



## CONVENTION NOTES

### Information and Highlights on the ELCIC's 2007 National Convention

**Winnipeg, 1 June 2007**--In a few short weeks, delegates representing the parishes of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada (ELCIC) will gather in Winnipeg, Manitoba for the 11th Biennial National Convention of the ELCIC. CONVENTION NOTES is meant to share information and highlights on the upcoming gathering.

The third article in this series is on the *Report from the National Bishop* that will be presented at the National Convention and how the National Office functions in terms of its operational and programmatic capacity. This article is written by National Bishop Raymond Schultz. Further information, including specific information for delegates, is available on the ELCIC website at [www.elcic.ca](http://www.elcic.ca) (click on the link to the 2007 National Convention).

#### **The Report of the National Bishop at the 2007 National Convention**

When National Church Council (NCC) was looking for a governance model, it contracted with Dr. Les Stahlke to institute his Relational Model®. Based on a Carver platform, this model recognizes that effectiveness in church administration is better measured in relationships developed than in quantity of products. Most of what the National Church does is relational in nature.

The National Office is the programmatic and operational centre for these relationships. Within Canada, these relationships include the five synods, the National Program Committees, the seminaries, the schools, and the Conference of Bishops. We carry out stewardship education with regional representatives and we work in partnership with Evangelical Lutheran Women (ELW). Ecumenically, we participate in the Canadian Council of Churches (CCC), KAIROS: Canadian Ecumenical Justice Initiatives, and explore our full communion relationship with the Anglican Church of Canada (ACC). Outside Canada, these relationships include our partnership for Mission in the World, the Companion Synod programs, Volunteers in Mission, participation in The Lutheran World Federation (LWF), the World Council of Churches (WCC) and our various bilateral memoranda. We also partner with Canadian Lutheran World Relief (CLWR) for international development and relief activity.

The National Office itself is based on a relational model of management. Senior staff function as specialists rather than as department heads. They

have specific roles related to their specialties, but almost always engage in teamwork to carry out the strategic priorities set by NCC. The office is interactive and collaborative in the way it functions.

The report of the National Bishop at convention, therefore, will demonstrate this form of structure by introducing key people to represent the various relationships within and beyond our church. Senior staff are extensions of the bishop's office, so each of the senior staff will introduce some of the people with whom they work and their guests will describe how it feels to be a subject of that area of ministry.

For the National Office to be *In Mission for Others*, this means supporting and working with others who are *In Mission for still Others*. We believe that this is the kind of *People* we are *Called* to be. The following are just some of the individuals we will have an opportunity to introduce at the 2007 National Convention:

- Mr. John Wolff, Vice-Chair of the Board, Chair of the Investment Committee, Group Services Inc. (GSI)
- Ms. Hildy Thiessen, Executive Director, Group Services Inc. (GSI)
- Ms. Betty St. Onge, President of the Board, Evangelical Lutheran Women (ELW)
- Ms. Ruth Vince, Executive Director, Evangelical Lutheran Women (ELW)
- Ms. Kathy Magnus, Regional Officer for North America, The Lutheran World Federation (LWF)
- The Rev. Dr. Karen Hamilton, General Secretary, Canadian Council of Churches (CCC)
- Mr. Carlos Peña, Vice President, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA)
- The Rev. Norbert Denecke, United Evangelical Lutheran Church in Germany (VELKD)
- Ms. Edelvis Rodriguez Cadillo, Treasurer, Iglesia Luterana Evangelica Peruana (ILEP) / The Evangelical Lutheran Church of Peru
- Mr. Robert Granke, Executive Director, Canadian Lutheran World Relief (CLWR)
- The Rev. Dr. David Pfrimmer, Principal/Dean, Waterloo Lutheran Seminary
- The Rev. Dr. Kevin Ogilvie, President, Lutheran Theological Seminary