



LUTHERAN CHURCH—CANADA

First Special Convention

October 17, 2020

CONVENTION PROCEEDINGS



FOREWARD

The official *Proceedings* to the Synod of the First Special Convention of Lutheran Church-Canada, are provided as the official record of the decisions and activities of the Convention. I encourage all members of the Synod who receive these *Proceedings* to make them available to the members of their respective congregations and others, so that the information contained herein may reach as many as possible.

The focus of this Convention was to allow the postponement of the Twelfth Synodical Convention of Lutheran Church-Canada in June 2021, due to the extraordinary events caused by the global pandemic. For more information, visit the convention website:

<https://www.lutheranchurchcanada.ca/events/calendar/sc2020/>

While our gathering is delayed until 2021, I pray that God will protect His flock so that we may safely gather our family in Lutheran Church-Canada together again, to provide an opportunity for worship, nurture, inspiration, fellowship, and the communication of vital information.

Peace in Christ,



Grace Henderson

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Convention Delegates in Attendance

West Region

Clergy

Abresch	Ron	Kootenay
Bode	David	Calgary
Boehm	Curtis	Edmonton
		Fraser Valley (Greater Vancouver)
Chiang	Mark	Vancouver
Dressler	David	Calgary
Eifert	Ken	Peace River
		Fraser Valley (Greater Vancouver)
Hautz	Laverne	Vancouver
Howard	Russell	Wetaskiwin
Kahle	Andy	Lethbridge
Kubke	Roland	Stony Plain
Moore	Vincent	Elk Island
Reddemann	Lorne	Cariboo
Roggow	Paul	Vancouver Island
Schultz	Mark	Wetaskiwin
Schutz	Michael	Okanagan
Tufts	Craig	Okanagan

Lay

Bartlett	John	Peace River
Eidick	Bruce	Edmonton
Faulkner	Ron	Elk Island
Felstead	Robert	Calgary
Friesen	Clifford	Wetaskiwin
Haeussler	Gail	Cariboo
Hardy	Audrey	Okanagan
Jarvis	Fred	Okanagan
Laslop	Paul	Stony Plain
Mitchell	David	Edmonton
Rodgers	Tyler	Lethbridge
		Vancouver (Greater Vancouver)
Schellenberg	Allen	Fraser Valley (Greater Vancouver)
Schoenroth	Kevin	Vancouver
Schulze	Stan	Wetaskiwin
Smith	Marvin	Kootenay
Walter	Larry	Calgary

Advisory

Chambers	Steve	Clergy Advisory
Winstanley	Miriam	Diaconate Advisory

Central Region

Clergy

Andersen	Gerald	Qu'Appelle
Chimirri-Russel	James	Wascana
Falkenholt	Brian	Ontario
Giese	Ted	Wascana
Guggenmos	Todd	Assiniboine
Keith	Murray	Saskatoon
Klages	Alex	Portage
Magnus	Clint	Northland
Quast	Jacob	Ontario
Schnarr	Cam	Red River
Schoubye	Harald	Red River
Wood	Barry	Assiniboine

Lay

Buchholz	Shaunna	Red River
Buck	David	Southland
Haas	Todd	Assiniboine
Heinemann	Walter	Wascana
Rocheleau	Merv	Northland
Turner	Eileen	Portage
Wall	Jordan	Red River

Advisory

Hastings	Amanda	Diaconate Advisory
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East Region

Clergy

Choi	Sam	Toronto
Christoforidis	Vasilios	Toronto
Clifford	Robert	Hanover
Koehler	Mark	Hamilton
Kramer	Will	Stratford
Kuhl	Joel	Kitchener
Lam	Milton	Ottawa
Meleg	Michael	Hamilton
Schieman	Donald A.	London
Schneider	Timothy	Windsor
Schroth	Andy	Kitchener
Smilek	David	Ottawa
Stefanik	Darryl	Niagara
Trembulak III	John	Stratford
Voegel	Kenneth	London

Lay

Famme	Howard	Stratford
Hogg	John	Hanover
Keller	Earl	Stratford
Keller	Roger	London
Knight	Christopher	Ottawa
Krestick	James	Windsor
Oberholzer	John	Kitchener
Putzman	Dan	Niagara
Schweyer	Mark	Hamilton
Tiegs	Reginald	Toronto
Witzke	Karl	Kitchener

Advisory

Schallhorn	Rosalie	Diaconate Advisory
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Other Advisory Delegates and Representatives

<i>President</i>	Rev. Timothy Teuscher
<i>Vice-president</i>	Rev. Thomas Kruesel
<i>Secretary</i>	Grace Henderson
<i>Administrator</i>	Dwayne Cleave
<i>Regional Pastors</i>	Rev. Marvin Bublitz
	Rev. David Habersack
	Rev. Robert Mohr

Board of Directors

Rev. Timothy Teuscher, Rev. Thomas Kruesel,
Rev. Warren Hamp, Rev. Alex Klages,
Rev. Kurt Reinhardt, Deac. Suzanne Eberhard
Arnold Drung, Grace Henderson
Kirsten Guggenmos, Cam Pelzer

Communication Director

Alex Steinke

Committee for Mission and Social Ministry Services

Rev. M.L. Smith

Commission on Constitutional Matters and Structure

Deacon Dr. Jennifer Frim; Gary Gilmour;
Grace Henderson; Mark Hersey; Arlene Kish;
Rev. William R.A.Ney; Rev. Paul Shallhorn

Staff: Rev. Timothy Teuscher

CLS Edmonton AB

Rev. Dr. James Gimbel

CLTS St. Catharines ON

Rev. Dr. Thomas Winger

Opening Remarks

Arnold Drung, Chairman, Lutheran Church–Canada, Board of Directors

Good afternoon and thank you for participating in this special convention. I pray that God has been keeping each of you and your loved ones safe through the pandemic.

2020 has been a year of many firsts, most of them unwelcome. Today's session is to deal with the challenges that have been brought to our Synod due to the pandemic. When our board met via conference call in February, we certainly didn't think that we would be facing a dramatic change in circumstances in a very short time period. Planning work was already underway for the 2021 Synod convention with a site chosen and preliminary arrangements made. With the declaration of the pandemic and ensuing restrictions, decisions regarding the convention were required. The LCC Board had a lengthy discussion regarding potential options. These included forging ahead with the 2021 convention as previously contemplated, moving to an on-line convention in 2021 or moving the convention to 2022 in a traditional format. While each of these had some merit, the overwhelming opinion of board members was that the convention needed to be in a face-to-face format. This would realistically have to take place in 2022, assuming that the world will have moved beyond the pandemic by then.

A review of the LCC by-laws and discussion with the Committee on Constitutional Matters and Structure quickly led to the conclusion that postponing the convention would require a change to those by-laws and that could only happen with the special convention that we are undertaking today. While there has been significant work to make this happen, the Synod has strived to conduct its affairs in a way that is open, honest and with maximum integrity – as the Lord would have us do – and we believe that today's event achieves that standard.

I do want to take a moment to acknowledge the work of Synod staff over the past 7 months as they have dealt with all of the challenges of pandemic work arrangements as well as planning for this special convention. We are blessed with a wonderful, committed team and we pray that God will continue to be their constant helper as they go about their tasks.

I also want to acknowledge and thank the members of our Board of Directors for their ongoing service, particularly with the many virtual meetings that have been held during the pandemic. Should today's resolution be passed, all will continue to serve for the additional year with one exception. Cindy Sholdice, who has served on the board since 2014 and is a member of St. James, Winnipeg has recently been appointed a provincial court judge by the Province of Manitoba and as a result, will have to relinquish her LCC board membership. We extend our congratulations to her on this significant achievement, wish her well in her new position and thank her for her service to the church. The board will work to fill the vacancy in the coming months.

Thank you again for being will to serve the members of the Synod today and I wish each of our delegates God's guidance as you deal with the decisions before you.



Mr. Arnold Drung, Chairman

Board of Directors

Opening Remarks

Rev. William R. A. Ney, Chairman, Lutheran Church–Canada Commission on Constitutional Matters and Structure

Introduction

Thank you, President Teuscher, for giving the CCMS this opportunity to review and clarify a number of rulings recently made as requested by yourself, the Synodical Business Manager, Mr. Dwayne Cleave, and the Board of Directors of LCC.

I want to begin by stating that the CCMS has not and does not take any position on whether or not this Special Convention should or should not be taking place, nor has the CCMS taken any position on the Resolution that this Special Convention will be asked to vote upon, that is to change Bylaw 9.01 of the Statutory Bylaws. The Commission was asked only to rule on a number of specific questions.

It should be noted that in every decision made by the CCMS, two lawyers were consulted, Mr. Gary Gilmore who sits on the CCMS as a member and the Synod's Lawyer, Celia Valel of MLT Aikins LLP who serves as our Synodical Lawyer and is located in Winnipeg, MB. It should also be noted that many hours were spent on researching, discussing, debating and in prayer prior to any ruling being made. So, here are the five questions that were asked of the Commission.

1. Do the Bylaws of LCC allow Lutheran Church-Canada to hold a “virtual Convention”?

The CCMS, after researching the Bylaws of Synod concluded that there is neither any permission given nor any prohibition for holding a “virtual convention” contained therein.

However, based primarily upon Bylaw 2.77 which permits participation via telephonic or electronic communication facilities in meetings of committees, commissions, or other bodies or entities established under the Synodical Bylaws, and based upon common practice in Canada, especially since the advent of the Corona Virus, the CCMS ruled that it is possible to hold a “virtual Convention” where all individuals participating by such means have proper access to the meetings of the Convention and can fully participate in it.

2. Can the time frame for a Synodical Convention be extended beyond the 4 years mandated by Statutory Bylaw 9.01?

After researching the Statutory Bylaws, Constitution, and Synodical Bylaws the CCMS determined and ruled that there is no provision to be able to extend the holding of a Convention beyond 4 years in the current Handbook of the Synod (2017).

3. Could a Special Convention be convened in order to amend Bylaw 9.01 with language that would allow for the extension of the 4 year time period between Conventions?

The CCMS ruled that a Special Convention could be called according to the provisions set forth in Bylaw 9.09, 9.10, and 9.11 of the Statutory Bylaws. And amendments may be made to the Statutory Bylaws, the Synodical Constitution or the Synodical Bylaws by the Convention (ref. Bylaw 9.06 of the Statutory Bylaws). Additionally, Synodical Bylaw 20.01

states that repeal or amendment of the Bylaws may be made by a 2/3 majority of the votes cast by the delegates at a Convention.

4. Who would serve as delegates to the Special Convention?

There was much discussion and debate on this question. The reality of not having held a Convention under the provisions of the new 2017 Handbook which requires a lay delegate and a pastoral delegate from every congregation or parish within the Synod, posed a difficult dilemma. This was because Statutory Bylaw 9.13 (2017 Handbook) clearly states that *“those eligible to attend and vote at a Special Convention shall be those delegates in office at the time of the preceding Convention...”*

Those delegates in office at the time of the 2017 Convention were chosen under the old rules and consist of laypersons and pastors elected by their Circuits. There thus appeared to be a conflict between the requirement of 9.13 and the requirement of congregational representation also contained in the 2017 Handbook.

As you might imagine the discussions were long and hard on this issue and finally the CCMS ruled that 9.13 must be respected since we are still in the transition period between the old and new Handbook regulations. This opinion was also supported fully both by the CCMS Lawyer and the Synodical Lawyer.

Therefore, the CCMS ruled that those delegates who attended the 2017 Convention would be the delegates for the Special Convention.

5. Can the term limits (4 yrs.) of elected and appointed officials be extended to the next in-person Convention in 2022 if there is an affirmative vote to extend the 4 years between Conventions to 5 years at the Special Convention?

Once again this was a very difficult question to answer because the special circumstances of a global pandemic was not contemplated in the writing and adoption of the 2017 Handbook, and therefore there were no interim rules set in place. Many hours of research and discussion and consultation with the Synodical Lawyer resulted in the CCMS ruling that if the Special Convention voted to extend the Convention time period for another year due to the special pandemic circumstances, then the current officers, boards and commission members' terms of service could be extended until the next Convention a year later.

The CCMS based its opinion primarily on Synodical Bylaw 10.01(a) & (b) which states that *“An officer in office at the time this Bylaw comes into force shall continue in that office until that individual's successor takes office”* but also indicates that *“the term of office of each officer shall be deemed to expire on the 15th day of January, 2018”* and that *“the Convention shall proceed to elect officers to take office as of the 15th day of January 2018.”*

Given the special circumstances in which we found ourselves and given the fact that the current officers did not take office officially until January 18, 2018, their service and term of office will, in fact, be 4 years in January of 2022. Thus, the CCMS ruled that the current officers' terms of service could be extended if this Convention votes to extend the time of the next Convention to 2022. This ruling was also supported by the Synodical Lawyer who additionally stated that according to Synodical Bylaw 2.104 *“the Commission is given considerable latitude with respect to interpreting the constating documents.”*

Conclusion:

I hope that this brief excursus into some of the thinking and reasoning of the Commission in deliberating on these issues has been helpful to

you in being able to understand how and why we made the rulings requested.

May God bestow His blessing upon us as we seek to do His will and carry on our work together for Christ Jesus as members of Lutheran Church-Canada.

Respectfully submitted by:

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "William R.A. Ney". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Rev. William R.A. Ney, Chairman

Commission on Constitutional Matters and
Structure

**LUTHERAN CHURCH–CANADA
FIRST SPECIAL CONVENTION
CONVENTION MINUTES**

Saturday, October 17, 2020

Call to Order – President Timothy Teuscher

The Special Convention was called to order at 11:16 am (CDT)

Acknowledged in the Lutheran Church-Canada Board Room (Winnipeg), with him, were:

- Johnathan Edwards and Paul Dueck—River City AV
- Dwayne Cleave, Administrator—Lutheran Church-Canada
- Iris Barta, Office Manager—Lutheran Church-Canada
- John Robins Sr., 2020 Special Convention Parliamentarian

Opening Prayer – Vice-President Tom Kruesel, Special Convention Chaplain

Zoom Introduction—Technical Procedures for the Special Convention

A brief tutorial, led by Paul Dueck, River City AV taught Convention Delegates how to vote “Yes” or “No” during the Convention, as well as “How to raise your hand,” virtually if Convention Delegates wished to speak to a motion during the meeting. An opportunity was provided for the Delegates to practice each of these procedures, and once it was determined that everyone understood how to proceed—President Teuscher continued with the agenda.

Registration Committee Report – Grace Henderson, Chairperson

- 74 Voting Delegates in attendance
- 21 Non-voting persons in attendance

According to Statutory Bylaw 9.07 of the 2017 Handbook of Lutheran Church-Canada a quorum for Convention shall consist of at least 25% of eligible delegates. There are 98 eligible delegates, and with 74 eligible delegates in attendance, quorum has been satisfied.

Adoption of Agenda

Motion: That the proposed agenda be adopted

Moved: Reverend Todd Guggenmos; **Seconded:** Reverend Brian Falkenholt

Action: Adopted

Adoption of Special Standing Rules

1. A delegate wishing to address the convention should electronically enter the appropriate queue, and, when recognized by the chair, state his or her name. The delegate shall also state the name of the circuit and region or administrative unit he or she represents.
2. A three-minute limitation shall be applied to all who speak ‘from the floor.’
3. Business of the special convention shall be limited to that which arises from the overture submitted by the Board of Directors and shall come before the convention for a decision only through the appropriate resolutions committee (Synodical Bylaw 2.19 f).
4. The whereas sections shall be considered an integral part of a resolution and any action pertaining to the resolution applies to all its parts.
5. If substitute motions are offered, they shall be handled according to Robert’s Rules of Order.
6. Unless covered by these Standing Rules of the convention; parliamentary procedures shall be governed by Robert’s Rules of Order, Newly Revised, latest edition.

Motion: That the proposed “Special Standing Rules” be adopted

Moved: Reverend Darryl Stefanik; **Seconded:** Dr. Dennis Kendel

Action: Adopted

Arnold Drung, Lutheran Church-Canada Board of Directors, Chairman

Opening Remarks See Page 3

Reverend William Ney, Lutheran Church-Canada Commission on Constitutional Matters and Structure, Chairman

Opening Remarks See Page 4

Registration Committee Update – Grace Henderson, Chairperson

- 77 Voting Delegates in attendance
- 23 Non-voting persons in attendance

Resolutions Committee #1 – Reverend David Bode, Chairman

Rev. Bode introduced the other members of the Resolutions Committee #1:

- Reverend Barry Wood, Assiniboine Circuit, Central Region
- Merv Rocheleau, Northland Circuit, Central Region
- Reverend Don Schieman, London Circuit, East Region
- Reg Tiegs, Toronto Circuit, East Region

The Committee presented the following Resolutions:

RESOLUTION 20.1.01 (October 15, 2020)

Cf. Overture 1.01, submitted by the Board of Directors

TO AMEND STATUTORY BYLAW 9.01 OF THE 2017 HANDBOOK OF LUTHERAN CHURCH–CANADA

WHEREAS the uncertainties and restrictions resulting from the present COVID19 pandemic bring into question the wisdom or even the possibility of holding an in-person Convention of Lutheran Church–Canada, scheduled for June of 2021; and

WHEREAS the purpose of holding a Convention is not simply for conducting the business of the church: the elections to various offices and positions, making amendments to the Handbook, taking action on overtures and reports, and so on, but is also an important opportunity to physically gather together as contemplated in Synodical Bylaw 2.01: “The Convention shall afford an opportunity for worship, nurture, inspiration, fellowship, and the communication of vital information”; and

WHEREAS changing the June 2021 Convention from an in-person to a virtual or online Convention would result in pastor and lay delegates being unable to physically gather together for a period of eight years; and

WHEREAS postponing the June 2021 Convention to 2022 requires a change to Statutory Bylaw 9.01 of the 2017 Handbook of LCC; therefore be it

RESOLVED that Statutory Bylaw 9.01, as it currently reads: “*A Convention shall be held every four years at a time and place determined by the Board*” be amended to read: “*A Convention shall be held every four years at a time and place determined by the Board. The Convention may, however, be postponed due to extraordinary events (acts of God, war, terrorism, government regulations, disaster, strikes, civil disorder, pandemic, etc.). In such a case, the Convention is to be held as soon as practicable*”

Motion: The Resolutions Committee moves the adoption of Resolution 20.1.01 to amend Statutory Bylaw 9.01 of the 2017 Handbook of Lutheran Church-Canada.

Since this motion is brought forward by the Resolution Committee, it does not require a second. During the vote, a 2/3 majority is required to pass, since it is a change in Bylaw.

Moved: Resolutions Committee

Action: Adopted (73 for; 2 against)

RESOLUTION 20.1.02 (October 15, 2020)

TO EXTEND THE TERMS OF OFFICE OF ELECTED OFFICERS, BOARDS, COMMISSIONS, AND COMMITTEES

WHEREAS the Board of Directors has, through an overwhelming majority, voted in favour of postponing the June 2021 Convention and has recommended extending the term of office for all those serving elected offices or appointed positions until the next regular convention of the Synod can be held; and

WHEREAS it is important for the mission and ministry of the church that the synod continue to have the benefit and blessing of those leaders who have been elected to serve; and

WHEREAS there are legal requirements under the Canada Not-for-profit Corporations Act regarding the election of the *directors* of the corporation; therefore be it

RESOLVED that the Synod, in the Special Convention, reelect the Board of Directors until the next regular synodical convention, subject to the Regulations of the Canada Not-for Profit Corporations Act, Section 28, subsection 1; with the term to end after the next regular convention of the Synod; and be it further

RESOLVED that the term of office of all other elected or appointed positions be automatically extended until the next regular convention, in accordance with provisions of Statutory Bylaw 10.03 and Synodical Bylaw 2.61; and be it finally

RESOLVED that any office holder who is unable to fulfill this extended term be thanked for their service, and that vacant offices and positions be filled by the Board of Directors for the period until the next regular convention.

Motion: The Resolutions Committee moves the adoption of Resolution 20.1.02 to extend the terms of office of elected officers, boards, commissions, and committees.

Moved: Resolutions Committee

Action: Adopted (75 for; 0 against)

On behalf of the Special Convention, the Resolutions Committee is dismissed, with the grateful thanks for their service.

Adjournment

Motion: To adjourn (12:24 pm CDT)

Moved: Reverend Alex Klages; **Seconded:** Reverend John Trembulak III

Action: Adopted

Closing Prayer – Vice-President Tom Kruesel, Special Convention Chaplain

Concluding Remarks – President Timothy Teuscher

I thank all of you for your patience and participation in this Special Convention. I would also like to take this time to commend the people and pastors of our Synod in their efforts over the past number of months in seeking to provide worship services in our congregations during this Covid-19 pandemic, as well as the work of the Regional Pastors and our Communications Committee during these unusual and uncertain times. This, after all, is of the highest priority and must always be our chief concern; as the Large Catechism reminds us: “Everything in the Christian church is so ordered that we might receive forgiveness of sins through the Word and the Sacraments.” And to that end I would encourage all of you in the words of the Collect of the Day for tomorrow, October 18th, the festival of St. Luke, Evangelist: “may the healing medicine of the Gospel and the Sacraments put to flight the diseases of our souls that with willing hearts we may ever love and serve our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen”

**POST-CONVENTION MOTIONS OF THE
LUTHERAN CHURCH–CANADA
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING**

Saturday, October 17, 2020

Minutes of the Special Convention of Lutheran Church-Canada, October 17, 2020

Motion: That the minutes from the LCC Special Convention of October 2020 be adopted as presented
M/S/C

Minutes of the Special Convention of Lutheran Church-Canada, October 17, 2020

Motion: That the record of the electronic votes from the LCC Special Convention of October 2020 be destroyed
M/S/C