

ELCIC Convention 2009 Minutes

TWELFTH BIENNIAL CONVENTION
EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN CANADA
UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA, VANCOUVER, BC
JUNE 25–28, 2009

Session One: Thursday, June 25, 2009, 1:30 p.m.

Opening of Convention

The Convention opened with worship presided over by National Bishop Susan Johnson.

National Bishop Susan Johnson, declared the Twelfth Biennial Convention of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada (ELCIC) open.

Report of Committee on Registration and Credentials

Reported the following registration figures:

Lay delegates registered	168
Ordained delegates registered	158
Total voting delegates registered	326
Visitors registered	113
Total persons registered	439

Adoption of the Agenda

National Bishop Johnson declared that a quorum had been established.

The National Convention agenda was presented with amendments and the chair asked for a motion to adopt the agenda.

MS that the agenda be adopted as amended. **Carried.**

Orientation

Orientation of the delegates took place regarding convention procedures, election procedures, and convention committee appointments.

Convention Committees

National Bishop Johnson announced the appointment of the following committees:

Reference and Counsel

Rev. Dr. Mark Harris – Chair	Rev. Darlene Harrison
Rev. Susan Horton	Rev. Michael Kurtz
Karen Lee	Ted Reinhard
Debbie Schick	Joe Stolee

Minutes

Margaret Fast	Rev. Wendell Grahlman
Rev. Linda Hall – Chair	Faith Nostbakken
Rev. Cliff Reinhardt	Liisa Strasser

Elections

Jeff Buhse	Janet Charlton – Chair
Rev. Jeff Decelle	Irene Fancy
Heather Ladouceur	Helen Lantz
Sonja Lidfors	Rev. Julio Romero
Rev. Doug Schmirler	Rev. Gigi Young

Registration and Credentials

Rev. Jim Appleby	Esther Au
Tim Bouzovetsky	Rev. Annemarie McIntosh - Chair

Special Guests

The special guests and partners were introduced to the convention: .

The Most Rev. Fred Hiltz, Primate, Anglican Church of Canada (ACC)
The Rev. Mark Hanson, Presiding Bishop, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA)
The Rt. Rev. Dr. Munib Younan, Bishop, Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land (ELCJHL)
The Rev. Robert Bugbee, President, Lutheran Church Canada (LCC)
Pam Radunsky, President, Evangelical Lutheran Women (ELW)
Robert Granke, Executive Director, Canadian Lutheran World Relief (CLWR)
Chaplains: Jane Freeman and Rev. Samuel Voo.

NC-09-01 MS that seat and voice privileges be granted to the following: **Carried.**

- National Office Staff
- The Rev. Kevin Ogilvie, Lutheran Theological Seminary (LTS) (Rev. Ogilvie, was a voting delegate)
- Dr. Bruce Perlson, Luther College
- President, Lutheran Collegiate Bible Institute (LCBI)
- John Wolff, Chair, Group Services Inc. (GSI)
- Hildy Thiessen, Executive Director, Group Services Inc. (GSI)
- Ruth Vince, Executive Director, ELW
- Rev Teresita Valeriano, Coordinator Lutheran World Federation-North America (LWF-NA)
- The Most Rev. Fred Hiltz, Primate, ACC
- The Rev. Mark Hanson, Presiding Bishop, ELCA
- The Rt. Rev. Dr. Munib Younan, Bishop, ELCJHL
- Robert Granke, Executive Director, CLWR

Report of the National Bishop

Verbal report from National Bishop Johnson, in addition to her written report.

Announcements

Closing Prayer led by the chaplains.

Session One adjourned.

Session Two: Thursday, June 25, 2009, 7:00 p.m.

Session Two began with prayer led by the chaplains.

Report of Committee on Registration and Credentials:

Reported the following registration figures:

Lay delegates registered	173
Ordained delegates registered	162
Total voting delegates registered	335
Visitors registered	118
Total persons registered	453

First ballot for election of the Vice-President was distributed, marked and collected.

Bible Study

Led by The Most Rev. Fred Hiltz, Primate, ACC

Report of National Church Council

Secretary, Don Storch, reviewed the NCC report in the Bulletin of Reports.

The nominations for the 2011 Nominating Committee for Convention were presented. Nominations from the floor were called for. There being none, the nomination process was closed and the slate declared elected.

2011 National Convention Nominating Committee		
Synod	Term	Nominee
BC Synod	2 years	Gene Blishen
ABT Synod	2 years	Rev. Phil Hink Kathy Budgell
SK Synod	2 years	Joan Meyer Rev. Darlene Harrison
MNO synod	2 years	Rev. Larry Ulrich
Eastern Synod	2 years	Rev. Dr. Mark Harris Dorothy Frook Rev. Wendell Grahlman

Report of Nominating Committee

Nominations from the floor resulted in the following ballot for NCC.

NATIONAL CHURCH COUNCIL			
Positions: BC-1 Lay, ABT-1 Lay & 1 Ordained, SK-1 Lay MNO-1 Ordained, Eastern-2 Lay & 1 Ordained			
Synod	Type	Term	Nominee
BC	Lay	4 years	Jeanie Stann
	Lay		Loris Martin
	Lay		Alvin Stedel
ABT	Lay	4 years	Barb Stolee
	Lay		Margaret Sadler
	Lay		Keith Odegard
	Ordained	4 years	Rev Trish Schmermund (e)
	Ordained	4 years	Rev Thomas Peterson
	Ordained		Rev Philip Gagnon
SK	Lay	4 years	Heidi Hesselink
	Lay		Patricia Leatherdale
	Lay		Karen J. Johansen
MNO	Ordained	4 years	Rev Mark Koenker (e)
	Ordained		Rev Laurel Seyfert
EAST	Lay 1	4 years	Edward Pope (e)
	Lay 1		Rod Kruger
	Lay 1		Lois Reinert
	Lay 2	4 years	Marie-Laure Collet
	Lay 2		Dale Wilcox
	Lay 2		Alven Choi
	Ordained	4 years	Rev Douglas Reble (e)
	Ordained		Rev James Brown
	Ordained		Rev Peeter Vanker

Nominations for GSI were called for from the floor. There being none, the following became the ballot for GSI.

ELCIC GROUP SERVICES INC.		
Positions Required		
Type	Term	Nominee
Ordained	4 years	Rev Douglas Kramer (e)
Ordained		Rev Guenter Dahle
Lay 1	4 years	Jackie Dojack (e)
Lay 1		Hans J. Lung
Lay 2	4 years	George Sawatzky (e)
Lay 2		Erik Peters

Nominations were called for the Court of Adjudication. There being none, the following became the ballot for Court of Adjudication.

COURT OF ADJUDICATION		
Positions Required: 1 Ordained and 2 Lay		
Type	Term	Nominee
Ordained	4 years	Bishop (ret) William Huras (e)
Ordained		Bishop (ret) Stephen Kristenson
Lay 1	4 years	Roger Kingsley
Lay 1		Wayne Thronson
Lay 2	4 years	Martin Bergbusch
Lay 2		Darlene Johnson

Report of Committee on Conduct of Elections:

The results for the first ballot for Vice-President were as follows:

275 valid ballots cast,
 Needed to elect 206,
 No election

Appleby, Rev. Jim	1	Janke, Rev. Carol	2	Olson, Rev. Daryl	1
Au, Esther	1	Jannuska, Rev. Ted	1	Pilatzke, Rev. Lori	1
Bastian, Rev.	1	Jensen, David	1	Pope, Teddy	1
Bishopp, Rev. Chris	2	Jensen, Rev. Gordon	1	Posluzny, Rev. Tim	6
Blakely, Rev. Carla	2	Johnsen, Michael	1	Powell, Rev. Kevin	2
Blishen, Gene	1	Johnsen, Rev. Katl	3	Preibisch, Rev. Gerhard	1
Brook, Tom	2	Johnson, Rev. Glen	2	Price, Michael	1
Brown, James	2	Johnson, Rev. Timothy	1	Pryse, Rev. Michael	1
Chell, Rev. Theodore	1	Johnston, Rev. Steve	1	Pryse, Rev. Rick	3
Crouse, Joel	2	Kaplens-Ewart, Ilze	3	Reble, Rev. Doug	7
Dahl, G	1	Kingsley, Roger	7	Reinhardt, Mr. Ted	1
Dahle, Rev. Guenther	1	Knebel, Marge	1	Reinhardt, Rev. Clifford	4
de Waal, Pastor Malcom	1	Knutson, Lanny	1	Salonen, Rev. Alina	1
Diegel, Rev. Calvin G.	1	Koenker, Rev. Mark	2	Saude, Rev. David	8
Dojack, Jackie	2	Koivisto-Barlow, Pastor Julianna	1	Sauer, Rev. Rick	2
Douglas, Rev. Linda	1	Kramer, Rev. Doug	2	Schelter-Brown, Rev. Bonnie	1
Eriksson, Rev. David	1	Kristenson, Rev. Steve	4	Scheske, Rev. Barret	3
Eriksson, Rev. David V.	1	Kuglin-Alyea, Rev. Elizabeth	1	Schmermund, Rev. Trish	2
Evertt, Rev. Brad	2	Kurtz, Rev. Michael	5	Schmidt, Robert	3
Faltin, Carl	1	Ladoucer, Heather	1	Schultz, Rev. Eric	1
Gagnon, Rev. Phil	2	Lai, Rev. Alan	2	Scott, Rev. Kevin	1
Gehrs, Rev Paul	2	Lees, Rev. Mike	1	Serfas, Rev. Dennis	2

Giannelia, Rev. Patricia	3	Liedtke, Randy	1	Sorensen, Carl	1
Gingrich, Tyler	1	Long, Rev. Ed	1	Stann, Jeanie	1
Grahman, Rev. Wendell	1	Lorch, Brian	1	Stolee, Barb	2
Granke, Mr. Robert H.	1	Malina, Rev. David	1	Stolee, Joe	1
Hahn, David	1	Malina, Rev. Martin	2	Storch, Don	2
Halmarson, Rev. Cindy	2	Martin, Loris	1	Theiss, Maggie	2
Hamilton, Sheila	45	Martin, Rev. Kathy	1	Theiss, Rev. John	1
Harris, Rev. Mark	4	Mayan, Rev. Ron	2	Thom, Ron	1
Haugen, Rev. Dan	5	McKenzie, Rev. Lyle	1	Thompson, Norm	1
Haugen, Rev. Roger	4	McNab, Kimberlynn	1	Trummer, Chris	3
Heinze, Rev. Phil	1	Meissner, Rev. Randy	1	Tubbe, Rosalynn	1
Hendrickson, Rev. Dan	1	Mikelic, Peter	1	Van Katwyk, Rev. Peter	3
Hergersheimer, Rev. Richard	3	Miller, Rev. Norm	3	Voo, Rev. Samuel	1
Hesje, Rev. Harold	1	Miner, Rev. Doug	1	Ward, Rev. Kenn	1
Hink, Rev. Phil	2	Mohr, Rev. Greg	4	Weber, Rev. Stephen	1
Hoppy, Cindy	1	Moir, Rev. Chad	1	Wilker-Frey, Rev. Brian	1
Horton, Tim	1	Morg, Greg	1	Spoiled	16
Hundeby, Margaret	1	Nelson, Rev. Dawn	1	Abstained	2
Hyhko, Rev. Martti	1	Nestegaard-Paul, Rev. Brenda	2	Total Ballots	275

The Second ballot for Vice-President was distributed, marked and collected.

Announcements

Night Prayer

Session Two adjourned.

Session Three: Friday, June 26, 2009, 8:30 a.m.

Session Three began with Morning Eucharist.

Report of Committee on Registration and Credentials

Reported the following registration figures:

Lay delegates registered	176
Ordained delegates registered	166
Total voting delegates registered	342
Visitors registered	119
Total persons registered	461

Report of Committee on Conduct of Elections

The committee presented the following results of the second ballot for Vice-President:

Votes cast	319
Needed to elect	213
Spoiled ballots	0
No election	

Blishen, Gene	1	Johnson, Rev. Timothy	2	Posluzny, Rev. Tim	17
Brown, James	1	Kaplens-Ewart, Ilze	1	Powell, Rev. Kevin	1
Crouse, Joel	3	Kingsley, Roger	2	Preibisch, Rev. Gerhard	1
Dahle, Rev. Guenther	2	Knebel, Marge	1	Pryse, Rev. Michael	2
Dojack, Jackie	3	Koenker, Rev. Mark	1	Pryse, Rev. Rick	2
Douglas, Rev. Linda	1	Koivisto-Barlow, Pastor Julianna	1	Reble, Rev. Doug	10
Evertt, Rev. Brad	2	Kramer, Rev. Doug	2	Reinhardt, Rev. Clifford	6
Gagnon, Rev. Phil	3	Kristenson, Rev. Steve	13	Salonen, Rev. Alina	2
Giannelia, Rev. Patricia	4	Kurtz, Rev. Michael	5	Saude, Rev. David	28
Grahman, Rev. Wendell	1	Lai, Rev. Alan	2	Schelter-Brown, Rev. Bonnie	1
Halmarson, Rev. Cindy	1	Lees, Rev. Mike	1	Schmermund, Rev. Trish	1
Hamilton, Sheila	110	Malina, Rev. David	1	Schmidt, Robert	2
Harris, Rev. Mark	3	Malina, Rev. Martin	3	Serfas, Rev. Dennis	1
Haugen, Rev. Dan	13	Mayan, Rev. Ron	2	Stolee, Barb	2
Haugen, Rev. Roger	2	McNab, Kimberlynn	2	Storch, Don	2
Hendrickson, Rev. Dan	1	Meissner, Rev. Randy	1	Theiss, Maggie	5
Hergersheimer, Rev. Richard	5	Miller, Rev. Norm	3	Thom, Ron	1
Hink, Rev. Phil	3	Miner, Rev. Doug	1	Trummer, Chris	1
Horton, Tim	1	Mohr, Rev. Greg	8	Van Katwyk, Rev. Peter	9
Janke, Rev. Carol	1	Moir, Rev. Chad	2	Voo, Rev. Samuel	1
Johnsen, Rev. Karl	6	Nestegaard-Paul, Rev. Brenda	1	Weber, Rev. Stephen	1
Johnson, Rev. Glen	1			Total Ballots	319

Report of Committee of Reference and Counsel

Rev. Dr. Mark Harris, chair, presented report number one. The report noted that the committee is recommending no action on several motions. The committee's decision to recommend ``no action`` was challenged. The Chair ruled that their recommendation was in order. Her ruling was challenged, and a division of the house called for. The results were: in favour 215, opposed 115. The ruling of the Chair was upheld.

Reference and Council gave notice of a motion to amend the administrative Bylaw, VII Section 1 a. to read,

The church in convention shall elect the Nominating Committee for the next convention. The National Church Council shall submit nominations for the Nominating Committee to the church in convention. **Opportunity shall be given for nominations from the floor.** This committee shall consist of nine members, three from the Eastern Synod, two each from the Synod of Alberta and the Territories and the Saskatchewan Synod, and one each from the Manitoba/Northwestern Ontario Synod and the British Columbia Synod. The committee shall elect its own convenor at an initial meeting called by the National secretary. They shall prepare a slate of nominations for election by the convention to fill vacancies in the membership of the National Church Council, Court of Adjudication and the Committee of Pensions except otherwise provided. This slate shall be complete at least three months prior to each convention.

Greetings

The Rev. Teresita Valeriano, Regional Officer, Lutheran World Federation, North America

Bible Study

Led by The Rt. Rev. Dr. Munib A. Younan, Bishop, ELCJHL

Report of ELCIC Group Services Inc.

John Wolff, Chair of the Board and Hildy Thiessen, Executive Director presented the GSI report.

CC-09-02 MS That the Board of Directors and officers for Group Services Inc. be commended for their prudent administration of the Retired Benefit Account which has resulted in a significant reduction of the unfunded liability, eliminating the need for a letter of credit from the ELCIC and substantially assured the pensions of our retired pastors. **Carried.**

Report of Committee on Conduct of Elections

Biographies for candidates for Vice-President were distributed.

Announcements

Closing Prayer led by the chaplains.

Session Three adjourned.

Information Forums were held Friday afternoon.

Session Four: Friday, June 26, 2009, 3:30 p.m.

Session Four opened with prayer led by the chaplains.

Report of Committee on Registration and Credentials

Reported the following registration figures:

Lay delegates registered	176
Ordained delegates registered	166
Total voting delegates registered	342
Visitors registered	141
Total persons registered	483

Report of Committee on Conduct of Elections

Third ballot for Vice-President was distributed, marked and collected.
First ballot for NCC was distributed, marked and collected.

Report of Canadian Lutheran World Relief

Robert Granke, Executive Director, and National Bishop Susan Johnson presented the report.

Report of Evangelical Lutheran Women, Inc.

Pam Radunsky, President, and Ruth Vince, Executive Director, presented their report.

NC-09-03 MS That the ELCIC encourage the Evangelical Lutheran Women Inc. to include the Bible study with the Esprit Magazine and that the Bible Study be written for and promoted as an individual Bible Study. **Carried.**

Report of the Treasurer, Ken Hartviksen

Approval of 2008 Audited Financial Statements

NC -09-04 MS That the audited financial statements for the period ending December 31, 2008, be adopted as presented. **Carried.**

Appointment of auditors for 2009

NC-09-05 MS That the firm of Ernst & Young be reappointed auditors for the year 2009. **Carried.**

Authorization for NCC to approve auditors for 2010

NC-09-06 MS That National Church Council be authorized to appoint the auditors for the year 2010. **Carried.**

Approval of 2010 and 2011 budgets

NC-09-07 MS That the budgets for 2010 and 2011 be approved as presented. **Carried.**

Report of Committee on Conduct of Elections

Results of third ballot for Vice-President:

Votes cast	332
Needed to elect	167
Spoiled ballots	0
Hamilton, Sheila	201
Haugen, Rev. Dan	43
Kristenson, Rev. Steve	65
Posluzny, Rev. Tim	11
Saude, Rev. David	12

Sheila Hamilton was declared elected as Vice-President.

First ballots for ELCIC Group Services Incorporated and Court of Adjudication were distributed, marked and collected.

Announcements

The session closed with prayer led by the chaplains.

Session Four adjourned.

Session Five: Friday, June 26, 2009, 7:00 p.m.

Session Five opened with prayer led by the chaplains.

Report of the Committee on Registration and Credentials

Reported the following registration figures:

Lay delegates registered	176
Ordained delegates registered	166
Total voting delegates registered	342
Visitors registered	147
Total persons registered	489

Report of Committee on Conduct of Elections

National Church Council–Report of Ballot One

Alberta Lay

Total Ballots	316
Needed to elect	161
Results:	
Barb Stolee	133
Margaret Sadler	91
Keith Odegard	92

Eastern Ordained

Total Ballots	320
Needed to elect	163
Results:	
Rev. Douglas Reble	144
Rev. James Brown	79
Rev. Peeter Vanker	97

No Election

No Election

Alberta Ordained

Total Ballots	322
Needed to elect	164
Results:	
Rev. Trish Schmermund	149
Rev. Thomas Peterson	63
Rev. Phillip Gagnon	110

No Election

BC Lay

Total Ballots	308
Needed to elect	157
Results:	
Jeanie Stann	115
Loris Martin	96
Alvin Stedel	97

No Election

Court of Adjudication

Ordained

Total Ballots	325
Needed to elect	166
Results:	
Bishop William Huras	132
Bishop Stephen Kristenson	193

Bishop Stephen Kristenson declared elected.

Lay #1

Total Ballots	327
Needed to elect	167
Results:	
Roger Kingsley	204
Wayne Thronson	124

Roger Kingsley declared elected.

Lay #2

Total Ballots	312
Needed to elect	159
Results:	
Martin Bergbusch	189
Darlene Johnson	123

Martin Bergbusch declared elected.

MNO Ordained

Total Ballots	292
Needed to elect	149
Results:	
Rev. Mark Koenker	211
Rev. Laurel Seyfert	81

Rev. Mark Koenker declared elected.

SK Lay

Total Ballots	315
Needed to elect	161
Results:	
Heidi Hesselink	147
Patricia Leatherdale	59
Karen Johansen	109

No Election

Group Services Inc.

Ordained

Total Ballots	328
Needed to Elect	167
Results:	
Rev. Douglas Kramer	191
Rev. Guenter Dahle	137

Rev. Douglas Kramer declared elected.

Lay #1

Total Ballots	313
Needed to Elect	160
Results:	
Jackie Dojack	197
Hans J. Lung	116

Jackie Dojack declared elected.

Lay #2

Total Ballots	318
Needed to Elect	162
Results:	
George Sawatzky	168
Erik Peters	150

George Sawatzky declared elected.

Report of Committee on Minutes

NC-09-08 MS That the amended minutes of Sessions One and Two be approved as circulated. **Carried.**

Report of National Church Council continued.

AN ELCIC CONVENTION RESOLUTION ON THE HOLY LAND

MS That Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada (ELCIC) recognizes;

- That God desires that all people live in peace and without division and that there is a deep longing among Palestinians, Israelis, and the people of the world for safety, freedom, justice, security, dignity, and respect.
- That the three Abrahamic faiths have their origins among these Semitic people whose descendants have continuously lived on this land called holy;
- That churches and faith groups have been working to build a lasting peace in the region;
- That Israel has a right to live in peace with security and that all of Israel's neighbours need to recognize this right.

- That Palestinians have a democratic right to determine their future and to a democratic and viable state, with full recognition by Israel;
- That the city of Jerusalem must be shared and that all faith groups must have open and free access to their holy places;
- The tragic loss of life and horrific human cost of the legacy of violence on individuals, families, and communities in the Holy Land;
- That attacks on civilians including suicide bombings, targeted assassinations, and military attacks in populated areas which are known beforehand to likely result in civilian deaths are unacceptable and must be deplored;
- The deep religious divisions this ongoing conflict causes between the three monotheistic faiths of Judaism, Christianity and Islam;
- That theological distortions of Christian faith (such as Christian Zionism) result from a misreading of the Bible and the current situation;
- The complex historic, political and social dynamics, the ongoing prejudices and the escalating anger and animosity that have fuelled this ongoing conflict;
- The considerable political work that has been done, particularly by the United Nations, governments, and voluntary organizations to develop a framework for peace and the need for renewed and more vigorous initiatives that safeguard the security of Israel and the freedom of Palestine;
- The need to address the economic consequences of increasing poverty, continuing high unemployment, and expanding social dislocation; and
- That violence, counter-violence and instability in the Holy Land is a threat to regional and global peace.

AND THEREFORE,

This convention commits this church to supporting and working for justice and peace in the Holy Land by:

PRAYING FOR PEACE IN THE HOLY LAND

- That the ELCIC calls on its members to regularly pray for peace for all people in the Holy Land, especially the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land (ELCJHL), and to designate a Sunday annually for prayers in congregations across the ELCIC;
- That the worship resources of this church include sample petitions and prayers for the people in the Holy Land; and
- That worship resources from churches within The Lutheran World Federation (LWF) and ecumenical partners be made available on the ELCIC website for congregational and synodical use.

EDUCATING FOR PEACE

- That ELCIC members be encouraged to study the history and the current events in the Holy Land;
- That the ELCIC commend to members the *Jerusalem Declaration on Christian Zionism* issued by the heads of churches in Jerusalem in August 2006, signed by Bishop Munib Younan of the (ELCJHL) and further that the ELCIC identify resources that help members understand the very problematic theological implications of such views that can provide a faith based justification for religious divisiveness and violence in this region;
- That related communiqués by the LWF be distributed by the ELCIC Communications Office to congregations and synods;
- That the ELCIC add a page to its website that identifies resources from the LWF, KAIROS, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) and other partners for worship, financial support, education and advocacy;
- That congregations and synods be encouraged to host/participate in at least one event a year to discuss and learn more about the current situation;

- That the ELCIC commend Canadian Lutheran World Relief's (CLWR) *Four Corners-Alternative Trading Program* and encourage individuals and congregations to promote the purchase and distribution of products and services from the Occupied Palestinian Territories; and
- That ELCIC congregations, synods and institutions be encouraged to participate in multi-faith dialogues and insofar as possible to discuss concerns about the future of the Holy Land and Jerusalem.

ACCOMPANYING PEACE BUILDERS

- Give thanks for Bishop Munib Younan and his leadership in the cause of peace with justice and multi-faith healing and our appreciation for presence at this convention;
- Commend and encourage support for the initiative of the (ELCJHL) in its struggle to be a witness for peace and justice through its educational, ecumenical, diaconal, and interfaith initiatives and commend religious leaders in the region for their peace building efforts;
- Express the ELCIC's deep concern about the continued emigration of Christians from Palestine and the entire Middle East and pray for a continued presence and ministry;
- Commend the work of organizations, both Israeli and Palestinian, that are working to heal the divide between Israelis and Palestinians, working to defend human rights, and who play an essential role in building peace;
- Commend companies and investors who are supporting community based economic development and fair trade organizations in Palestinian areas and who are not making investments in goods or services that support the police, military, or occupation administration;
- Commend the ministry of the Ecumenical Accompaniment Program in Palestine and Israel under the auspices of the World Council of Churches and encourage individuals who may wish to serve in this work;
- Commend the ministry of the Palestine Israel Ecumenical Forum initiated by the patriarchs and heads of local churches in Jerusalem;
- Commend and encourage financial support for the work of The Lutheran World Federation and Canadian Lutheran World Relief (CLWR) in their support of Augusta Victoria Hospital as well as the LWF's health services and vocational training programs, emergency services and job creation programs in the West Bank that help to meet the critical needs of refugees and the poor who are most affected by the violence, closures, and loss of income; and
- Commend the ELCIC bishops for their January 2009 visit to the Holy Land and encourage the further development of the ongoing relationships between the ELCIC and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land by helping coordinate delegations and visits between members of the ELCIC and the ELCJHL.

ADVOCATING FOR PEACE

That the ELCIC communicates to the Government of Canada:

- ELCIC support for "the goal of a comprehensive, just and lasting peace in the Middle East, including the creation of a Palestinian state living side by side in peace and security with Israel" (Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade Policy);
- ELCIC support for a secure state of Israel and a viable state for Palestinians, including a contiguous West Bank;
- ELCIC encouragement to undertake further measures to reduce poverty, unemployment and improve service for Palestinians and express appreciation for funding for such services as the Gerontology Unit at Augusta Victoria Hospital; and
- ELCIC's support for an end to terrorism and violence by individuals, organizations and states against innocent civilians and bringing to justice those who commit such crimes.

That the ELCIC calls upon the Government of Canada to;

- Renew its efforts to play a more active, constructive, and balanced role in creating the conditions for peace in the Holy Land;
- Reiterate to the Government of Israel, Canada's continued opposition to the occupation of territories (Golan Heights, East Jerusalem, and the West Bank) as called for in UN Resolution 446 and 465;
- Reiterate to the Government of Israel, Canada's position that Israeli settlements in the occupied territories are in violation of the *Fourth Geneva Convention* and call for a cessation of all settlement activities and a withdrawal from settlements in the occupied Palestinian territory to the 1967 armistice boundary (the "Green Line");
- Reiterate to the Government of Israel, that while Israel has a right to assure its own security, Canada's position is that the presence of the "Security Wall" as it has been constructed on Palestinian lands is contrary to international law under the *Fourth Geneva Convention* and that Canada is strongly opposed to Israel's illegal "expropriations and the demolition of houses and economic infrastructure carried out for this purpose." (Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade);
- Call upon all governments in the region to fully respect human rights and international humanitarian law;
- Continue to condemn all attacks on civilians including suicide bombings, targeted assassinations and military attacks in populated areas which are known beforehand to likely result in civilian deaths;
- Reiterate to the Government of Israel Canada's commitment to a negotiated, final status agreement, which includes a "shared Jerusalem" that can serve as a capital to both Palestine and Israel, with full access to religious sites and full rights in the city for Jews, Christians, and Muslims;
- Review the *Canada-Israel Free Trade Agreement* to insure that Palestinian producers have access to Canadian markets and that Canadian Trade Policy does not legitimate Israel's tacit annexation of the occupied Palestinian territories;
- Insure that in implementing trade agreements human rights are promoted and protected and safeguards put into law to preserve the environment; and
- Support aid and policies that promote Canadian private investment for building Palestinian economic capacity.

Rev. Dr. David Pfrimmer and NCC member Tom Brook, provided some background to the motion.

A request was made to move to the order of the day. The chair ruled that the agenda was flexible and that discussion on the motion before the house would be extended. The decision of the chair was challenged. The decision of the chair was upheld.

MS to amend the motion by removing the following:

- That Palestinians have a democratic right to determine their future and to a democratic and viable state, with full recognition by Israel;
- ELCIC support for "the goal of a comprehensive, just and lasting peace in the Middle East, including the creation of a Palestinian state living side by side in peace and security with Israel" (Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade Policy);
- ELCIC support for a secure state of Israel and a viable state for Palestinians, including a contiguous West Bank; **Defeated.**

MS to amend the motion as follows:

- That attacks on civilians including suicide bombings, targeted assassinations, and military attacks in/from populated areas which are known beforehand to likely result in civilian deaths are unacceptable and must be deplored;

- Continue to condemn all attacks on civilians including suicide bombings, targeted assassinations and military attacks in/from populated areas which are known beforehand to likely result in civilian deaths; **Carried.**

MS That an ELCIC Convention Resolution on the Holy Land be moved to Reference and Counsel. **Defeated.**

NC-09-09 MS that Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada (ELCIC) recognizes;

- That God desires that all people live in peace and without division and that there is a deep longing among Palestinians, Israelis, and the people of the world for safety, freedom, justice, security, dignity, and respect.
- That the three Abrahamic faiths have their origins among these Semitic people whose descendants have continuously lived on this land called holy;
- That churches and faith groups have been working to build a lasting peace in the region;
- That Israel has a right to live in peace with security and that all of Israel's neighbours need to recognize this right.
- That Palestinians have a democratic right to determine their future and to a democratic and viable state, with full recognition by Israel;
- That the city of Jerusalem must be shared and that all faith groups must have open and free access to their holy places;
- The tragic loss of life and horrific human cost of the legacy of violence on individuals, families, and communities in the Holy Land;
- That attacks on civilians including suicide bombings, targeted assassinations, and military attacks in/from populated areas which are known beforehand to likely result in civilian deaths are unacceptable and must be deplored;
- The deep religious divisions this ongoing conflict causes between the three monotheistic faiths of Judaism, Christianity and Islam;
- That theological distortions of Christian faith (such as Christian Zionism) result from a misreading of the Bible and the current situation;
- The complex historic, political and social dynamics, the ongoing prejudices and the escalating anger and animosity that have fuelled this ongoing conflict;
- The considerable political work that has been done, particularly by the United Nations, governments, and voluntary organizations to develop a framework for peace and the need for renewed and more vigorous initiatives that safeguard the security of Israel and the freedom of Palestine;
- The need to address the economic consequences of increasing poverty, continuing high unemployment, and expanding social dislocation; and
- That violence, counter-violence and instability in the Holy Land is a threat to regional and global peace.

AND THEREFORE,

This convention commits this church to supporting and working for justice and peace in the Holy Land by:

PRAYING FOR PEACE IN THE HOLY LAND

- That the ELCIC calls on its members to regularly pray for peace for all people in the Holy Land, especially the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land (ELCJHL), and to designate a Sunday annually for prayers in congregations across the ELCIC;

- That the worship resources of this church include sample petitions and prayers for the people in the Holy Land; and
- That worship resources from churches within The Lutheran World Federation (LWF) and ecumenical partners be made available on the ELCIC website for congregational and synodical use.

EDUCATING FOR PEACE

- That ELCIC members be encouraged to study the history and the current events in the Holy Land;
- That the ELCIC commend to members the *Jerusalem Declaration on Christian Zionism* issued by the heads of churches in Jerusalem in August 2006, signed by Bishop Munib Younan of the (ELCJHL) and further that the ELCIC identify resources that help members understand the very problematic theological implications of such views that can provide a faith based justification for religious divisiveness and violence in this region;
- That related communiqués by the LWF be distributed by the ELCIC Communications Office to congregations and synods;
- That the ELCIC add a page to its website that identifies resources from the LWF, KAIROS, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) and other partners for worship, financial support, education and advocacy;
- That congregations and synods be encouraged to host/participate in at least one event a year to discuss and learn more about the current situation;
- That the ELCIC commend Canadian Lutheran World Relief's (CLWR) *Four Corners-Alternative Trading Program* and encourage individuals and congregations to promote the purchase and distribution of products and services from the Occupied Palestinian Territories; and
- That ELCIC congregations, synods and institutions be encouraged to participate in multi-faith dialogues and insofar as possible to discuss concerns about the future of the Holy Land and Jerusalem.

ACCOMPANYING PEACE BUILDERS

- Give thanks for Bishop Munib Younan and his leadership in the cause of peace with justice and multi-faith healing and our appreciation for presence at this convention;
- Commend and encourage support for the initiative of the (ELCJHL) in its struggle to be a witness for peace and justice through its educational, ecumenical, diaconal, and interfaith initiatives and commend religious leaders in the region for their peace building efforts;
- Express the ELCIC's deep concern about the continued emigration of Christians from Palestine and the entire Middle East and pray for a continued presence and ministry;
- Commend the work of organizations, both Israeli and Palestinian, that are working to heal the divide between Israelis and Palestinians, working to defend human rights, and who play an essential role in building peace;
- Commend companies and investors who are supporting community based economic development and fair trade organizations in Palestinian areas and who are not making investments in goods or services that support the police, military, or occupation administration;
- Commend the ministry of the Ecumenical Accompaniment Program in Palestine and Israel under the auspices of the World Council of Churches and encourage individuals who may wish to serve in this work;
- Commend the ministry of the Palestine Israel Ecumenical Forum initiated by the patriarchs and heads of local churches in Jerusalem;
- Commend and encourage financial support for the work of The Lutheran World Federation and Canadian Lutheran World Relief (CLWR) in their support of Augusta Victoria Hospital as well as the LWF's health services and vocational training programs, emergency services and job creation

programs in the West Bank that help to meet the critical needs of refugees and the poor who are most affected by the violence, closures, and loss of income; and

- Commend the ELCIC bishops for their January 2009 visit to the Holy Land and encourage the further development of the ongoing relationships between the ELCIC and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land by helping coordinate delegations and visits between members of the ELCIC and the ELCJHL.

ADVOCATING FOR PEACE

That the ELCIC communicates to the Government of Canada:

- ELCIC support for “the goal of a comprehensive, just and lasting peace in the Middle East, including the creation of a Palestinian state living side by side in peace and security with Israel” (Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade Policy);
- ELCIC support for a secure state of Israel and a viable state for Palestinians, including a contiguous West Bank;
- ELCIC encouragement to undertake further measures to reduce poverty, unemployment and improve service for Palestinians and express appreciation for funding for such services as the Gerontology Unit at Augusta Victoria Hospital; and
- ELCIC’s support for an end to terrorism and violence by individuals, organizations and states against innocent civilians and bringing to justice those who commit such crimes.

That the ELCIC calls upon the Government of Canada to;

- Renew its efforts to play a more active, constructive, and balanced role in creating the conditions for peace in the Holy Land;
- Reiterate to the Government of Israel, Canada’s continued opposition to the occupation of territories (Golan Height, East Jerusalem, and the West Bank) as called for in UN Resolution 446 and 465;
- Reiterate to the Government of Israel, Canada’s position that Israeli settlements in the occupied territories are in violation of the *Fourth Geneva Convention* and call for a cessation of all settlement activities and a withdrawal from settlements in the occupied Palestinian territory to the 1967 armistice boundary (the “Green Line”);
- Reiterate to the Government of Israel, that while Israel has a right to assure its own security, Canada’s position is that the presence of the “Security Wall” as it has been constructed on Palestinian lands is contrary to international law under the *Fourth Geneva Convention* and that Canada is strongly opposed to Israel’s illegal “expropriations and the demolition of houses and economic infrastructure carried out for this purpose.”(Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade);
- Call upon all governments in the region to fully respect human rights and international humanitarian law;
- Continue to condemn all attacks on civilians including suicide bombings, targeted assassinations and military attacks in/from populated areas which are known beforehand to likely result in civilian deaths;
- Reiterate to the Government of Israel Canada’s commitment to a negotiated, final status agreement, which includes a “shared Jerusalem” that can serve as a capital to both Palestine and Israel, with full access to religious sites and full rights in the city for Jews, Christians, and Muslims;
- Review the *Canada-Israel Free Trade Agreement* to insure that Palestinian producers have access to Canadian markets and that Canadian Trade Policy does not legitimate Israel’s tacit annexation of the occupied Palestinian territories;
- Insure that in implementing trade agreements human rights are promoted and protected and safeguards put into law to preserve the environment; and
- Support aid and policies that promote Canadian private investment for building Palestinian economic capacity. **Carried.**

Report of Committee of Reference and Counsel continued.

NC-09-10 MS That the motion from the Committee of Reference and Counsel to take no action on the following petition be adopted:

That any member of any ELCIC decision-making body only be permitted to vote on a motion “if they do not have a direct or indirect interest in the outcome of the motion”. Decision-making bodies of the ELCIC include an ELCIC Convention, a Synod Convention, any decision-making body composed of members elected at an ELCIC Convention or any decision-making body composed of members elected at a Synod Convention. **Carried.**

NC-09-11 MS That the motion from the Committee of Reference and Counsel to take no action on the following petition be adopted:

That this Convention add the following section to the Administrative Bylaws–Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada: Part II Section 7. Except for the provisions of Article VI, Section 9 of the Constitution of this church, this church, including any Synod of this church, cannot take any action that transfers, encumbers or establishes any control over any asset (including real property) owned by a Congregation, except by the provisions of the Congregation’s Constitution. **Carried.**

NC-09-12 MS That the motion from the Committee of Reference and Counsel to take no action on the following petition be adopted:

No financial or human resources of the ELCIC, at either the National or Synod levels, are to be expended in relation to any initiatives supporting same-sex blessings, same-sex marriage, or the ordination of practicing homosexuals. National Church Council, Division employees, Department employees, Synod Councils, National Bishop, Synod Bishops and Synod Committees, Synod Offices and Synod employees must cease any further action related to enabling members of the Roster of Ordained Clergy of this church or any congregation from performing or participating in any capacity in the blessing or marriage of same-sex couples or same-sex groups of people or the ordination of practicing homosexuals. Action includes, but is not limited to, discussion, analysis, review, policy formulation and motion preparation relating to any aspect of Pastors of the ELCIC performing same-sex blessings, same-sex marriage or ordination of practicing homosexuals. **Carried.**

The outcome of the vote was challenged and a division of the house was requested. The results were: in favour 204, opposed 114.

Announcements

Night Prayer

Session Five adjourned.

Session Six: Saturday, June 27, 2009, 8:30 a.m.

Session Six opened with Morning Eucharist.

Report of Committee on Registration and Credentials

Reported the following registration figures:

Lay delegates registered	176
Ordained delegates registered	167
Total voting delegates registered	343
Visitors registered	147
Total persons registered	490

**Report of Committee on Conduct of Elections
National Church Council Second Ballot Results**

ABT Lay

Total Ballot	318
Needed to Elect	162
Results:	
Barb Stolee	224
Keith Odegard	94

Barb Stolee declared elected

ABT Ordained

Total Ballot	324
Needed to Elect	165
Results:	
Trish Schmermund	206
Phillip Gagnon	118

Rev. Trish Schmermund declared elected

BC Lay

Total Ballot	313
Needed to Elect	160
Results:	
Jeanie Stann	211
Alvin Stedel	102

Jeanie Stann declared elected

Eastern Ordained

Total Ballot	320
Needed to Elect	163
Results:	
Douglas Reble	214
Peeter Vanker	106

Rev. Douglas Reble declared elected

SK Lay

Total Ballot	319
Needed to Elect	162
Results:	
Heidi Hesselink	201
Karen Johansen	118

Heidi Hesselink declared elected

EASTERN Lay #1

Total Ballot	322
Needed to Elect	164
Results:	
Edward Pope	153
Rod Kruger	78
Lois Reinert	91

No Election

EASTERN Lay #2

Total Ballot	314
Needed to elect	160
Results:	
Marie-Laure Collet	146
Dale Wilcox	77
Alven Choi	91

No Election.

Report of Committee of Reference and Counsel

NC-09-13 MS To amend the Administrative Bylaw, VII Section 1 a. to read: The church in convention shall elect the Nominating Committee for the next convention. The National church council shall submit nominations for the Nominating Committee to the church in convention. **Opportunity shall be given for nominations from the floor.** This committee shall consist of nine members, three from the Eastern Synod, two from the Alberta and the Territories Synod, two from the Saskatchewan Synod and one each from the Manitoba/Notrthwestern Ontario Synod and the British Columbia Synod. The committee shall elect its own convenor at an initial meeting called by the National Secretary. They shall prepare a slate of nominations for election by the convention to fill vacancies in the membership of the National Church Council, Court of Adjudication and the Committee of Pensions except otherwise provided. This slate shall be complete at least three months prior to each convention. **Carried.**

NC-09-14 MS That the motion from the Committee of Reference and Counsel to take no action on the following petition be adopted:

That this convention direct the National Church Council of the ELCIC to recognize that, if a congregation chooses to sever its relationship with the ELCIC in accordance with the ELCIC Constitution—Article VI, Section 10 and of the Administrative Bylaws—Part II, Section 5, the congregation has no claim on any assets of the ELCIC or its subsidiaries and no responsibility for any liabilities of the ELCIC or its subsidiaries. **Carried.**

Greetings

The Rev. Robert Bugbee, President, Lutheran Church—Canada brought greetings.

Bible Study

Led by The Rev. Mark S. Hanson, Presiding Bishop, ELCA

Committee of the Whole

General discussion and comments occurred in the Committee of the Whole time.

Announcements

The session was closed with prayer led by the chaplains.

Session Six adjourned.

Session Seven: Saturday, June 27, 2009, 1:30 p.m.

Session Seven opened with prayer led by the chaplains.

Report of Committee on Registration and Credentials

Reported the following registration figures:

Lay delegates registered	176
Ordained delegates registered	167
Total voting delegates registered	343
Visitors registered	153
Total persons registered	496

The convention was adjourned for the Corporate Meetings of Luther College and Lutheran Collegiate Bible Institute.

The National Bishop called the convention back in session.

**Report of Committee on Conduct of Elections
National Church Council Third Ballot Results**

EASTERN Lay #1

Total Ballots	323
Needed to elect	164
Results:	
Edward Pope	210
Lois Reinert	113

Edward Pope declared elected.

EASTERN Lay #2

Total Ballots	326
Needed to elect	166
Results:	
Marie-Laure Collet	226
Alven Choi	100

Marie-Laure Collet declared elected.

NC-09-15 MS That the election ballots be destroyed. **Carried.**

Report of National Church Council

Second Reading of ELCIC Constitutional Amendments

NC-09- 16 MS That the ELCIC Constitution, Article IV (Mission of the Church). Section 2, be amended to include a new subsection c and the following subsections be re-lettered. **Carried.**

- c. Admit persons to the roster of diaconal ministers by consecration or transfer and be responsible for their nurture, support, and discipline.

NC-09-17 MS That the ELCIC Constitution, Article VIII (Lay Diaconal Ministers) be amended with the deletion of the word “lay” in the title and in sections 1 through 6. **Carried.**

NC-09-18 MS That the ELCIC Constitution Article X (Synods) Section 5 & 6 be amended as follows: delete ordained, and replace deaconesses with diaconal ministers. **Carried.**

NC-09-19 MS That the ELCIC Constitution Article XI (Conventions) and Article XII (National Church Council) be amended with the deletion of the word ordained and replaced with the word rostered. **Carried.**

NC-09-20 MS That the ELCIC Constitution, Article XIV (Divisions) be removed from the Constitution. **Carried.**

NC-09-21 MS That the ELCIC Constitution, Article XV (Offices), Section 1 be amended as follows by removing the word divisions. **Carried.**

NC-09-22 MS That the ELCIC Constitution, Article XVII (Benefit and Pension Plans) Section 1 and Article XIX (Court of Adjudication) Section 2 be amended as follows by removing the word ordained and adding rostered. Section 10 be amended as follows by removing the word “AND” then inserting the words Article VIII, Section 6. **Carried.**

ELCIC Administrative Bylaw Amendments

NC-09-23 MS That Administrative Bylaw, Part II (Congregations), Section 6 be amended as follows by removing thirty days and adding forty five days and remove the word ordained and replace with rostered. **Carried.**

NC-09-24 MS That Administrative Bylaw Part III.1 (Lay Diaconal Ministers) be amended as follows with the removing of the word “lay” in reference to diaconal ministers. **Carried.**

NC-09-25 MS That Administrative Bylaw, Part III have its title changed to Rostered Ministers-Ordained. **Carried.**

NC-09-26 MS That Administrative Bylaw, Part III.1 have its title changed to Rostered Ministers-Diaconal and that the Part be renumbered to IV. **Carried.**

NC-09-27 MS That all subsequent Parts of the Administrative Bylaws be renumbered to reflect the change made in NC-09-26. **Carried.**

NC-09-28 MS That Administrative Bylaw Part IV Synods, Sections 6 and 7 be amended as follows by removing the word ordained and replacing with rostered. **Carried.**

NC-09-29 MS That Administrative Bylaw, Part VIII National Church Council, section 2 be amended as follows by removing the word ordained and replacing with rostered. **Carried.**

NC-09-30 MS That Administrative Bylaw, Part IX Officers, Section 3 be amended as follows by removing the word ordained and replacing with rostered. **Carried.**

NC-09-31 MS That Administrative Bylaw Part X Recall or Dismissal of an Officer, Section 2 be amended as follows by removing the word ordained and replacing with rostered. **Carried.**

NC-09-32 MS That Administrative Bylaw Part XV Benefit and Pension Plans, Sections 2, 3, and 4 be amended as follows by removing the word ordained and replacing with rostered. **Carried.**

NC-09-33 MS That Administrative Bylaw Part XVII Special Interest Conferences, Section 1 and 2 be amended as follows by removing the word ordained and replacing with rostered. **Carried.**

Report of Committee on Minutes

NC-09-34 MS That minutes of Sessions Three and Four be approved as amended. **Carried.**

Report of Committee of Reference and Counsel continued.

MS That recommendations of Reference of Counsel be non-debatable and if upheld the Convention moves to the next motion. If defeated, we debate the motion before us.

MS That the above motion be amended to read: That the convention suspend the rules of the house and that the recommendations of Reference of Counsel that are no action be non-debatable and if upheld the Convention moves to the next motion. If defeated, we debate the motion before us. **Carried.**

A division of the house was requested. The results were: in favour 211, opposed 94.

NC-09-35 MS That the convention suspend the rules of the house and that the recommendations of Reference of Counsel that are no action be non-debatable and if upheld the Convention moves to the next motion. If defeated, we debate the motion before us. **Carried by the two-thirds majority required**

The National Bishop called on the chaplains for prayer.

NC-09-36 MS That the motion from the Committee of Reference and Counsel to take no action on the following petition be adopted:

Change the Corporate Bylaw Section 20b to read that: a delegate who is a lay person shall be elected not earlier than twelve (12) months and not later than four (4) months before a convention by each member congregation which is not represented by a delegate who is an ordained minister elected by a conference. **Carried.**

NC-09-37 MS That the motion from the Committee of Reference and Counsel to take no action on the following petition be adopted:

That the deadline for delegate registrations for future conventions, as specified in Section 29b in the Corporate By-laws of the ELCIC) be changed from “not later than five months before a convention” to “not later than four months before a convention.” **Carried.**

NC-09-38 MS That the motion from the Committee of Reference and Counsel to take no action on the following petition be adopted:

1. That total annual authorized expenditures of the ELCIC for meetings, conventions or other gatherings of ELCIC employees or ELCIC Synod employees with members of the Anglican Church of Canada be restricted to \$ 10,000.
2. That the first sentence of Article XII, Section 1 of the ELCIC Constitution, “There shall be a National Council comprised of the officers of this church, who shall serve as the officers of the council; and additional members from the synods allocated on the basis of proportional

representation according to baptized membership; and other representatives from full communion agreements.” be replaced with, “There shall be a National Council comprised of the officers of this church, who shall serve as the officers of the council; and additional members from the synods allocated on the basis of proportional representation according to baptized membership.”

3. That last sentence of Part VIII, Section 2 of the Administrative Bylaws of the ELCIC, “There shall be one additional member appointed by the Council of General Synod (COGS) of the Anglican Church of Canada for a term to be determined by COGS.” be removed in its entirety.

4. That NCC cease and desist from scheduling any future ELCIC conventions in conjunction with the ACOC. **Carried.**

MS That the ELCIC in convention

- Affirm that we are one small part of the earth community and that our Christian faith calls us to care for all of creation and to defend the rights and dignity of all our brothers and sisters. In this time of global climate-change, where ecosystems and human life are challenged as never before, we are called to make a new covenant.
- Affirm that global warming is the greatest threat to life on earth—that entire populations and ecosystems are threatened by devastating impacts such as drought, heat waves, fires, floods, storms and rising sea levels.
- Affirm that, as scientists have warned the United Nations, only urgent action can avert uncontrollable, runaway climate-change.
- Ask our National Bishop to write to our Federal, Provincial and Territorial governments urging them to support the **KYOTOplus** goals, namely:
 - Set a national target to cut greenhouse gas emissions at least 25 per cent from 1990 levels by 2020.
 - Implement an effective national plan to reach this target and help developing countries to reduce their emissions and adapt to climate change.
 - Adopt a bold, strengthened second phase of the Kyoto Protocol at the pivotal United Nations Climate Conference in Copenhagen, Denmark, December 2009.
- Encourage members of ELCIC congregations to reduce their own carbon emissions by 25% by eliminating unessential air travel, conserving their use of electricity, cutting down on the use of their automobiles and using public transit and to back up their personal carbon footprint reduction by signing the KYOTOplus petition (www.kairoscanada.org/en/get-involved/campaign/kyotoplus-petition/) and by contacting their Member of Parliament to say that they support the intent of the KYOTOplus goals.
- Commend **KAIROS: Canadian Ecumenical Justice Initiatives** and for their support of KYOTOplus.

MS to amend the motion by adding a period after goals in point four and deleting the remainder of point four. Add a comma after 25% in point five and delete wording up to public transit. Add Global Humanitarian Forum to point six. **Carried.**

NC-09-39 MS That the ELCIC in convention

- Affirm that we are one small part of the earth community and that our Christian faith calls us to care for all of creation and to defend the rights and dignity of all our brothers and sisters. In this time of global climate-change, where ecosystems and human life are challenged as never before, we are called to make a new covenant.
- Affirm that global warming is the greatest threat to life on earth—that entire populations and ecosystems are threatened by devastating impacts such as drought, heat waves, fires, floods, storms and rising sea levels.
- Affirm that, as scientists have warned the United Nations, only urgent action can avert uncontrollable, runaway climate-change.

- Ask our National Bishop to write to our Federal, Provincial and Territorial governments urging them to support the **KYOTOplus** goals.
- Encourage members of ELCIC congregations to reduce their own carbon emissions by 25%, and to back up their personal carbon footprint reduction by signing the KYOTOplus petition (www.kairoscanada.org/en/get-involved/campaign/kyotoplus-petition/) and by contacting their Member of Parliament to say that they support the intent of the KYOTOplus goals.
- Commend **KAIROS: Canadian Ecumenical Justice Initiatives** and the Global Humanitarian Forum for their support of KYOTOplus. **Carried.**

NC-09-40 MS That the Evangelical Lutheran Church, gathered in national convention, ask our National Bishop to:

- Write the Prime Minister of Canada, asking the Government of Canada both to affirm the principle of “creditor co-responsibility” and to recognize the rights of debtor nations to publicly audit their external debts and to repudiate those debts determined to be illegitimate.
- Commend Kairos Canada for their fine work on international trade relations, corporate social responsibility, and debt cancellation, and ensure that these issues remain organizational priorities.
- Commend the Lutheran World Federation (LWF) for their leaderships in advocating for illegitimate debt cancellation and call on the LWF to develop both a position paper and an advocacy strategy for member churches to engage their national governments on this issue. **Carried.**

NC-09-41 MS To refer to the Program Committee for Leadership for Ministry the following motion: Because of our passion for Jesus and concern for the health and well being of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada, a task force will be formed between the National Church and the Waterloo Lutheran Seminary and Lutheran Theological Seminary Saskatoon to explore ways and means of increasing enrollment at Seminary. This task force will examine and make recommendations (but not be limited to) the following issues: entrance requirements, course requirements, length of seminary experience, course delivery method. This task force will submit a formal report to the Thirteenth Biennial Convention of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada containing recommendations for change and a recommended timeline for implementation of said changes. **Carried.**

NC-09-42 MS That the motion from the Committee of Reference and Counsel to take no action on the following petition be adopted:

That this National Convention encourage the National Church Council, the Synod Councils of the ELCIC, and our Bishops to refrain from or to demonstrate restraint in disciplining those pastors and congregations who, as a matter of conscience and faithfulness to the Gospel, conduct marriages for gay or lesbian couples in compliance with provincial law. **Carried.**

NC-09-43 MS That the motion from the Committee of Reference and Counsel to take no action on the following petition be adopted:

That this National Convention encourage the National Church Council, the Synod Councils of the ELCIC, and our Bishops to refrain from or to demonstrate restraint in disciplining those bishops, pastors and congregations who, as a matter of conscience and faithfulness to the Gospel, call, endorse for call, or ordain persons who are “self-declared and practicing homosexuals.” **Carried.**

NC-09-44 MS To refer to the **Structural Renewal Task Force** the following motion: That the necessary constitutional changes be made in order to facilitate the election to national convention of clergy serving in multi-staff situations or called to specialized ministries even though a pastor from the

congregation of which they belong has already been elected at a conference convention or that the congregation has been represented by another clergy delegate at the previous convention. **Carried.**

MS That the ELCIC in convention instruct the National Bishop to write letters to the leaders of the federal political parties, requesting them to urge the federal government to make housing for the poor and subsidized housing high priorities in the government agenda,

and that the ELCIC in convention instruct the National Bishop to urge the Synodical Bishops to write letters to leaders of political parties in their respective jurisdictions, and to mayors of the major cities in their respective jurisdictions, expressing concern for the homeless and urging them to cooperate with all levels of government to alleviate the problem of homelessness.

MS To amend the motion by adding That ELCIC in Convention instruct the National Bishop and encourage Synodical Bishops to initiate actions to request that the Federal Government develop and then reinstate a national housing strategy to end homelessness, in terms of the recently defined UN definition of homelessness.

MS To amend the amendment as follows: That ELCIC in Convention instruct the National Bishop and encourage Synodical Bishops to initiate actions to request that the Federal Government develop an analogous program to the national housing strategy to end homelessness, in terms of the recently defined UN definition of homelessness. **Defeated.**

The original amendment was **Carried.**

MS to amend the motion by adding That the ELCIC encourage sponsorship of low income housing projects by member congregations. **Carried.**

NC-09-45 MS That the ELCIC in convention instruct the National Bishop to write letters to the leaders of the federal political parties, requesting them to urge the federal government to make housing for the poor and subsidized housing high priorities in the government agenda,

and that the ELCIC in convention instruct the National Bishop to urge the Synodical Bishops to write letters to leaders of political parties in their respective jurisdictions, and to mayors of the major cities in their respective jurisdictions, expressing concern for the homeless and urging them to cooperate with all levels of government to alleviate the problem of homelessness,

that ELCIC in Convention instruct the National Bishop and encourage Synodical Bishops to initiate actions to request that the Federal Government develop and then reinstate a national housing strategy to end homelessness, in terms of the recently defined UN definition of homelessness, and that the ELCIC encourage sponsorship of low income housing projects by member congregations. **Carried.**

NC-09-46 MS That National Church Council amend the model bylaws for Synods of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada, Part V, Section 2, to bring it into conformity with the amendment to Article 29 of the Corporate By-laws that is reported on pages F-7 and F-8 of the 2009 ELCIC Bulletin of Reports. **Carried.**

NC-09-47 MS That the motion from the Committee of Reference and Counsel to take no action on the following motion be adopted:

That an ad hoc committee be struck to write policies and procedures that will apply to any and all congregations undertaking either to join or leave the ELCIC. **Carried.**

NC-09-48 MS That the motion from the Committee of Reference and Counsel to take no action on the following petition be adopted:

In recognition of the love of God and his grace, that those congregations that have chosen to leave the ELCIC be allowed to keep ownership of their property and buildings in exchange for paying the appropriate compensation to their Synod office. The compensation amount would be calculated considering any “seed” funding received and ongoing support during membership in the ELCIC. The payment could span an agreed upon period of time at an agreed upon interest rate. These arrangements would be prepared by and negotiated by an agreed upon objective mediator. **Carried.**

MS That the ELCIC Convention

- Acknowledge that the global problem of human trafficking takes on increased importance for Canadians with the 2010 Olympics coming to British Columbia,
- Ask our National Bishop to write letters to the Prime Minister, Minister of Justice, Sport, Intergovernmental Affairs, Small Business and Tourism, Citizenship and Immigration, the Secretary of State (Asia-Pacific and 2010 Olympics). Local Members of the Parliament, as well as the Premier of British Columbia, urging immediate concerted efforts to prevent human trafficking, particularly in light of the 2010 Olympics,
- Encourage members of the ELCIC, including NCC, Synodical Councils, Synodical Bishops and ELW (National and Synodical) to:
 - a) seek educational opportunities concerning human trafficking and take action where possible
 - b) monitor the Federal Government’s actions to address human trafficking
 - c) monitor media reports regarding government efforts to prevent human trafficking That preventing human trafficking at the 2010 Olympics as amended be adopted.

MS to amend the motion by adding:

- d) To encourage and support the work of the Canadian Council of Churches and Lutheran World Federation to eliminate global human trafficking internationally. **Carried.**

NC-09-49 MS That the ELCIC Convention

- Acknowledge that the global problem of human trafficking takes on increased importance for Canadians with the 2010 Olympics coming to British Columbia,
- Ask our National Bishop to write letters to the Prime Minister, Minister of Justice, Sport, Intergovernmental Affairs, Small Business and Tourism, Citizenship and Immigration, the Secretary of State (Asia-Pacific and 2010 Olympics). Local Members of the Parliament, as well as the Premier of British Columbia, urging immediate concerted efforts to prevent human trafficking, particularly in light of the 2010 Olympics,
- Encourage members of the ELCIC, including NCC, Synodical Councils, Synodical Bishops and ELW (National and Synodical) to:
 - a) seek educational opportunities concerning human trafficking and take action where possible
 - b) monitor the Federal Government’s actions to address human trafficking
 - c) monitor media reports regarding government efforts to prevent human trafficking That preventing human trafficking at the 2010 Olympics as amended be adopted.

- d) To encourage and support the work of the Canadian Council of Churches and Lutheran World Federation to eliminate global human trafficking internationally.
Carried.

NC-09-50 MS That the ELCIC in convention commend the council and congregation of First Lutheran Church in Vancouver, and their Pastor, Richard Hergesheimer, for their faith and courage in extending sanctuary to Mikhail Lennikov, and encourage National Bishop Susan Johnson to send a letter to the appropriate federal minister, requesting a reversal of the deportation order for Mr. Lennikov. **Carried.**

NC-09-51 MS That this Convention urge the National Bishop, NCC and Convention co-ordination Committees to explore and implement ways to be better stewards of creation at the 2011 National Convention.

That items to be explored include:

- Reducing quantity of paper waste
- Utilization of current technology
- Reduction of food and food waste
- Transportation to and from convention
- Others areas where we can reduce our impact on the environment. **Carried.**

NC-09-52 MS That the NCC and this convention express our thanks to the Evangelical Lutheran Women for their continued support of, and partnership with, the ELCIC.

That the Twelfth Biennial Convention express its gratitude to all who have worked to enable this convention to do its work, to make our stay in Vancouver memorable, and to help us celebrate Signs of Hope:

- the Local Arrangements Committee, including Armen Petznic, Stephanie Staus, Erin Gram, Lene Olesen, Grace Voo, Norma Houde, Marjun Blishen, Barbara Patzer, Roy Patzer, Verda Durda, and Terry Watkin, for their planning and tireless work;
- the many volunteers who cheerfully greeted, ushered, “stewarded”, directed and transported, hosted and served us;
- The Rev. Samuel Voo and Jane Freeman, our convention chaplains
- The worship committee, Lyle McKenzie, Christoph Reiners, Robyn Simpson Mohr, Brendan Lord, Lorraine Reinhardt, and for all worship leaders, artists, musicians and servants for renewing us through worship.
- National Office Staff: Gloria McNabb, Faye Schultz, Barb Wiebe, Kristen Guy, Rick Natividad, Myra Golebioski, Lucia Carruthers Paul Johnson, Kelvin Krieger, Paul Gehrs, and Trina Gallop;
- All who served on the communication team, including Jill Gingrich, and Anglican Church of Canada Staff Ali Symons and Brian Bukowski; who helped us tell the story of God’s people gathered, and for helping us to provide live web streaming of the convention for the first time ever;
- All who led forums and shared signs of hope;
- UBC Conference Services, Lisa D’Alfonso, and all their staff;
- Convention committees: Minutes, Elections, Registration and Credentials, Nominations, (and, if we may be so bold ... Reference and Counsel); and

That the Eleventh Biennial Convention expresses its appreciation for the faithful leadership of:

- the members of our National Church Council
- our National Bishop, The Rev. Susan Johnson
- our Vice-President, Roger Kingsley (retiring)

- our Secretary, Donald Storch
- our Treasurer, Ken Hartviksen. **Carried.**

NC-09-53 MS That all unfinished items of business be referred to National Church Council for consideration and action. **Carried.**

Announcements

The session closed with prayer led by the chaplains.

The convention gathered for a Celebration of Hope on Saturday Evening.

Sunday

Closing Service of convention presided at by National Bishop Susan Johnson.

The convention was declared adjourned.