dorothea (E)	102	Elected
Sylvester, Gordon (C)	44	
Taylor, Anne (E)	100	Elected
Wirth, Lorne (C)	58	Elected

Ballot C.2 Board of Directors	Votes Received	Result
Borchardt, Rev. Alvin	42	
Keller, Rev. Karl	63	Elected

Ballot E.1a.1 BOR. CLS Edmonton	Votes Received	Result
Dressler, Rev. Mark (C)	50	
Klein, Rev. Richard (C)	14	
Koenig, Rev. Jeffrey (ABC)	41	
Mohns, Rev. Robert (ABC)	43	
Vansteenburgh, Rev. Vern (ABC)	12	
Mayan, Jonathan	64	Elected
Schultz, Marilyn	16	

Ballot E.1a.2 BOR, CLS Edmonton	Votes Received	Result
Dressler, Rev. Mark	105	Elected
Koenig, Rev. Jeffrey	47	
Mohns, Rev. Robert	57	Elected

Ballot E.1b.1 BOR CLTS, St. Catharines	Votes Received	Result
Borchardt, Rev. Harold (C)	19	
Dunlop, Rev. Brian (E)	74	Elected
Schroth, Rev. Andre (E)	49	
Scholz, Rev. James	57	Elected
Dobias, Peter	42	
Famme, Howard (E)	33	
Pruden, Steele (C)	9	
Wershler, Darcy (C)	15	

Ballot E.1b.2 BOR CLTS, St Catharines	Votes Received	Result
Dobias, Peter	56	Elected
Famme, Howard	38	

Ballot E.1c.1 BOR – CUCA Edmonton	Votes Received	Results
Danielson, Rev. Mark (E)	59	Elected
Hennig, Rev. Mark (ABC)	77	Elected
Washeim, Rev. Phillip (ABC)	42	
Wasylowich, Rev. Nick (ABC)	33	
Honey, Angela (E)	44	
Schafer, Curtis (E)	62	Elected

Ballot E.2.1 Commission on Adjudication	Votes Received	Result
Gust, Rev. Aaron (C)	66	Elected
Koch, Rev. Don (C)	42	
Hambrock, Rev. Walter	57	Elected
Juritsch, Rev. Richard	49	
Geise, Greg	51	
Schafer, Trudy	57	Elected

Ballot E.3.1 CTCR	Votes Received	Result
Klages, Rev. Alex (C)	21	
Liske, Rev. Colin (ABC)	9	
Ney, Rev. William (ABC)	49	
Peters, Rev. Duane (E)	21	
Pyle, Clifford G. (C)	100	Elected

Ballot E.3.2 CTCR	Votes Received	Result
Klages, Rev. Alex	10	
Ney, Rev. William	66	Elected
Peters, Rev. Duane	20	

SUMMARY OF RESOLUTIONS

- Resolution 08.1.01** **To Declare Altar and Pulpit Fellowship with ILSN and Adopt the Protocol Agreement between LCC and ILSN**
ACTION: Adopted
- Resolution 08.1.02** **To Refer the CTCR Document “The Public Reading of Scripture in the Divine Service” for Study and Response**
ACTION: Adopted, as amended
- Resolution 08.1.03a** **To Encourage Christian Forgiveness and Greater Use of Individual Confession and Absolution**
ACTION: Adopted, as amended
- Resolution 08.1.04** **To Decline Overture 1.04**
ACTION: Adopted
- Resolution 08.1.05b** **To Request a Study from the CTCR on Whether A Vicar may Celebrate The Lord’s Supper in An Emergency Situation**
ACTION: Adopted, as amended
- Resolution 08.1.06** **To Establish a Task Force to Review the Vicarage Program**
ACTION: Adopted, as amended
- Resolution 08.2.01** **To Encourage the Ongoing Work of the French Hymnal Project**
ACTION: Adopted
- Resolution 08.2.02a** **To Establish a Chaplaincy Service for the Care of Church Workers and Their Families**
ACTION: Adopted, as amended
- Resolution 08.2.03** **To Establish a Pastoral Mentoring Program**
ACTION: Defeated
- Resolution 08.2.04a** **To Decline Overture 2.08**
ACTION: Adopted
- Resolution 08.2.05** **To Provide Biblically-Based Materials and Resources on Christian Discipleship**
ACTION: Adopted
- Resolution 08.2.06** **To Strengthen the Diaconal Colloquy Process**
ACTION: Adopted, as amended
- Resolution 08.2.07** **To Support the Synodical Training of Deacons**
ACTION: Adopted
- Resolution 08.2.08** **To Decline Overture 2.07 (“To Review Guidelines for Diaconal Colloquy”)**
ACTION: Adopted

- Resolution 08.3.01** **To Move Bylaw 8.43(a) to Bylaw 5.51**
ACTION: Adopted
- Resolution 08.3.02** **To Amend Chapter VIII**
ACTION: Adopted
- Resolution 08.3.03** **To Support, Encourage and Assist Concordia Lutheran Theological Seminary, St. Catharines**
ACTION: Adopted
- Resolution 08.3.04** **To implement a cost efficient seminary program for Lutheran Church–Canada**
ACTION: Adopted
- Resolution 08.3.05** **To Approve Appropriate Technologies for Conducting the Business of Synod**
ACTION: Adopted, as amended
- Resolution 08.3.06** **To Waive LSO Charitable Status Requirements for Lutherans for Life–Canada**
ACTION: Adopted
- Resolution 08.3.07** **To Decline Overture 3.08 (“To Establish a Four-Year Convention Cycle”)**
ACTION: Adopted
- Resolution 08.3.08** **To Establish Joint District and Synodical Conventions**
ACTION: Defeated
- Resolution 08.3.09** **To Establish a Task Force on Cultural Properties and Archives**
ACTION: Adopted, as amended
- Resolution 08.3.10a** **To Define the Role of Deacons in the Synodical Handbook**
ACTION: Adopted
- Resolution 08.3.11** **To Decline Overture 3.10 (“To Allow for More Effective Representation of Deacons at Synodical Conventions”)**
ACTION: Adopted
- Resolution 08.3.12** **To Decline Overture 3.07 (“To Permit Emeritus Pastors Serving as Vacancy Pastors to Serve as Delegates”)**
ACTION: Adopted
- Resolution 08.4.01** **To Receive Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church, Salmon Arm British Columbia into Membership in Lutheran Church–Canada**
ACTION: Adopted
- Resolution 08.4.02** **To Decline Overture 4.01, 4.02 and 4.03 in regard to Synodical Website**
ACTION: Adopted

- Resolution 08.4.03** **To Celebrate the Silver Anniversary of LCC Founding in 2013**
ACTION: Adopted
- Resolution 08.4.04** **To Encourage the Amalgamation of Lutheran Church–Canada
Central District Church Extension Fund with Lutheran Church–
Canada Financial Ministries**
ACTION: Adopted
- Resolution 08.4.05** **To Receive the Three Year Work Program – Years Ending January
31, 2009, January 31, 2010 and January 31, 2011**
ACTION: Adopted
- Resolution 08.4.06** **To Decline Overture 4.04 (“To Provide Equality in Pastoral Salaries
and Remuneration”)**
ACTION: Adopted, as amended
- Resolution 08.4.07** **To Decline Overture 4.05 (“To Establish A Synod Wide Moving
Fund”)**
ACTION: Adopted
- Resolution 08.4.08** **To Give Thanks to God for the Leadership of Dr. Ralph Mayan**
ACTION: Adopted
- Resolution 08.4.09** **To Receive Église Luthérienne de l’Ascension, Montréal, Quebec into
Membership in Lutheran Church–Canada**
ACTION: Adopted

RESOLUTIONS
Resolution 08.1.01 To Declare Altar and Pulpit Fellowship with ILSN and Adopt the Protocol Agreement between LCC and ILSN

- Ref. Overture 1.01; Report of the CTCR, E24-25; Report of The Committee for Mission and Social Ministry Services, E13
- WHEREAS Lutheran Church–Canada and Iglesia Luterana Sínodo de Nicaragua are grateful to God for the blessings that He has bestowed upon the mission in Nicaragua through the proclamation of the Gospel; and
- WHEREAS Lutheran Church–Canada and Iglesia Luterana Sínodo de Nicaragua recognize the relationship which exists between our two churches, a relationship rooted in a common confession that the Scriptures are the inspired Word of God and the Lutheran Confessions are a correct exposition of that Word; and
- WHEREAS Lutheran Church–Canada and Iglesia Luterana Sínodo de Nicaragua also recognize their continued interdependence as they move forward with the goal of fulfilling the mission Christ has given to His church; and
- WHEREAS Iglesia Luterana Sínodo de Nicaragua has declared itself to be in altar and pulpit fellowship with Lutheran Church–Canada; therefore be it
- RESOLVED that Lutheran Church–Canada declare ourselves to be in altar and pulpit fellowship with Iglesia Luterana Sínodo de Nicaragua; and be it further
- RESOLVED that Lutheran Church–Canada and Iglesia Luterana Sínodo de Nicaragua formalize this partnership as two separate yet interdependent bodies by adopting the protocol agreement on page G1 of the Convention Workbook; and be it finally
- RESOLVED that we express our thanksgiving to God by rising and singing “O Sing to the Lord” (Cantad al Señor) LSB 808.
- ACTION Adopted, Session 1**

Resolution 08.1.02 To Refer the CTCR Document “The Public Reading of Scripture in the Divine Service” for Study and Response

- Ref. Overture 1.02, CTCR Report “The Public Reading of Scripture” Convention Workbook G.7-G.22; Synod Resolution 02.1.04
- WHEREAS the Holy Scriptures are the Word of God written, and the only rule and norm for the doctrine and practice of the Holy Christian Church; and
- WHEREAS the reading of the Holy Scriptures is an integral part of the worship of the Church; and

- WHEREAS the reading of the Holy Scriptures is a public act, to which pastors are called to give heed; and
- WHEREAS there is a wide variety of practice in Lutheran Church–Canada congregations in choosing those who will read the Scriptures in the Divine Service; and
- WHEREAS the Synod in convention has asked the Commission on Theology and Church Relations to examine the issue of the public reading of Scripture in the Divine Service; therefore be it
- RESOLVED that the CTCR document “The Public Reading of Scripture in the Divine Service” be referred to the pastors and congregations of the Synod for study and response.
- ACTION: Adopted as amended, Session 2**

Resolution 08.1.03a To Encourage Christian Forgiveness and Greater Use of Individual Confession and Absolution

- Ref. Overture 1.03
- WHEREAS our Lord has granted to all Christians the joy and privilege of speaking the forgiveness of sins to one another (Eph.4:32 and Matt. 6:12); and
- WHEREAS our Lord has also given to His church the gift of individual confession and absolution where the pastor’s word of absolution is spoken to the penitent as by Christ Himself (John 20:19-23); and
- WHEREAS individual confession and absolution is clearly set forth in our Lutheran Confessions as well as the Synod’s explanation to the Small Catechism; and
- WHEREAS the opportunity to use individual confession and absolution was a practice cherished strongly by Luther, Walther, Loehe, and other prominent Lutheran fathers; and
- WHEREAS Lutheran Service Book offers rites and resources for the use of individual confession and absolution for pastoral care; and
- WHEREAS individual confession and absolution is an important means of pastoral care; therefore be it
- RESOLVED that members of our congregations be encouraged to forgive those who sin against them and to joyfully speak Christ’s word of forgiveness to one another; and be it further
- RESOLVED that pastors and congregations be encouraged to study the scriptural, confessional, and historical witness to individual confession and absolution with a view toward recovering the regular availability of its practice in our congregations; and be it further

RESOLVED that the seminaries be encouraged to provide additional guidance through articles in the *Canadian Lutheran* and seminary journals and in presentations to church workers' conferences; and be it finally

RESOLVED that both laity and pastors be encouraged to make greater use of individual confession and absolution.

ACTION: Adopted as Amended, Session 4

Resolution 08.1.04 To Decline Overture 1.04

Ref. Overture 1.04

WHEREAS the Smalcald Articles expressly declare ordination to be a public ratification of the call: "Finally, this is confirmed by the declaration of Peter, 'You are a royal priesthood.' (1 Pet. 2:9). These words apply to the true church which, since it alone possesses the priesthood, certainly has the right of electing and ordaining ministers. The most common custom of the church also bears witness to this, for there was a time when the people elected pastors and bishops. Afterwards a bishop either of that church or of a neighbouring church, was brought in to confirm the election with the laying on of hands; nor was ordination anything more than such a confirmation." (Treatise on the Power and Primacy of The Pope para. 70); and

WHEREAS consistent with our Confessions, the Handbook of Synod states: "A candidate for the office of the pastoral ministry in Lutheran Church–Canada may be ordained when the following prerequisites have been met:...He shall have received and accepted a call..." (5.21 Prerequisites for Ordination a.5,6); and

WHEREAS the vicarage is not a call. Rather it is a year of practical training which forms an essential part of the seminaries' program of training men for the office of the holy ministry. When men have successfully completed the program, they may be certified for ministry and are then eligible to receive a call and be ordained; therefore be it

RESOLVED that Overture 1.04 "To Ordain Vicars" be respectfully declined.

ACTION: Adopted, Session 2

Resolution 08.1.05b To Request a Study from the CTCR on Whether A Vicar may Celebrate The Lord's Supper in An Emergency Situation

Ref. Overture 1.05

WHEREAS a thorough study of the matter of whether or not a vicar may celebrate the Sacrament of the Altar in an emergency situation will be helpful in assisting the church-at-large to determine the appropriateness of such a practice; therefore be it

RESOLVED that the CTCR be asked to provide a study on whether a vicar, in an emergency situation, with approval from the vicarage congregation, the seminary and the Council of Presidents, may celebrate the Sacrament of the Altar; and be it further

RESOLVED that the study be submitted to the next Synodical convention for consideration; and be it further

RESOLVED that the Council of Presidents and seminaries be mindful of the discussion and concerns expressed at this Convention and of the pending study in any consideration of a request for a vicar to celebrate the Sacrament of the Altar based on emergency; and be it finally

RESOLVED that for the time being, in any apparent emergency, the Council of Presidents in conjunction with the respective District and circuit shall continue to seek all possible means to provide sacramental ministry by an ordained pastor.

ACTION: Adopted as Amended, Session 6

Resolution 08.1.06 To Establish a Task Force to Review the Vicarage Program

Ref. Overture 1.06; 1.07; 1.08

WHEREAS there is an expressed need to review the practical training of seminary students with respect to length, location and financing of vicarages as well as the mentoring and placement of vicars; therefore be it

RESOLVED that a task force be established to review the above-mentioned concerns and look at other possible models (e.g. residency program); and be it further

RESOLVED that the Synod President appoint the members of this task force which shall include, but not be limited to, representatives from the seminaries, Council of Presidents, recent pastoral graduates of our Canadian seminaries and members of the church-at-large; and be it finally

RESOLVED that, before the next Synod convention, the task force report its recommendations to the Synod Board of Directors and the Boards of Regents of our seminaries for consideration and possible implementation.

ACTION: Adopted as Amended, Session 6

Resolution 08.2.01 To Encourage the Ongoing Work of the French Hymnal Project

Ref: Overture 2.01

WHEREAS Bylaw 2.109 (2005 LCC Handbook page 28) requires that official service books and hymnals be accepted as such only after a process of exposure and testing; and

- WHEREAS Resolution 05.2.04 commended Lutheran Service Book and agenda for use in our churches; and
- WHEREAS Lutheran Service Book and agenda are not available in the French language for use in our churches; and
- WHEREAS LCC's Committee on Worship and Music has begun to work on a French language version of "Lutheran Service Book;" therefore be it
- RESOLVED that the Committee on Worship and Music be encouraged to continue work on a French hymnal and agenda; and be it further
- RESOLVED that the pastors and congregations of Lutheran Church–Canada be encouraged to study, use, and test the proposed hymnal and agenda materials; and be it further
- RESOLVED our Synod's Commission on Theology and Church Relations prepare an evaluation of the proposed hymnal and agenda materials; and be it finally
- RESOLVED that on the basis of the evaluation Lutheran Church–Canada Board of Directors make an appropriate recommendation of the proposed hymnal and agenda to the next Synod convention.
- ACTION: Adopted.**

Resolution 08.2.02a To Establish a Chaplaincy Service for the Care of Church Workers and Their Families

Ref: Overture 2.05

- WHEREAS recent studies of Lutheran Church–Canada church workers and their families suggest that a significant number of the Synod's church workers are experiencing burn-out due to a number of demoralizing issues, and a greater number are in its initial stages; and
- WHEREAS other North American studies have shown that only 30% of pastors are functioning relatively well; and
- WHEREAS unhealthy church workers are neither inclined nor able to serve as effective mentors and recruiters of the next generation of church workers; and
- WHEREAS the lack of adequate preventative pastoral care for church workers and their families undermines leadership for congregations and the church in the future; and
- WHEREAS trends indicate that this situation will worsen unless adequately addressed; and
- WHEREAS the Synod as a whole has not yet been able to make significant, pro-active, positive efforts to address these issues, beyond the commendable remedial solutions offered through Worker Benefit Plans; and

WHEREAS the Alberta–British Columbia District’s “Task Force for the Care of Church workers and their Families” has taken preliminary steps toward establishing a chaplaincy service which would focus on engaging and alleviating these situations; and

WHEREAS the synodical Council of Presidents has recognized this Task Force’s work, has concurred with its assessment of the situation, and has in response convened a synod-wide Symposium on the Care of Church workers and their Families; therefore be it

RESOLVED that within the next triennium the president of Lutheran Church–Canada, in consultation with the ABC District’s Task Force for the Care of Church workers and their Families, establish an effective means of providing specific, necessary care, guided by a “Family Systems” approach so that church workers and their families may indeed be encouraged, strengthened and supported “so that their work will be a joy, not a burden” (Heb 13:17)

ACTION: Adopted as Amended, Session 4

Resolution 08.2.03 To Establish a Pastoral Mentoring Program

Ref: Overture 2.04

WHEREAS society has increasingly high expectations of people in all lines of work, especially of new workers in many vocations; and

WHEREAS there are many challenging situations in the ministry where the wisdom of an experienced mentor could be helpful; and

WHEREAS pastors are constantly in need of encouragement in both their personal and professional lives; and

WHEREAS there is stress dealing with people in their everyday lives; and

WHEREAS questions may arise in the early years of the ministry when doctrine and practice do not seem to agree; and

WHEREAS The Lutheran Church of Australia has a mentoring program that might serve as a model; therefore be it

RESOLVED that the Council of Presidents, in consultation with the seminaries, establish a mentorship program pairing respected, faithful, experienced pastors with new pastors to give new members of the Synod encouragement, support and brotherly advice especially in the early years of their ministry.

ACTION: Defeated, Session 6

Resolution 08.2.04a To Decline Overture 2.08

- Ref: Overture 2.08
- WHEREAS LCC has two routes for certification through Concordia University College of Alberta: a 3 year Bachelor of Arts, with Lutheran Teacher course work plus two year Bachelor of Education, or Lutheran Teacher course work through colloquy for previously certified teachers; and
- WHEREAS integration of Lutheran course work is not feasible under Alberta legislation, and is not compatible with the scope and sequence of the Bachelor of Education after degree; therefore be it
- RESOLVED that we respectfully decline Overture 2.08.
- ACTION: Adopted, Session 2**

Resolution 08.2.05 To Provide Biblically-Based Materials and Resources on Christian Discipleship

- Ref: Overture 2.03
- WHEREAS God richly supplies everything that we need to support our body and life (Psalm 145:15-16; Matthew 10:29-30); and
- WHEREAS God has redeemed us in Jesus Christ and has called us to a life of faith and service to Him and service to our fellow man (1 Corinthians 6:20; 10:31; 2 Corinthians 5:15; Titus 2:14); and
- WHEREAS God has called us to be faithful stewards of all that He gives us in this life - our time, our energy, our work, our talents and our treasures (1 Peter 4:10-11); and
- WHEREAS the "Vision for Lutheran Church-Canada" developed by the triennial planning meeting of the Synod called for the Church to "Grow the resources available for the mission of the Church" and further defined this strategic direction by stating the following goal: "assist God's people to use their God-given gifts, abilities and talents."; and
- WHEREAS our life of discipleship is empowered by the Gospel and nurtured, shaped and formed by the means of grace (Ephesians 2:19-20; 1 Thessalonians 2:13); therefore be it
- RESOLVED that over the next three years the president appoint a Task Force to develop Biblically-based materials and resources to help our people study, understand, appreciate and live out their life of discipleship; and be it further
- RESOLVED that these materials and resources be promoted and made available to all of our church workers, churches and schools in the various languages in which our church is at work.
- ACTION: Adopted, Session 6**

Resolution 08.2.06 To Strengthen the Diaconal Colloquy Process

Ref: Overture 2.06

WHEREAS the need for diaconal workers (teacher and Director of Parish Services) in the congregations of LCC surpasses the number of certified rostered workers available; and

WHEREAS congregations respond to that need by engaging the services of gifted non-rostered workers in school classrooms and parish education settings; and

WHEREAS those individuals and their service could benefit from the completion of the course work and formations necessary for certification; and

WHEREAS "Non-rostered workers shall be encouraged to seek certification through the Diaconal Colloquy Committee" (Bylaw 5.01b.3); and

WHEREAS there are significant challenges to diaconal certification in terms of support, access, and cost; therefore, be it

RESOLVED that the Synod recognize the service of the Word that is being carried out by non-rostered workers and thank them for their service alongside the rostered workers of Synod; and be it further

RESOLVED that the Synod, districts, and congregations of LCC encourage certification of non-rostered workers serving within our congregations and schools; and be it further

RESOLVED that the congregations and their schools be encouraged to provide educational leave time when necessary for non-rostered workers who are engaged in the certification process; and be it further

RESOLVED that in addition to the financial support provided by districts and Concordia University College of Alberta the congregations and their schools be encouraged to provide financial aid for tuition funding to those seeking certification; and be it finally

RESOLVED that Concordia University College of Alberta continue to work at providing access to colloquy coursework through collaborative agreements with other educational institutions and through distance-friendly methods of course delivery.

ACTION: Adopted as Amended.

Resolution 08.2.07 To Support the Synodical Training of Deacons

Ref: Overture 2.02

WHEREAS there is an increasing need for synodically-trained and rostered deacons; and

WHEREAS financial assistance may be a need; and

WHEREAS Concordia University College of Alberta website has details of what is currently in place for Teacher and Director of Parish Services certifications as well as the relevant application methods:

<http://www.concordia.ab.ca/programs/churchworkerprograms.php>; therefore be it

RESOLVED that the Board of Directors encourage synodical leaders, pastors, school principals, church elders, and appropriate congregational boards to identify future deacons (eg. Synodical RSVP Program, or similar tool); and be it finally

RESOLVED that the Board of Directors encourage synodical leaders, pastors, school principals, church elders, and appropriate congregational boards to seek ways of offering financial assistance to those needing it, or time away from work for those whose work schedule prevents them from taking needed and/or desired courses.

ACTION: Adopted, Session 4

Resolution 08.2.08 To Decline Overture 2.07 (“To Review Guidelines for Diaconal Colloquy”)

Ref: Overture 2.07; Report 6: Pastoral and Diaconal Colloquy Committees

WHEREAS the Diaconal Colloquy Committee has the authority to evaluate individuals entering the Diaconal Colloquy Program concerning their understanding of Lutheran doctrine and educational practice, (Bylaw 5.105, 5.107); and

WHEREAS the Diaconal Colloquy Committee has the authority to define a program of study based on the individual’s demonstrated knowledge and experience, therefore be it

RESOLVED that we respectfully decline Overture 2.07.

ACTION: Adopted, Session 6

Resolution 08.3.01 To Move Bylaw 8.43(a) to Bylaw 5.51

Ref: Overture 3.02, Final Report of President’s Task Force on Chapter VIII

WHEREAS the Task Force on Chapter 8 recommends that information relating to suspension be placed in one section of the Handbook, and

WHEREAS the Commission on Constitutional Matters and Structure concurs with such a proposal, therefore be it

RESOLVED that Bylaw 8.43(a) Duration and Effect of Suspension be subsumed under Bylaw 5.51 as

f. The suspension of a member shall remain in effect until a decision is reached by the Commission on Adjudication. During the period of suspension a

member shall not be relieved of his rights under the Constitution and these Bylaws, but shall be relieved (1) of his duties as a member of the Synod (e.g., delegate to a district or synodical convention, membership on district or synodical boards and commissions) and (2) of the duties and responsibilities of his position with the Synod or with a district or an organization owned and controlled by the Synod, and he shall be ineligible for service in the Synod. Suspension, however, shall not, of itself, act to relieve a member of duties and responsibilities of his position with a congregation which is a member of the Synod, but the district president shall notify the congregation of the suspension so that the congregation may take action as it deems appropriate.

And be it finally

RESOLVED that reference to Bylaw 8.43 be removed from Bylaw 5.51(a) and (b).

ACTION: Adopted, Session 2

Resolution 08.3.02 To Amend Chapter VIII

Ref: Overture 3.01, Synodical Bylaws Chapter VIII, Report of the President’s Task Force on Chapter VIII

WHEREAS the Special Committee appointed by the president in accordance with Resolution 05.3.02 of the 2005 Convention of Lutheran Church–Canada has reviewed the present bylaws under Chapter VIII “Reconciliation and Adjudication” and reported its recommendations to the president and the Commission on Constitutional Matters and Structure (CCMS), and

WHEREAS the CCMS has reviewed the proposed revision of the chapter and recommends its adoption by the convention, there be it

RESOLVED that the present Chapter VIII of the 2005 synodical handbook be replaced with the proposal for Chapter VIII of the President’s Task Force on Chapter VIII with the following amendments:

1. Section 8.19(b) be deleted and replaced with the following

b. Prior Efforts at Reconciliation Required

Before any matter is submitted to formal reconciliation, the parties involved in a dispute are expected to have met together, face to face, in a good-faith attempt to settle their dispute. If this is unsuccessful it is expected that those in dispute will seek the aid of others. The district president may be invited by either party to assist in these reconciliation efforts, in which case he may respond in person or by appointing someone to assist him.

2. That the following be added as the last sentence of Section 8.47(a)(v)

Any member of the Commission on Constitutional Matters and Structure who is a party or an advisor to a party shall not participate in providing an interpretation to the Commission.

3. That the following be added as the last sentence of Section 8.47(a)(vi)

Any member of the Commission on Theology and Church Relations who is a party or an advisor to a party shall not participate in providing a decision to the Commission.

ACTION: Adopted, Session 3

Resolution 08.3.03 To Support, Encourage and Assist Concordia Lutheran Theological Seminary, St. Catharines

Ref: Overture 3.11, Report 21

WHEREAS Concordia Lutheran Theological Seminary (CLTS) has faithfully trained pastors and church workers for Lutheran Church–Canada and The Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod for over 30 years; and

WHEREAS Concordia Lutheran Theological Seminary presently faces serious financial challenges; and

WHEREAS some urgency exists to deal with these issues on a expedited basis; therefore be it

RESOLVED that the Board of Directors provide support, encouragement and assistance to the Board of Regents of Concordia Lutheran Theological Seminary as they work through their current financial challenges.

ACTION Adopted, Session 5

Resolution 08.3.04 To implement a cost efficient seminary program for Lutheran Church–Canada

Ref: Overture 3.11, Reports 3, 20, 21 and institutional Reports (p. E50 of Convention Workbook)

WHEREAS the seminaries of Lutheran Church–Canada continue to face new challenges and opportunities as they seek to sustain their service to our Synod in training pastors and lay people; and

WHEREAS Synod is unable to materially increase its financial support for operating the two seminaries; and

WHEREAS student enrolment at both seminaries has declined from the 1990s and on a combined basis has remained stable for the last 4 years; and

WHEREAS cost effective technological advances exist to creatively deliver theological education, including video conferencing, web-based delivery and distance education; and

WHEREAS the two seminaries have an accumulated deficit of \$800, 000.00 and the average cost of operating the seminaries over the last 6 years has exceeded revenue by \$96, 612.00 per year; and

WHEREAS our partner churches in Australia and Brazil face similar issues of geography and yet each maintains a single seminary; therefore be it

RESOLVED Lutheran Church–Canada create a cost efficient seminary program for the training of pastors for Lutheran Church–Canada; and be it further

RESOLVED the Board of Directors implement a plan to fulfill this resolution, including bringing forward to the next Synodical convention and amendments to the constating documents and Handbook of Synod; and be it finally

RESOLVED the Board of Directors provide semi-annual progress reports to the constituency of our Synod through the *Canadian Lutheran*.

ACTION: Adopted, Session 5

Resolution 08.3.05 To Approve Appropriate Technologies for Conducting the Business of Synod

Ref: Overture 3.03

WHEREAS there may be occasions in our synodical structure when for the sake of cost savings in money and time, it could possibly be an advantage to use appropriate technologies that would accomplish the purposes of the Synod; and

WHEREAS appropriate technologies exist to permit meetings to be held without all the individuals being physically present; and

WHEREAS such teleconferences and electronic meetings are commonly permitted by corporations and other secular entities; be it

RESOLVED that any individual may participate in a meeting of a Board, Committee, Task Force, Circuit or other synodical body or entity, other than conventions by means of telephone or other communication facilities that permit all persons participating in the meeting to hear or otherwise communicate with each other and such individual participating in such meeting by such means shall be deemed to be present at such meeting PROVIDED ALWAYS that notice of the fact that a meeting is being held in whole or in part by telephone or electronic means shall be provided in the notice regarding the meeting provided to each participant and the chairman will ensure all individuals who will not be physically present have proper access to the means for participating in such telephone or electronic meeting; and be it further

RESOLVED that CCMS bring forward such amendments to the relevant sections of the Handbook of Synod to facilitate such meetings.

ACTION Adopted as Amended, Session 5

Resolution 08.3.06 To Waive LSO Charitable Status Requirements for Lutherans for Life–Canada

- Ref: Overture 3.06, Bylaw 13.03(a)(5)
- WHEREAS Lutherans For Life–Canada (LFLC) is an approved organization of Lutheran Church–Canada (See Lutheran Church–Canada home page - Other Resources - Sister Churches and Partner Organizations); and
- WHEREAS it would be beneficial for it to be a Listed Service Organization (LSO), (for example some organizations will not allow a display table unless it is a LSO); and
- WHEREAS one of the requirements to LSO status is to have a federally-granted charitable status; and
- WHEREAS the Federal Government refuses to give to LFLC charitable status because LFLC has a one-sided approach to life issues; therefore, be it
- RESOLVED that Lutheran Church–Canada waive the charitable status requirement in Bylaw 13.03(a)(5) for Lutherans For Life–Canada; and be it finally
- RESOLVED that the Board of Directors be and hereby are directed to grant LSO status to Lutherans for Life–Canada.
- ACTION: Adopted, Session 3**

Resolution 08.3.07 To Decline Overture 3.08 (“To Establish a Four-Year Convention Cycle”)

- Ref: Overtures 3.08 & 3.09, Constitution of Lutheran Church–Canada Article VII(A)(1)
- WHEREAS Lutheran Church–Canada currently operates on a three-year convention cycle; and
- WHEREAS current terms on synodical Boards and Committees are 6 years; and
- WHEREAS there is concern with respect to increasing this commitment to 8 years; and
- WHEREAS a 4 year Convention Cycle would lead to more decisions being made by the Board of Directors and thus a perceived centralization of decision making; and
- WHEREAS extending the Convention Cycle to 4 years requires that resolutions passed at a convention which require a Task Force study would often take a minimum of 8 years to implement; and
- WHEREAS a 4 year convention cycle would also often lead to an 8 year process to amend the Constitution and Bylaws; and

- WHEREAS there is a need for more frequent contact between laity and clergy nationally; and
- WHEREAS more frequent interaction on a national level would help foster unity in Lutheran Church–Canada; therefore be it
- RESOLVED that we respectfully decline Overture 3.08.
- ACTION: Adopted, Session 5**

Resolution 08.3.08 To Establish Joint District and Synodical Conventions

- Ref: Overtures 3.08 & 3.09, Constitution of Lutheran Church–Canada Article VII(A)(1)
- WHEREAS Lutheran Church–Canada currently operates on a three-year convention cycle; and
- WHEREAS significant energy and resources are required to plan and implement conventions; and
- WHEREAS each congregation is encouraged to be actively involved in the purposes of Lutheran Church–Canada; and
- WHEREAS the convention of each district could be accomplished either during sectional times at a national convention (as at the founding convention of LCC), or prior to or after the synodical convention; and
- WHEREAS holding district and synodical conventions together would foster greater unity in the Church;
- WHEREAS by holding district and synodical conventions together, stronger and more efficient strategic planning can be implemented; therefore be it
- RESOLVED the district conventions take place jointly with the synodical convention; and be it further
- RESOLVED these conventions be held every three years with voting representation from every congregation; and be it further
- RESOLVED these conventions rotate from district to district; and be it further
- RESOLVED the Board of Directors be charged with implementing this resolution in consultation with the district Boards of Directors; and be it further
- RESOLVED CCMS review the Handbook of Synod and bring appropriate amendments to the 2011 synodical convention to reflect this change in the convention process; and be it further
- RESOLVED the three districts of the Synod be directed to amend their bylaws to reflect a joint convention cycle on or before their 2012 District conventions; and be it finally

RESOLVED this new cycle be implemented with the regularly scheduled synodical convention in 2014.

ACTION: Defeated, Session 5

Resolution 08.3.09 To Establish a Task Force on Cultural Properties and Archives

Ref: Overture 3.04 and 3.05, Report 11

WHEREAS God has richly blessed the proclamation of His Word in Canada through Lutheran Church–Canada, and before 1989, through The Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod; and

WHEREAS this blessing continues as congregations carry out the mission of the church; and

WHEREAS the preservation of this record of God’s grace was carefully recorded and preserved by our forbearers; and

WHEREAS the volume of new information suitable for preservation for future generations continues to grow; and

WHEREAS two of Lutheran Church–Canada’s three districts rely on part-time volunteers to process new materials and maintain records of our Lutheran heritage; and

WHEREAS the Lutheran Church of Australia maintains a single, effective and efficient national archive; and

WHEREAS funding for all district programs does not allow the level of support required to guarantee systematic and timely preservation of historical records and artifacts; and

WHEREAS governance issues have been raised as a potential barrier to the Lutheran Historical Institute effectively carrying out its mission; therefore be it

RESOLVED that Synod’s Board of Directors establish a task force to assess the current state of all LCC archival holdings, processes and facilities, and recommend ways to provide coordination, ongoing adequate funding and staffing, including any changes in the organization and governance of existing entities that need to be undertaken; and be it further

RESOLVED the task force report its findings to the Board of Directors no later than June 2010 for discussion and possible action at the next synodical convention; and be it further

RESOLVED that funding for this task force come from a \$500.00 assessment from each of: the Synod Office, three district offices, two seminaries and the university college; and be it further

RESOLVED Lutheran Church–Canada, its districts, congregations and institutions be encouraged to continue the ongoing collection of historical documents so that future generations may praise God for His blessings upon His people.

ACTION: Adopted as Amended, Session 2

Resolution 08.3.10a To Define the Role of Deacons in the Synodical Handbook

Ref: Overture 3.12

WHEREAS the statutory bylaws define a member as a “congregation, pastor or deacon” (section 1.01); and

WHEREAS the Synodical Bylaws nowhere explains the rationale for the role of deacons in Synodical and District Structure and why they are not permitted to serve in some elected or appointed positions (Examples: 2.101 does not permit a deacon to serve on the Commission on Constitutional Matters and Structure (“CCMS”); 2.105 does not permit a deacon be elected to the Commission on Theology and Church Relations (“CTCR”) but a lay female may, though the Synodical President may appoint one additional “member”; 2.231 does not permit a deacon to serve the Board of Managers of the Workers Benefit Plan); and

WHEREAS the East District is seeking ways to increase the involvement of deacons in its structure; and

WHEREAS the Synodical Handbook forms part of the handbooks of all the Districts and, as such any inconsistency between a District handbook and the Synodical Handbook may be subject to challenge; therefore be it

RESOLVED The CCMS are hereby directed to bring to the next convention amendments to the Synodical Bylaws which include deacons in Bylaws 2.101, 2.105 and 2.231; and be it finally

RESOLVED The CCMS, in consultation with the CTCR, provide a report to the next convention with respect to the role of deacons in the Synodical and District structure along with recommendations for potential amendments to the Synodical Handbook arising from this study.

ACTION: Adopted, Session 6

Resolution 08.3.11 To Decline Overture 3.10 (“To Allow for More Effective Representation of Deacons at Synodical Conventions”)

Ref: Overture 3.10, Constitution of Lutheran Church–Canada, Article VIII and Synodical Bylaws ss. 1.19, 2.03, 2.05 and 2.09

WHEREAS voting representation at the Synod Convention is based upon each Circuit having representation rather than individuals or congregations being represented; and

WHEREAS from inception, the Synod and, since 1846, The Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod, has made representation by congregation or circuit, rather than representation by the office of Pastor, the basis for representation at conventions; and

WHEREAS accepting this overture would require significant changes to the synodical constitution and bylaws with regard to such representation; therefore be it

RESOLVED that Overture 3.10 be respectfully declined.

ACTION: Adopted, Session 6

Resolution 08.3.12 To Decline Overture 3.07 (“To Permit Emeritus Pastors Serving as Vacancy Pastors to Serve as Delegates”)

Ref: Overture 3.07

WHEREAS vacancy services are, by their very nature, temporary and, as such, it is possible that an individual may no longer be serving the vacancy at the time of or after convention; and

WHEREAS congregations who are currently in a long term vacancy situation and are being served by a Pastor Emeritus should be urged to consider extending a call with modified service to such pastor; therefore be it

RESOLVED that Overture 3.07 be respectfully declined.

ACTION: Adopted, Session 6

Resolution 08.4.01 To Receive Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church, Salmon Arm British Columbia into Membership in Lutheran Church–Canada

Ref. Late Overture 4.08

WHEREAS the congregation of Shepherd of The Valley Lutheran Church, Salmon Arm, British Columbia has applied for membership in Lutheran Church–Canada; and

WHEREAS the constitution and bylaws of Shepherd of The Valley Lutheran Church, Salmon Arm, British Columbia have been examined by the Constitutions Committee of the Alberta-British Columbia District and approved by the Board of Directors of Lutheran Church–Canada, ABC District; therefore be it

RESOLVED that Shepherd of The Valley Lutheran Church, Salmon Arm, British Columbia be joyfully received as a member of Lutheran Church–Canada.

ACTION: Adopted, Session 1

Resolution 08.4.02 To Decline Overture 4.01, 4.02 and 4.03 in regard to Synodical Website

- Ref: Overture 4.01, 4.02, 4.03 and Report 7 workbook E20
- WHEREAS LCC Resolution 99.2.09 resolved that LCC expand its use of the Internet as a means of communication, resource, distribution and mission outreach is in the ongoing process of being implemented by Synod communication staff; and
- WHEREAS the Internet is already a major component of the LCC communication strategy; and
- WHEREAS as part of this strategy the communication staff are preparing to launch a service that will provide templates for congregational websites and to provide web hosting along with other features; and
- WHEREAS communication staff are in discussion with districts regarding web presence and integration; and
- WHEREAS referring to Report 7 page E20, the Synod Board of Directors has approved in principal the addition of, and costs for a staff person to continue developing this area; therefore be it
- RESOLVED we respectfully decline overture 4.01, 4.02 and 4.03; and, be it finally
- RESOLVED that we commend the Synod communication staff for their work in this area and encourage them in their ongoing implementation of resolution 99.2.09.
- ACTION: Adopted, Session 3**

Resolution 08.4.03 To Celebrate the Silver Anniversary of LCC Founding in 2013

- Ref: Overture 4.06
- WHEREAS by the grace of God, Lutheran Church–Canada will celebrate the 25th anniversary of its founding in 1988 and the beginning of its ministry in 1989; and
- WHEREAS the body of Christ draws great benefit from gathering together as a unified people of God; and
- WHEREAS the church has not had the opportunity to gather nationally since the founding convention in 1988; and
- WHEREAS such gatherings can inspire and educate the people of Christ’s body and provide encouragement to proclaim the Gospel; therefore be it
- RESOLVED that in the summer of 2013, Lutheran Church–Canada hold a self-supporting national convocation, funded by participants, in which all members of LCC congregations, church workers and guests be encouraged to attend; and be it further

RESOLVED that this convocation be for the purpose of giving thanks to God and focus on outreach; and, be it finally

RESOLVED that this convocation be held in conjunction with the National Youth Gathering scheduled for that year thereby enabling the best stewardship of all resources.

ACTION: Adopted, Session 3

Resolution 08.4.04 To Encourage the Amalgamation of Lutheran Church–Canada Central District Church Extension Fund with Lutheran Church–Canada Financial Ministries

Ref: Overture 4.07; Central District Resolution 2000-04-07; LCC Resolution 02.4.05

WHEREAS both Lutheran Church–Canada and Lutheran Church–Canada Central District in convention encouraged the amalgamation of the Central District’s Church Extension and Lutheran Foundation with Lutheran Church–Canada Financial Ministries; and

WHEREAS the Lutheran Foundation of the Central District was amalgamated with LCCFM on the effective date of January 1, 2004; therefore be it

RESOLVED that the Central District and LCCFM be encouraged to move forward with negotiating appropriate guidelines for amalgamating the Central District’s Church Extension into LCCFM.

ACTION: Adopted, Session 3

Resolution 08.4.05 To Receive the Three Year Work Program – Years Ending January 31, 2009, January 31, 2010 and January 31, 2011

Ref: Report 3 (workbook page E9 & E10)

WHEREAS the treasurer and Board of Directors of Lutheran Church–Canada have prepared a proposed work program for the years 2009-2011; and

WHEREAS this work program can only be implemented by the cooperation and action of congregations, districts, and the solicitation and receipt of necessary funds; therefore be it

RESOLVED that Lutheran Church–Canada assembled in Convention receive this work program for information, study and action by the Board of Directors.

ACTION: Adopted, Session 3

Resolution 08.4.06 To Decline Overture 4.04 (“To Provide Equality in Pastoral Salaries and Remuneration”)

Ref: Overture 4.04

WHEREAS the current pastoral remuneration structure was developed over many years to acknowledge experience and responsibility in the pastoral office; and

WHEREAS we acknowledge that the concerns raised by the overture may be issues in our church today and no earthly system is perfect: and

WHEREAS a task force to gather information and make recommendations would be costly with the possibility of no further action; therefore be it

RESOLVED that we respectfully decline Overture 4.04.

ACTION: Adopted as Amended, Session 6

Resolution 08.4.07 To Decline Overture 4.05 (“To Establish A Synod Wide Moving Fund”)

Ref: Overture 4.05

WHEREAS each District is unique and best understands its own geographic limitations and opportunities; and

WHEREAS the Districts have the responsibility to support their church workers: and

WHEREAS the East District voluntary district-wide moving strategy is a helpful model to follow; therefore be it

RESOLVED that we respectfully decline overture 4.05; and, finally be it

RESOLVED that each District be encouraged to provide a district-wide moving fund.

ACTION: Adopted, Session 6

Resolution 08.4.08 To Give Thanks to God for the Leadership of Dr. Ralph Mayan

Ref. Overture 4.09

WHEREAS Dr. Ralph Mayan is joyfully received as a gift bestowed by the exalted Lord on His church for her good (Eph. 4: 8, 11); and

WHEREAS our Lord has worked in and through Dr. Mayan to give exceptional leadership to Lutheran Church–Canada as she has grown into her role in Canadian and worldwide Lutheranism; and

WHEREAS Dr. Mayan has given unselfishly of his time and energy in fulfilling his duties; and

WHEREAS Dr. Mayan is retiring after serving four terms as president of Lutheran Church–Canada; therefore be it

RESOLVED that Lutheran Church–Canada give thanks to God for the rich blessings poured out upon this church body through the leadership of Dr. Ralph Mayan as pastor and president; and commend Dr. Mayan to the Lord’s continued blessing and direction; and, be it finally

RESOLVED that Rev. Dr. Ralph Mayan receive the official designation President Emeritus.

ACTION: Adopted, Session 5

Resolution 08.4.09 To Receive Église Luthérienne de l’Ascension, Montréal, Quebec into Membership in Lutheran Church–Canada

WHEREAS the congregation of Église Luthérienne de l’Ascension, Montréal, Quebec, has applied for membership in Lutheran Church–Canada; and

WHEREAS the constitution and bylaws of Église Luthérienne de l’Ascension, Montréal, Quebec have been examined by the East District’s Committee on Constitutions and Membership and approved by the Board of Directors of Lutheran Church–Canada, East District (March 5, 2007); therefore be it

RESOLVED that Église Luthérienne de l’Ascension, Montréal, Quebec be joyfully received as a member of Lutheran Church–Canada.

Action: Adopted, Session 1

SERMONS/DEVOTIONAL MESSAGES

Opening Service Sermon – Rev. Dr. Ralph Mayan

“Give Jesus Glory”

“Far More Abundantly Than All That We Ask Or Think!”

Text: Ephesians. 3:14-21

For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named, that according to the riches of his glory he may grant you to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith—that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

Far more abundantly than all that we ask or think! The biblical phrase describes what we’ve experienced in Lutheran Church–Canada. Pausing to reflect in this anniversary year and at this anniversary convention and service, what can we say but, Lord, you have blessed us **far more abundantly than all that we ask or think!** Our God is a faithful God – the breadth and the length, the height and the depth of that faithfulness surpasses our understanding.

Far more abundantly than all that we ask or think! Reflect for a moment. He has faithfully preserved in our midst the pure milk of His Word; He has permitted that Word to be preached and His sacraments administered in our 315 plus congregations; He has continued to provide shepherds who are committed to the Holy Scriptures as the inspired Word of God and the Lutheran Confessions as a true exposition of that Word; who faithfully proclaim the saving message of Jesus Christ as they care for and love their

flock and as they reach out with the Gospel to others who have not yet come to believe.

Far more abundantly than all that we ask or think! He has blessed His church with faithful laymen and women who by God’s grace seek to live out their “priesthood” through their various callings. They faithfully and generously support the mission and ministry of Christ’s church; They seek to share their faith as they have opportunity – always prepared to “give an answer to everyone who asks them to give the reason for the hope that they have.”

Far more abundantly than all that we ask or think! He has blessed the proclamation of His Word in our midst, in this country and in other places in the world. Are you surprised to hear that following our “Open House” event this past fall, a good number of visitors joined in adult confirmation and Information Classes. **Far more abundantly . . .** Are you surprised to hear how blessing upon blessing has been experienced in world missions? I wonder just how many of us who attended the founding convention held here in Winnipeg 20 years ago imagined that God would have opened doors for us in Ukraine, in Thailand, in Nicaragua and he just doesn’t stop opening them – now opening doors in Costa Rica, Honduras and Cambodia. **Far more abundantly than all that we ask or think!** You need reason to *Give Jesus Glory!* We have seen it with our own eyes! *To him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen*

Far more abundantly than all that we ask or think! These words certainly paint a beautiful picture of our good and gracious God! Our God is a awesome God, a faithful God, faithful to all His promises. These words

also paint a portrait of us – but it’s not so pretty. It’s a portrait of a people who often find themselves surprised that God would actually keep His Word and bless His people.

Dr. Lehman, our President Emeritus, at the dedication of the seminary building in Edmonton, and speaking about the significance of the event quoted sainted Dr. “Wil” Hyatt, an LCMS church leader and friend of the Canadian church. “People sometimes suggest that the blessings we enjoy today are such that the generations before us would never have believed them. Well, I beg to differ,” he said. “Of course they believed. If they had not believed, they would never have started what we are today continuing.”

I confess to you that Dr. Hyatt was not speaking about me. At the constituting convention of Iglesia Luterana Sinodo de Nicaragua, I shared thoughts about my first visit to the mission. I told them that on my first visit my expectations were low. After all, what could one expect in the country which had endured civil war and a Hurricane Mitch. What could one expect from the labour of one missionary who had only a few years experience in ministry (As I recall Missionary Arguello choked a little as he translated my comments.) But what did I see? **Far more than all that we ask or think!**

“I had forgotten whose mission this was.” It wasn’t my mission. That would have failed. It wasn’t Lutheran Church–Canada’s mission. That too would have failed. It wasn’t even Missionary Arguello’s mission. It was and remains God’s mission and God always does **far more than all that we ask or think**. I should have known better! Our God uses anything and everything, even Hurricanes and civil wars to bring His grace and love to bear on people’s lives. After all, He’s on a mission; He’s building His church! We have witnesses to His abundant grace right here in our midst tonight. Oh Lord, how could I have been so weak in faith; so untrusting of your promises! And what about you? Was Dr. Hyatt speaking about you? What kind of expectations do you have of your good and gracious God – this

God who blesses **far more than all that we ask or think?** Do you put limits on what God can and will do in building His church in our midst, in your congregation, in what we do together in Lutheran Church–Canada. Is your faith in God acting limited by fear of failure? Is your trust in God circumscribed by your own limited expectations? Do you view challenges and new opportunities for service in life and in the church – exercises in futility or opportunities for our God who blesses **far more than all that we ask or think**, to really bless and build His church?

How many opportunities are not seized; how many dreams unfulfilled, how many tasks incomplete – all because we do not act – trusting in a God who blesses **far more than all that we ask or think!**

Twenty years have now passed in Lutheran Church–Canada – Twenty years of God blessing us **far more than all that we ask or think** or for that matter deserve. Do we take to heart the implications of such an out pouring of blessing for our future; Have we written it on our foreheads and upon our hearts . . . or is it possible that we, like our Lord’s other disciples soon forget those blessings when the next challenge comes and we find ourselves trembling in fear for the future - actually forgetting about the one who journeys with us in the back of the boat. A lack of faith and trust on our part? O Lord, forgive!

In their boat those disciples prayed. They pleaded for help. We too in our boat – in this church – we too can pray. And St. Paul provides us with the ideal prayer. It was His prayer for the church in Ephesus. It’s my prayer at this convention for our beloved Synod.

For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named, that according to the riches of his glory he may grant you to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith—that you, being

rooted and grounded in love, may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

Lord, strengthen us through Your Spirit in our inner being. Hearts need cleansing, Minds need renewing. Faith needs strengthening. It's a task that we can't accomplish on our own by thinking more positively or striving and struggling harder to improve in mind and spirit. It's a task accomplished only by the Holy Spirit! Only He renews and only He strengthens. Only He increases faith so that Christ more and more permeates our inner most being through faith. Only He. . . . Renew me O Eternal Light!

And He does. Through Word and Sacrament, He accomplishes his purpose enabling Christ to dwell in our hearts through faith *in order that rooted and grounded in love we may be strengthened to comprehend with all the saints the breadth and length and height and depth of His love.*

It's at the cross that we begin to comprehend that love. St. Jerome of the 4th century put it something like this: The upper arm of the cross points up; the lower arm points down; the crossing arms point out to the widest horizons. The love of Christ reaches up to include the angels; it reaches down to include even the evil spirits in hell. In its length it covers the people who are striving and in its breadth it covers those who are wandering away. In other words it reaches out to all; no one is excluded, not you and not me. No one is outside or beyond the saving power of crucified and resurrected Saviour!

In that cross, He has blessed us **far more than all that we ask or think** and most assuredly deserve. He forgives our sin, our lack of faith and trust. He removes our fears and our limited vision. He renews, He strengthens and He empowers. He does it for you; He does it for me. He does it even in this hour as we hear His Word and feed on His body and blood. He gives us the strength to

comprehend with all the saints the breadth and length and height and depth. . .

Of what? Scholars argue over what is being described. Is it a growth in spiritual comprehension, the kind that grows in all directions? Is it, as I have described previously, the vastness of God's love for all in Jesus Christ?

I like George Stoeckhardt's take on this. He sees it as a description of the vastness of God's building project, His Holy church. It extends through all times; It reaches out across every tribe and nation and people. It covers heaven and earth. As Luther says, "It is the assembly of all believers from the rising to the going down of the sun." Right now with our limited vision we see only a small part; It appears weak and helpless like a little flock in the midst of this vast unbelieving world more often than not reflecting our lack of faith and trust. But one day we shall see it as it really is - in all its glory around the throne. Lord give us the strength to comprehend it right now and the courage to be instruments in building it!

It is the infinite love of Christ, the Lord of the Church, that moved him to plan, to build and to increase the Church. He furnishes it with a kind of building material which softens hearts as hard as stone, that cleanses bodies sooted with demonic grime – that works faith in the faithless, trust in the untrusting; that washes clean the sinner and incorporates him into the congregation of the saints, that fills him with the fullness of Christ – the fullness of faith and trust.

This vision of the church gives insight into the love of Christ which surpasses human understanding. And it moves the church to emulate His love, a love that does all things, that believes all things, that hopes all things, that endeavors by all means to reach out to those who have not heard or come to believe so that they too might join with the saints as they *Give Jesus Glory*.

Far more than all we ask or think! That's how we have been blessed these twenty

years! We are witnesses to your grace and favour! Lord, Give us hearts that believe; minds that trust and hands that work in your kingdom! And

Now to Him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think,

according to the power at work within us, to Him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen!

Friday Opening Devotion – Rev. Brad Schollenberg

“You Are Called: To a Place You Don’t Want to Go”

When have you ever heard of God calling someone to an easy task? When have you ever heard God say to someone He has chosen, "I'm going to give you an exorbitantly high salary, too much vacation time, and a life of total convenience? I'm going to guard you from all interruptions, keep you away from the hassles of day to day life, insure that you have totally smooth relationships, and never let the stress level in your life get too high. And I'll just keep making your life easier as you get older so that you can have a smooth and uneventful transition into your heavenly home"?

Look in the Bible for that and you'll never find it. Instead you'll find Noah building an ark on dry land. Not only was the work hard, but the neighbours probably got pretty ugly about his latest home improvement project. You'll find Abraham, called to leave everything familiar and to start a new life in another land. You'll find people like Esther who had to confront a powerful king with some very bad news. You'll find people like the prophet Hosea who was called by God to marry a woman who would be unfaithful to him so the people could see a living demonstration of their own unfaithfulness. God does not call you to a life that is easy. The person in the Bible who did that, who called someone to a satisfied, comfortable, and famous life, was the devil during his temptation of Jesus. God's calls are different.

You'll find Ananias in Acts chapter nine, called by God to meet face to face with a

raging persecutor of the church, Saul. You'll even meet God's own Son, Jesus, called to be rejected, ridiculed, tortured, and put to death on the cross as payment for the sin of the world. God does not call you to a life that is easy. Your life is too important to Him.

God's call brings transformation to life. It brings His message, His redemption, His love. It is significant things that need to be done in His kingdom, so He calls people to serve Him. And as you look through the pages of the Bible, you'll find God calling you too. That's how Isaiah 43 begins when God said, *I have called you by name, you are mine.* Then He added, *When you pass through the waters, I will be with you;...When you walk through the fire, you will not be burned...For I am the Lord, your God...your Saviour.* WHEN you pass through raging waters that come crashing down, not IF. WHEN you walk through the searing heat of what life brings, not IF. WHEN you walk through situations that you would rather not be in, not IF. Yes, through it all, your Saviour is with you, God says. But your call—and let me define that as the time and place God has you living in right now—your call is not designed to be easy.

That's what Jesus talked to Peter about. In John 21:18 Jesus said to Peter, *I tell you the truth, when you were younger you dressed yourself and went where you wanted; but when you are old you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will dress you and lead you where you do not want to go.*

