



CLWR REPORT TO THE 2015 ELCIC NATIONAL CONVENTION

As executive director of Canadian Lutheran World Relief, it is my pleasure to present this report to the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada (ELCIC) in convention.

CLWR turned 69 this year. As always, our mission and vision support a world where people live in justice, peace and dignity. Inspired by God's love for humanity, CLWR challenges the causes and responds to the consequences of human suffering and poverty. This report highlights work made possible through your generous support over the past two years.

Our new emphasis: Since the merger of the Canadian International Development Agency with the Department of Foreign Affairs, there have been fewer opportunities to submit new development-oriented proposals because more government resources have been shifted to short-term humanitarian projects. In response, CLWR has proactively changed our focus to supporting refugees, where there is great need and where we already have experience delivering aid with established partners. We reported to synod conventions one year ago about our new emphasis. Here are some highlights of our progress so far:

In January 2014, CLWR received a \$2 million grant from the Canadian government to provide 10,000 Syrian refugees with items to protect from the cold, including gas heaters and winter clothing. Three hundred families received upgrades to their housing to create warmer and more sanitary living conditions. In partnership with Canadian Foodgrains Bank, of which CLWR is a member, monthly food vouchers were distributed to 8,500 refugees and vulnerable Jordanians.

In September 2013, CLWR launched a special appeal for sweaters for Syrian refugees. Your response was overwhelming! Over 70,000 sweaters were sent in three shipments to the Za'atari refugee camp in Jordan.

In December 2014, we received \$1.2 million in funding from the Canadian government to help 11,200 people displaced by Islamic State violence in Iraq. This project responds to harsh weather with heaters, kerosene refills and blankets for winter, and new mattresses and hygiene kits during the dry and hot summer. We are also supporting renovations to 500 households, including upgrades to plumbing that will provide safe water and support better hygiene and sanitation.

Responding in the Holy Land: Our continuing relationship with The Lutheran World Federation (LWF)—Jerusalem allows us to support young Palestinians enrolled in programs at the two campuses of the LWF Vocational Training Program and patients receiving care at the Augusta Victoria Hospital. Our partnership with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land is helping children benefit from new facilities at Lutheran schools in the Holy Land, and our support for the Dar al-Kalima Sports Hall in Bethlehem is giving the community, especially girls and women, the opportunity to participate in sports programs.

Emergency relief: You have graciously responded to appeals to help those affected by Typhoon Haiyan in the Philippines (for which we received over \$645,000 in donations). We also received over \$480,000 in donations to support Syrians displaced by civil war. At home in Canada, you reached out during the floods in southern Alberta. Your generous gifts enable us to support the work of partners as they deliver both immediate assistance and long-term redevelopment aid.

We Care Quilts and Kits: We are grateful for the continued support demonstrated by ELCIC congregations for the We Care quilts and kits program. Since the last convention, nine overseas shipments were completed to places such as Nicaragua, Kenya, Mauritania, Jordan and Tanzania. They included over 11,500 We Care kits, over 9,000 baby bundles and almost 25,000 quilts and blankets, many handmade!

Refugee Sponsorship: In the fiscal year of 2013-14, 82 refugees from places including Afghanistan, Colombia, Ethiopia, Iraq and Somalia began new lives in Canada with the help of Lutheran congregations and groups responding to this call to mission. CLWR helped congregations and groups complete a further 18 applications through its status as a sponsorship agreement holder in the federal Private Sponsorship of Refugees Program. CLWR provides support for congregations embarking on a refugee sponsorship through its regional offices in Vancouver and Waterloo, Ont. I invite you to make contact with them (1.888.588.6686) to find out how you can become involved in this important ministry.

Youth Engagement: In August 2012, we created a new youth engagement co-ordinator position that has led to the formation of a formal network of youth and young adults knowledgeable in international relief and development issues, and committed to achieving positive social change. CLWR has strengthened its presence at workshops and many regional and national youth gatherings, including the 2014 Canadian Lutheran Anglican Youth (CLAY) Gathering in Kamloops.

I want to conclude by expressing my sincere appreciation for the growing financial commitment of ELCIC members to the work of CLWR, as well as for the valued support and guidance provided by ELCIC members serving on the CLWR Board of Directors. Currently giving of their time and talents are Mr. Marcus Busch (board president), Ms. Cheryl Bauer Hyde (secretary), Mr. Gene Blishen (treasurer), Ms. Lisa Janke, Ms. Rebekah Ludolph, Rev. Doug Reble and Mr. David Schulze. Many thanks go out to Rev. Dr. Mark Harris and Rev. Dr. Faith Rohrbough, who finished their third terms on our board in September 2014. Sincere gratitude is also extended to National Bishop Susan C. Johnson for her inspired leadership in her role as board advisor.

This report has presented some highlights of the ongoing work of CLWR. To learn more about what CLWR is doing to make a difference in people's lives, please visit www.clwr.org.

May God continue to bless the work of CLWR and the ELCIC, their staff and supporters, and the people around the globe whom we serve together.

Respectfully submitted



Robert Granke
CLWR Executive Director

THE JOINT ANGLICAN LUTHERAN COMMISSION (JALC) REPORT TO THE 2015 ELCIC NATIONAL CONVENTION

Friends:

Peace and joy to you all! It is our pleasure to report on the activities of the commission since your last meeting at Joint Assembly, 2013.

As you may know, the commission was established following the signing of *The Waterloo Declaration* in 2001 in Waterloo, Ont. The commission exists to represent both churches in our ongoing Full-Communion relationship, to monitor our work together, and to further and deepen the significant relationship between our two great churches.

With new and renewed members appointed in 2013 by both churches, we have continued to meet semi-annually, to learn and grow with each other, and to celebrate the many things which we do together, and to encourage the ways in which we can work effectively together.

We know that, at its roots, we succeed because of relationships between individuals, between parishes and congregations, between dioceses and synods and between our national expressions. Therefore, we are so pleased that your National Bishop, Susan Johnson and the Primate of the Anglican Church, Fred Hiltz, enjoy such a warm and collegial friendship—speaking with each other regularly; attending many national events together; marking times and seasons with joint statements and communications to both churches. Similarly, the Conference of Bishops (ELCIC) and the House of Bishops (ACC) meet together annually, and many individual bishops work very closely and collaboratively with their diocesan/synodical colleagues. We on the commission consider it a deep privilege to work closely together and to become good and much appreciated friends.

We have much to mark and in which to rejoice:

- The continued annual meeting of the Four Heads of Churches, whereby National Bishop Johnson and Archbishop Hiltz meet with Bishop Katharine Jefferts-Schori, presiding bishop of The Episcopal Church and with Bishop Elizabeth Eaton, presiding bishop of the ELCA. These meetings have been productive and are highly valued by the participants.
- The ongoing joint meetings between the national staff members of both of our churches, and the resulting work which is being done together, particularly in communications and public witness and social justice.
- Resources which we have developed and promulgated together: Bible studies, reflections and study materials, particularly the excellent Lenten Bible study prepared by Bishop Terry Dance of the Diocese of Huron, and “presented” to both churches through the commission.
- Ongoing work on diaries and calendars, harmonizing our saints’ days and commemorations, and the anticipated wall calendar, planned for 2017.
- The *Directory of Waterloo Ministries* (included in your docket at this convention) which list the amazing variety of shared ministries across this great country, and the creative and life-giving ways in which we work together at the local level.

- The new joint office in Winnipeg of the Manitoba/Northwestern Ontario Synod **and** the Diocese of Rupert's Land. Other similar arrangements are being investigated by dioceses and synods around the country.
- The cross appointments to a variety of committees, boards and councils in each other's churches. This depth of talent and competence enriches the work we each do, and makes us strong.
- The strong relationship between our commission and the Lutheran–Episcopal Coordinating Committee in the United States. We enjoy the presence of Fr. Jon Perez from Lutheran–Episcopal Coordinating Committee (LECC) at our meetings, and try to send a Canadian representative to LECC's meetings as well.
- The many ways in which we work together on joint projects, ideas, and concerns. Together we form a strong voice for the church and the gospel with the governments of this country and with our society at large.

We continue to review our priorities and our practices. We look forward to the forthcoming joint meeting of National Church Council and The Council of General Synod, taking place in November of this year, and the support from both national bodies, in principle, for another Joint Assembly in 2019.

Our efforts are so ably supported and resourced by our two indefatigable staff members: Pastor André Lavergne and Archdeacon Bruce Myers. We would be lost without them, and we thank them so sincerely.

We thank the leadership of this church, along with the Anglican Church of Canada, for the privilege of this work. We commit ourselves to continuing this exciting and important work!

Brita Chell
Lutheran co-chair

Peter Wall
Anglican co-chair

Commission Membership:

ELCIC

Brita Chell, co-chair
Bishop Larry Kochendorfer
The Rev. Allen Jorgenson
Pamela Harrington
The Rev. André Lavergne, staff

ACC

The Very Rev. Peter Wall, co-chair
Bishop Terry Dance
The Rev. Canon Robert Towler
Marion Jenkins
Dale Gilman, ACIP appointee
The Ven. Bruce Myers, staff

The Rev. Jon Perez, representing the Lutheran–Episcopal Coordinating Committee (USA)

Bishop Michael Pryse, Lutheran co-chair, Anglican Lutheran International Coordinating Committee, Observer.

LUTHERAN COUNCIL IN CANADA REPORT TO THE 2015 ELCIC NATIONAL CONVENTION

Dear delegates, friends in Christ,

The Lutheran Council in Canada (LCIC) is a cooperative agency relating to the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada (ELCIC) and Lutheran Church–Canada (LCC). The two member churches appoint representatives to the LCIC on the basis of their own criteria. The council, which once had a large staff and its own offices in downtown Winnipeg, now meets but once each year and focuses on a limited range of issues:

- Lutheran chaplaincy to the Canadian Forces;
- Lutheran chaplaincy under the Correctional Service of Canada; and
- Scouts Canada.

Since late 2008, Pastor Hans J. W. Borch (ELCIC from Elmira, Ont.) has been the council's representative on the Interchurch Committee on Canadian Military Chaplaincy (ICCMC), and, in fact, is now the ICCMC chairman. Dr. Garry Dombrosky (LCC from Edmonton) represents our council to the Interfaith Committee for Chaplaincy in the Correctional Service of Canada. He is also both the senior member and chairman of that committee. (See how the Lutherans are assuming leadership in these key areas!) Pastor Michael Diegel (ELCIC from Saskatoon, Sask.) represents us with Scouts Canada.

Recent annual meetings of the Lutheran Council have received reports on how the various Lutheran communions are planning to mark the 500th anniversary of the Reformation. The ELCIC will be a strong participant in celebrations arranged through The Lutheran World Federation (LWF); meanwhile, LCC will assist the International Lutheran Council (ILC) in planning its observances when it next meets in Buenos Aires this coming September. Beyond these international ties, the two Canadian Lutheran bodies have discussed whether hymn festivals or other events could be scheduled on a bilateral basis to celebrate "Reformation 500" in our own country.

For many years, the council has appointed representatives from the Winnipeg area to save on travel costs for the meetings, which alternate between the national headquarters of the two churches. ELCIC representatives to the council include your National Bishop Susan C. Johnson; The Rev. Dr. Leon C. Gilbertson; and The Rev. André Lavergne, assistant to the bishop—Ecumenical and Interfaith. Representing LCC are President Robert Bugbee; Mr. Dwayne Cleave, the church's national treasurer; and The Rev. Cameron Schnarr, a Winnipeg-area parish pastor.

Though the participating churches are deeply conscious of the areas of teaching and practice which divide them, they are grateful for the contributions the Lutheran Council in Canada can still make within the areas of its activity. I take this opportunity to greet all delegates to the ELCIC National Convention, and to commend the work we do together to the grace and blessing of God.

Respectfully submitted,

The Rev. Dr. Robert Bugbee, President
Lutheran Council in Canada

CHINESE SPECIAL INTEREST CONFERENCE, ELCIC REPORT TO THE 2015 ELCIC NATIONAL CONVENTION

Since 1999, the conference has been ministering through the mandate discerned by the Chinese congregations and pastors corporately. The ministry focus is primarily in resource development, nurturing seminarians, and annual mission events in cities across Canada. With the Cora Martinson Memorial Fund, supported primarily from brothers and sisters in Hong Kong, in working with the conference council, National Office and Mr. Philip Wang, the CSIC has financed dozens of seminarians and financed 3 events each year from coast to coast.

National Bishop Susan Johnson, Bishop Michael Pryse and Rev. Paul Gehrs have met with the chairperson in Markham, Ont., in 2014 to hear the progress of the conference and its ministry.

This year in June, the conference will meet in Markham, Ont., to discern the future mandate of this body. The conference will be prayerfully seeking creative ways to support the congregations to be in mission relevant to their context.

Thanks to Jane Tse, Esther Au, and the retired Philip Wang for their faithful service throughout the years.

Blessing and Peace,

Rev David Tin
Chairperson
Chinese Special Interest Conference, ELCIC

**GERMAN EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CONFERENCE IN NORTH AMERICA
REPORT TO THE 2015 ELCIC NATIONAL CONVENTION**

DELKINA (Deutsche Evangelische Lutherische Konferenz in Nordamerika)
<http://www.delkina.org/en>

In 1748 Henry Muhlenberg called together 24 lay people and 6 pastors, representing 10 congregations, and encouraged the foundation of “**The Pennsylvania Ministerium**” as the first Lutheran church body in North America. The group was known as the “German Ministerium of North America” until 1792, when it adopted the name “**The German Ministerium of Pennsylvania and Adjacent States.**” Since that time some kind of organization or association of German Lutheran congregations have continually existed.

Today the German Evangelical Lutheran Conference in North America (DELKINA) mainly **supports and promotes the ministry of word and sacrament in the German language throughout North America and fosters communication among German speaking congregations or German speaking ministers.** The DELKINA also connects to and supports individuals, worship groups and congregations in setting up and maintaining a mission ministry in German (recently in Atlanta, GA; Miami, FL; San Diego, Calif.). We assist North American congregations in their dealings with the national church bodies on both sides of the Atlantic (ELCA, ELCIC, and Evangelical Church in Germany) and congregations in the search for German-speaking pastors and other personnel. As of today, the DELKINA counts 56 members (congregations and individuals). The members of the elected board are The Rev. Holger Roggelin (Harrisburg, PA), The Rev. Ingrid Doerschel (Edmonton), The Rev. Olaf Wassmuth (Washington, DC), Albert Christ (Winnipeg).

An important element of DELKINA is the **general assembly** that takes place every second year, hosted by different Lutheran congregations. It is an opportunity to engage with German speaking people in ministry from across Canada and the United States. The next gathering will be held this year in October at San Diego, Calif.

The conferences are four-day events, exploring and discussing certain issues of the hosting congregations in their specific environments. The meeting in Edmonton for example was centred around questions about the **environmental impact caused by oil sands extractions in northern Alberta.** Dittmar Muendel (Professor of Religion and Global and Development Studies) had been invited to hold a lecture on the theme of the convention: *For here we do not have an enduring city, but we are looking for the city that is to come* (Hebrew 13:14).

In San Diego the conference will be meeting **Pastor Ramon Contreras of Lutheran Border Concerns Ministry San Diego** and **Bishop R. Guy Erwin, Southwest California Synod.** The last conference also approved the creation of a new **German worship resource for congregations using the Revised Common Lectionary** especially requested by non-German speaking pastors and lay people serving in German speaking congregations. Pastors Sebastian Meadows-Helmer and Christian Ceconi (both Toronto) began to compile a worship preparation resource for congregations with German services following the *Revised Common Lectionary*. The resource is available for free at www.delkina.org.

The first edition of the **newsletter** of the DELKINA, called *Das Kirchliche Monatsblatt* (monthly church magazine) was published in 1944, the last edition in April 2014. Pastor Jakob Pillibeit (Alberta), editor during the last 30 years, had to resign due to health reasons. The conference decided not to publish *Das Kirchliches Monatsblatt* anymore, but to consider different ways of outreach. *Das Kirchliche Monatsblatt* not only served as the organ of DELKINA, but also contained various other materials on the history of German-heritage of Lutheran congregations and synods in Canada and the United States. The original copies were sent to the Lutheran Archives at Philadelphia and Central Archives at Berlin.

Respectfully submitted,

Ingrid Doerschel, Vice-President
Trinity Lutheran Church Edmonton

SUOMI-CONFERENCE IN CANADA REPORT TO THE 2015 ELCIC NATIONAL CONVENTION

Annual report of Suomi-Conference in Canada for ELCIC National Convention in 2015

1. Purpose

The purpose of Suomi-Conference is:

- To function as a special interest conference for those ELCIC congregations, that have Finnish speaking members.
- To function as a link between Church of Finland (ELCF) and Suomi-Conference congregations and their pastors.
- To organize annual celebration and general meeting of Suomi-Conference.
- To publish spiritual material in the Finnish language (*Faith of our Fathers* periodical).
- To elect annually the recipient of the lay-study stipend, financed by the ELCF.
- To organize biennially continuing education for pastors serving in Suomi-Conference member congregations.
- To organize and together with the congregation finance, Finnish language worship services in congregations that still have a Finnish speaking minority although the congregation has transformed over to English language ministry.

2. Member Congregations

Suomi-Conference member congregations in 2014:

- Emmaus Lutheran Church, Burnaby, B.C.
- Hilldale Lutheran Church, Thunder Bay, Ont.
- Zion Lutheran Church, Sault Ste. Marie, Ont.
- St. Timothy's Lutheran Church, Copper Cliff, Ont.
- St. Matthew's Lutheran Church, Sudbury, Ont.
- St. John's Lutheran Church, South Porcupine, Ont.
- Agricola Finnish Lutheran Church, Toronto
- St. Michael's Lutheran Church, Montreal

3. Annual Report of Suomi-Conference for the year 2014

3.1 Finance

Financing of the endeavours of the Suomi-Conference Canada comes almost entirely from the Church of Finland through the office of the ministry for Finns abroad.

3.2 Board

The Conference Board is both governing and an executive board. In 2014 board members were: Olavi Hepomaki, president; Jari Lahtinen, vice-president; Paula Kankaanpaa, secretary; Hilikka Luus, treasurer; Pirkko Monkare – Behamdouni, board member; Tuula Bernard, board member.

3.3 Continuing Education

Five days of continuing education was organized in February 2012 at Mount Carmel, Niagara Falls, Ont. Our guest speaker was Bishop of Espoo diocese Dr. Tapio Luoma. With his guidance pastors studied the history of natural sciences and its relationship to religion in the past and today. A public lecture day was organized for the students of Waterloo Lutheran Seminary (WLS) and anyone interested on the Niagara region.

3.4 Suomi-Conference celebration 2014, Thunder Bay, Ont.

The celebration in June took place at Hilldale Lutheran Church, Thunder Bay, Ont. The theme of the celebration was “Spiritual Renewal,” in accordance with the renewal that has been promoted within the ELCIC by National Bishop Susan Johnson. The celebration included lectures, documentary presentation, concerts and lots of music and hymn singing.

3.5 Publishing

Eleven issues of *Isien Usko (Faith of Our Fathers)* were published in 2014. The distribution of the paper is 716 issues. Most subscribers are in Canada, with some also in USA and Finland.

3.6 ELCF Stipend

A stipend was granted to Hilikka Luus, Toronto, to go to Finland and take a course in playing kantele (Finnish zither).

3.7 Finnish language Worship services

During 2014 eight Finnish language services were held in St. John’s Lutheran Church in South Porcupine, Ont. Finnish speaking pastors from all around the area took turns in leading the Finnish language worship services and visiting the elderly in the Timmins, Ont. area nursing homes. Also Finnish language worship material was provided regularly to the Zion Lutheran Church in Sault Ste. Marie, Ont. for the Finnish ministry purposes.



Olavi Hepomaki
Suomi-Conference Canada
48 Glenmorris Street
Cambridge ON N1S 2Y3

In Toronto, March/13/2015