

REPORT OF THE NATIONAL BISHOP

In Mission for Others: Signs of Hope

In just a few short weeks, we will meet together in Vancouver, BC for the Twelfth Biennial National Convention of the ELCIC. Building on our call to be a church *In Mission for Others*, the focus for our 2009 convention is *In Mission for Others: Signs of Hope*, based on the following biblical passages:

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. Romans 15:13.

'You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven. Matthew 5:14–16.

I'm excited about this theme. While it can be easy to just see the challenges that loom all around us as individuals, as congregations and as the larger church (and I will mention a few of those later in this report), I rejoice in the fact that when I take the time to look a little longer and open my eyes a little wider I am aware of all the wonderful signs of hope not only within our church but throughout the world. I anticipate that we will have the opportunity to share many of those stories at convention.

It's hard to believe that almost two years have gone by since we last met in Winnipeg. For me, it has been a steep learning curve as I have begun to serve as your National Bishop, and that learning will continue through this convention—the first I have ever chaired!

We've tried to bring some innovations to National Convention this year. To equip our Spirited Discipleship, all of our worship will be held within the convention hall and we will start and end each day focussing on the praise of our God. We will also join in Bible study each day based on our Convention theme and thank our guests, The Most Rev. Fred Hiltz, primate of the Anglican Church of Canada (ACC), The Rt. Rev. Dr. Munib A. Younan, bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land (ELCJHL), and The Rev. Mark S. Hanson, presiding bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), for opening up the Word for us and sharing signs of hope. We will also be offering forums on Friday afternoon that will help us explore each of the Five Pillars that National Church Council (NCC) has adopted as a way of our living out being *In Mission for Others*.

There will be some changes to the business aspects of convention as well. Unlike recent conventions, petitions from congregations will not be included in this Bulletin of Reports. The Administrative Bylaws of this church state: *Administrative Bylaws, Part V, Section 8. Petitions from synods and congregations shall be submitted to the secretary of this church prior to the convention for referral to the Committee of Reference and Counsel. And, Section 10. A resolution of a general character which is not germane to the pending question or report shall be given to the Committee of Reference and Counsel by the delegate proposing such resolution. The Committee of Reference and Counsel shall report all such resolutions to the convention with its recommendations...* I have interpreted this as meaning that petitions from congregations or from individuals should not come before the convention until such time as the Committee of Reference and Counsel has had the opportunity to review the petitions and make

recommendations to the convention. This interpretation has been supported by NCC, (see CC-09-22, NCC Report, p F-7). There is lots of time on the agenda for the Report of Reference and Counsel in order that we may take our time in deliberating and making wise decisions.

Another new feature of the business sessions includes two times where we go into “Committee of the Whole.” This is a time on the agenda where we can go away from parliamentary procedure and have the opportunity to raise questions and share both our concerns and joys. I hope it will be another opportunity for us to share signs of hope with one another!

I trust that all of these changes will help to enliven our gathering in our business, worship, learning, and play!

As I look back over the past two years I can start to see a dual pattern for my work, that of on the one hand building relationships and on the other naming the realities that are facing our church.

Related to both of these is the role of Effective Partnerships (just one of the five pillars our National Church Council identified in March 2008) in the future of the church. Effective Partnerships help us face the reality that we cannot, and we should not, be working alone in mission or ministry in areas where we can work in partnership with other organizations or denominations.

With this in mind, the National Office has endeavoured to strengthen partnerships in a number of areas.

In March of this year both NCC and Canadian Lutheran World Relief’s (CLWR) Board of Directors approved a new Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between our two bodies, (see Appendix #4, NCC Report, p F-26). This new MOU will enable ELCIC Lutherans to be more responsive to our call to care for our neighbours and provide support to sisters and brothers in need around the world. Our resources will be better utilized and more focussed, with better results. With this strengthened partnership between the ELCIC and CLWR, the work of the ELCIC’s Global Hunger and Development Appeal (GHDA) will be integrated into the work of CLWR. Collectively the ELCIC and CLWR will solicit funds for service under the name of CLWR and jointly manage initiatives in the areas of leadership development, advocacy, and support for projects of ELCIC international partners. Through this we will present one clear message to ELCIC members, avoiding the ongoing confusion between GHDA and CLWR. Our partnership will be further enhanced beginning in July when the administrative offices of CLWR move into our office space.

In 2001 we signed *The Waterloo Declaration* bringing the ELCIC and the Anglican Church of Canada (ACC) into Full Communion and calling us to work more closely together. Leadership within our two churches continues to look for ways to strengthen this partnership and find new ways of being in mission together. As I write this report, I have recently come from a meeting between the senior staff of both of our churches. During our time together we asked questions like—How can we partner to maximize our dwindling resources? Where are there opportunities to allow one or the other to speak for both? What are the possibilities for future cooperation and collaboration? Are shared staff or shared offices something worth considering? I don’t know what the eventual outcome of these continued conversations might be, but they are signs of a deepening relationship and the awareness that we need each other as we face the challenges that lie ahead. The reality is that no church can exist and function as an independent body anymore. I believe the church of the future will look more and more like an amoeba, able to adapt, with arms reaching out in partnerships in a variety of directions.

Our deepening relationship with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) is another example of this partnership and is expressed in our moving into a new model for ELCIC Mission in the World (MW) which will allow for our MW program to be integrated with ELCA Global Mission, (see Appendix #7, NCC Report, p F-34). The commitment of this church to God's mission in the world remains undiminished, and I, along with MW staff, fully support that commitment. This new way of working together will allow us to continue our existing MW program at current levels and provide new avenues for ELCIC members to engage in global mission.

Through our partnership with the ELCA, I and four of the five ELCIC synod bishops participated in the 2009 Bishops' Academy pilgrimage to the Holy Land. The visit was planned as a witness to God's will for a just peace for all people and as an expression of accompaniment with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land (ELCJHL) and ministries of The Lutheran World Federation (LWF), including Augusta Victoria Hospital. The eruption of violence in Gaza just prior to departure caused us to reconsider going ahead with our trip, but after thoughtful and prayerful deliberation, we went ahead. Our decision was affirmed by people we met in our travels—government leaders, Christians, Jews, and Muslims—and at many points along the way we were told, "you came at the right time to uphold our spirits." I wish I had more space in this report to share with you the breadth of experiences from this visit—the joys and sorrows we encountered, and the signs of hope that encouraged us along the way. I hope to share a little bit more with you during the convention, but till then, please keep our partner church, the ELCJHL, and the people of the Middle East in your thoughts and prayers. I am very glad that NCC is bringing forth a convention resolution on the Holy Land, (see Appendix #11, NCC Report, p F-59). I am very thankful that Bishop Younan is able to be with us for the convention.

The National Office also works in partnership with the synods. Over the past two years it has been a joy to visit synod councils, synod conventions/assemblies and even a few congregations! I have enjoyed the partnership and friendship of our synod bishops who struggle with challenges but also experience signs of hope in their own work. Whether we are gathered in person as the Conference of Bishops (COB) or working together via email, our collegiality and friendship help us as we strive to work together to lead our church *In Mission for Others*.

These partnerships and the strengthening of relationships are truly a sign of hope amid some serious realities we are facing as a church. In the 23 years since the church was formed, giving within congregations has increased, basically keeping up with inflation. Yet at the same time financial support from congregations to synods has flat-lined so that over time synods have been greatly affected by the accumulated affect of inflation. Synod support to the National Church has decreased in actual dollars and, when compounded with inflation, has meant the National Church is operating with just over one-third of the purchasing power it had in 1986. This has resulted in staff and program cuts and impacted our ability to do mission. When you factor in the demographics of our church, it is anticipated this pattern will only increase sharply over the next few years. All of this is exacerbated by the current economic downturn.

With these realities in mind, the officers of the National Church and the five synods along with an observer from Evangelical Lutheran Women met together for a facilitated consultation in Winnipeg in February 2009 with the goal of examining current resource trends in the church and the necessity to consider structural change. Through the examination of our call to be a church *In Mission for Others* and reflecting on the five organization pillars developed by NCC (Effective Partnerships, Diverse Faces, Compassionate Justice, Focused Framework and Spirited Discipleship), participants took a sober look at the current financial environment within the church and what it means to work within a Focused

Framework. They discussed the need for a smaller administrative structure and the need for increased resources for evangelism and outreach. They also showed a willingness to face the realities before our church with a high degree of respect, honesty, openness, transparency and accountability—not to mention the laughter and enthusiasm which permeated their conversations—all signs of Spirited Discipleship!

This consultation is only the beginning of a process that will require courage, imagination, and openness to the guiding of the Spirit—not to mention a whole bunch of further consultation. Together, we need to be willing to be faithful stewards of the resources God has given us even as we struggle to discern how God is calling us *In Mission for Others*.

In closing, I want to thank those who have worked in partnership with me as I moved into the role of National Bishop.

- Thank you to all those who serve on NCC. You bring your gifts and talents together as you faithfully discern how God is calling us to be *In Mission for Others*. I am so pleased with the work we have accomplished together and I look forward to your continued partnership. In particular I want to thank the Officers—Roger Kingsley, Don Storch, and Ken Hartviksen—who put in many extra hours of service to our church.
- Thank you to all the staff who work in the National Office. Not only have I experienced a real sense of teamwork developing but I have fun working with you! I want the rest of the church to know of your faithful service and dedication, to our church and to our God.
- Thank you to the Conference of Bishops, my colleagues and my friends, who have provided support and encouragement.
- Thank you to my colleagues and mentors The Rev. Mark Hanson, presiding bishop of the ELCA and The Most Rev. Fred Hiltz, primate of the ACC. I have monthly telephone calls with each of them and appreciate their support, advice and encouragement more than I can express.

Thank you all for allowing me the honour of serving you as National Bishop for the past two years. I must confess to you that there are days when I want to stay in bed and pull the covers over my head. But there are many more days when I feel deeply privileged to fulfill this calling and awed by the wonderful opportunities and challenges I am allowed to experience on your behalf. I know that I am not called to do this ministry alone but have been given wonderful partners for the journey. I also want to say thank you to the many of you who hold me in prayer and who, from time to time, drop notes of encouragement. Your support means a lot to me and I appreciate the communication.

I truly see *Signs of Hope* springing up all over our church and I am excited for the future of our church because I know in the end it is God's church. We may not know for sure how things are going to turn out but we know that with God they will be good. We know that with God we will be blessed and that with God's help we will be a blessing to others.

And that fills me with hope!

The Rev. Susan C. Johnson

National Bishop, ELCIC

The Report of the National Office for this Biennium

The following is the combined reporting of the work of the National Office. It is only the highlights of our work that give you a glimpse at how we carry out the mandate we receive from the church. It is carried out by staff, by committees, and by volunteers all serving to help us be a church *In Mission for Others*.

Effective Partnerships

Anglican Church of Canada (ACC)

The Joint Anglican Lutheran Commission (JALC) was re-mandated by both the National Convention and the General Synod in 2007, through 2013, the next time the two church bodies in Full Communion hold national gatherings within the same year. The basic function of the JALC, according to Article VII of *The Waterloo Accord*, is “to nurture our growth in communion, to coordinate the implementation of *The Waterloo Declaration*, and report to the decision-making bodies of both our churches.”

Senior staff from both churches met in September, 2008, and in March 2009 to look carefully at ways the two churches can work more effectively together. One of the results of these meetings is the arrangement to work towards a joint meeting of National Church Council and Council of General Synod in March of 2011. Both churches have made a commitment to meet in the same place and at the same time in the summer of 2013, and are already thinking very intentionally about how to make this gathering a more complete expression of our Full Communion relationship.

We have established a closer working relationship with the communications department of the Anglican Church of Canada (ACC). The ELCIC’s director of communication participates on the ACC’s Communication and Information Resource Committee and we actively seek out ways for the ELCIC National Bishop and the ACC Primate to jointly address our two faith bodies.

All the bishops of both churches continue to meet together once a year, usually in the fall, for several days of shared agenda, fellowship, and worship. This tradition has been continuing for many years, beginning well before the Waterloo Accord was signed, and almost certainly helped to create the reality of Full Communion, and is a significant support to the ongoing relationship in a very helpful and positive manner.

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA)

We thank God for this long-standing partnership in the gospel, and for the many ways we have worked closely and fruitfully together in the past, looking forward to closer collaboration and more shared work in the future.

As mentioned earlier, in January 2008, the ELCIC’s National Bishop and four of the five synod bishops traveled to the Middle East to participate in the 2009 Bishops’ Academy. In addition to the very visual display of effective partnerships that this visit demonstrated, there were a number of “behind the scenes”

partnership opportunities, including within the area of communication. The ELCA was instrumental in assisting the ELCIC with communication efforts and provided news updates and photography for use. The ELCA also provided assistance to the National Bishop by providing media briefings and working as her media liaison for the Middle East media outlets that were interested during the academy.

We are also appreciative for the new working relationship with ELCA Global Mission. This is reported more fully under Focused Framework.

The Lutheran World Federation (LWF)

The North America Regional Committee (NARC) of the LWF, the advisory committee for the LWF North America (LWFNA), meets face-to-face only once a year, and has at least two other meetings by conference call. Since the last convention of this church, Ms. Kathy Magnus retired as LWF Regional Officer, and a new officer was called, the Rev. Teresita (Tita) Valeriano. Tita began work in early 2008 and we welcome her into partnership with us in the North American Region of the LWF.

The Eleventh LWF Assembly will be held in Stuttgart, Germany in July 2010, under the theme, *Give Us Today our Daily Bread*. Preparation for a North American Pre-Assembly Gathering is underway, to be held in January of 2010, in Kitchener, ON hosted by the ELCIC, the Eastern Synod, and Waterloo Lutheran Seminary.

Under the auspices of LWFNA, a course is being offered in December 2009, “A Communion of Communities: Being Lutheran in a Globalizing World.” The course will be held in Geneva, 1–12 December. It is hoped that eventually this may be offered to a broad audience of clergy and lay professionals within the ELCIC and the ELCA, but the initial audience will be assistants to bishops and others from synod staffs who serve in key positions.

The Rev. Dr. Ishmael Noko will retire as general secretary of the LWF on 31 October 2010, after 28 years of distinguished service to the communion. The search continues for a new general secretary.

The LWF Renewal Committee continues its work, and will give its final report to the LWF Council in October of this year. The Council will bring recommendations to the assembly in Stuttgart.

Project Reunión was the ELCIC National Youth Project for 2006–08. During this time, youth of this church raised \$20,000 to enhance youth ministry in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Bolivia (IELB). The need and goals for this project were communicated to the LWF Department for Mission and Service, which created the opportunity for the youth of the ELCIC to be a partner in this project.

Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land (ELCJHL)

The recent Bishops’ Academy visit to the Holy Land served to strengthen our relationship with the ELCJHL. The scope of the ministry provided in the region through the ELCJHL, and through the LWF, is both amazing and inspirational. We look forward to learning more about their work as Bishop Munib Younan leads us in Bible study at the National Convention.

Mission in the World (MW)

After three months of language school in Cochabamba, Bolivia, The Rev. Fran Schmidt, our newest long-term missionary moved to Lima, Peru and used December 2008 to settle in there and establish relationships with the host church, *Iglesia Luterana Evangelica Peruana* (ILEP). She has now begun her ministry as half-time parish pastor and half-time liturgy and music consultant for ILEP.

Canadian Council of Churches (CCC)

The governing board of the CCC was reminded in November of 2008 that the CCC is not a partner of the churches, but a creation of the churches; members were asked to take this back to their church houses, and to their own governing boards. The churches created the CCC in 1944. Without increased financial support from the churches the CCC will cease to exist. This could happen within three years, as reserves are being consumed at a significant pace.

The Group of 8 will meet in Canada in 2010, in an unknown location. A multi-faith religious leaders' summit will precede the G8 meeting, and be held in Winnipeg, hosted physically by the University of Winnipeg. The CCC will be the host organization. Funding must be entirely external to the budget of the CCC, as was the case with the very successful hosting by the Council of the Ecumenical Pre-Conference to the International AIDS Conference in Toronto in 2006.

Other

An Ecumenical Shared Ministry (ESM) Taskforce meets twice per year to review denominational policies and compile resources in support of local ministries where two or more denominations are working together. The ESM taskforce is made up of representatives from the ELCIC, Anglican, Presbyterian, and United churches. Over the past biennium, an ESM Handbook has been updated and is now available on the ELCIC website.

The National Office utilizes the resources from the Ecumenical Stewardship Centre (ESC)—an organization comprised of 28 different denominations—as a means of providing stewardship support to the synods and congregations throughout the ELCIC. Through our participation at the table of the ESC we are able to provide substantial resources for congregations to use in their stewardship ministry; resources that we would not be able to fund the development for on our own. For the 2010 development of materials we will have an ELCIC individual on the resource development team, lending a Lutheran voice to the tone of the material. It is our hope that by providing input regarding a few minor updates to the material, including tailoring the program so as to be used by congregations where there is sometimes only one person coordinating the stewardship program, this will allow for even greater ability to utilize these resources.

Participating with partner churches with respect to communication has also been a priority as part of our communication strategy. Ecumenical meetings take place at least once a year with Canadian communication colleagues both locally with counterparts in Winnipeg and with fellow communication directors at the national level where we look at ways to have more intentional collaboration among our respective areas.

Focused Framework

With the mandate of National Church Council and the five pillars established by NCC, through prayer, conversation and much deliberation, the National Bishop, working closely with Mission in the World (MW) staff, is working to find a new model to address the way the ELCIC carries out its mission in the world.

The commitment of this church to God's mission in the world remains undiminished, and the National Bishop, along with MW staff, fully supports this commitment. Present financial realities, however, dictate a search for something different than what we have done before, and here our historically strong ties with the ELCA, and its predecessor bodies, offer new possibilities, in addition to the very real ways in which the two churches have long been working together.

ELCIC Mission in the World staff, at the direction of the National Bishop, and in consultation with NCC, and ELCA Global Mission staff, are working carefully and prayerfully to ensure that the administration of global mission of the ELCIC is fulfilled, in effective partnership with the ELCA Global Mission Unit. The primary responsibility for the ELCIC's Mission in the World remains with the people of the ELCIC, who will raise up and support Canadian world mission personnel and partner church relationships. More information about this new relationship can be found in the Report of National Church Council, (see Appendix #7, NCC Report, p F-34).

Kelvin Krieger has agreed to stay in his position through the end of June under the terms of an agreement reached in November of 2008. We are very grateful for his continuing commitment to the mission of this church, and for his very practical and invaluable support as we move into a new model for global mission with the ELCA. Kelvin began work part-time with ELCIC Mission in the World in the summer of 1993.

In May of 2008, the National Bishop called together a Resource Generation Task Force to review the current practices of stewardship and planned giving within the church. After completing a thorough assessment of the church's current financial landscape, a report was prepared and presented at the February 2009 National/Synodical Consultation. The report was well received by the officers who concluded the discussion with a strong expression of encouragement for the task force to continue its work. The report was also presented to NCC who approved it in principle, asking the task force to continue to refine its proposals in preparation for implementation, (see Appendix #14, NCC Report, p F-86).

Solidarity with the Evangelical Lutheran Women (ELW) renewal process has been an important aspect of life in the ELCIC over the last biennium. The National Bishop consults regularly with the ELW board and leadership. Support has also been expressed through ELCIC participation in synodical focus groups; by three national staff attending the Quadrennial ELW Convention (*Be Not Afraid*); and through a tripartite conversation between ELW, CLWR and ELCIC on effective partnership. *Be Not Afraid* was an uplifting, notable and spirited discipleship event in the life of our church. The renewal process involves a fundamental review of vision and structure.

Diverse Faces

Since the development of our five pillars strategy, communication efforts have been underway to be more intentional about our approach to be more visually representative of this pillar in our internal and external

presentation of the church. Given that our demographics of the church in general do not match the demographics of the communities we live in, this is still a challenging area for us but we hope that in time we will be able to represent a church where anyone can look at our website, a presentation, a Facebook page, or a brochure and feel like this is a church they could see themselves within.

Two invitations to leadership development events have come to the ELCIC. The LWF has invited the ELCIC to represent the North America region in a consultation project designed to help identify ways to engage youth (age 18 to 30 years) in the church. Two ELCIC reps will attend two consultation meetings and the insights will be summarized in a printed resource in 2011. The ELCA has invited the ELCIC to participate in a Multicultural Youth Leadership Event in July, 2009. One adult and one youth will attend. Insights from this event will be shared through the Program Committee for Youth Ministry.

Compassionate Justice

The Eleventh Biennial National Convention called on all members and expressions of the ELCIC to reduce our individual and collective impact on the environment. The Stewardship of Creation Initiative asks all expressions and ministries of this Church to determine their own changes in habit and practice that will more effectively respect God's creation. The ELCIC website provides links to a variety of resources, and offers the opportunity to become an accredited Stewardship of Creation congregation. Staff at the National Office reviewed practices, and chose to reduce the amount of paper and energy used, to increase commitment to recycling and to switch to phosphate-free dishwashing detergent. In support of this initiative, the ELCIC National Youth Project 2008–10 is a challenge to youth: be in the stewardship of creation by working with your congregation and community.

Increasing collaboration between the ELCIC and the Anglican Church of Canada on matters of prophetic public witness is currently a priority for this church. National staffs from both churches have met twice to explore possibilities. Assistant to the Bishop Rev. Paul Gehrs is now an active member of the Anglican Partners in Mission and Ecojustice Committee (PMEJ). National Bishop Susan Johnson and Archbishop Fred Hiltz led a *Walk of Witness* in Ottawa in September 2008, a prayerful and public encouragement to pursue the Millennium Development Goals. A working group on Housing and Homelessness issues meets by conference call to consider possibilities for education and advocacy.

Lutherans are now being included on the local planning teams for Justice Camp, an experiential learning program initiated by PMEJ. The week-long format of Justice Camp includes one day of community building, four days of immersion experience, and 2 of days reflection. We encourage ELCIC members to take advantage of this formative experience. The next two justice camps are planned for August 2009 in Halifax and May 2010 in Hamilton.

KAIROS: Ecumenical Justice Initiatives is a key partnership and expression of the ELCIC's compassionate justice work. Current initiatives include: Carbon Sabbath, ministry with migrant workers, encouraging follow-up to the United Nations Declaration on Indigenous Rights, and advocacy related to war in the Gaza strip. KAIROS is currently in a significant review of its priorities in order to focus and invigorate its work while being good stewards of available resources.

In May, 2009, KAIROS is facilitating a church leaders delegation on a visit to the oilsands region in Alberta. The church leaders will meet a variety of people in order to learn about the many implications of resource extraction in this area. The tarsands are an economic boom, and they raise many justice issues,

including environmental concerns, indigenous rights, housing issues, stresses on family life, government subsidies, and questions about our collective dependence on oil. In leading this delegation, KAIROS is making a long-term commitment to explore the complex issues in this area.

The people of the ELCIC responded even more generously in 2008 to *Gifts from the Heart*, the opportunity for unique gift-giving, provided by Global Hunger and Development Appeal (GHDA) and CLWR. Between *Gifts* purchased directly through GHDA and those purchased through CLWR, this category more than doubled both in terms of the dollar value of gifts and the number of givers. This is indeed the spirit of God's greatest and most generous gift, Jesus Christ our Lord.

In the first half of 2007 an appeal was shared for the terrible situation in Burma following the cyclone. The response from ELCIC people was a strong one; more than \$48,000 was sent directly to GHDA and additional funds to CLWR. Later in the year, after Haiti was hit by three hurricanes and a tropical storm in three weeks, another appeal was launched: People gave almost \$14,000, again with additional funds directed to CLWR.

General giving through congregations to synods to GHDA was down about 10% from 2007, perhaps reflecting the more uncertain and unfavourable economic realities. However, the total amount of giving to and through GHDA and CLWR for 2008 was up, a wonderful statement of faith in God's faithfulness and the commitment and generosity of the people of this church. The total given for "service in Christ's name" in 2008 (and not including funds sent directly by people and congregations to CLWR) was \$1,219,361.47. Thanks be to God!

One way we can encourage the work of Compassionate Justice in our church is through the sharing of stories. At a national level, we use communication vehicles such as news releases, the website, E-Communique (our national electronic newsletter) and *Canada Lutheran* (the ELCIC's national magazine)—all in the hopes of telling stories about the amazing work *In Mission for Others* across our church, but also with the hopes of having individuals relate to the stories and feel encouraged to share their own personal stories with one another.

While we have many internal communication vehicles within the communications area of the church, we also try to deliberately access external communication channels, such as within the media, to share how our church works *In Mission for Others* in Canada and around the world. During the last two years, the ELCIC received over 200 media mentions in local, regional, national and international publications. Through these opportunities the ELCIC strives to be a public voice and actively address social, environmental, and justice issues through appropriate media channels.

Spirited Discipleship

Travel Light was the theme of the 2008 Canadian Lutheran Youth Gathering. 1075 spirited disciples gathered in Whitehorse, Yukon. The relative remoteness and the size of the city meant that the majority of participants had to sleep on the floor of large arenas. More than surviving this experience, many youth commented that it was rather like being at camp; you were literally with your (many) bunkmates all the time! A definite highlight was presentations by the bishops, who were incredibly personal in sharing about formation, vocation and being claimed by the gospel. Attendance at morning and evening worship was again high. As per tradition, the singing and loud participation during large group gatherings truly felt spirited.

In 2010, there will be a Canadian Lutheran-Anglican Youth Gathering (CLAY). Spirited Disciples from both churches will gather in London, ON. Among Anglicans, there is growing desire for national gathering of Anglican youth. In the spirit of Full Communion, they have asked to share in our tradition and experience with gatherings to fulfill this dream. Rebranding as CLAY will help promote the gathering in Anglican circles. Three gifted Anglican leaders have joined the national planning committee.

Since 2007 many congregations in the ELCIC have begun using the new family of worship resources under the heading of Evangelical Lutheran Worship, including the primary resource, the liturgy and hymnal book described on its cover simply as *Worship*. Using money from the Worship Royalties Fund (royalties from the congregations which subscribe to the ELCIC bulletin series, and which benefit all congregations) the Program Committee for Worship, and many other volunteers across the whole church, has done an outstanding job of introducing the new resources. Special thanks in this project are due to Rev. Karen Johnson-Lefsrud and Rev. André Lavergne, coordinators for the introduction of the *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* family of resources.

A rich National Worship Conference (NWC) entitled **Order and Chaos** was held in Montréal in June of 2008. For the third time the event was jointly sponsored by the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada and the Anglican Church of Canada. The next NWC will be held in Vancouver, July 4–7 2010.

In 2009 a new edition of Rev. Don Johnson's book, *Praying the Catechism*, was released, thanks primarily to the efforts of Rev. Don Engel, Chair of the PCW, who keyed all references to the new *Worship* book. The book is available through Augsburg Fortress Canada; copyright is owned by the ELCIC, thanks to the generosity of Pastor Johnson.

The Taskforce for Development of a Social Statement on Human Sexuality continues its work. The goal of the task force, as determined at the first meeting, is to prepare a meaningful social statement that will heal, create passion and action, will allow us to reclaim our voice of Lutheran wisdom, will foster secular, sacred unity putting us in the world, and encourage focus on other areas of mission. A social statement is a theological and ethical document that provides a foundation for understanding God's living world in the light of the changing realities of the modern world. A social statement seeks to provide the social analysis and theological basis for the collective ELCIC understanding of continuing crucial issue that arises out of the mission of the ELCIC. Policy decisions arising out of the social statement will be made by National Church Council. Therefore, it is anticipated that the social statement will not address same sex blessings and ordination of practicing homosexuals.

The Task Force has completed the following:

- Developed a process that the task force would follow in developing the social statement.
- Reviewed the ELCA Journey Together Faithfully, ELCA Studies on Sexuality: Parts 1–3 and determined that they could not be used easily within the ELCIC context due to their American focus and the length of the studies. It should be noted that the ELCA began this process in 2001.
- Reviewed the ELCA Draft Social Statement on Human Sexuality.
- Distributed a survey at each Synod Convention in Spring of 2008 to obtain feedback from the church on what should be included in a social statement on human sexuality.

We received 369 responses. The question asked was: How important is it to you that these topics are included in the Social Statement on Human Sexuality? The following were deemed to be very

important by over 50% of respondents (listed in order of agreement): Biblical/theological/hermeneutical foundations informing our understanding of sexuality, and sexuality and faith, justice, family, healing, exploitation, and orientation.

- Begun work on a series of studies on human sexuality from the perspective of the ELCIC.

The ELCIC studies on human sexuality will be distributed widely throughout the church in the summer of 2009 for use and feedback. In the winter/spring of 2010 we will review the feedback and develop a draft Social Statement on Human Sexuality. The draft social statement will be widely distributed for feedback, and in fall 2010 we will review the feedback and revise the Social Statement as necessary, then forward it to the National Church Council (NCC) in the spring of 2011. The NCC will review the statement, make any changes it deems necessary, and present the statement to the National Convention in 2011 for adoption.

In mid-2007, the ELCIC launched a redesign of our website—www.elcic.ca. The new website presents a new look and feel as part of the ELCIC's branding strategy and also unveiled a new online organizational structure to the information contained within our website with the hopes that it would be more intuitive to the online user. (Did you know there are over 3000 individual pages to the ELCIC's website?) The ELCIC website receives over 10,000 unique visitors every month—and this number continues to grow!

Through the use of effective communications, we try to uncover the stories within our church of our members and their work as spirited disciples. While there are many communication vehicles used by the National Office, two “publications” are specifically aimed at sharing the work of our church within the church. *Canada Lutheran*, the national magazine publication of the church, is aimed at engaging the “person in the pew.” Stories within our magazine are meant to help strengthen one's faith and inspire action. E-Communique is an electronic publication of the church and is geared towards those involved in a leadership capacity within the church. Recently, E-Communique, in addition to highlighting events that are taking place and resources, had started featuring stories of our Church *In Mission for Others* both through text and visual images. In both of these communication vehicles we have been renewing our efforts to increase the reach of the publications through targeted marketing efforts.

The Program Committee for Leadership for Ministry meets annually to review leadership policies, to oversee the ELCIC's Continuing Education Program and to share issues of common concern. The need to recruit more leaders for pastoral and diaconal ministry emerged as a critical concern. Seminaries, synods, congregations and rostered leaders all have roles to play in identifying and encouraging members to prayerfully consider a professional church vocation. What prepares leaders for effective mission and ministry, the value of continuing education for all leaders, and growing in our collective understanding of diaconal ministry are on-going issues.

Conclusion

It's always helpful to stop and review the work of the past, but as you can see from this report, the National Office has its eyes firmly fixed on the future. We are excited about the work that lies ahead of us and are committed to do all we can to help this church be *In Mission for Others*.

**REPORT OF THE VICE-PRESIDENT
FOR THE BIENNIUM 2007–2009**

It has been my very great pleasure to serve as your vice-president since my election in 2005, and my even greater pleasure to work with National Bishop Susan Johnson during these last two years.

According to the constitution, the duties of the vice-president are to:

- a. Preside at the general convention and at meetings of the National Church Council upon the request of the bishop;
- b. In the event of the death, resignation or incapacity of the bishop, convene the National Church Council to provide for the discharge of the bishop's duties pending the election of a new bishop at a regular or special convention; and
- c. Perform the additional duties prescribed in the constitution, administrative bylaws and resolutions of this church.

In actuality, my duties have fallen almost exclusively under the third of the above-listed rubrics.

I have attended all meetings of the National Church Council, and of the Officers. I have also served as a member of the Finance Committee and have attended all their meetings. I have participated actively in the meetings of these bodies.

I have been a member of National Church Council since 1999; after ten years, I am looking forward to letting go of my duties, and I thank the church for the trust it has placed in me during this last decade.

Roger Kingsley
ELCIC Vice-President

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY
NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The Nominating Committee of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada (ELCIC) has the mandate of submitting names of two candidates for each available position on National Church Council, the Court of Adjudication, and the Board of Directors of ELCIC Group Services Inc.

The following represents the report of the Nominating Committee which will be presented to the ELCIC in Convention, June 25–28, 2009 in Vancouver BC. The committee expresses thanks to all who were willing to participate in this process.

NATIONAL CHURCH COUNCIL			
Positions Required: 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
ABT	Lay	4 years	Barb Stolee (e)
	Lay		Margaret Sadler
	Ordained	4 years	Trish Schmermund (e)
	Ordained	4 years	Thomas Peterson
SK	Lay	4 years	Heidi Hesselink (e)
	Lay		Patricia Leatherdale
MNO	Ordained	4 years	Mark Koenker (e)
	Ordained		Laurel Seyfert
EAST	Lay 1	4 years	Edward Pope (e)
	Lay 1		Rod Kruger
	Lay 2	4 years	Marie-Laure Collet
	Lay 2		Dale Wilcox
	Ordained	4 years	Douglas Reble (e)
	Ordained		James Brown

ELCIC GROUP SERVICES INC.		
Positions Required: 1 Ordained and 2 Lay		
Type	Term	Nominee
Ordained	4 years	Douglas Kramer (e)
Ordained		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

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

Notes: (e) eligible for re-election

Don Storch
ELCIC National Secretary

NOMINEES BIOGRAPHIES

NATIONAL CHURCH COUNCIL

British Columbia—Lay Position

Jeanie Stann

- Congregation: Lutheran Church of the Cross, Victoria BC
- Past Experience: Served on board of deacons, worship, building and furnishings committees, and served regularly as assisting minister. Support youth ministry through fundraising, confirmand sponsor, and Praying Friends program. Served as a delegate to the 2007 ELCIC Convention in Winnipeg.
- Gifts: I am a RN with 40 years of experience in the health sector. The past 20 years, I have served in management positions which have included strategic planning, project development, public partnerships and managing large budgets.
- I have served on the Canadian Hospice Palliative Care Board and chaired the National Conference in Saskatoon in 1997. For the National Conference in Victoria in 2001, I served on the committee as fundraising chair.
- Areas of Interest: Congregations and our youth that are leaving our church—how do we address the “bleed?” Poverty and housing issues. Ensuring “All are welcome.”
- Hopes for the Church: As everyone else, I work in a world that is uninterested in “church” and illiterate about the Christian faith. If they have some literacy from their youth, it is often baggage/language around “old time religion.” My hope is that we as a church can become so articulate about what it means to be a follower of the Way that others will hear the good news in a new way.

Loris Martin

- Congregation: St Paul’s Anglican, Golden BC
- Past Experience: BC Synod Council secretary—six years
BC Synod Council Member—(Greater Vancouver Lay)—six years
Church Treasurer—several congregations
- Gifts: Small business owner
Twenty-five years experience in project planning and management in interior design field.
Nine years in affiliation with an international small business consulting firm—accounting, program development, coaching business owners, hiring services.

Two years as manager/curator of a public art gallery—project organization, funding applications.

University education to third-year accounting

Areas of Interest: Yes. I am concerned about parochialism and how it affects our ability to be the presence of God in our midst. I am concerned about our sense and understanding of stewardship and how it needs to change to allow us to walk more lightly on earth. I am interested in seeing change in the way we see ourselves as servants of Christ and of our neighbour.

Hopes for the Church I have a hope that we can make the changes needed in the church to make it relevant in our world right now—to bind up the broken and proclaim liberty to captives—and not get tied up in policy and bureaucratic issues. I would like to see us unafraid to be an agent of love and justice.

Alberta and the Territories—Lay Position

Barb Stolee

Congregation: All Saints Lutheran, Calgary AB

Past Experience: I have served in various roles within the church, including Synodical Council representative (two terms), congregational chair, various roles within church councils/other volunteer roles (e.g. study leader), and one year on the governing board of a faith-based long-term care facility. I have served as a member of a mutual ministry committee, and have participated in and facilitated work around resolving congregational conflict. While on ABT Synod Council, clergy burnout was an area of interest; I proposed/supported a project using an Alban Institute Clergy Burnout tool, and completed analysis of responses. I am currently serving as incumbent in the role of NCC member, elected in March 08 to fill a vacancy due to resignation, and am a member of the NCC Governance Committee.

Gifts: A nurse by background, I currently work as an internal consultant in efforts to improve quality in our health system; I hold a graduate degree in business. Strengths, abilities and gifts include an ability to foster positive working relationships, process/group facilitation, system thinking, leadership or followership as the situation requires, and a willingness to question.

Areas of Interest: Social justice, and responsible stewardship are areas of interest. I am interested in microfinance as a means of directly helping individuals in emerging economy countries, and participate as a “lender” on kiva.org. I view health care as a public good, and I believe that we, together with our ecumenical partners, have a roll in public policy advocacy work to ensure continued access to public health care for all Canadians.

Hopes for the Church: My concern and hope for the church is that in spite of our significant differences, we can regain the will to listen carefully to one another, and to dialogue

respectfully. Christ's call to love one another needs to be lived between members of our ELCIC, in order that we are seen as credible witnesses to the gospel in our communities.

Margaret Sadler

Congregation: Hosanna Lutheran Church, Edmonton AB

Past Experience: Active participant in the life and work of Hosanna Lutheran: over the years, member of stewardship committee (current), worship and music committee, search committees, and El Salvador support group; member of mutual ministry committee for Pastor Ron Flamand; member and chair of council (and concurrently lead of Future Force strategic planning team).

Member of synod Communications Committee; editor of synod newsletter, Focus on Ministry (1999 to 2007); ecumenical partner on the Anglican Church of Canada's (ACC) Partners in Mission Committee (2004–07) on behalf of the National Church.

Volunteer, informal arrangement with United Church of Canada missionary to Kyodan, Hokkaido, Japan 1992–93. Volunteer in Mission, ELCIC to The Lutheran World Federation, (LWF) Mauritania 2000–01. Short-term missionary, joint ELCA-ELCIC to LWF Cambodia 2007–08.

Professional editor, writer, and instructional designer. Freelance consultant 1992 to the present.

Gifts: My strengths, abilities, and gifts relate most directly to communications—as a professional editor and writer as well as educator and as a volunteer with the synod and with The Lutheran World Federation in Mauritania and Cambodia. Congregational experience with governance planning, national experience as a representative on the ACC's Partners in Mission during restructuring, and international experience with LWF provide a broad base from which to address the concerns of the National Church Council.

Areas of Interest: So many issues interest me—from Lutheran worship to stewardship, from social justice to mission in the world. I see so many interrelationships among these elements of our lives as Lutherans.

Hopes for the Church: The greatest challenge for our church is finding creative and meaningful ways for congregations to feel the presence of the National Church, to recognize their contribution to the church's mission, and for the National Church to inspire greater generosity in giving back to God what is God's.

Alberta and the Territories—Ordained Position**Trish Schmermund**

- Congregation: Peace Evangelical Lutheran, Leduc AB
- Past Experience: I have had the privilege to serve on NCC the past 4 years. In addition I have attended synod council meetings as a NCC presence. Throughout my minstry (and previously) I have served on serveral boards and committees both in the church and community. These experiences have taught me the value of diversity and the need to work cooperatively.
- Gifts: I have experience with strategic planning and governance development in the congregations I have served and in my time serving NCC. Most people would say that I am compassionate and fair minded. People tend to see in me someone who works well with others, has a sense of humour, and colleagues see in me someone who is committed to the ELCIC.
- Areas of Interest: I am very interested in the health of the church in general. The view from *inside* the church reveals some unhealthy symptoms through which we need to work together. How we identify ourselves as “Lutherans” and as the ELCIC is a work in progress. The veiw from *outside* the church exposes that we have not been the “light” in our communities that we hoped we would be. Perhaps, if we were to become a healthy church on the inside it will help us to be the missional church we are called to be in Matthew 28.
- Hopes for the Church: I believe that God intended us to live and work in community with one another. Jesus emphasized this in his own minstry, as did the early church. While I am very concerned about the disunity and decline we are presently facing, I remain very hopeful that with courage, grace, compassion, and most importantly, trust in Christ, the church will flourish.

Thomas Peterson

- Congregation: Glory Lutheran, Sherwood Park AB
- Past Experience: At times the fact of having served in different settings provides helpful insights or a slightly difference perspective. I have served congregations in Illinois, Germany, and two in Alberta, both large and smaller congregations. For this reason I have been exposed to difference points of view about ministry style and content. In Alberta I have been a member of the World Missions Committee and the Worship and Music Committee. Three years I served on a task force commissioned to design a program to talk to youth about peer pressure and self-esteem issues. Currently I serve a mission congregation, an experience which is invigorating and complements the ministry I have had in more traditional settings.

- Gifts:** Beyond an initial degree in education and the professional ministry degree, I have a master's degree in literature. What I treasure equally is a diploma in the area of spiritual direction. On behalf of the Northern Illinois Synod I taught an overview course on the *Old Testament*. For the same synod I served three years on the Reference and Counsel Convention Committee, responsible for the form and content of motions brought to the convention floor. As to strategic planning and corporate governance I rely on insights from Alban Institute publications. Two areas of interest are: 1) the definition of a healthy congregation, and 2) the role of outdoor ministry in the total ministry of the ELCIC.
- Areas of Interest:** I want our church to be of transforming influence vis-a-vis society, mindful that joyful Christians, rather than angry Christians, are more likely to transform the lives of others. I want our church to focus on our time-tested spiritual disciplines: to pray, to study, to worship, to invite, to encourage, to serve, to give. Our church should encourage young people to enter the ministry, cultivating a missionary spirit. Our church should encourage the intentional and consistent good stewardship of time, talent, and money. May our ELCIC be a strong voice when it comes to issues affecting our physical environment. Going forward the greening of our churches should be among our top priorities.
- Hopes for the Church:** Our focus of ministry must reach beyond the walls of the churches we inhabit. The world is rightfully watching to see if we are an alternative to the lifestyle of "the world." We have the resources of people, the resource of buildings, the resource of finances. We must prayerfully use these resources with respect, both efficiently and as effectively as possible. My hope is that we will be ever more missionary minded, recognizing our mission field is also our backyard. Engaging young people in meaningful ministry must be a top priority. Few enjoy sensing the fear behind the comment "the youth are our future," but this is a truth we dare not deny.

Saskatchewan—Lay Position

Heidi Hesselink

- Congregation:** Trinity Lutheran, Estevan SK
- Past Experience:** ELCIC (National): Member of National Church Council since 2005
Served as a member of Campus Ministry Interim Working Group
- ELCIC-(Synod): Served as a member of synod committee
- Community:** Active member of Trinity Lutheran for several years, including chair of council and various committees and participated in visioning and forward planning committees
Active in several community organizations
- Gifts:** Through involvement in wide variety of community and church organizations and work environments:

- a. have developed the ability to approach all issues and discussions with openness to all perspectives and to encourage the same in others;
- b. have participated in strategic planning and governance; and
- c. have had the opportunity to participate in the work of the ELCIC in a wide variety of ways including parish, synod, national, campus, and outdoor ministries.

Areas of Interest: Although there will continue to be the issues with which we struggle within the ELCIC, we are called to be a light, to serve and care for, and to bring peace to God's creation. Our call to service needs to guide the work of the ELCIC.

Hopes for the Church: My hope is that through the grace of God we, the ELCIC, can continue to discern how God is calling us to serve and see through our own differences in order to be free to serve.

Patricia Leatherdale

Congregation: Faith/St Timothy's, Regina SK

Past Experience: Classroom teacher, 35 years
 In-school administrator, 20 years
 Community volunteer
 Served on church council, committees, Messiah, Assiniboia
 Member of SK Synod Council, 3 years (Weyburn Conference)
 Chair, SK Synod Convention Task Force
 Participation as member of other committees within synod council
 Local Arrangements Committee Chair, SK Synod Convention 2008

Gifts: Experience with strategic planning process; setting of long/short term goals and critical success factors. Familiar with Relationship Model of Governance. I am well organized, do my homework and pay attention to pertinent detail. I am optimistic and resilient. I am capable of working well with others or independently. I am eager to learn and understand.

Areas of Interest: Communities in crisis; economic, spiritual
 What I see as a disconnect (communication problem?) grassroots-Conferences-Synods-National Church
 I am passionate about the well being of children

Hopes for the Church: I remain fearless regarding the future of the ELCIC because I trust wholeheartedly in the grace and love of God. My hope for the ELCIC is that we step boldly into the future with the certain assurance that we are guided and empowered by the Holy Spirit and called to serve others as disciples of Christ. Period!

MNO Synod—Ordained Position**Mark Koenker**

- Congregation: Rural Beausejour Lutheran Parish, Brokenhead area of Manitoba
- Past Experience: 1973–2009 Pastoral service in Bruno/Humboldt Parish, SK; Lutheran Campus Chaplaincy at U of S Saskatoon, SK; Bergheim/Laird Parish, SK; St John’s Congregation, Laird, SK; Rural Beausejour Parish, MB
1986–99 Saskatchewan Legislative Assembly, Member of Saskatoon-Sutherland Constituency
2000–02 Mission Communication Coordinator in ELCIC National Office
2005–09 National Church Council (Clergy/MNO)
- Gifts: Extensive experience with strategic planning, public consultation, and policy formation in government. Working familiarity with National Church Office/ programs/finances/structures/relationships particularly as they relate to synods.
- Areas of Interest: As pastor of a three-point rural parish I have a particular interest in enabling, and equipping lay ministry...also facilitating practical partnerships across our church... in organization, institutions, and congregations... and translating worship and the work of mission into local context.
- Hopes for the Church: I am concerned that maintenance of the status quo is not an option for our ELCIC. I hope that we can build our future on a balance between honouring our heritage and meeting the changing needs of society. We need to re-engage in biblical study to renew our faith foundations for gospel mission. I believe God the Holy Spirit is casting us out onto uncharted waters so that we can be challenged to grow in faith, love, and service.
I hope that the great words of *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*, #729 become our song of renewal; “The church of Christ in ev’ry age beset by change, but Spirit led, must claim and test its heritage, and keep on rising from the dead. Then let the servant church arise, a caring church that longs to be a partner in Christ’s sacrifice, and clothed in Christ’s humanity.”

Laurel Seyfert

- Congregation: Emerson Lutheran Parish, Emerson & Friedensthal MB
- Past Experience: I am currently on the volunteer board for the ongoing volunteer work of Palliative Care for Emerson and Morris. I have sat as a board member on an NGO in southeastern SK to help, support, and provide safety for abused persons and for survivors of abuse. We also brought curriculum into the schools about bullying and abuse.
- Gifts: I have good communication skills, am a creative thinker, have assisted with fund raising (on a small scale).

- Areas of Interest: We have a voice for those who are struggling to be heard: For example, those with visible and invisible disabilities, the homeless, the aboriginal community, seniors.
- Especially in light of current economic situation, we have to be a loud voice of hope.
- Helping the people of the rural church to discover ideas of keeping the church alive and relevant for their community.
- Hopes for the Church: My first concern is the message we send out to the world from within our own church (loving one another as Christ first lived us). I was (and still am) appalled by the viciousness of the attacks of the opposing sides of the “same-sex blessing” issue. Message and action go hand in hand.
- I am praying for the new vision of the church and for the church that will share the good news of hope and salvation to the new mission field of North America.

Eastern Synod—Lay Position Position 1

Edward Pope

- Congregation: Augsburg Lutheran, Brampton ON
- Past Experience: Served a full six-year term on Augsburg’s congregational council, with the position of council president for the last five of those years. Currently working on “ Vision Visits” on behalf of the synod. Presently serving on NCC, and as a member of NCC’s audit committee.
- Have worked since 1975 in the family business—Edward H. Pope Ltd.—serving as its president for many years.
- Served on the board of InterChurch Health Ministries as a director and as vice-president.
- Served for a number of years as a director and as vice-president of the North American Industrial Representatives Association. Currently serving as chair of the IMR Committee of the Industrial Supply Association.
- Gifts: Over 33 years’ experience in sales and management in the family business, and have developed skills in leadership, organization, listening, and communication.
- Graduated in 1975 with a B.Eng, and earned the P.Eng. designation.
- Graduated in 2000 as a certified Professional Manufacturers’ Representative.
- Extensive experience in strategic planning, governance, communications, fund raising, and financial management.
- Areas of Interest: As a member of one of the first Reconciling in Christ congregations in Canada, the full inclusion of all Lutherans in the life of our church is a high priority.
- Let us continue to focus our efforts on the five strategic directions established at the March 2008 NCC meeting.

Hopes for the Church: The ELCIC needs to make progress on social justice issues while maintaining church unity. Let us care for churches in the global Lutheran communion that are in distress, such as the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land.

Rod Kruger

Congregation: St James Elmira, Elmira ON

Past Experience: Past member of Eastern Synod Council for two 4-year terms—council liaison to Canadian Missions and World Missions. Member legal and constitutions committee.
 Past member and chairman of Eastern Synod Canadian Missions.
 Past member of board and chairman of Trinity Village Retirement Centre, Kitchener. (Chairman of building committee to develop 150 bed nursing home, 64 units of lease for life retirement living townhouses and 64 senior rental apartments).
 Past member and chairman of St James Lutheran Church council.
 Past member and chairman Lutheridge Retirement Centre St Pauls, Guelph, ON during the planning, design, and construction of the 64 unit facility.
 Past member Committee for Church and Society.
 Past member Committee for World Missions.
 Past member National Church Committee for Canadian Missions.
 Member Kitchener/Waterloo conference council.
 Manager engineering operations for Township of Woolwich—responsible for four mil operating budget for roads, water, and sewerage systems, and five mil annual capital budget for major infrastructure reconstruction projects.

Gifts: Certified Engineering Technologist. Certified member of the Association of Clerks and Treasurers of Ontario. Member of the board of directors of the Association of Ontario Road Superintendants. Past chairman of the board of directors of Trinity Village Retirement Centre. Past chairman of church council and building committee for construction of the new St Paul Church building and Lutheridge Retirement Lease for Life apartments in Guelph, ON. Member of Eastern Synod Legal and Constitutions Committee. Member of Legal Constitutions Committee for the Ontario Association of Road Superintendants.

Areas of Interest: Ability of the church to expand and develop new missions and a new vision.
 Ability of the church to continue to make a difference through various benevolence supported programs

Hopes for the Church: We need to focus on a new vision for the future that will encompass and attract our youth. This is a changing world and in order to continue to mission to others, we need to constantly review our vision and evaluate our goals and objectives. We need to realistically evaluate what we are doing well and what we are doing not so well and what others are doing successfully. We need to develop programs and policies that will attract, sustain, and support our pastors both to active ministry and in times of inactive ministry.

Eastern Synod—Lay Position Position 2**Marie-Laure Collet**

- Congregation: Resurrection Lutheran, Orleans ON
- Past Experience: Council member Good Shepherd/Bon Pasteur Saint Lambert, PQ 1991–92
Treasurer/ELW vice-president and president Resurrection Orleans ON 1995–2002
Member professional leadership committee Eastern Synod 2001–09
Council member/chair service committee/council chair Westside Barrie, ON 2003–06
Member mutual ministry/chair financial resources/member renewal team Resurrection Orleans, ON 2006–present.
- Gifts: Raised as a French Protestant, holding a degree in architecture, with 28 years experience in the Canadian military in the transport and finance areas, and experienced as a active church member in various positions of governance. I would bring to National Church Council a non-traditional viewpoint, administrative and financial skills, as well as the experience of living in various parts of Canada.
- Areas of Interest: Of main interest to me is the place of the church in today’s society. Once based in the community and taking care of the poor and the sick, the church has lost its relevance in all of these areas, replaced by the state. I would like to work on how the Lutheran Church can inspire its members to action and facilitate a sense of community and direction in a world of internet and failed consumerism. Other issues of interest to me are the areas of conflict resolution (we all need these skills!) and restorative justice.
- Hopes for the Church: I believe strongly in Luther’s vision of renewing the church to find God’s will for each generation. Although I have concerns about the relevance of the church in today’s society, I also have much hope that our Lutheran tradition can provide the tools to reinvent ourselves and work in partnerships to bring new strength and new meaning to our communities.

Dale Wilcox

- Congregation: Christ Lutheran, Waterloo ON
- Past Experience: In the past I have served on church council in both the treasurer and chair positions. I have been on the mission committee for Eastern Synod. I also have eight years on the Chamber Board of Directors; nine on Lutherwood, years with FaithLife Financial; three years as chair of Ontario Society of Training & Development; and three years as chair of Canadian Society for Training & Development. Since 1991, I have owned and operated a workplace learning & development company. We employ 40 + contract staff and work across Canada.
- Gifts: In my various board roles I have been chair of human resources on numerous occasions. During my time at the Chamber we merged two large chambers, at

Lutherwood we merge with CODA, and in 2003 I took the Ontario Society for Training and Development national to become the Canadian Society. Our organization provides communication, strategic planning, leadership and people skills to organizations across Canada. My strengths are definitely leadership and communication. I also have the gift of being able to organize things—tradeshow, events, workshops, or conferences.

Areas of Interest: As I see it, the Lutheran Church is ready for another Luther to step forward and show us how to shake off the dogma and become relevant in this world. We need to figure out how to do the “business” of the church. Even the apostles appointed some to handle finances, secure housing & food. We need to create a strong business team to do the same. More importantly we need to figure out where we are going as a church, then lay out the plan to get there. If some of you already know where we are to be going, you need to get the message to the person in the pew as well. (Yes I am aware of some of the National initiatives, but most aren't.)

Hopes for the Church: For the last decade the National Church has repeatedly been short funds and had to reduce services & staff. We need to find a model that provides the revenue to provide for national leadership, programs and initiatives. As a church, we need to figure out how we become more relevant to our members, and how to grow the membership.

Eastern Synod—Ordained Position

Douglas Reble

Congregation: Zion Lutheran, Stratford, ON

Past Experience: National Church Council 2005–09
 Chairperson, Eastern Synod Candidacy Committee 2004–08
 Chairperson, Waterloo Lutheran Seminary Board of Governors, 1996–2000
 Eastern Synod Stewardship Committee, 1990–94
 Board Member, Perth County Canadian Mental Health Association, 1995–2000
 Board Member, Perth County, Alzheimer Society, 2002–04

Gifts: Professional skills in the area of leadership and administration.
 Developed personal and interpersonal skills.
 Ability to work collegially.
 Communication skills, ie. can present ideas in orderly, precise succinct manner.

Areas of Interest: The church is on the margin of society in 21 century, Canada. We should be a voice for the people with us on the margins; the poor, newcomers to Canada, those discriminated against by virtue of their race, sexual orientation, economic status, gender, etc.
 The church should take the lead in the stewardship of creation.

Hopes for the Church: That we be a *Church in Mission for Others* not just in name but in word and in deed.

The ELCIC is decreasing in size. My hope is to be open to new structures, partnerships, etc, church allows us to do more with less.

That the ELCIC challenges prophetically and does justice compassionately.

James Brown

Congregation: Christ Lutheran, Waterloo, ON

Past Experience: Member, Eastern Synod Council 1998–2006
 Member, Eastern Synod Finance Committee 2002–06
 Secretary, Eastern Synod Candidacy Committee 1994–98
 Dean, London Conference (Eastern Synod) 1991–94
 President, Kitchener-Waterloo (K-W) Council of Churches, 2005–09
 Pastor, Christ Lutheran Church, Waterloo ON, 1994 to present

Gifts: Communications: during my first term on the Eastern Synod Council designed an evaluative tool for the New Beginnings strategy, and then wrote a detailed report (see Eastern Synod Minutes, 1996). I also served as writer/editor for the Renewing Worship (ELCA) project that gave birth to *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* (2006).
 Fund raising and financial management: our congregation remains deficit-free year after year, continues to increase its financial commitments by continuing to grow, and generously supports all the ministries of the wider church.
 Strategic planning: Christ, Waterloo, undertook an ambitious building project in 2000. We worked carefully to maintain the integrity of the process, so that the resulting building would meet both present and future ministry needs of the congregation—needs which included a deep commitment to the wider community of north Waterloo.

Areas of Interest: I am interested in inter-church and interfaith work (cf. K-W Council of Churches which gave birth to Interfaith Grand River, a monthly forum for interfaith dialogue).

Supporting institutional ministry: I have served Grand River Hospital as an on-call chaplain since 1987.

Education and leadership: I loved my work on the Candidacy Committee; have served each year since 1994 as a pastor-supervisor for Waterloo Lutheran Seminary.

Hopes for the Church: I feel that our church, at all levels, must continue to prove its relevancy—first to our own constituency, and then to the wider community. Lutherans have the theological resources to address issues affecting the well-being of both Canadian society and the world beyond Canada. We have both the tradition of care and the means (LWF) to do meaningful ministry locally and worldwide. My prayer for the ELCIC in the coming years is that we will respond to the deep needs of our world, using our uniquely Lutheran gifts not only to increase our work for justice and peace, not only to support world development and provide relief work, but also to show how the gospel forms us to be a people for others. Continually putting our faith into action will prove our relevancy to the many, both within and beyond our membership, who question the church's usefulness.

ELCIC GROUP SERVICES INC.**Ordained Position****Douglas Kramer**

- Congregation: St Philip's Lutheran, Etobicoke ON
- Past Experience: Member of Group Services Inc. (GSI)—2005 to Present
Member of Eastern Synod Council
Member of Waterloo Lutheran Seminary Board of Governors
Member of Parish Life Committee
Chair of Trillium Hospital Spiritual Care Advisory Committee
- Gifts: Have served one term on GSI Board, including the Communications Committee and Finance Committee of the board.
- Areas of Interest: Securing a decent retirement pension for all our pastors in volatile economic times; maintaining and enhancing health benefits for active and retired pastors.
- Hopes for the Church: To eliminate the funding deficit in the Retired Benefit Account (unfunded liability) and ensure the stability and continuation of pensions for currently retired pastors.

Guenter Dahle

- Congregation: St Peter's Lutheran, Kitchener ON
- Past Experience: Board member: ELCIC Church Extension & Capital Fund
Director: Evangelical Lutheran Foundation of Eastern Canada
Board members: Kitchener-Waterloo (K-W) Lutheran Homes—Trinity Village Care Centre
Former treasurer: The Canadian National Coalition for Christian Festivals
- Gifts: Have been in involved in various areas of ministry in the synod and the National Church during these past 30 years.
Former stewardship consultant for the synod. Responsible in the past for the Health and Dental Plan for active and retired pastors in the synod.
Strategic planning and governance issues have been part of my ongoing ministry experience.
- Areas of Interest: Concern for the well being of our pastors and lay members who are part of our Pension & Health Benefit Plan.
Concern for the increased cost borne by our congregations in providing adequate Health Care Benefits.

Hopes for the Church: To insure the sustainability of our Pension Plan.
To be able to reduce the unfunded liability for our retired pastors who are receiving pension from our church
To insure adequate health & dental benefits for our pastors and lay members of our plan.

Lay Position 1

Jacqueline (Jackie) Dojack

Congregation: Our Saviour's, Thunder Bay ON

Past Experience: Northern Ontario School of Medicine, Lakehead University—member of the board, Chair of Governance Committee;
Lakehead University Board of Governors—past chair, chair, vice-chair, chair of Governance Committee, Nominating Committee, Senior Management Compensation Committee, member of the Pension Board;
Lutheran Community Care Centre—Board of Directors: chair, vice-chair, chair of Ad Hoc Governance Committee, chair of Personnel Committee;
Augustana University College—chair of Board of Regents;
Regional director of Education, Northwestern Ontario for the Ministry of Education (retired); and
President of Dojack Associates Ltd. Consultant to education and business.

Gifts: Experience with corporate governance, strategic planning, dispute resolution, and communications. I served for three years on the Pension Board of Lakehead University, (the plan has assets of more than \$200 million).
I also served for four years on the finance and investment committee for Lakehead University.
As a consultant to business and education, I frequently give workshops on strategic planning and dispute resolution.
I have been the chair of major fundraising events for the Thunder Bay Community Auditorium and Lakehead University.

Areas of Interest: Many young people consider themselves to have spiritual needs that are not being met by “mainstream” churches. How can the Lutheran Church be more meaningful to these people?
Many congregations are struggling with membership retention and recruitment, and subsequently with financial stability. As Lutherans, we need to prayerfully consider what our ministry will be.

Hopes for the Church: I hope that the ELCIC will be able to do the strategic planning necessary to ensure its survival for the future. The declining membership and financial resources are troubling.

Hans Lung

- Congregation: Risen Lord Lutheran, Edmonton AB
- Past Experience: In the past I have served numerous times on church councils as president or chair of the finance committee. In the 1990's I was on the board of the Good Samaritan Society as board chair. Currently I am on the board of LAMP. These voluntary and elected positions have given me a good understanding of the needs of the church in a number of areas and how the church can interact with the community. I also have extensive financial experience that I can bring, as outlined under strength below.
- Gifts: As a Chartered Accountant for almost 25 years I have held a number of positions that have allowed me to grow my financial skills. The first 13 years I worked with the Province of Alberta starting in the Office of the Auditor General and ending my career there as a senior manager in the office of budget and business planning for the Treasury Board. The next six years I spent in industry starting as a controller in a small oil services company and becoming the financial controller of Weatherford Canada as a result of our acquisition and subsequent promotions. For the past five years I have been CFO of the Good Samaritan Society (a long term care provider). One of my responsibilities is the administration of payroll, benefits and pensions for about 3000 staff.
- Areas of Interest: Through my work and volunteer activities I have had the privilege of seeing some very positive influences the church has in society. Three that especially stand out. Ministry to the elderly. The Good Samaritan Society has 19 chaplains serving the frail and elderly in over 40 facilities and programs. The positive impact and the need to their mentoring provide a service that can only be described as unbelievable. Ministry to the community. Having had the privilege of being on the council for Risen Lord Lutheran Church when it was a mission church showed how important it is to reach out to the community. We continue to attract new members and have worship services with over 80 people almost every Sunday now. Ministry in the North. Being on the board of LAMP and hearing the stories of the miracles of the change Christ can make in peoples lives is always moving as each story is shared.
- Hopes for the Church: There are many issues and challenges in our world and ELCIC today. These challenges in society are complicated by greed and despair. It is a time for uniting all our efforts to bring Christ back into the world. I would see our greatest success to double the membership in the next ten years, and have a membership which speaks in Christian love.

Lay Position 2**George Sawatzky**

Congregation: St Paul's Evangelical Lutheran, Steinbach MB

Past Experience: Forty-four years as general manager of Niverville Credit Union
Treasurer of the Niverville Health & Community Foundation
Four years on GSI Board, including audit committee
Presently on the Board of Southeastman Health—chair of the audit committee
Presently on the Manitoba Land Value Appraisal Commission

Gifts: Served on church council including treasurer and president
Served on synod council including treasurer
Served on two foundation boards
Responsible for 38 staff including full-benefit package

Areas of Interest:

Hopes for the Church:

Erik Peters

Congregation: All Saints Lutheran, Ottawa ON

Past Experience: Chartered Accountant since 1965;
Served as Auditor General of the Province of Ontario (1993 to retirement in 2003). Before that I served as: vice-president, Internal Audit, Canadian Broadcasting Corporation; regional controller, Europe, Africa and the Middle East, of Alcan Aluminium in Geneva, Switzerland; Assistant Auditor General of Canada in the Office of the Auditor General of Canada. I also served with Price Waterhouse, Chartered Accountants in their offices in Calgary, Montreal, London, England and Ottawa;
Licensed Public Accountant in Ontario 1993 to 2008;
Board memberships: vice-chair, Audit and Evaluation Committee of Public Works and Government Services Canada (2007 to present); Public Accountants Council for the Province of Ontario (2005 to present); Standing Committee on Performance Measurement, Evaluation and Audit of the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (2008 to present); Auditing and Assurance Standards Oversight Council (2003 to present); Queensway Carleton Hospital, Nepean, ON (1989 to 92); Canadian Comprehensive Auditing Foundation (1993 to 2003);
Chair of the Public Sector Accounting and Auditing Board of the Canadian Institute of Chartered Accountants;
Canadian delegate on the Public Sector Accounting Committee of the International Federation of Accountants;
Elected Fellow Chartered Accountant (FCA): Ontario (1994) and Alberta (2002) for outstanding contributions to the accounting profession; and

Recipient of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Ontario Award of Outstanding Merit for conspicuous service to the accounting profession and to society at large.

Gifts: In addition to the wide ranging experiences outlined in 1 above, I was a member for six years (1974–80) on the Board of Examiners of the Canadian Institute of Chartered Accountants. I also lectured on accounting and auditing at McGill University in the evening program from 1969–74.

As Auditor General of Ontario, I was not only the auditor of the Public Accounts of the Province of Ontario, but also, among many other entities, the auditor of the Workers Compensation Board (now Workplace Safety and Insurance Board) of Ontario; the Ontario Securities Commission, the Ontario Electricity Financial Corporation and the Ontario Realty Corporation.

As Auditor General I fostered good governance of government funded entities by making presentations on good governance to various boards of directors.

Areas of Interest: Actuarial Evaluations and their underlying assumptions and the determination of actuarial surpluses and liabilities have been of great interest to me.

Hopes for the Church:

ELCIC COURT OF ADJUDICATION

Ordained Position

William Huras

Congregation: St Peter's Lutheran, Kitchener ON

Past Experience: Pastor Developer and pastor in Renfrew (1957–62) Toronto, Advent (1962–78) Synod president and bishop, Eastern Canada, LCA & Eastern, ELCIC, 1978–98
Lutheran Merger Commission
Anglican/Lutheran Joint Working Group leading to Full Communion
Chairperson, Committee of Pensions and Group Services (1993–2001)

Gifts: Served on board of governors of Waterloo Lutheran Seminary as well as Wilfred Laurier University
M.Th. Knox College (Church History)
D.D. Wilfred Laurier, Huron College
Assistant supervisor in Pastoral Counselling with Canadian Association of Pastoral Education

Areas of Interest: I care deeply about the well being of this church and pray that God might lead and guide us all.
To serve with commitment and dedication

Hopes for the Church: To be faithful in our discipleship and to serve in Mission for Others

Stephen Kristenson

- Congregation: St John's Evangelical Lutheran, Mahone Bay NS
- Past Experience: I served for 12 years as a synodical bishop
- Gifts: I was involved in the developing of a policy governance model for the synod and two other organizations on which I was a board member. I served on the constitution committee of National Church Council, and have been involved in the revision of constitutions at every expression of the church.
- Areas of Interest: I believe that the church must not only be, but be seen by others to be honest, just, and fair in its dealings with its own members and with the community of which it is a part.
- Hopes for the Church: I would hope that we would be, by the grace of God, the hands, feet, and voice of Jesus in our world, sharing God's love as we serve others as Jesus gave his life for us.

Lay Position 1**Roger Kingsley**

- Congregation: Faith Lutheran, Winnipeg MB
- Past Experience: National Church Council member, 1999–2005
ELCIC vice-president, 2005–09
University secretary, University of Winnipeg, 1989–2006
MNO Synod Council, 1990–98
- Gifts: The Court of Adjudication is an appeal court; it is the “supreme court” of the ELCIC. As university secretary, I was responsible for stewarding, supervising, and monitoring all final appeals of students and faculty with regard to any decision made by the university. I was responsible for handling all documents and information flow pertaining to final appeals. I drafted many policy documents for the university's board of regents. I represented the university successfully in a lawsuit filed against us. I have a thorough knowledge of administrative law (ie natural justice). As a member of NCC and vice-president, I have a strong understanding of the ELCIC.
- Areas of Interest: As regards the Court of Adjudication, I would strive to ensure that every matter brought before the Court was dealt with following the tenets of natural justice. I would bring an unbiased attitude to any matter which I heard. I would rescue myself from any matter with which I had prior involvement.

Hopes for the Church: I hope that the ELCIC continues to be a church where all are welcome to receive God's grace.

Wayne Thronson

Congregation: Bethel Lutheran, Camrose AB

Past Experience: I have been a practising lawyer for 20 years, most of those in the City of Camrose. I have also served as the chair of the Ethics Committee for our local hospital (St. Mary's Hospital). I am currently a member of the Camrose City Council and have served on a number of boards and committees

Gifts: In addition to my legal degree I have a bachelor of commerce. I have considerable experience dealing with people and conflict and hopefully have an understanding how to resolve conflict situations.

Areas of Interest:

Hopes for the Church:

Lay Position 2

Martin Bergbusch

Congregation: Bread of Life Lutheran, Regina SK

Past Experience: Head, Department of English; Associate Dean of Fine Arts, Etc., University of Regina
 Chairperson, Lutheran Merger Commission
 Member, National Church Council
 Member, Board of Regents, Luther College
 Member, Examining Committee, representing the Saskatchewan Synod
 Current chairperson, Congregational Council, Bread of Life Lutheran Church

Gifts: Because of the positions I have held at the university and in the church, I have experience with how people work together in organizations with their constitutions and other governing documents and practices.

Areas of Interest: I am interested in the church's relationship with First Nations and Metis people and with other people not in the mainstream of our society.

Hopes for the Church: I hope that the ELCIC will become a more welcoming and inclusive church. I hope that the church will remain open to developing closer relations with other Christian churches.

Darlene Johnson

Congregation: Peace Lutheran, Abbotsford BC

Past Experience: Have served on our congregational council; presently chairperson.
Have served several terms on the BC Synod council.
Former member of Holden Village board.

Gifts: My experience with planning and governance comes through my service on various councils and boards and includes chairing a task force on our original synodical clergy misconduct policy and chairing a task force to establish a Specialized Ministry program in our synod.

Areas of Interest: I want to see our church active in its mission for others.

Hopes for the Church: My concern is the disengagement of members and my hope is for new life.



**BIOGRAPHICAL DATA FORM
EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN CANADA**

Position Nominated For	
Name	
Gender (M or F)	
Mailing Address	
City, Province, Postal Code	
Telephone	
Email	
Congregational Membership	
Name of Congregation	
Location	
Synod	

1. Describe past experience or positions held that would assist you in the above position.			
2. Outline strengths, abilities and gifts that you would bring to this position. (Examples - education or experience with strategic planning, corporate governance, communications, fund raising or financial management)			
3. Are there issues related to the church or its place in society that are of particular interest to you?			
4. Please indicate your concerns and hopes for the future of the ELCIC.			
Will you be in attendance at the 2009 convention?	Yes		No
If elected at the convention, I am willing to serve in this position. Signature:			

REPORT OF THE TREASURER**FOR THE BIENNIUM 2007–2009**

February, 2009

The Treasurer of the ELCIC works primarily through the Finance Committee to offer recommendations for adoption by National Church Council concerning financial policies and practices.

Since election to this office in June of 2007 I have attended all meetings of the National Church Council, and of the officers of the ELCIC. I have also chaired the Finance Committee of National Church Council and have attended and presided over all meetings of the committee. Further I am a voting member of the CECF board and have attended and actively participated in all meetings. I also attended all meetings of the Audit Committee of National Church Council and contributed to the committee's work as is appropriate given my elected position.

As treasurer, I have worked to support the work of the Department of Finance and Administration led by Gloria McNabb CMA. Be sure to review the director's report that addresses operating budgets for 2009 through 2011; an Historical Summary of Benevolence Receipts and 2008 Audited Financial Statements.

Over the past two years, I have also worked to encourage and support the work of ELCIC Group Services Inc.

The Finance Committee has focused primarily upon appropriate, prudent stewardship of the resources given to the National Church. Accordingly the following is a brief summary of activities:

- Annual review of Relationship Description
- Regular communication with NCC through minutes and reports at each NCC meeting
- Review of and recommendations for amendment in NCC policies pertaining to:
 - LIFE—Lutheran Investment Funds and Endowments
 - CECF—Church Extension and Capital Fund
 - Investment Policy Statement of the ELCIC
 - Personnel policies of the ELCIC
 - Travel policy
- Review of and recommendations for all operating budgets of the ELCIC
- Review of interim and audited financial statements and operating reports
- Ongoing monitoring of operations and policies of the ELCIC

As treasurer I have participated in the preparation of the Report of the National Bishop's Special Task Force on Resource Generation. In this regard, I want to ask all of the ELCIC to reflect on the gifts God has given us, and encourage us to have the courage to address the critical funding shortfall facing our National Church. We, the ELCIC cannot perform the work expected of us if one part of the body of Christ is starved of resources.

Please study, reflect, discuss, dialogue and then encourage each other to act on the Task Force Report.

Ken Hartviksen
ELCIC National Treasurer